

1. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THABO MOFUTSANYANA REGION

PRODUCT	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	CONTACT DETAILS	PRODUCT STATUS
<p>LADYBRAND</p> <p>Located in the Eastern Free State, South Africa, and it is approximately 3 hrs drive from the Kwa-Zulu Natal Drakensberg border, 2 hrs from the Eastern Cape border and 1hr 45min from Bloemfontein, the Capital city of the Free State. We are also strategically located 15km from Maseru the Capital City of Lesotho, and ideally situated to explore Lesotho with day trips to the Mountain Kingdom.</p> <p>Our area has rich cultural and historical heritage and is home to more than 300 Bushmen rock art sites. Some of the attractions found in this area include the fossilized Dinosaur Footprints, Rose Cottage Cave where early man lived for at least 110,000 years, Iron Age settlements, Battle sites including the Lifaqane wars, British/Basotho wars, Boer/Basotho wars and the South African War/Anglo Boer War, The Cave Church at St. Augustine`s, The Grave of Prophetess Mme Mantsopa and the fountain/spring believed to have healing waters. This area is also a home to Historical buildings built from sandstone and many declared National Monuments. Most of these unique sandstone buildings were designed by the famous Sir Herbert Baker who also designed the union buildings in Pretoria. We also have Outdoor sports facilities, arts & Crafts, Bird watching spots, and Accommodation facilities with Conference Venues to cater for events.</p>			
The Stables	This great rock shelter was used by the Boers to stable horses during the Basotho War of 1858. Is a crack against the mountain, the Boers kept their horses at night during the battles with Moshoeshoe and could easily stable 40 horses.	Thabo 051-9240654/0785679940	Dark product. There is a signage for the product. The information still has to be researched thoroughly however the product exists and the is clear signage
Modderpoort	The first order in South Africa called the society of St. Augustine. Bishop Twells of Bloemfontein purchased the farms Modderpoort and Modderpoort Spruit in 1865 as a base for missionary work in the area. The property was situated within the so-called 'Conquered Territory' lost by the BaSotho through conquest in the years 1843-1869.	Johan Fritz and Thabo Manong. 078 567 9940/ 051 924 3318 are the current Tour guides around the area	A booking has to be done for tour. On average takes an hour and half. Entrance is R15 per person and additional R25 for the tour guide

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Cave Church ❖ Rose cottage cave ❖ The Grave of Prophetess Anna Mantsopa Makhetha 	<p>It was in fact not before 1869 that Canon Henry Beckett, the Superior of the Society of St Augustine, accompanied by four brothers, set up the mission, initially in a cave converted as church and dwelling. This church becomes a place of pilgrimage for local as well as foreign communities. The Sunday closest to the feast of St Augustine a diocesan service is held outside the cave church.</p> <p>The middle Stone age levels of Rose Cottage Cave have produced several radiocarbon dates of greater than 50 000 years, and because of the restricted half-life of carbon, these dates obtained from charcoal samples are likely to be minimum estimates.</p> <p>A long, long time ago in a land not so far from here a powerful prophetess was born, named Mantsopa. She was believed to hold the gift to see into the future and to communicate with the ancestors. She correctly predicted that the Basotho would win the war against the British and that would be followed by a good harvest.</p> <p>Many of her prophecies came true and due to that she had large following. She was also taken in by the missionaries to help them in converting people into Christianity. She went to live at Modderpoort where she died at the age of 111years in 1904.</p>						
Oldenburg Game Park	Bushmen Paintings, The Game Park consists of Giraffe; Black Wildebeest; Eland; Red Hartebeest; Gemsbuck; Blesbuck; Impala; and Springbuck.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1285 1121 1688 1158">Tel: 051 924 0738</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1285 1158 1688 1195">Fax: 051 924 1098</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1285 1195 1688 1232">Cell: 082 418 4096</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1285 1232 1688 1294">Email: rentia@oldenburg.co.za www.oldenburg.co.za</td> </tr> </table>	Tel: 051 924 0738	Fax: 051 924 1098	Cell: 082 418 4096	Email: rentia@oldenburg.co.za www.oldenburg.co.za	No day visitors are allowed. Several units available for accommodation. Fisherman Cottage at R600 per day, Main Lodge, R1400 and Farm House at R1400. Game Drives at R300 for 1-3 people, R50 p/p and offers more.
Tel: 051 924 0738							
Fax: 051 924 1098							
Cell: 082 418 4096							
Email: rentia@oldenburg.co.za www.oldenburg.co.za							

			Allow school groups who are coming for an educational.
Tandjiesberg	Tandjiesberg is one of 12 rock art national heritage sites in South Africa. The place is declared a national monument and is currently under the leadership of National Museum of the Provincial Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation.	Thabo Manong 078567 9940/	National Heritage Site Monument and the site is protected will require guided tour
Battle Sites	Lifaqane Wars between the Bantu speaking peoples in the early 1600. British Basotho wars two battles were fought against the Basotho and the British the main Battle was the Battle of Tiheleng which saw the Bsotho winning the battle against the British	Thabo Manong 078 567 9940	Dark Tourism. The area requires further development and proper signage however tour guide still give people tours around the area for educational purposes.
Antjie Scheepers Monument	Anna Susana (Antjie) Scheepers was born in the somerset east district on 26 January 1806 and was married to Gerhardus Scheepers A stock farmer.In 1835 the Scheepers family left the Cape Colony as members of the tregardt-trek.Gerhardus skeepers died of Malaria on this Trek and Antjie had to take full responsibility for the support of her family. Together with five of her children she managed the Dangerous journey to Delagoabaai and survived the dreaded Malarial fever.Together with the other survivors she arrived in port Natal with the "Mazeppa" on July 1838. In 1844 antjie Scheepers Married Ignatius vermaak, a widower from Uitenhage. After his death she went to "Welgevonden", A farm near Ladybrand, to stay with her youngest son. Here she died in the age of seventy-two, On 2 August 1878. Her mortal remains now rest inside the Monument which was erected in her honour on the Ladybrand school grounds.	Thabo Manong 078 567 9940	No entrance fee
The Claerhout Museum	The town, Tweespruit, has got the world famous artist Father Claerhout and his studio is visited by hundreds of people from all over the world.	Rina Els: 0733381784 rina@claerhout.biz	Travellers will need an entrance fee of R20 to access the museum.

