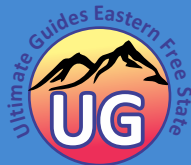


The Ultimate Guide

Clarens & Surrounds 4th Edition



★ Clarens ★ Fouriesburg ★ Bethlehem ★ Ficksburg ★ Rosendal ★ Day Drives ★ Places Of Interest
★ Geology ★ History ★ Weddings ★ Health Beauty ★ Annual Events ★ Delis ★ Restaurants &
Eateries ★ Retail ★ Emergency Numbers ★ Places Of Worship ★ Art Galleries
and lots more.....



FREE COPY





Services

- Seasonal Fresh Cherries
- Cherry Tours • Cherry Products
- Belgium Waffles • Gourmet Food
- Camping Site • Mountain Bike Trail
- Trail Run 5-10km • Fun for Kids & Adults
- Ionia Cherry Cave for Functions, Conferences & Weddings (Can accommodate 2000 people)

Join Our Annual Ionia Cherry CROP Celebration

14 - 17
NOVEMBER 2024

- Live Music
- Christmas Market
- Kids Entertainment
- MTB Challenge



For any inquiries or to make a reservation, contact us

072 585 3684

ioniacherries@bloukruijn.co.za

Fouriesburg Country Inn

About Us

Fouriesburg Country Inn is a 4 star graded hotel, located in the beautiful small town of Fouriesburg.

Fouriesburg Country Inn is the ideal venue for:

- Leisure Travelers as Afriski Mountain Resort is located only 90km away.
- Romantic Retreats - enjoy a romantic dinner in the only underground wine cellar in the Eastern Free State.
- Business Traveler - Caledonspoort border post to Lesotho is only 9km away.
 - Business Conferences.
 - Small Intimate Weddings.
- Tailor-made Events such as Bridal Showers, Baby Showers or Birthday Parties.

Fouriesburg Country Kitchen is our on-site a La Carte Restaurant with fully licensed bar. Our specialities include our famous Lamb Shank Pie, delicious Country Monster Burger, mouthwatering Country Chicken Schnitzel and delectable Maluti Mountain River Trout.

Services

- Accommodation
- Restaurant
- Waffle House
- Ladies Bar
- Conference venue
- Wedding venue



For any inquiries or to make a reservation, contact us

058 223 0207

stay@fouriesburgcountryinn.co.za

Welcome to our beautiful region and the 4th edition of The Ultimate Guide, Clarens & Surrounds!

There are many choices between all the fantastic places one can visit in South Africa, but I must say that the Eastern Free State is probably one of the most scenic areas in the country. And there is so much to do here!

Again, in this edition, we are highlighting the best of Clarens & Surrounds, so you, the visitors, can keep coming back to our region to experience its beauty, its hospitality and its culture.

We have, this time, added a whole section for Rosendal, this booming dorpje with much to offer. I do hope that you will make the time to take a drive and experience its peaceful lifestyle.

Our website

www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za – is being visited by thousands of people, many of whom are coming back numerous times. With this success, I have decided to add a “booking” button to our site, so we can help you book the perfect accommodation or activity in the Eastern Free State. Our **Ultimate Guide Tourism Office** in Fouriesburg is also being launched with this edition. So don't hesitate to contact us on 071 690 6447 or

bookings@ultimateguideclarens.co.za.

The guide, as for the past editions, is also available on our website as an e-magazine or a free PDF download (it is a big file, so it does take a while to download!). Do let your



family, friends, colleagues, guests and customers know.

All the information contained in the 4th edition was correct at the time of print, but things do change. So keep an eye on our Facebook page (@ClarensandSurrounds) or our Instagram account (@ug_clarensandsurrounds) for updates, events and information.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all who have helped with this edition. Your help, advice, information, photos, support, all mean a lot to me. Not to mention our advertisers, without whom The Ultimate Guide, Clarens & Surrounds would not exist. You guys rock!

On this note, I wish all of you happy and safe travels around the Eastern Free State.

Kgotso

Valerie Kneppert



Cover photo: Sandstone Estates by Valerie Kneppert

The Free State is home to some impressive geological features. In the Northern Free State, the Vredefort Dome is the world's oldest and largest meteor impact site and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Further south, in the Eastern Free State, there are the geological wonders of The Sentinel which lies at the northernmost point of the Drakensberg Mountains. The Sentinel trail takes hikers 3.000 meters above the Drakensberg Amphitheatre, offering spectacular views.

The geology of the **Golden Gate Highlands National Park** is fascinating and were formed during the Late Triassic Epoch and the Jurassic Period (roughly 150 to 230 million years ago). Golden Gate has three distinct geological layers that can be clearly seen in the Brandwag Rock (the much photographed sandstone outcrop that stands sentinel over the park). Geologists read rock formations from the bottom up. At the bottom is the red mudstone, called the Elliot Formation, which contains fossils of the Massospondylus, the dinosaur species that once roamed the area. Above the Elliot layer is the Clarens Formation, which is the cream sandstone layer consisting of dune sand from when the region was a desert some 190 million years ago. The top layer is black and studded with crystals. This is the Drakensberg Formation and comprises of the lava flow from the volcanic eruptions of over 100 million years ago.

There are some exciting dinosaur fossil sites in the Clarens area, dating back around 240 million years. The fossils discovered show how sizes varied

amongst dinosaurs. For example, the Massospondylus was about 5m-6m long; while the Lesothosaurus was only about 90cm long. In 2018, fossils of a new species, Ledumahadi Mafube were discovered just outside Clarens, astounding the palaeontology community.

Dinosaur enthusiasts can learn more about the pre-historic life that existed in the area by joining Dr Gideon Groenewald from Clarens Dinosaur on a dinosaur hunting expedition – bookings are essential – 072 335 8768. A visit to **Mafube Mountain Retreat**, near Fouriesburg to view very well preserved dinosaur footprints is also a must – bookings essential – 084 668 4499.

Unfortunately, at this of going to print, the Dinosaur Museum in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park is still not open. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Instagram account for more information. Every buttress, outcrop, cave and holkrans (overhang) that catches your eye while exploring our region has a story that predates man. We just need to learn how to read it.



Our corner of the country definitely lends itself to hosting events. Below is a list of main annual events to mark in your calendars. Many visitors book their accommodation and reservations long in advance, so plan your trip in good time. Our booking office can help you – you can contact us on 071 690 6447 or via email at bookings@ultimateguideclarens.co.za. Although details were correct at the time of going to print, some information may change during the year. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, @ClarensandSurrounds, and Instagram account, @ug_clarensandsurrounds, for updates.

February

Clarens Craft Beer Festival

CLARENS

www.clarenscraftbeerfest.com

This very popular craft beer festival happens every year in the scenic village of Clarens. With micro breweries from around the country, this is a must for any beer lover.

March

Surrender Hill Marathon

CLARENS

www.bethlehemmarathonklub.co.za

Organised by the Bethlehem Marathon Klub, this is a 42.2km Comrades qualifier which starts on the Square in Clarens and meanders through the long hills of the R711 towards Fouriesburg.

Mountain Madalas

CLARENS & FOURIESBURG

info@enduroworld.co.za

A 2-days event Enduro route for the whole family, which takes place twice a year.

Clocolan Plaaskulturfees

CLOCOLAN

www.plaaskulturfees.org.za

This is not only for farming enthusiasts, but is a great day out for the whole family

with lots of exhibits, entertainments and activities in the true Free State style.

April

Sandstone Easter Steam & Cosmos Festival

FICKSBURG

www.sandstone-estates.com

Everything vintage, from farming equipment, military vehicles, cars, busses to aircrafts. Steam train rides through the cosmos fields.



Clarens Arts Festival

CLARENS

www.clarensartsfestival.co.za

A three-day event taking place over the long weekend at the end of April to showcase all aspects of art – sculpture, painting, dance, music, literature, culinary art, and more.

TOURISM OFFICE



**Corner of Noorder
& Robertson Streets
Fouriesburg
071 690 6447**

bookings@ultimateguideclarens.co.za



**Contact us or visit our website for bookings of
accommodation & activities in the
Eastern Free State
www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za**

Maluti Double 90 Cycle Race

CLARENS

www.malutidouble90.co.za

This yearly event is a road cycle race over 180 km on the scenic tarred roads of the Eastern Free State.

Dinosaur Fun Run

CLARENS

072 335 8768

An annual Fun Run organised by the Dr Gideon Groenewald and his family on the Easter weekend. Fun for the whole family.

May

Amohela Classic MTB Challenge

CLARENS

www.amohelamtchallenge.com

This MTB Challenge happens over 2 days on trails built exclusively for the race through private reserves, the Clarens Village Conservancy and surrounding farms.