	<p>The Claerhout museum and Unicom School were designed by Sir Herbet Baker who was also the designer of the Union Building in Pretoria.</p> <p>Pallecan Arts (in Excelsior, about 32km from Tweespruit) was given permission by Father Claerhout to reproduce his Art work.</p>		
<p>CLOCOLAN</p> <p>The town of Clocolan is strategically placed on the R26 where it is set on the grasslands at the foot of the Hlohlowane Mountain from which Clocolan derives its name the newcomers' incorrect pronunciation of the Sotho word 'Hlohlowane', which means 'stand up and fight. The majestic Hlohlowane Mountain (1,820 metres above sea-level) dominates the town. Because of the need for a school, church and business facilities for people living in the area, Clocolan was established in 1906 and obtained municipal status in 1910. It is part of the Conquered Territory, the region wrested from the Basotho during the Basotho Wars of the early 1800s. The area is rich in the history of both the Basotho who had lived there and the Afrikaners who settled there. The climate is bracing, thanks to the mountain air, and the abundance of water in the area make it ideal for agriculture.</p> <p>The district lies in one of South Africa's main sunflower-producing belts and is also one of the country's top wheat- and maize-producing districts. Much of the country's asparagus is farmed here. It is known, too, for its cherries and other fruit. It is also suited to cattle and sheep farming. The town is located next to the so-called 'Maloti Route' and 20 km from the Caledon River, which is the boundary with Lesotho. Clocolan hosts the annual Veteran Tractor Show, which attracts visitors from far and wide, in March.</p>			
<p>The First Cherry Trees in SA</p>	<p>The first successful cherry trees were planted in South Africa in 1905 on the farm Platkop in the Clocolan district after Harry Pickston had contacted German missionaries in South Africa with questions about growing cherries.</p> <p>A year later five hectares of trees were brought to Clocolan to be planted on the farm. The varieties included Giant Heidelfinger, Bing, Early River, Early Red, and Elton.</p>	<p>Clocolan Info Office 051-9430291</p>	
<p>Prynnsberg Heritage Home</p>	<p>This prestigious homestead, situated 5km north of Clocolan, is one of the historic architectural treasures in the Eastern Free State.</p> <p>The Prynnsberg estate was a testimony to the vision of</p>	<p>Clocolan Info Office 051-9430291</p>	

	Charles Newbury, who bought the farm in 1880. The estate remained in the family's possession until 1996. Sotheby's auctioned the contents of the house. Charles Newbury acquired his wealth from his directorship of the De Beers diamond consortium.		
Highlands Essential Oils	<p>The Highlands Essential Oils factory in Clocolan is only one of a handful in the world that produce valuable essences for the manufacture of French perfumes. In spring and summer one can see hectares of flowers and herbs that are specially grown for the extraction of the precious essences. The essences are then exported to France where they are sold.</p> <p>Oils are extracted from flowers, herbs and common "khakibos" On the same farm freeze-drying of herbs has proven to be a new and profitable venture.</p>	<p>GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 53' 05.8 E 027° 35' 30.2 051 943 0317 051-9430317</p>	Visit the farm and try your hand at making perfume. Courses are offered to teach you this art.
Angora Rabbit Farm	The farm situated outside Clocolan where 500 Angora rabbits are plucked and local people create beautiful hand woven garments from their wool	<p>GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 54' 25.9 E 027° 34' 27.7 051 943 0273 Annemarie 0828546166 annemarie@makoadi.co.za</p>	
Ben Nevis Cherry Wine Farm	Ben Nevis is notable for being the only cherry wine-producing farm in the Eastern Free State. Here you can sample cherry wines and liqueurs in a beautiful setting. Wine produced here is still made in the traditional way and is a definite must for anyone visiting the area. In cherry season organised tours can be arranged. Cherry wine tastings are available all year round.	<p>GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 51' 04.8 E 027° 34' 09.6 051 943 0031</p>	

PRODUCT	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	CONTACT DETAILS	PRODUCT STATUS
FICKSBURG			
<p>Situated in the scenic panorama of the Eastern Free State, along the Maloti Route, Ficksburg nestles between the foot of the Imperani Mountain and the banks of the Caledon River, the border with Lesotho. As a backdrop there are magnificent views of the majestic Malotis, which change with the seasons, from the purple haze of summer to snow-clad slopes in winter. Ficksburg was founded on 12 June 1867 and named after General Jan Fick, Commander-General of the old Orange Free State Republic. General Fick's mission was to protect the border between the then Basutoland and the Orange Free State. The government encouraged settlers by offering them land, horses, guns and ammunition in return for settling along the border of the new territory. This discouraged the Basotho from crossing the border, burning farms and stealing cattle. Today the town is the gateway to Lesotho and the Katse Dam and boasts a large cosmopolitan population. Ficksburg's economy is based chiefly on mixed agriculture, concentrating mainly on asparagus, cherries and deciduous fruit. Other crops are farmed on a smaller scale. At present there is renewed focus on apples, with more farmers than ever planting apple trees. The district is renowned for the breath-taking sandstone formations of the mountains and many of the older buildings in and around the town were built of sandstone. Interestingly, the Union Buildings in Pretoria are built from sandstone quarried in the surrounding area. Gumtree, the small settlement just outside Ficksburg, has the tallest sandstone structure in the world—an old mill which is sadly no longer in use.</p>			
White Mischief Cruise Boat	<p>Unwind from the stress of city life as you relax in the scenic beauty of this breath taking landscape aboard the White Mischief, which gained fame as the only floating cigar bar in Africa.</p> <p>Over 100 species of birds have been sighted here. Spectacular Fish Eagles, Goliath Herons and Malachite Kingfishers can be spotted along the banks. Many of the birds are migratory.</p>	<p>GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 52' 527 E 027° 50' 077 Gavin 082 920 5551 Calen 082 798 5052 Meulspruit Dam Ficksburg www.thewhitemischief.co.za</p>	<p>Cruise on the White Mischief along a waterway leading to the Meulspruit Dam</p> <p>The duration of the cruise along this picturesque waterway is approximately three-and-a-half hours journeying along the Meulspruit before stopping to disembark for a delicious meal.</p>
Ember Down	<p>Ember Down is the home most fabulous goose down and feather products. All the down and feather come from the company's own birds, which range free on the farm, surrounded by beautiful sandstone cliffs.</p> <p>Wrap yourself in the Ember Down's hand made products</p>	<p>GPS Co-Ordinates: S 28°50' 33 E 27°46' 28 Cell: +27 82 408 6770 Schoonzicht Farm Gumtree District www.emberdown.co.za</p>	
General Fick Mountain	A monument in memory of Gen. Fick, who played an important part in the Basotho Wards and in the history		

	of Ficksburg, and after whom the town was named.		
Die Blikplek	Recycled metal transformed into art. An enterprising Ficksburger, Sandra Netherlands, runs a small recycling business focused on turning scrap metal, old enamel and old pressed steel ceilings into art and décor articles. This enabled them to generate an income for themselves and for her unemployed job seekers who herself now collect scrap metal and other articles and who assist them in their workshop.	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 52' 12.1 E 027° 52' 25.0 Sandra 082 828 8381 9 Fontein Street	
Green Goose	Organic artisan cheese made locally, The Green Goose offers a unique experience for anyone interested in organic produce and homegrown products ranging from exceptional cheeses to a selection of are being trained down duvets. Some 15 km outside Ficksburg on the easily accessible farm Uitkyk, you will be met by the friendly Sorour family who are renowned for their visionary organic farming methods as well as the superb products on offer under the brand name Green Goose.	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 42' 42 E 27° 55' 54. 0519335754 Tel : 27 51 933 5754 Cell +27 82 925 2770 Uitkyk Farm on the Ficksburg Rosendal Road www.greengoose.co.za	
Cherry Festival & Cherry Jazz	The idea for the first Cherry Festival took root in 1968 when a group of young men who had founded a Ficksburg chapter of Jaycee International, the international service/leadership development organisation, were looking for a project to launch their new organisation and perform a service to the community. Many ideas were thrown around, so it is difficult to say exactly how a Cherry Festival was arrived at! What is sure, however, is that Ficksburg is the largest cherry producing area in South Africa, followed by its two neighbours, Clocolan and Fouriesburg, and to a lesser extent parts of the Ladybrand district. Today Ficksburg is known throughout the world as the Cherry Capital of the world.	www.cherryfestival.co.za 051 933 6486 Cherry Festival P.O. Box 133, Ficksburg, 9730, South Africa Tel: +27 51 933 3531 / 6486	
Gumtree	South Africa's Tallest Sandstone Building. Gumtree, a quaint railway siding surrounded by a cluster of houses and situated 20 km from Ficksburg, where dirt roads still exist, has become a new focus for tourists in the	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 52' 093' E 027° 52' 526' Gumtree District	Sadly the mill is no longer in use and just the shell of the magnificent building remains.

	Eastern Free State. It is home to the highest sandstone building in the country- the mill which used to be the hub of this once-thriving district.		
CR Swart Prison	When CR Swart, who later became the first State President of the Republic of South Africa, was only 19 years old he became a school teacher in Ficksburg. During the 1914 Rebellion, Swart sided with the Boer rebels against the Smuts government of the day and was arrested and imprisoned after taking a photograph of the Town Guard — 48 mounted and armed Boers. Mr Mitchell, the Provost Marshall, threatened to shoot Swart, but after he had spent three nights in jail, sent him back to his classroom under house arrest. The tiny sandstone building in which he was incarcerated — which consists of only two cells.	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 52' 11.8 E 027° 52' 40.4 Brand Street	The prison building is located in Brand Street, opposite the present Post Office. The building has been declared a national monument.
The Kersie Gallery	The Kersie Gallery is an art gallery which showcases the talents of residents of Ficksburg and surrounding areas. Of late a number of creative Ficksburgers have turned their hands to painting and it is primarily their work that is on display at the gallery. It has become known as somewhere where you can purchase excellent paintings at reasonable prices.	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 52' 35.4. E 027° 52' 04.4 +27 82 553 2262 7 Visser Street	
Sangoma Caves (Nkokomohi Heritage Site)	Led by a call from their ancestors, traditional healers come here to learn the accumulated knowledge of the Sangomas. A short walk leads you down a beautiful valley with numerous cliff overhangs which serve different purposes There is a Sangoma hospital area where people come for healing and a Sangoma university where Sangomas pass on the knowledge of the ancestors to those called to serve.	GPS Co-ordinates S 28° 39' 44.6 E 028° 00' 32.5	
Pellisier Art Gallery	Another "treasure" not to be missed on any visit to Ficksburg is the S H Pellissier Gallery, originally built as a school hall, and now home not only to murals by Pierneef, one of this country's "old masters", but also a comprehensive collection of paintings by top South African artists. The sandstone	GPS Co-ordinates S 28°52' 07.3 E 027°52' 46.3 Renette Humphreys 084 664 3491 Ficksburg Primary School grounds	