June

Clarens Quilting Festival

CLARENS

quiltinclarens@gmail.com

This yearly week-long festival for the quilting enthusiasts is the only event of its kind in the Free State. It has a unique relaxed atmosphere and is well attended by needle artists from around the country.

July

Polar Bear Plunge

FOURIESBURG

www.clunyanimaltrust.co.za

A short swim in the ice cold waters of Arpa Dam outside Fouriesburg to raise fund for Cluny Animal Trust, a veterinary welfare based in Fouriesburg.

September

Titanic Challenge Trail Run

CLARENS

www.titanicchallenge.com

This trail run goes through the scenic Clarens Village Conservancy. All proceeds go to the Conservancy for maintenance of the trails and the general upkeep of the reserve.

Affi Lande 2 -day Trail Run

FOURIESBURG

www.revolutiontrails.co.za

2 day trail run at Affi Lande Boutique Guest Farm. This event is also pet friendly.





Zuikerkop Adventure Dash

CLOCOLAN

info@zuikerkop.co.za

A fun-filled weekend of activities including trail running, mountain biking and lots of other activities for the whole family.

October

Cluny Animal Trust Golf Day

CLARENS

www.clunyanimaltrust.co.za

Hosted at the Clarens Golf & Leisure Estate, this event has become very popular amongst golfers from all over the country. A whole day event with a dinner and auction to raise funds for Cluny Animal Trust our local veterinary welfare operating in the Eastern Free State.

Brandwaterkom Ultra Trail

FOURIESBURG

bwktrail@gmail.com

With different trail options, this event, hosted by Oranje Guest Farm, is fun for the whole family and is great way to spend a weekend in the mountains.

Annual Beer mile

ROSENDAL

www.resendaltown.co.za

A unique race the mixes running and fast beer consumption over a mile course in the small town of Rosendal. Non-alcoholic alternatives are available too.

November

Ionia Cherry Crop Celebration

FOURIESBURG

ioniacherries@bloukruin.co.za

Everything Cherry at Ionia Cherry Farm between Fouriesburg and Ficksburg (R26). It happens on the 3rd weekend of November and draws crowds from around South Africa.



Sandstone Summer Steam Festival

FICKSBURG

www.sandstone-estates.com

This event happens during the Cherry Festival and showcases an amazing collection of steam trains, vintage cars and farming equipment as well a military vehicles. A unique heritage experience in a beautiful setting.

Cherry Craft Festival

FICKSBURG

fxbcherryfest@gmail.com

Cherry products, craft beer & gin, handmade products, live music and food stalls. Cherry tours.

Open Gardens of the Eastern Free State

FICKSBURG

072 621 0674

Organised by the Ficksburg Agri-tourism Forum this is a must for all gardeners and lovers of beautiful gardens. It features

several gardens on farms around Ficksburg and happens over a few weekends in November.

December

Clarens Friends Jamboree

CLARENS

clarensinn@gmail.com

Hosted by Rick Schwim and family for more than 40 years over the mid-December weekend, this yearly gathering of musicians and friends is hosted at the Clarens Inn and Backpackers.





BETHLEHEM & PAUL ROUX

Cheetau Lodge

082 804 4166

info@cheetaulodge.com

Small venue for up to 60 guests. In-house catering. Accommodation for guests and bridal party.

Lavender Hill Country Estate

058 303 1673

www.lavenderhillestate.co.za

Chapel for a maximum of 200 persons. The Birdsong open air gazebo for up to 120 persons and Boskerk amongst oak trees for up to 150 persons. Full wedding packages. 3 reception halls from 30 to 350 guests. Honeymoon Suite and guest accommodation.

The Perfect Corner

076 432 4465

www.theperfectcorner.co.za

Reception only for up to 60 persons. In-house catering. Guest accommodation available.

Uniondale Game Farm

083 998 4493

www.uniondalefarm.co.za

Wedding venue offering in-house catering and a wedding co-ordinator. Accommodation for guests and the wedding party.

CLARENS

Castle in Clarens

083 268 0497

www.castleinclarens.co.za



Honeymoon Suite and accommodation for the bridal party.

Dunelm Guest Farm

082 998 0040

www.dunelm.co.za

Chapel, and outdoors weddings, as well as reception in the sandstone outbuildings or the farmyard barn. In-house catering and décor.

Mont D'Or Hotel

058 256 1224

www.montdor.co.za

Reception only. In-house catering for up to 150 guests. Accommodation for guests and the bridal party.

Protea Hotel by Marriott

058 256 1212

www.marriott.com

Reception only with full in-house catering for up to 50 persons. Accommodation for guests and the bridal party.

Treat Restaurant

082 443 8419

chef@clarensretreat.co.za

Reception only for up to 40 guests. In-house catering, flowers and decor provided. Accommodation for guests and the bridal party.

FOURIESBURG

Affi-Lande Boetiek Guest Farm

084 838 4110

www.affilande.co.za

Bush chapel, sandstone barn and marquis for up to 80 guests. Hall & Boma available. In-house catering. Accommodation for up to 28 guests.

Bella Montagna

083 410 6460

www.bellam.co.za

Chapel and reception for up to 200 guests. In-house catering including the wedding cake. Honeymoon Suite and bridal party accommodation.

Fouriesburg Country Inn

058 223 0207

www.fouriesburgcountryinn.co.za

Reception only for up to 60 guests. Full catering provided. Accommodation for guests and the bridal party.

Ionia Cherry Farm

072 585 3694 ioniacherries@bloukruin.co.za

Outdoor chapel and reception in the Cherry Cave for large weddings of 400 guests and more. In-house catering or own catering. Fully licensed bar on the premises.

Jackal's Hill Country Café

079 873 1318

www.jackalshill.co.za

Small indoors & outdoors country venue for up to 30 guests. In-house catering, flowers and decor.

Meiringskloof Nature Park

058 223 0067

www.meiringskloof.co.za

Outdoors or indoors weddings in the lapa for up to 42 guests. In-house or own catering and décor. Accommodation for guests and bridal party.

Oranje Guest Farm

084 712 0427

www.oranjegastelaas.co.za

Full wedding packages. Chapel for up to 220 guests. Reception hall for up to 220 guests with a dance floor or 300 guests without dance floor. In-house catering.

Honeymoon Suite and guests accommodation.

The Fat Mulberry Guesthouse

074 683 0332

www.fatmulberry.com

Full wedding packages for up to 50 guests. Decor and flowers provided. In-house catering. Accommodation for guests available.

Uitzicht Game Lodge

063 134 4718

www.uitzichtgamelodge.co.za

Bush chapel, outdoors weddings and hall for up to 120 guests. Open cave for smaller weddings, in-house catering. Accommodation for up to 80 guests.



Welgelegen Cherry Estate

072 075 0760

www.wcestate.co.za



Full wedding packages. Chapel for up to 150 guest and outdoor weddings for up to 200 guests. Reception for up to 200 guests. In-house catering. Bridal Suite and accommodation for up to 80 guests. Suitable for disabled.

Wyndford Holiday Farm

058 223 0274

www.wyndford.co.za

Chapel and reception venue up to 65 guests. In-house catering, decor and flowers. Not licensed. Guest accommodation.



ROSENDAL

Moolmanshoek Private Game Reserve

082 788 6623

www.moolmanshoek.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 150 guests. In-house catering. Boskerk and sandstone chapel. Horse cart. Accommodation for up to 30 guests.

The Rosendal Country Retreat

078 319 5019

www.therosendal.co.za

Chapel and outdoors weddings up to 120 guests. 2 reception venues. In-house catering and bridal party accommodation.

FISCKBURG & BEYOND

Victoria House

051 933 3531

Reception only up to 100 guests. In-house catering, flowers and decor. Fully licensed.

Cranberry's

051 923 1500

www.cranberrycottage.co.za

Reception only. Fully catered for and licensed. Accommodation for up to 60 guests.

Ellerbeck Country Lodge

www.ellerbeckcountrylodge.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 200 guests. In-house catering. Fully licensed. Accommodation for up to 16 persons.

Imla Guest Farm

082 770 1749

www.imlafarm.co.za

Full wedding packages. In-house catering. Guest accommodation.

Imperani Guesthouse & Restaurant

051 933 3606

www.imperaniguesthouse.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 200 guests. In-house catering and fully licensed cash bar. Accommodation for up to 70 guests. Honeymoon Suite.

Omdraai Farm

082 690 9375

www.omdraaifarm.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 230 guests. Outdoor chapel and Bridal suite. Guest accommodation.