hall was built in 1921 for the Ficksburg School.

FOURIESBURG

Surrounded by the glorious Maluti Mountains, the little town of Fouriesburg lies just 10 kilometres from the Lesotho Border in arguably one of the most beautiful corners of South Africa; the 'little Caledon' River flowing gently past the town and close to a number of well-known hiking trails. Fouriesburg was founded in 1892.

Touted as a typical eastern Free State town with its rolling hills and wide open plains, nestled in amongst sandstone mountains, and enough sunshine days to make the most hardened traveller envious, Fouriesburg lies in the Brandwater Basin, formed by the Witteberge to the west and the Rooiberge in the north. The little sandstone church in town was built in 1893 and this historic building, together with the blockhouse and the President Steyn House, make a visit well worth the effort.

Just a few kilometres away is the charming little village of Clarens just outside the Golden Gate National Park. Clarens, richly endowed with trees, is much sought after by artists and those in retirement who have moved here to settle, and the town is much visited by people from all over the country and further afield.

The Boesmanskrans hiking trail is one of several incredibly beautiful trails in and around Fouriesburg. Even in winter this hike takes in a surprising amount of greenery and offers two one-day hiking trails. Meiringskloof is a beautiful little nature reserve quite close to Fouriesburg that is well worth a visit. It not only has some pretty little picnic spots, but is also the departure point for the Brandwater Hiking trail.

<p>Motouleng Ancestral Cave</p>	<p>Nestled in a narrow river valley with beautiful rock formations, it's easy to see why this place is a sacred ground. The area has the largest cliff overhang in the southern hemisphere which is spectacularly beautiful. The Sangomas live in traditional huts inside the cave.</p> <p>Traditional healers and herbalists come to learn from the ancestors. A short 30-minute hike leads you to the cave where you must respectfully ask permission from the Sangoma to enter the cave.</p> <p>There are several areas for prayer where you may light candles and leave gifts of food for the ancestors.</p> <p>The cave holds a San people's burial area and a place for the elder women to pray. A drink from the sacred spring makes this an extraordinary historical and cultural experience.</p>	<p>Thabo Mofutsanyane Information Office 058-7130012</p>	<p>At Motoulong a fee of R25 is payable upon arrival. The money goes towards supporting the local community that allows visitors to explore this magnificent & spiritual cave</p>
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Meiringskloof Nature Park	Situated only 2km from Fouriesburg, in a beautiful kloof with a variety of birds, indigenous bush, sandstone cliffs and caves.	Fouriesburg Information Office 058-9339300	
Surrender Hill Battle site	As a temporary seat of the Orange Free State government during the Anglo Boer War, Fouriesburg was nearly completely destroyed during heavy fighting in the region and several of these battle sites can be visited by interested tourists. Surrender Hill is a monument to fallen British soldiers situated on the spot where 4000 Boer guerrillas surrendered and were sent to India as prisoners of war	Fouriesburg Info Office 058-9339300/7130012	
CLARENS			
<p>Clarens Valley is in the Eastern Free State Highlands, situated 20 km's from Golden Gate, 40 km's from Bethlehem and on the Northernmost point of Lesotho. We are about 4 hours normal travelling from Durban, 3 hours from Johannesburg, and 3 hours from Bloemfontein. Clarens is known for its spectacular sandstone mountains and wonderful climate, it is one of the most picturesque spots in S.A. and has recently been acclaimed as the best Trout Fishing waters in S.A. We have spectacular horse riding country that very few people have discovered.</p> <p>All year round, but especially in autumn when the leaves turn to gold, the scenery in Clarens is a magnet for artists and photographers. Several local artists have opened their studios to the public. Art galleries, a lovely church and a museum are well worth a visit. More than 50 000 beer bottles were used to build the tiny "Cinderella Castle" in Naupoort Street. Bushman (San) paintings are found on farms in the vicinity. Nearby, the panoramic Highland Route meanders along the foothills of the Maluti Mountains.</p> <p>The relaxed village atmosphere and the spectacular views and mild climate makes Clarens an idyllic weekend getaway. Popular with locals, Clarens is only 3 - 3½ hours drive from Johannesburg or Durban (both of which are located approximately 300km from Clarens).</p> <p>Clarens boasts excellent restaurants which are situated around the village square. Other activities include fly fishing (some of the best fly fishing opportunities in South Africa can be found in the Clarens district), hiking and for the more adventurous, abseiling and white water rafting.</p>			
Golden Gate National Park	Golden Gate is well known for its spectacular sandstone cliffs, mountain landscapes and glowing colours.	058-2550012	
Clarens Golf Course	Clarens Golf Course, Clarens Golf and Trout Estate, Free State , South Africa / The par 71 golf course, designed and constructed by Golf Data, is bound to excite every level of golfer. All 18 holes meander along and across the tranquil river and its splendid series of dams and cascading waterfalls. The manicured Kikuyu fairways and Bent Grass Greens are framed by mature Willow	Clarens Information 058-256-1835	