Tempelhof Guest & Game Farm

051 933 3973

www.tempelhof.co.za

Fully functioning venue hire for up to 100 guests. Catering, decor and flowers can be provided at extra cost. Guest accommodation available

Vlakbult Guest Farm

079 412 2555

www.vlakbultguestfarm.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 150 guests. Outdoor chapel and sandstone reception venue. In-house catering. Accommodation

for up to 12 guests. Honeymoon Suite.

Zuikerkop Country Game Lodge

083 389 0587

www.zuikerkop.co.za

Full wedding packages for up to 200 guests. Sandstone chapel. In-house catering. Accommodation for up to 85 guests. Honeymoon Suite.

STERKFontein Dam

Qwantani Berg & Bush Resort

058 623 0885

www.firstgroup-sa.co.za/qwantani

Full wedding packages for up to 120 guests. Bridal party and guest accommodation.

Wild Horses Lodge

083 640 0024

www.wildhorses.co.za

Intimate bespoke venue for up to 30 guests. In-house catering. Accommodation for the bridal party.



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Anja du Preez Photography

078 244 1664 - dupreezanja11@gmail.com

Deodet de Coning Photography

076 582 400

www.deodetdeconingphotography@gmail.com

Ian van Straaten

076 812 8930- ianvanstraaten@gmail.com

Joan Keyter

060 529 1636 - joankeyter@gmail.com

DECOR & FLOWERS

Altie du Plessis-Dreyer

083 331 0714 - altie.duplessis@gmail.com

Decor & Flowers

Pam Subke

082 998 0040 - pam@timesgoneby.co.za

Wedding co-ordinator,

Flowers & Décor

Tammy Hancock

082 824 9365, tammyhancock00@gmail.com

Flowers

MUSICIANS & DJs

Kjirsten Forrester Violin

082 805 2510 - Violin

OB

079 454 0076 - Sol,o

Rudo Schwim Live

064 888 5891- Solo

Salome Prinsloo

079 519 6595 - Solo

prinsloos1990@gmail.com

Simon Silcock

073 823 8935 - Solo

simonsilcock15@gmail.com

CATERING

Jackal's Hill Fromage

079 873 1318, cheese@jackalshill.co.za

Artisan cheeses & Cheese Towers

Pro-Caterers

083 331 0714, altie.duplessis@gmail.com

Mobile catering – 20 to 200 persons

Smith Coffee Company

079 319 1683, smithcoffeeco@gmail.com

Mobile coffee truck

Treat Restaurant

082 443 8419, chef@clarensretreat.co.za

Catering & wedding cakes

CROCKERY, CUTTLERY, EQUIPMENT

All in One Party Hire

082 218 1110

eliseolivier@mweb.co.za

Décor, crockery, cutlery & styling

Elegant Draping

076 529 7884

www.elegantdraping.co.za

Décor, draping & lighting

Weddings

Wedding Services

Jackal's Hill Fromage

079 873 1318, cheese@jackalshill.co.za
Chocolate fountain

HAIR, NAILS & BEAUTY

Hair by Yviette

076 688 3650, yviette@icloud.com
Hair & Makeup

Hairloom

083 379 6804, evevenaardt@gmail.com
Hair

Manet's Nails by Janet

072 630 7645
Nails

Niin's

058 303 8972, www.niins.co.za
Makeup & Nails



Posh Lab

084 459 7260, www.poshlab.co.za
Hair, Makeup & Nails

Wildflower Hair salon

073 797 8841, hymnedu.plooy@yahoo.com
Hair & Makeup

WEDDING DRESSES

Megan Design Studio

084 247 2138
megandesignstudio@gmail.com
Bridal & formal dresses



The Eastern Free State offers some of the best fishing waters in South Africa. Fly-fishing is the most popular, with wild trout in rivers and streams, and a few well stocked bass and trout dams at private venues. The season usually opens on 1st September and closes on 31st May to allow for spawning, and all venues work on a catch and release basis. Fishing venues include:

The Little Caledon River, for wild rainbow trout and yellowfish. A natural river depending on rainfall, the Little Caledon is not always fishable. Access can be obtained from **De Molen Farm** on the R712.

Contact 058 256 1096 – www.demolenfarm.co.za

The Kloof dam at the Clarens Village Conservancy is a public venue where one can find large-mouth bass and grass carp. Permits are for sale at different venues around town or from their website – www.clarensvillageconservancy.com. At only R40, the

permits are valid for a week from date of purchase and help raise funds for conservation and maintenance in the Clarens Nature Reserve.

The Ash River, for wild rainbow and brown trout. This is a man-made river, bringing water from Katse Dam in Lesotho through an 82km tunnel. The waters have a constant low temperature and are deep and fast, making it quite challenging to fish. Access is limited and can, at time of print, only be gained through Mavunga n a Flyfishing (Nathan – 071 687 1707).

The Fouriesburg Town Dam allows fishing. A key for the gate situated next to the Farmers Association Hall is available from Di Plaasstoep Restaurant (R100 refundable deposit for the key).

Emden Farm, 15km outside Fouriesburg, offers 3 beautiful dams, well stocked with large-mouth bass. Day visitors are welcome and do not need to stay on the farm. Contact Duncan Long on 082 334 4591.





For guided fishing trips in and around Fouriesburg and Clarens, contact Greg at **Clarens Fishing** on 073 428 478 – booking in advance is a must.

Sol Plaatjies Dam (previously Saulspoort Dam), outside Bethlehem, is open to the public. There are 2 slipways to launch boats from. It is home to yellowfish, carp and bass.

There are a few private fishing venues around the region where one need to stay at their accommodation to be able to fish the dams or rivers. For trout, contact **Sediba Lodge** (058 256 1028), **Royal Coachman** (082 824 9365) or **Kingsbrook Pods** (082 926 4068).

For large-mouth bass, contact **Boulders Lodge** (082 806 9612), **Boschoek Bass Cottage** (083 581 1627) or **Welgelegen Cherry Farm** (072 075 0760). For yellowfish, contact **Mafube Mountain Retreat** (084 668 4499). **Loch Athlone** on the R26 just outside Bethlehem also offers fishing to its guests (082 927 0209).

For the more adventurous anglers, **Sterkfontein Dam** is only 60km from Clarens and is open to the public. The crystal-clear waters are home to yellowfish (the Sterkfontein Gold) carp, bass and catfish. Bank fishing is popular with anglers and fly-fishermen alike. There are also numerous launching facilities for boats, but beware as the Sterkfontein Dam is known for strong winds and large waves. To experience Sterkfontein Dam at its best, contact Jeremy Rochester

from **Escape Flyfishing** on 083 607 6109.

Fishing Trips

with *Clarens Fishing*



073 428 2478

clarensfishing@gmail.com



Clarensfishing



@ ClarensFishing



The closest crossing into Lesotho from Fouriesburg and Clarens is the **Caledonspoort Border Post** (closest town Butha-Buthe), situated 9km outside Fouriesburg on the Caledonspoort Road (see map). The main roads in Lesotho are tarred but can be closed at time due to snow or ice. Remember to take extra layers of warm clothes and blankets when visiting Lesotho as the weather can be extreme and changes quickly. Snow ploughs regularly clear the passes, but it is advised to check the weather and road conditions before starting your travels.

Also remember that you will need a valid passport (valid for 6 months after your departure date) and an unabridged birth certificate for South-African children aged 18 and under. Your vehicle must be currently licensed and you need to provide your car ownership papers (Natis

– which you will have or you need to ask the bank to issue you with a letter allowing you to go over the border).

When planning your visit into Lesotho, it is advisable to check if any of the regulations have changed. You can visit the Afriski website or Facebook page for updates. www.afriski.net

Travelling in Lesotho is not measured in kilometres, but in hours! Hazards on the road are very different from driving in South Africa and respecting speed limits is a must.

AfriSki

AfriSki offers year-round adventures in the Maluti Mountains at 3222m above sea level. Both winter and summer seasons offer a host of activities for the adventurers who love the outdoors. Regular events and festivals are held and we suggest you follow Afriski's social

media platforms to keep abreast of the news. Also visit their website – www.afriski.net, for everything on offer. Directions from the Caledonspoort Border Post: follow the road until you see the blue “AfriSki 75km” sign, where you turn left. At the T-junction, turn left again. This is the road that will take you directly to AfriSki, 73km away.

Look out for the following landmarks: Muela hydropower station sign on your right; Mamohotsei pony trekking sign on your left; Liphofung cave sign on your left; Moteng Pass sign on your right; Moteng Pass top (2820m above sea level); Oxbow Lodge on your right; Mahlasela pass Top (3222m above sea level) sign on your left and finally the **AfriSki** entrance on your right.

Coordinates: 28°49'22”S – 28°43'41”E

Katse Dam

The **Katse Dam** is the second largest double-curvature arch reservoir dam in Africa. At 1993m above sea level, it is the highest dam in Africa and is surrounded by magnificent scenery. Owned by the Kingdom of Lesotho, it is over 50km long, has a surface of 3580 hectares and can hold 2 billion cubic meters of water! Due to the engineering feat of the **Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme** project, the Katse Dam supplies water to the Vaal

River system in South Africa by a series of tunnels stretching 82km between the dam and the Ash River outfall outside Clarens, while generating hydroelectricity for Lesotho.

Should you decide to stay overnight at the dam, the only option is the **Katse Lodge** (+266 2291 0202) which offers comfortable accommodation with friendly staff. There is a guided tour which takes the visitors inside the dam wall itself where the workings of the dam are explained. The tour ends on the dam wall which offers excellent views. There are hiking trails in the area, a beautiful botanical garden in a natural setting overlooking the dam and excellent fly-fishing in the rivers nearby. Boat rides are available based on sufficient passenger numbers.

Direction to Katse Dam from Caledonspoort Border Post: cross the border post and travel towards Butha-Buthe. Turn right at the T-junction/Leribe intersection, heading south on the Route A1. At Leribe you will see Katse Dam signposted to the left. Travel 70km over White Man's Pass to Ha Lejone and then further on towards Katse.

Coordinates: 29°33'69”S – 28°50'61”E

Clarens toward Bethlehem (R712)

Driving from Clarens toward Bethlehem you will see, on your left hand side, **Titanic Rock** guarding the entrance to the village. The name was proposed by a lady visitor to the area in 1912, the same year as the Titanic sank and the village of Clarens was founded.

The **Ash River Outfall** is 8km along the Bethlehem road and is one of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme's view point and a tribute to the engineering of this remarkable project (find more information in the Lesotho section).

Sol Plaatje Dam/Saulspoort Dam: This earth-filled type dam is located at the confluence of the Ash and Liebenbergsvlei Rivers, as you approach Bethlehem, and was established in 1968 serving mainly as

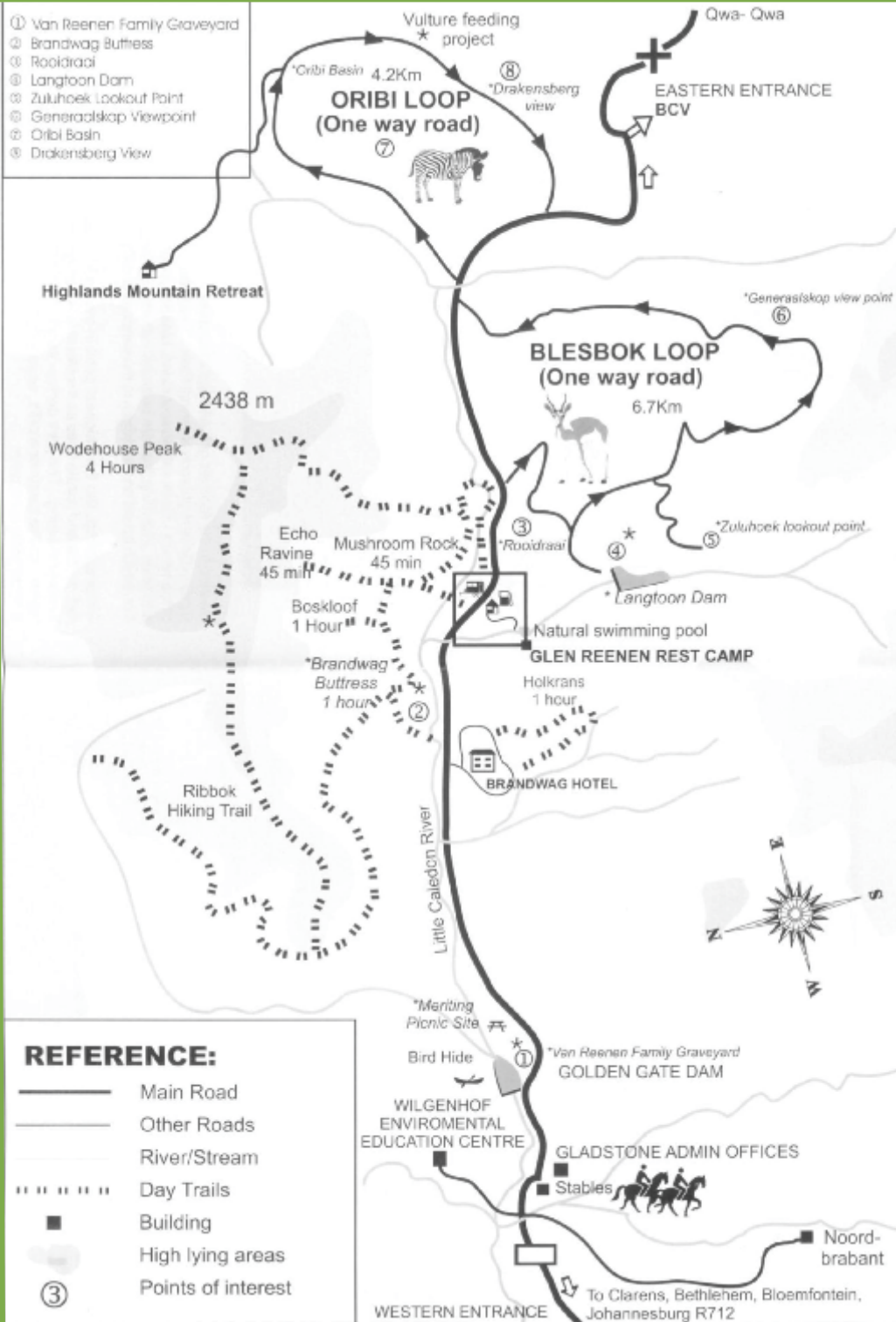
a municipal and domestic water supply. The reservoir receives water for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project via the Ash River. Originally known as Saulspoort Dam, it was officially renamed on 1st April 2005 after a bus disaster which took place in the early hours of 1st May 2003, where 51 passengers en-route to a Workers Day rally, were drowned. 41 of the workers were employees of the Sol Plaatje Municipality (Kimberley).

Clarens toward Sterkfontein Dam (R712)

As you turn right from Clarens onto the R712, you will pass the entrance to the **Clarens Golf & Leisure Estate** on the left. **Paraffin Kop**, the round hill on your right is so named because the residents of yore claimed to be able to detect a paraffin odour emanating from the hill at certain times.



- ① Van Reenen Family Graveyard
- ② Brandwag Butte
- ③ Rooibos
- ④ Langtoon Dam
- ⑤ Zuluhoek Lookout Point
- ⑥ Generalskop Viewpoint
- ⑦ Oribi Basin
- ⑧ Drakensberg View



As you get close to **Golden Gate Highlands National Park**, you will notice

Kiara Lodge (058 255 0140), a popular time-share resort also open

to the public on the right. Take a hike up Dassie Rock to see an excellent example of rock art, or stop at

Leap Adventures

(068 062 4947) for many outdoor

activities. For the hungry folks, **Sugar & Cinnamon**

as well as **Maluti Melt Restaurant** are perfect stops before entering the park.

The **Golden Gate Highlands National Park** (058 255 1000) is deservedly the area's main tourist attraction. Just 20km from Clarens, it is run and administered by SANPARKS. The government bought the Van Reenen family farm, Golden Gate, in 1962 and handed the land over to the National Parks Board. Between 1963 and today, the park has been increased from 4.792ha to its present 11.630ha, and borders Qwa-Qwa and Lesotho.

The drive to and through **Golden Gate Highlands National Park** is tarred and, as an arterial route to Harrismith, there is no entrance fee to drive through the park. **Golden Gate Highlands National Park** offers a well laid-out and serviced



camping and caravanning site, plus chalets for visitors. There is a picnic and braai area for day visitors (key available at the office), as well as a filling station and curio shop. Please note that there are no ATM facilities available. We urge the visitors using the park facilities to pay the small administrative fee at the main office. At time of print, the Dinosaur Museum was still under construction. But with the many dinosaur artefacts in the region, this will soon become a very interesting place to visit.