	and magnificent Lombardi poplar trees, and great care has been taken to ensure that each round of golf you play will be more memorable than the one before.		
Ash River Outfall	The Ash River Outfall is one of the Highlands water scheme's view points on the Bethlehem road about 8km from Clarens.	Clarens Information 058-256-1835	
Bushmen Paintings in Schaaplaats Farm	Bushmen paintings at Kiara Lodge (only known bushman painting of a dassie) and Schaaplaats farm, a 20min walk. Enquire at the Info Centre.	Clarens Information 058-256-1835	
Mushroom Rock	About 3km from Clarens on Clifton Farms something spectacular to see for an eye	Clarens Information 058-2561835	
Titanic Trail	To request more information on the product. The takes the shape of a titanic board and overlooks Clarens. About 3 kilometers from Clarens.	David Groenewalt 083 469 4696	
Clarens Brewery	<i>Clarens Brewery</i> brews fine hand crafted beers and cider in the beautiful village of Clarens in the foothills of the Maluti Mountains. It is the first and only microbrewery in the Free State and has been since December 2006. the brewer, Stephan Meyer, has a passion for microbrewed beer and has been been brewing full grain, pure malt beers since 2004 with an absolute dedication to quality and craftsmanship		
GNU Safaris	Present tours in 4x4 game viewing into the Wilderness area and introduce you to some of many values hidden in valleys of the Red Mountains.	058-2561569	
Sethuthuthu Tours	On this trail you will be travelling on an adventurous, picturesque route following the foothills	0825756186	

BETHLEHEM

This town, set among waving fields of grain, is the commercial centre of the Eastern Free State and dates from 1864. The Bethlehem region produces some 65 per cent of South Africa's wheat crop. The name, Bethlehem, is derived from the Hebrew word "Beit Lechem", which means "House of Bread". The Jordaan (Jordan) River flows through the town, and its banks form part of the Pretoriuskloof Nature Reserve, a lovely bird sanctuary and recreational area

The region is also notable for wool and cattle farming. The Maluti Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop. Bethlehem was founded by the Voortrekkers during the 1840's and is the setting for a number of historical sandstone buildings, many of which are now provincial heritage sites.

Excellent facilities are available, including good restaurants and a varied entertainment calendar. The banks of the Jordaan River form part of the Pretoriuskloof Nature Reserve, a sanctuary for birds and small game. Bethlehem is a convenient stopover for motorists travelling to Golden Gate Park and the Drakensberg.

Visitors looking to find out more about the history of the town and its culture will find the numerous museums interesting. At Baartman House, exhibits of wagons and horse carriages, period furniture and farm implements give the visitor to Bethlehem an idea of the lifestyle of the people venturing into the hinterland. Another outstanding collection of exhibits including war memorabilia can be seen at the Museum of Cultural History housed in the former Nazareth Mission Church

Lions Rock	The Lions Rock rescued more than 60 big cats from all over the world, including lion, leopards, tigers and cheetahs. These animals are provided with a lifelong home and habitat appropriate to their species that is large enough for family groups facilities natural behaviour and offers the highest standards of safety	Info Office 058-3035732	Tours and accommodation
Sol Plaatjie Dam	On the 1 st May 2003 a bus load of Unionists were on their way to celebrate workers day when bus tragically left the road and plunged into the dam claiming 51 lives. A monument was erected in memory of those who lost their lives.	Bethlehem Info Office 058-3035732	Dark Tourism. The area still have to be developed further and signage has to be visible.
Old Nazareth Mission Church	This monument commemorating the battle in Bethlehem which took place between the Boers and the Basotho in 1866, and can be seen at Dutch Reformed Church.	Bethlehem Info Office 058-3035732	Dark Tourism- battle sites during needs further development and security.

KESTELL

Just off the N5 between Bethlehem and Harrismith, Kestell was founded in 1905 and named after the Dutch Reformed Church minister, JP Kestell.

The Dutch Reformed Church, designed by Gerhard Moerdyk, is one of many sandstone buildings in the town, and close by is the Groenkop Battlefield where, in 1901, General de Wet defeated the British who were building a fort here.

Kestell makes for a great weekend getaway and nearby attractions include the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, the Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve and the bohemian town of Clarens.