A short distance pass the Museum, there are two loop-roads into the highlands of the park (right & left and both one-way). Both routes take approximately 30 minutes, are tarred and suitable for all types of vehicle. Both loops offer spectacular views and numerous photo

opportunities. About 3km along the Oribi Loop on the left hand side is the path to the lookout point for the Vulture Restaurant, where a bird hide has been erected allowing you to watch the Cape Vulture and Bearded Vulture scavenging the carcasses that are regularly placed there. The road through Golden Gate will take you to **Phuthaditjaba** and then **Harrismith**. Once past the dam wall turn right onto the R74 (towards Bergville), to get to **Sterkfontein Dam**. The entrance to the **Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve** is a few kilometres down this road to your right

tributary of the Wilge River), it is part of the Tugela-Vaal River project and the Drakensberg Pumped Storage Scheme. The dam wall is 93m high (second highest in the country) and can be viewed from the R712 between Phutaditjhaba and the R74 turn off.

The 3rd largest dam in South Africa, it has a capacity of 2.616.950 cubic meters and stretches over a surface area of 67km². Surrounding the dam is **Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve**, which is home to more than 200 species of birds, including the endangered Cape Vulture and Bearded



STERKFONTein DAM

With crystal clear waters, prevailing winds and in the middle of a nature reserve, no wonder **Sterkfontein Dam** is a sought after destination in the Eastern Free State.

Built in 1980 on the Nuwejaarspruit (a

in and around the Reserve.

Sailing, boat cruises, hiking, fishing, horse riding, birding and fly-fishing or just admiring the breath-taking scenery, you will find something to do if you are a nature lover. There is no shops close-by, so make sure you bring all you need for your stay.

Vulture .
Antelopes ,
zebras ,
wildebeest, are
often seen
grazing in the
Reserve .
Accommodation
is available at the
resort (chalets
and camping), as
well as at
different
establishments

Clarens to Fouriesburg (R711)

The 35km trip on the R711 from Clarens to Fouriesburg is probably one of the most scenic roads in the country, and is considered amongst the top 10 runs for motorcyclists. The road is filled with breath-taking views of sandstone outcrops and valleys that are a photographer's delight.

There are excellent examples of Bushman art on the **Schaapplaats Farm**. To get to Schaapplaats, turn right onto the Golden Gate road as you exit town and then right again onto the Fouriesburg road (about 100m). Travel for 1.3km and then turn left on the **S1028**. Schaapplaats is 6km from the turnoff. There is a R50 entry fee per person, which goes towards the rural conservancy. Viewing by appointment only, call Sarah on 063 969 2657.

Look out for the signpost for **Mushroom Rock** (on the **St Fort** property), a fascinating example of wind erosion and one of the landmarks of the area.

Surrender Hill commemorates where the Free State Boer Commandos surrendered to British troops on 31st July 1900, and was proclaimed a National Monument in 1986 and has recently been revamped, with a new plaque erected (in resin so it won't be stolen!). In July 1900 a large part of the Free State armed forces were surrounded by British troops in the Brandwater Basin. Gen CR De Wet and about 2000 men escaped over Slabbert's Nek. In the basin, under Chief Comdt Marthinus Prinsloo's command, on 31st July, they agreed to surrender. More than 4300 Boers laid down their arms, at Surrender Hill, where the British destroyed the captured arms and ammunition. The bare

patches caused by the fire and exploding ammunition serve as a reminder of one of the most serious setbacks suffered by the Boers during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The prisoners of war were then walked to Theunissen (some 200km away) where they were taken by train to Bloemfontein,



Kimberley and Cape Town before being sent to prison camps in St Helena.



About 18km along the Fouriesburg road, look for the **S1356**, a tarred road to the left which follows the **Caledon River**, the area's border between Lesotho and South Africa. The road affords a fascinating glimpse of Basotho culture. Turn around once you reach the gravel and head back up the road. Down the hill past **Oranje Gasteplaas** you will find a dirt road to your left. This is the best route to visit **Queen Victoria**. One of the 20 largest freestanding sandstone formations in the Free State, the good Queen is situated on the farm **Lesoba**. Although hard to discern from the main road, on closer inspection of the profile, the formation looks like the silhouette of the good lady herself!

Who would have thought that you can go wine tasting in the Free State? As you head toward Fouriesburg, lookout for the **S325** and the sign "**Mile High Vineyards**",

whose owners John and Trish are successfully producing excellent wine from their vineyard under the label **Bald Ibis Wines**. Pop in and stock up your cellar or treat yourself to a meal at the **Mile High Vineyards Restaurant**. Call 072 142 3183 for tasting times and bookings.

At the same turnoff is the **Arpa Adventure Farm**, where the annual **Cluny Animal Trust Polar Bear Plunge** is held. The dam, with its row of trees submerged through to middle of it, is possibly one of the most photographed dams in the Eastern Free State. The owners even built a special gate from the main road allowing photographers easy access to the vantage points.

As you climb the hill towards Fouriesburg, you will notice **Destiny Castle** atop a sandstone mountain in the distance. This real-life medieval castle was built in modern days and offers spectacular 360 degrees views over the Maluti Mountains. If you ever wanted to feel like a princess or a knight in shining armour, **Destiny Castle** is for you. Guided tours or self-drive tours (4x4 only) can be booked with Liz on 084 512 5030.

When you see **Jenlees Country Shop** on your left (you won't miss it!), you will have reached Fouriesburg.



Fouriesburg is a low-key agricultural village with beautiful sandstone buildings and old-world courtesy. Of particular interest are the NG Kerk which was inaugurated in 1893, the Town Hall, the Intermediary School and the old Magistrates Court. Fouriesburg boasts a hotel and many guesthouses, pubs, restaurants as well as gift shops for those important keepsakes.

From Fouriesburg, you can easily access the towns of **Ficksburg, Rosendal, Clocolan** and **Ladybrand**.

An 8km drive will bring you to the **Caledonspoor Border Post**, the closest access point into Lesotho from Clarens, and the quickest route to **AfriSki** and **Katse Dam** (you will find all necessary information to cross the border post in the Lesotho section of this guide).



Fouriesburg to Ladybrand (R26)

The scenery on the R26 to **Ladybrand** is magnificent, and although the road is not in the best condition, it is well worth the drive. Be aware that this is an arterial route to Bloemfontein and the truck traffic can be heavy.

Ionia Cherry Farm, on the right hand side, consists of 5 farms and has over 15.000 cherry trees planted, as well as peach and plum trees. Stop for a snack and browse their mouth-watering array of homemade cherry products available throughout the year. Over cherry season they host popular cherry tours and picnics. **Ionia Cherry Farm** is also home to the now famous **Cherry Crop Celebration** hosted on the

3rd weekend of November. Call 072 585 3694 for bookings and information.

On the way to Ficksburg, you will find **Sandstone Estates** on the left hand side.

A large commercial agricultural enterprise, Sandstone Estates is also home to the Sandstone Heritage Trust. Started in the mid-1990s, the Trust boasts a large collection of steam trains, agricultural machinery from yesteryears and vintage military vehicle that have all been restored on the farm and are in

working order. An entry fee applies for visitors, visit their website www.sandstone-estates.com for more information. **Contact:** 051 933 2235

Shortly before the **Ficksburg** turnoff you will find the **R70** on your right hand side. This will lead you to the quaint village of **Rosendal**, with its galleries, restaurants and village-life atmosphere that has put this 'dorp' on the map.

The **Gumtree** turnoff is approximately 15km past **Ficksburg**. This railway siding is home to the tallest sandstone building

in the country. The mill used to be the hub of this once thriving area, but is now abandoned. Just the shell of the building remains as a reminder of a more prosperous time, and is a photographer's dream.

Prynnenberg Estate is approximately 6km before you reach **Clocolan** on the left. The typical Victorian-style manor was built by Charles Newberry at the end of the 19th century. What was originally a single storey farm cottage became a 20 roomed manor crafted from local sandstone and hosted the likes of Lord Milner, the Duke of Westminster, President Steyn and Rudyard Kipling. It is rightfully known as the architectural jewel of the Eastern Free State. An upmarket guesthouse for many years, it is now under renovations



FARM & HERITAGE MUSEUM **OPEN TO DAY VISITORS**

SANDSTONE ESTATES

At Sandstone Estates there is lots to see and do!
We have wildlife and birds, you can ride on an old Ox Wagon, do a Walking Tour to see a huge display of Heritage Farming Equipment and also see our old Steam Locos.
The Sandstone Steam Railway runs train trips from time to time, please enquire.

IDEAL FOR: Overnight Accommodation/Camping, Student, Club & Tourist groups for Team-building weekends, Year-end functions, as a TV, film, video & photographic location

On R26 near Ficksburg GPS: S28 50' 36" E028 00' 18" see more at www.sandstone-estates.com

For any visit to Sandstone Estates, please contact Mariette Palmer on T: 051 9332235 or C: 064 752 3852

and unfortunately not open to the public at this stage.

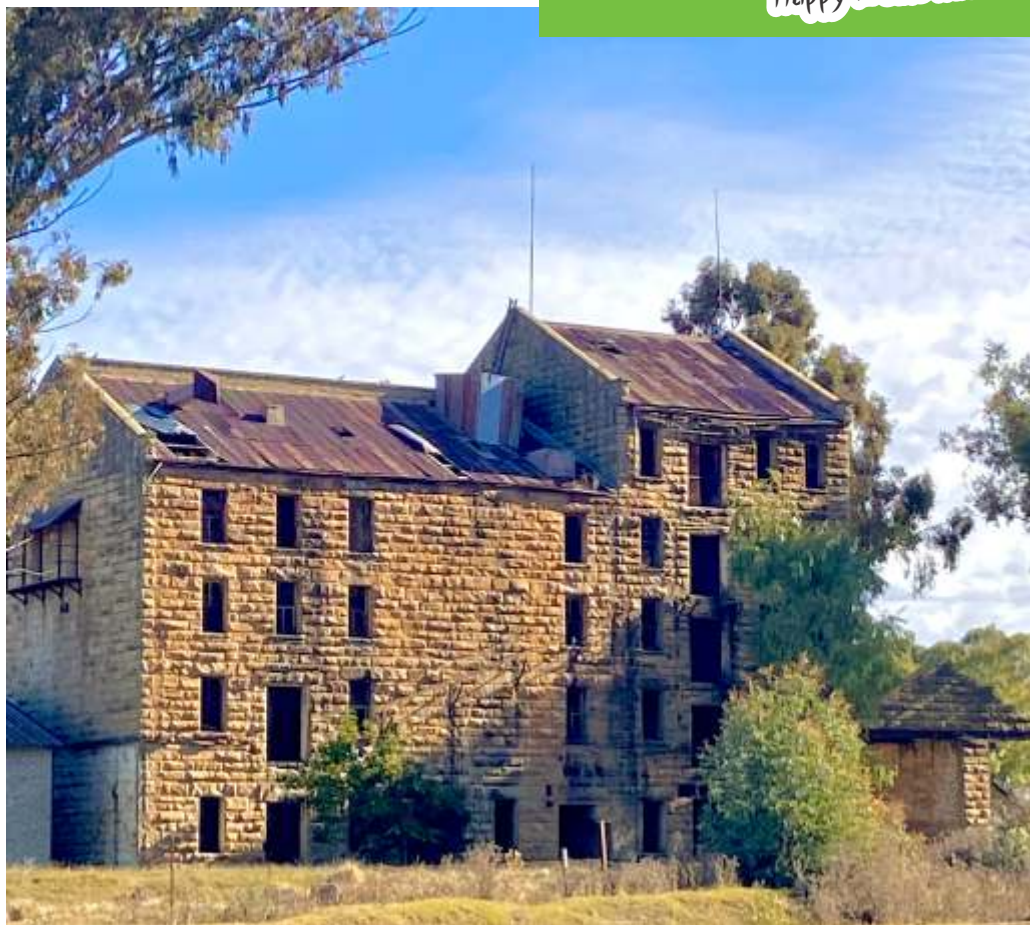
Constantia Cherry Farm Stall can be found 2km before the **Clocolan** turnoff. It has grown from just a retail point for fresh cherries during the season to a must-see attraction on the **Maloti Route**. This shopper and foodie haven has a tempting range of exclusive cherry products, gifts, clothing and furnishing as well as lovely coffee shop. During the cherry season they offer farm tours and numerous activities. Call 082 304 7043 or visit their

website www.constantiafarmstall.co.za

As the journey continues towards **Ladybrand**, you will find **The Cabin Farm** stall just 3km after the **Clocolan** turn off. The quaint sandstone building hosts a lovely coffee shop, a deli and offers local arts and crafts. Call 060 525 6155 for bookings and information.

From **Ladybrand** you can pick up the N8 to the **Maseru Border Post**, or carry on towards **Bloemfontein**.

Happy & safe travels!



Places of Worship

In the Region

CLARENS

Methodist Church

Roos Street

Sunday @ 9.30am

Methodist Church

Kgubetswana

Sunday @ 10.00am

083 282 9772

NG Kerk

Main Street

Sunday @ 9.30am

058 256 1341

FOURIESBURG

Catholic Church

Mashaeng

Sunday at 9.30am

Fouriesburg Mosque

De la Harpe Street

Call to prayer daily

NG Kerk

Brand Street

Sunday @ 10.00am

058 223 0041

Saint Mary's Church

Home of Interdenominational United Church

Berg Street

Sunday @ 10.00am

082 828 5271

BETHLEHEM & PAUL ROUX

There are many places of worship in Bethlehem. Below is a small selection.

Afrikaans Protestante Kerk	058 110 0016
AGS Moeder Gemeente	081 399 8404
APK Church Paul Roux	072 741 1948
Bethlehem Baptist Kerk	058 303 2545
Bethlehem Christensentrum	058 303 4604
Bethlehem Methodist Church	058 303 5038
Catholic Church	58 303 5351
Christian Family Church	083 284 0970
Christian Revival Church	058 303 7778
Eden Christian Ministries	058 303 3241
Gereformeerde Kerk	058 303 3647
GPOV Ministries Paul Roux	071 745 3758
Mosque Bethlehem	058 303 0338
New Apostolic Church	083 783 2529
NG Kerk Bethlehem North	058 303 4743
NG Kerk Bethlemen East	058 303 4583
NG Kerk Bohlokong	061 024 9280
NG Kerk Eureka	083 564 5464
NG Kerk Paul Roux	072 114 8292
St Augustine Anglican Church	058 303 2480
St Peter Methodist Church	058 303 6175

ROSENDAL

NG Kerk

501 van Niekerk Street

St Rose Catholic Church

Mautse



AIDA

Bethlehem - 058 303 9155
Fouriesburg - 083 331 0714

FINE & COUNTRY

Bethlehem, Clarens, Rosendal
058 303 2333

J&M PROPERTIES

Bethlehem - 082 316 9623

JOHAN BROODRYK PROPERTIES

Bethlehem - 058 303 3849

LEAPFROG PROPERTY GROUP

Bethlehem - 058 303 3739

LESEDI PROPERTIES

Ficksburg - 051 011 9692

PAM GOLDING

Bethlehem - 058 050 3044
Clarens - 058 256 1156

PROPERTY AGENT PLUS GROUP

Ficksburg - 082 562 8476

PROPERTY.CoZa

Bethlehem - 058 303 0210
Clarens - 083 613 1079



Welcome to the
best town
in the world.

BUY OR SELL
THROUGH US!!



083 556 0663



www.realnet.co.za

Ficksburg - 076 977 9477
Fouriesburg - 082 393 9626

REALNET

Bethlehem & Clarens - 072
296 6798
Rosendal - 082 878 3139

REMAX

Ladybrand - 082 466 1842

WILLOWS PROPERTY GROUP

Clarens - 082 859 7915



At an altitude of 1850m, Clarens is the highest habitable village in the Free State and the 3rd highest in South Africa.

In 1911, the farms 'Lelieshoek' and 'Naauwpoort' were sold to a company wishing to establish a village in the area. The farms were divided into erven and sold at £50.00 each. A commission was appointed in 1912 to finalise the negotiations for the village. Since its humble beginnings 110 years ago, Clarens has become a prime tourist destination in the Free State and is now known as 'The Jewel of the Free State'. It is commonly known that Clarens got its name in commemoration to Paul Kruger who spent his last days in exile in the village of Clarens, Switzerland. However, this is a point of debate amongst local historians, and the truth is uncertain!



Self-catering accommodation

Luxury suites in a peaceful wooded garden on the Clarens Golf Estate.

Phone: 082 4492082

www.theclarenscountryhouse.com



Leisure

EXCURSIONS

www.leisureexcursions.co.za



Il Castello

BOUTIQUE HOTEL



The best boutique hotel in Clarens, will provide you with a unique and luxurious experience, with a spectacular view of the Maluti mountains and surrounds.

Waterford

HOUSE



Situated in a quiet enclave on the Clarens Golf Estate, this luxury home is available for the discerning self-catering guest with its stylish furnishings and spectacular views.



San Rock

GUEST HOUSE



Our Home Sweet Home, San Rock is ideal for nature lovers, those travelling with their furry loved ones and festive time with family and friends.