Dutch Reformed Church	John Daniel Kestell (February 15, 1854-February 9, 1941) was a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church	Tourist Info Office 058-7130012/058-6331433	
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	<p>(DRC), Bible translator, and Afrikaner cultural leader. His mother was an Afrikaner and his father an 1820 settler from Devonshire, England.</p> <p>He was born in Bloemfontein. Having studied at the universities of Stellenbosch and Utrecht in the Netherlands, Kestell was admitted as a minister of the DRC in 1881. The next year he was called to Kimberley and in 1894 to Harrismith in the Orange Free State. Here he completely identified himself with the Afrikaner cause. At the outbreak of the South African War of 1899-1902, he accompanied the Harrismith Commando as field chaplain, soon becoming the trusted counselor to President M.T. Steyn and General Christian de Wet.</p>		
Groenkop Battle-site	A memorial monument has been erected on the top of Groenkop Situated between Bethlehem and Kestell (40 km from Bethlehem), remembering those who died during the battle on 25 December 1901. Major Williams with 550 men, most of them from the 11th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry, a 15-pounder gun and a pom-pom were positioned at the top of the 61m high Groenkop.	Tourist Info Office 058-7130012/058-6331433	
<h2>QWAQWA</h2> <p>This town lies in a glen where the Elands River forces its way through the sandstone foothills of the Maluti Mountains after flowing from the summit of Mont-aux-Sources in the Drakensberg Mountain Range. The name (Qua Qua) Qwa-Qwa was bestowed on this area by the ancient San because in their language it meant "whiter than white", referring to the surrounding snow-capped mountains that lend a special charm to the area during the cold winter months. The Afrikaans-speaking community renamed the town Witsieshoek, after Wetse, chief of the BaTlokwa section of the Basotho people, who settled here after the Zulu raids on smaller tribes had ended. In 1969 the area was granted self-government as Qwa-Qwa, the homeland of the baSotho ba Borwa ("Sotho people of the south").</p>			
Basotho Cultural Village	A visit to the Basotho Cultural Village which nestles at the foot of huge sandstone mountains, will give you insight into the culture and traditions of the Basotho people. On arrival, a friendly receptionist will show you	Basotho Cultural Village 058 7210300	Entrance fee of R25 is charged for daily visitors and the museum also has

	<p>an introductory video which illustrates the building process of the museum. Demonstrations of the decoration of huts, making of basketware, crushing of maize and traditional dances are shown</p>		<p>accommodation facilities which has to be reserved through San Parks central reservation number</p>
Maluti Cave Hiking Trail	<p>The The Maluti Cave trail lies adjacent to the town of Phutaditjaba (Witsieshoek) from where it stretches into the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains.</p> <p>There are a few options open for hikers: from a basic 2-day trail to four days of hiking in the majestic Drakensberg.</p> <p>One of the sections of the trail goes right up to the escarpment to view the Phororo waterfall on the Lesotho side of the border. Hikers that attempt this trail section must be accompanied by a guide and should be fit and prepared for sudden weather changes</p>	<p>Kagisho Mkhondo 0762529231</p>	<p>Sourcing services of tour guide will require a certain fee. Also furthermore going up the hiking trails will require a certain amount between R50-R100 but not more than R100.</p>
Sentinel Hiking Trail	<p>This trail is situated in Qwaqwa and starts at the Sentinel car park, beyond the Mountain Resort. The trail provides a spectacular view of the top of the Amphitheatre where of the highest waterfalls in Africa. Tugela falls. The hiking trail take you to above 3000m on the plateau of the Amphitheatre via two successive sets of chain ladder. The trail runs past the Sentinel to the top of the Drakensberg escarpment. It can either be used for a day walk or as the start of an escarpment backpacking trip. The trail offers some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in the country.</p>	<p>Kagisho Mkhondo 076 252 9231</p>	<p>Prior reservations are necessary both a day walk and long visits. The number of visitors is also limited.</p>
Sentinel Peak	<p>The famous Sentinel and Ampitheatre, the Devil's Tooth and the Three Witches contribute to the rugged splendour of the Drakensberg. The majestic Maluti Mountains, with its multi coloured sandstone cliffs and the cave dwellings with its Bushman paintings, are endlessly fascinating.</p>	<p>Information Office 058-7130012</p>	<p>They are accommodation establishment at Mount Aux or Witsieshoek Mountain. Furthermore camping sites be it this activity is required.</p>
Wetsi's Cave	<p>Chief Wetsi Mokholokoe tribe stole the cattle of Boers and hides at this cave, hence the place was called</p>	<p>Kagiso Mkhondo 0786140692</p>	

	<p>Witsieshoek</p> <p>During Zulu disturbances around 1840, a section of the Makgolokwe tribe under Chief Wetsi fled here. The area was then named by early Europeans after this chief: <i>Witsieshoek</i> (i.e. <i>Wetsi's Glen</i>).</p> <p>In 1856 Chief Wetsi, joined by the Zulu warriors of King Mpande, the Bapedi of Sekhukhune and others, fought against the invading European Voortrekkers, who were joined by the Bakwena of Mopeli. Chief Wetsi's Cave is near the western border of the Royal Natal National Park</p>		
Witsieshoek Mountain Resort	Witsieshoek resort is the ideal place for hikers, climbers and outdoor enthusiasts who want to experience the majesty of the Drakensberg	Witsieshoek Reservation Number 058-7136361	Newly renovated game lodge with breath-taking and spectacular views.
Mosupatsela Cultural Tours	Come and experience the shepherd's lifestyle, where you can camp and listen to their stories and experience their mysterious lifestyle.	Andile 0795518356	Guided tours, tailored itineraries and tours around the Eastern Free State.
Batlokoa Monument	The Afrikaans-speaking community renamed the town Witsieshoek, after Wetsi, chief of the BaTlokwa section of the Basotho people, who settled here after the Zulu raids on smaller tribes had ended. In 1969 the area was granted self-government as Qwa-Qwa, the homeland of the baSotho ba Borwa ("Sotho people of the south	Andile 079 5518356	
Metsi Matsho Dam	Metsi Matsho were initially constructed for storage of water and supply of portable water to the densely populated Qwaqwa region .it provides 20% portable water to MAP Local Municipality.	Information Office 058-7130012	
Fika Patso Dam	Metsi Matsho were initially constructed for storage of water and supply of portable water to the densely populated Qwaqwa region .it provides 80% portable water to MAP Local Municipality .	Information Office 058-7130012	
Prophet Walter Matilda Memorial	It is common cause that the Rev Walter Matita (referred to as the prophet) was the founder of a religious movement that came to be known as the	Information Office 059-7130012	