Dutch Reformed Church

Services had been helped prior to 1920, but it was in that year that the first wood and iron church was built on the corner of Main & Naude Streets (now Rosewood Corner guesthouse). The large sandstone church that visitors now admire was built in 1940/1, with the cornerstone being unveiled by Ds JJ Le Roux on 24th February 1940. Interestingly, the church tower was originally capped by a Swiss-style 'onion' dome, but was later replaced by the clock tower you see today as many felt that the dome made the church look like a mosque!

The Anglican Church

Although the first Anglican community was established in 1885, the present church was built in 1936 and serves both the Anglican and Methodist communities.

428 Berg Street

This is possibly the oldest house in Clarens, with the original dwelling having been built in 1895.

The Post House

Now the location of a popular local restaurant, it was built in 1926 and soon became the central meeting place for the village. Both the post office and telephone exchange were run from the building. The post office was featured in the local 1980's movie, *The Angel, The Bicycle and the Chinaman's Finger*, which was directed by Katinka Heyns.

Blacksmith Cottage

Situated on the corner of Berg & Cilliers Streets and built in the early 1900's.

Horeb Butchery, General Dealer & Bottle Store

Locally known as Riempies (after the owner) are the buildings at the entrance of town where the filling station is situated. They have a long history with the original building and lean-to being used as the local Blacksmiths.

The Wilson Mosea Park

Also known as Market Square, and originally called President Square until the name was changed to Wilson Mosea Park in honour of a long serving Municipal worker. There had always been an open area in the centre of the village, but it wasn't until 1961 that the village council agreed to, and designed the Square. The monument which commemorated the fallen of the Battle of Naauwpoortnek (where a commando led by Paul Kruger in 1865 lost 5 men to Basotho warriors), that originally stood on the farm Ararat and was initially unveiled on 16th December 1895, was moved to the square and unveiled by the State President CR Swart in 1962 as a highlight of the Silver Jubilee of Clarens. Also on the Square is a plaque commemorating the construction of the tunnel for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. In 2012, the Square was host to many festivities commemorating Clarens' centenary.



Our area is fast becoming a major centre for extreme sporting activities. Abseil from towering sandstone overhangs; book an Enduro adventure or take a day to yourself exploring the MTB trails that criss-cross the region. These exciting adventures are great for individuals, groups or team building exercises. Contact our local experts to plan your day of adventure.

For those fit enough, climbing the iconic **Mount Horeb** is considered one of the highlight activities in the region. You can access the hiking trail to the foothills through the Clarens Golf Estate. Unfortunately at this stage only people staying on the Clarens Golf Estate are allowed. Remember that the trail is on private property. No indemnity is given for climbers who take the challenge.

What is often mistaken for a drive-in screen on Horeb is actually a radio relay station for the Clarens police. As local legend has it, the smiley face was added by a local 'skollie' who shall not be named!

The Clarens Parkrun was started on 30th

March 2019 by a group of volunteers and happens every Saturday morning at 8.00am. It is a free 5km run/walk, where all are welcome (even well socialised dogs on a leash) that starts and finishes on the corner of Market & Church streets (visit their Facebook page - @ClarensParkrun for more information).

If you don't feel like adventuring on your own, you can book a guided hike in and around Clarens with **The Clarens Experience** (Nico Els 071 107 7351), or an educational tour with **Clarens Educational Tours** (Charl Wessels 083 636 0219).

Most shops in Clarens are situated around the village square and along Main Street. There are numerous restaurants, delis and eateries, gift and speciality shops to suit the most avid shoppers. Although it is beyond the scope and space of this guide to give a description of all the businesses, here are a few that you should not miss.

A visit to the award-winning Clarens Brewery is a must! They offer tasters of their superb beers and ciders and have the perfect pairing menu to complement their brews. Coffee lovers will feel at home at the Highland Coffee Roastery. An extensive coffee menu and freshly roasted beans are available daily.

Clarens Rocks has a fascinating collection of crystals, minerals and jewellery, and is well worth a visit. For book lovers, a browse around **Bibliophile** (312 Church Street) is a rare treat. They boast a wide selection of fascinating titles at very reasonable prices.

Fun Activities

Because not everyone is 'extreme', the area

also offers slower-paced pastimes for those who prefer a leisurely day. There are hikes, rambles, horse riding and cycling throughout our area. Try your hand at archery (**Clarens Xtreme, Leap Adventures**), or test your marksmanship with an afternoon of paintball (**Clarens Xtreme, Leap Adventures**), and for the more daring wall climbing (**Clarens Xtreme**), rock climbing (**Leap Adventures**) or taking a ride on a zip line are a must (**Clarens Xtreme, Rebellie Mountain Lodge**). A quad bike tour is the ideal way to see the surrounds (**Clarens Xtreme, Leap Adventures, Rebellie Mountain Lodge** - 082 573 9021).

Abseiling - For those with no fear of heights, the area is perfect for abseiling. Contact **Clarens Xtreme** (058 256 1260 - www.clarensxtreme.co.za) or **Leap Adventures** (068 062 4947) for details of packages. Another way to explore the region

is from the sky! Book a Hot Air Balloon scenic trip and fly over our majestic mountains early morning. This is an amazing experience, definitely worth adding to your bucket list. Hot Air Ballooning SA (082 748 1558 - www.hotairballooningsa.co.za)

Kids Activities

Keeping kids entertained in Clarens is a cinch! Zip-lining, rock wall climbing, paint ball, bungee trampoline or putt-putt is available at Clarens Xtreme. Future cowboys and cowgirls can have a guided horse ride with Clarens Xtreme @ Di Bus Stop (066 353 2544).

Let your little ones work off their excess energy in the playground at Di Kooperasie, Artist's Cafe or Mosaic Pizzeria. Whatever your children's ages, there is always something for them to do in Clarens.



treat
RESTAURANT

411 & 412 Main Street
Clarens
083 262 5104
info@clarensretreat.co.za

B - Breakfast	L - Lunch	S - Supper	C - Children Policy
D - Disabled Friendly	P - Pet Friendly	W - Wifi	

Name	Address	Phone	B	L	S	C	D	P	W
Amigo's	530 Sias Oosthuizen Street	078 005 2224		*	*	*			
Andes Café	Andes Farm, R712	072 619 3892	*	*		*	*	*	*
Artist's Café	Market Square	058 256 1404	*	*		*	*	*	
Baris Monger	R 712 towards Bethlehem	073 048 5785	*	*		*			
Bean to Clarens	Lonley Rooster, Main Street	078 900 4230	*	*		*		*	
Bocca di Lupo	325 Market Street	072 410 1361	*	*	*	*		*	
Charlie's Café	327 Market Street	078 133 0391	*	*	*	*		*	
Clarens Brewery	325 Market Square	058 008 5089		*	*	*	*	*	*
Clarens Kooperasie Restaurant	280 Main Street	061 525 9602	*	*	*	*	*		
Clementines Restaurant	Crn of Church & Van Zyl Streets	079 355 1298	*	*	*	*		*	
Gosto Portuguese Restaurant	On the Square, Market Square	076 792 8189		*	*	*	*	*	
Grouse & Claret Pub & Restaurant	Meander Centre, Main Street	058 256 1795	*	*	*	*		*	
Highland Brew	Langkranz Farm, R712	072 180 1594	*	*		*		*	
Highland Coffee Roastery	354 Van Zyl Street	058 256 1136	*	*		*		*	*
Juniper Craft Gin Bar	325 Market Square	058 008 5089		*	*	*	*	*	*
Liewer Coffee	Post House Corner	082 772 2482	*	*		*		*	
Limoncello @ Il Castello	28 Hill Street	058 256 1543	*	*	*	*			*
Maluti Melt Restaurant & Bar	Kiara Lodge R712	058 255 0140	*	*	*	*			*
Maluti Mountain Lodge	Naauwpoort Street	058 256 1422	*	*	*	*		*	
Mont D'or Hotel	Naauwpoort Street	058 256 1224	*	*	*	*	*		*
Mood Restaurant	Lynwood Farm, R711	078 728 5373	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mosaic Pizzeria	Crn of Van Zyl & Church Streets	083 039 5056		*	*	*		*	
Naked Food	Country Hub, Main Street	074 226 3151	*	*				*	
Posthouse Restaurant	276 Main Street	066 228 7184	*	*	*	*		*	*
Purple Onion Deli	Windmill Centre, Main Street	058 256 1898	*	*		*			
Red Stone Craft Gin	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	058 256 1193		*	*			*	
Revolution Café	531 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 256 1260	*	*		*		*	
Rotter Hahn	Crn of Van Zyl & Roos Streets	058 256 1888	*	*	*	*			
Scotch Whisky Lounge	Market Square	058 256 1912		*	*				
Sugar & Cinnamon	R712 towards Golden Gate	082 382 3515	*	*		*			
The Clarens Golf & Leisure Estate	R711	058 256 1270	*	*		*			
The Courtyard	Market Square	058 256 1124	*	*		*	*	*	
The Highlander Restaurant	Market Street	058 256 1912	*	*	*	*		*	*
The Jewel @ Protea Hotel	Main Street	058 256 1212	*	*	*	*	*		*
The Platform	313 Church Street	082 889 0512	*	*		*		*	
The Square Restaurant	Crn of Main & Market Streets	058 050 1216	*	*	*	*			
Treat	412 Main Street	083 262 5104	*	*	*	*			*



EST. 2022


ANDES CAFE

GUEST FARM





Every moment promises a perfect blend of natural beauty and recreational indulgence.