	<p>Mosheeshee Berea Bible Readers Church. The prophet was born of ordinary stock in the year 1885. His parents had been allocated a site in the village of Ha Motsoene, bothania area, in Berea district on which they built a house. On reaching manhood the prophet preached a special brand of the gospel travelling far and wide, in central and northern Lesotho and the eastern part of the Orange Free State including the land known as Qua Qua.</p> <p>The prophet was married and had two daughters Marita and Maria. He had no sons. His memorial is situated near UFS, Qwaqwa campus</p>		
<p>HARRISMITH</p> <p>A rather charming example of a typical Free State town, Harrismith is probably best known by South Africans as the 'halfway house' - half way, that is, between Durban & Johannesburg and Bloemfontein & Durban. For years it has served as the midway stop to tank up both on fuel and food.</p> <p>Suffice it to say that Harrismith has remained in obscurity pretty much until recently. Harrismith lies just off the N3, roughly 314 kilometres from Johannesburg and 315 kilometres from Durban, and the N5 from Bethlehem comes to an end in the middle of the town, which serves as the centre of one of the five wool producing districts in the country.</p> <p>The town hall in Harrismith, a national monument, is a graceful sandstone and brick building built in 1907. This and the Harrismith Wildflower Gardens, founded in 1967 as a botanical garden, with some fine examples of the Drakensberg region's flora and a wonderful picnic spot, are reason enough to visit Harrismith. The town also serves as something of a gateway into the Drakensberg Mountains and people use Harrismith to stock up on last minute items or to make speedy reconnaissance trips for dwindling supplies.</p> <p>There's plenty to do in and around the town: The Sterkfontein dam close by is the third largest dam in the country and a haven for water enthusiasts; the Platberg Game Reserve adjoins the Botanical Garden and offers some amazing hiking and mountain bike trails; and Swinburne, a little village just south of Harrismith lies in a particularly beautiful part of the country</p>			
Anglo Boer War Blockhouse	Original sandstone which is a replica of Rice's blockhouse in the Commando grounds.	Info Office Number 058-6223525	
Petrified Tree	30 m long and estimated to be 250 million years old. It can be viewed at the Town Hall	Harrismith Tourism Office 058 623 0860	

Deborah Retief Gardens	A 250 million year old, 33 m fossilized tree lies in this garden next to the town hall. Memorials honour those who fought in the Anglo Boer War and the First World War. Of particular interest is a memorial to the Scots Guards and Grenadier Guards.	Harrismith Tourism Office 058 623 0860	
Sterkfontein Dam and Nature Reserve	<p>Situated on the R74 on the Oliviershoek Pass from KZN and Harrismith. From Bloemfontein and Gauteng (via N1) it can be via the N5 or the N3. It is the third largest dam in South Africa providing a perfect playground for sailing and other watersports. The surrounding landscape is scenically stunning - characterized by rugged mountains, lush ravines and rolling grasslands.</p> <p>In this beautiful setting is the Sterkfontein Nature Reserve covering 18 000 hectares. Perfect for long walks, hiking (there is a two-day hiking trail) and biking, it also offers excellent game viewing and bird watching. You can tick off oribi, reedbuck, mountain reedbuck, grey rhebuck, the bald ibis, the blue and whitebellied korhaan, the buffstreaked chat, the ground woodpecker and the sentinel. Gaze up to the sky and you could spot bearded and Cape vultures as well as Verreaux's (black) and martial eagles soaring. Secretary birds can also be spotted in treetops or stalking in the grasslands. Has brilliant birds' species and windsurfing.</p>	Reservation Number 058-6223520	
Vulture Restaurant	Cape and Bearded vultures benefit from feeding scheme (vulture restaurant) at the view site overlooking Sterkfonteindam with safe poison free carcasses.	Harrismith Tourism Office 058 623 0860	
Swinburne	The second oldest bridge in the Free State, and now a national monument, spans the Wilge River. At the official opening in 1884 it was claimed that, as it was the furthest of its kind.	Harrismith Tourism Office 058 623 0860	
Kekenburg battle sites	The Voortrekkers camped in the area, whilst their leader, Piet Retief, negotiated with the Zulu leader Dingane. After receiving reports of what the	Harrismith Tourism Office 058 623 0860	

	Voortrekkers interpreted as successful negotiations Retief's daughter wrote his name, and the date, which was also his birthday, on a rock where they held a church service. This is a national monument		
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THABO MOFUTSANYANE INFORMATION OFFICES

TOWN	CONTACT NUMBER
Bethlehem	058-3035732
Clarens	058-2561542
Clocolan	0519430291
Fouriesburg	058-2230028
Ficksburg	058-9339300/6486
Golden Gate	058-2550962
Harrismith	058-6320860/3525
Lindley	058-4630004
Marquard	082 8844 097
Memel	058-9240740
Montrose	058-6721044
Paul Roux	058-4710705/0834510603
Phuthaditjhaba	058 7130013/3
Reitz	058 8632811
Senekal	058 4812142
Sterkfontein Dam	058 622 3520
Basotho Cultural Village	058 7210300
Rosendal	058-2110620
Ladybrand	051-9240654/5131

THABO MOFUTSANYANE EVENTS

EVENT	EVENT PROFILE/CATEGORY	VENUE	DATE	CONTACT DETAILS
FEBRUARY				
Solomon Mica Open Water Swimming	Sporting	Bethlehem	05 Jan 2013	Jacques/Tina Nel 082 370 5123/083 4591363
The Power of One Workshop	Tourism Stakeholder Networking Session with Tour Operators	Clarens	24 Jan 2013	hanneliedt@tep.co.za
Bielie Mielie Festival	Agricultural	Reitz	15-16 Feb	Pienaar 058-8632307/0825707566
Dikgeleke	Cultural Festival	Fouriesburg	? Feb	058-3035732
Craft Beer Festival	Entertainment/Leisure	Clarens	22-23 Feb	Tammy Hancock 082 824 9365/058-2561086 tammy@softnet.co.za
Free State Junior Golf	Sporting	Clarens	22-24 Feb	Tammy Hancock 058-2561086 tammy@softnet.co.za
Rosendal Festival		Rosendal	22-24 Feb 2013	Samantha/Tracy 0836301910/082 8534211
Sterkfontein Dam Swim/MTB Race	Sport	Harrismith	23 Feb	Willie Foster 082 563 9283
MARCH				
Swimburne Flea Market	Arts & Craft	Swimburne	2 March	Jenni/Meglyn 058-6721033 infomontrose@spri.co.za
Surrender Hill Marathon	Sporting	Clarens	2 March	Ebarnie Cilliers 082 822 8992 tammy@softnet.co.za
Clarens SPF Macnollie Challenge		Clarens	08-10 March	Tammy Hancock 082 824 9365/058-2561086

EVENT	EVENT PROFILE/CATEGORY	VENUE	DATE	CONTACT DETAILS
Yenza Festival		Van Reenen	15-17 March	Mbuso 0792272915 vanreenentourism@megawifi.co.za
Vusi Mahlaba Soccer Tournament	Sporting	Clarens	29 March	Tammy Hancock 0828249365/058-2561086
Clarens Flea Market	Arts and Crafts	Clarens	30 March	Tammy Hancock 0828244965/058-2561086
Gospel Festival	Religious Music	Memel	29-30	Estelle Watermeyer 0832783666 racecountryretreat@gmail.com
APRIL				
Festival of Dirt	Leisure	Clarens	05-08 April	Tammy Hancock 0828349365/058-2561086
Greater Clarens Community Braai	Leisure	Clarens	09 April	Tammy Hancock 0828349365/058-2561086
NG Kerk Flea Market	Religious	Clarens	27 April	Tammy Hancock 0828249365/058-2561086
Fouriesburg 4x4	Adventure/Outdoor	Fouriesburg	? April	082 9598120
MAY				
MTN Mountain Bike Challenge	Sporting	Clarens	03-05 May	Tammy Hancock 0828249365/058-2561086
Mantatisi Ruins Historical Tour	History	Verkykerskop	11 May	Biebie 0730556764
JUNE				
Classical Soiree @ Brambleberry	Leisure	Clarens	31 May – 01 June	Tammy Hancock 0828249365
Quilting Festival	Culture	Clarens	26-27 June	Tammy Hancock 082 8249365/058-2561086
JULY				
XMAS in July	Leisure	Clarens	11-13 July	Tammy Hancock 082 824 9365 / 058-2561086

EVENT	EVENT PROFILE/CATEGORY	VENUE	DATE	CONTACT DETAILS
Mandela Day Community Projects	History & Heritage	Clarens	18 July	Tammy Hancock 082 824 9365/058-2561086
Bethlehem Air Show	Leisure	Bethlehem	Aug-Sep	058-3035732
Vrede Paddadors	Leisure	Vrede	Aug/Sep	082 374 2476 082 4116299
NG Flea Market	Religious	Clarens	10 Aug	Tammy Hancock 082 824 9365/058-2561086
Spring Art Fair	Arts & Craft	Clarens	30 Aug -01 Sep	Tammy Hancock 082 8249365/058-2561086
SEPTEMBER				
Berg Bohaai	Arts & Craft	Harrismith	Harrismith	Isabel Potgetier 058-6230860
Tourism Month Celebrations Familiarisation Tour: Eagle Route	Domestic Tourism Campaigns and Promotions	Eastern Free State	TBC	FSTA 051-4114300
Fouriesburg Spring Fair	Agricultural Festival	Fouriesburg	TBC	058-2230429 0798971669
Vintage Tractor Fair	Agricultural /Steam Festival	Clocolan	TBC	Coenie de Beer 082 374 4690
Golden Gate 50 th Anniversary	Sport	Golden Gate, Clarens	13 Sep	Tammy Hancock 082 8249365/058-2561086
OCTOBER				
Golden Gate Half Marathon	Sport	Golden Gate, Clarens	05 Oct	082 8228992
Harrismith Mountain Race	Sport	Harrismith	12 Oct	Piet Venter 082 783 0674
CTF Golf Day	Sport	Clarens	12 Oct	Tammy Hancock 082 8249365 /058-2561086
Clarens Annual Festival	Leisure	Clarens	18-20 Oct	Tammy Hancock 082 8249365/058-2561086
Over the Edge Mountain Bike	Sport	Van Reenen	19 Oct	Mbuso 079 227 2915

				vanreenentourism@megawifi.co.za
NOVEMBER				
Cherry Mountain Bike Race	Sport	Ficksburg	16 Nov	073 8086189
Cherry Festival	Agri-Tourism	Ficksburg Show Ground	21-24 Nov	Gavin Boy 051-9336486/0829205551 www.cherryfestival.co.za