 Andes Café & Guest Farm

 +27 58 256 1080 - Kallie

 +27 72 619 3892 - Brenda

 +27 82 562 7673 - Philina

 info@andesclarens.co.za

 www.andesclarens.co.za

Rustic charm meets modern comfort



Andes
CLARENS

A CLARENS LANDMARK

Eating out here has become an institution

The Scotch Whisky Lounge, right next to the Highlander Restaurant has become equally popular

THE HIGHLANDER RESTAURANT
TEL: 058 256 1912





GET YOUR FAVOURITE LIQUOR BRANDS OR VISIT OUR WINE CELLAR WITH OVER 300 RED WINES AND 200 WHITE WINES TO CHOOSE FROM



Old Stone

BLUE BOTTLE LIQUORS

huge variety
great value

Old Stone Blue Bottle Liquors
+27(82) 499 4585 and +27(60) 968 2969
C/O Van Zyl & Kerk Street, President Square, Clarens

DRINK RESPONSIBLY 18

DRINK AND DRIVE CARES. LIMITS. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. WHILE STOCKS LAST.

NOT FOR SALE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18

Name	Address	Phone	Type of business
Adam	Post House Corner, Main Street	079 809 4631	Men's Clothing
African Image	Main Street	082 826 7043	Photographer
Amadeus	Meander Centre, Main Street	058 110 0110	Butchery & Deli
Anja & Friends Lifestyle	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	083 635 2793	Gifts, Clothing & Accessories
Antsh General Trading	Meander Centre, Main Street	073 410 9615	Supermarket
Art de Triomphe	Lonely Rooster, Main Street	076 727 2854	Art & Gifts
Art Spoken	On the Square, Market Square	083 673 8126	Art & Gifts
Baris Monger	R712, towards Bethlehem	730 485 785	Cheeses & Deli
Bibliophile	312 Church Street	083 765 8901	Bookshop
Bilton & Braai	Meander Centre, Main Street	063 928 9202	Meat & Braai products
Blankets For Africa	278 Main Street	082 556 5208	Blankets & Toys
Blou Donkey	Windmill Centre, Main Street	058 256 1757	Art & gifts
Blue Bottle Liquor Store	322 Van Zyl Street	060 968 2969	Liquor
Bouts Firewood		0820926 1214	Firewood deliveries
Bukes	Windmill Centre, Main Street	062 282 8559	Men's Clothing
Bundupunk Boutique	Clarens Maze, Main Street	073 889 0700	Fashion
Clarens Bakery	530 Sias Oosthuizen Street	082 290 7090	Bakery
Clarens Brewery	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	058 008 5089	Craft Beers
Clarens Courier	clarenscouriers@gmail.com	074 454 3786	Courier & Shuttle Service
Clarens Deli	Post House Corner, Main Street	063 507 0451	Cheeses & Deli
Clarens Family Pharmacy	Main Street	058 256 1852	Pharmacy
Clarens Go Green	On the Square, Market Square	084 206 3279	Gifts & Clothing
Clarens Laundry	Larola Street, Larola	083 444 0236	Laundry Services
Clarens Pantry	Post House Corner, Main Street	082 443 8419	Delicatessen
Clarens Rocks	Post House Corner, Main Street	083 250 3530	Rocks, Crystals & Fossiles
Clarens Water	354 Van Zyl Street	072 385 3223	Purified Water
Creative Nature	278 Main Street	076 701 5370	Curios & Prints
De Leeuw Nursery	Phone for directions	083 320 5077	Fruit trees
Deirdre Pearls	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	064 685 7578	Jewellery
Die Langarm	Market Square	072 768 4913	Gifts & décor
Die Spens Clarens	889 Market Street	079 696 7708	Deli
Dizzy Daizy	Windmill Centre, Main Street	083 262 3169	Gift & Art
Ember Down	Sandstone Square, Market Street	082 408 6770	Goose down & feather products
Exclusive You	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	082 719 6250	Jewellery & Skincare
Exclusively Monica's	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	082 303 6168	Clothing & Accessories
Friends Gift Shop	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	082 303 6168	Gifts & Décor
Fully Connected	898 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 800 0001	IT & DSTV
Furkids-in-Clarens	Meander Centre, Main Street	082 372 2599	Doggy parlour
Furry Tails	Lonely Rooster, Main Street	082 334 9529	Pets Products
Giggle & Stitches	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	065 655 3019	Boutique
Groundcover	Sandstone Square, Market Street	082 562 0894	Leather shoes & Accessories
Hart en Siel	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	083 682 6440	Gifts & décor
Hashtag I Want	Post House Corner, Main Street	084 456 3654	Ladies' Clothing
Highland Brew	Langkranz Farm, R712	072 180 1594	Craft beer & Farm Stall
Highland Coffee	354 Van Zyl Street	058 256 1136	Coffees
Horeb Savemor	521 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 256 1375	Supermarket
Horeb Savemor Liquor	521 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 256 1375	Liquor
House of Woven Arts	1 Market Street East	082 809 5003	Carpets & Rugs
Ietsie Mooi	The Maze, Main Street	073 777 3618	Gifts
Ietsie Mooi	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	073 777 3618	Gifts
J & N Leather Company	282 Main Street	073 777 3618	Leather goods
J.N De Witt Hardware	521 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 256 1816	Hardware store
Jacques Maree	Post House Corner, Main Street	060 376 1623	Silver jewellery
Juniper Craft Gin	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	058 008 5089	Craft Gins

Name	Address	Phone	Type of business
Just Jaqi	Sias Oosthuizen Street	073 279 0843	Gifts & Décor
Kgubetswana Pharmacy	926 Phahameng Location	071 587 2288	Pharmacy
Kuier Collection	Sandstone Square, Market Street	083 200 5573	Homeware & Kitchenware
Leatherman	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	082 303 6168	Clothing & Leather products
Licorice	623 Market Square	082 252 9935	Gifts
Madame Butterfly	Rosemary Centre, Market Square	073 063 9385	Clothing & Accessories
Magnolia	Lonely Rooster, Main Street	064 221 4479	Kid's clothing
Meraki Graphix	328 Market Street	0722287917	Graphic design, printing
Mobile Clinic	354 Van Zyl Street	062 723 4539	Cell phone repairs & Accessories
Mona Lisa Garment Gallery	Windmill Centre, Main Street	083 799 6636	Clothing & Accessories
Mooca Gelato	324 Market Street East	082 650 1503	Ice creams
Mooi Nooi @ Clarens	Windmill Centre, Main Street	079 439 9358	Gifts
Naked	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	074 226 3151	CBD Products
Noah's Cheese	Node Farm, R712	078 985 3256	Artisan Cheeses & Deli
Oak Leather	Windmill Centre, Main Street	072 736 6120	Handmade Leather Goods
Purple Onion Deli	Windmill Centre, Main Street	058 256 1898	Delicatessen & Liquor
Rotter Hahn	Crn of Van Zyl & Roos Streets	058 256 1888	German Delicatessen
Senqu River Wear	Market Square	087 283 3578	Clothing
Silo Padstal	R712, towards Bethlehem	083 230 9262	Deli & Gifts
Something Else	Red Mountain House, Market Square	058 256 1389	Clothing & Curios
Something Quilty	425 Berg Street	082 577 2232	Quilting
Sozo'z	Lonely Rooster, Main Street	072 076 0277	Décor
Sugar & Cinnamon	R712 -13km from Clarens	082 382 3515	Delicatessen & Gifts
Tactile Room	Post House Corner, Main Street	083 778 3632	Clothing
The Barn	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	082 878 8310	Novelty products
The Big 5	354 Van Zyl Street	073 091 8096	African Curios
The Blanket Shop	Market Square	082 857 8070	Blankets
The Cheeky Mouse	Market Square	058 256 1398	Gifts & Décor
The Cherry Co	278 Main Street	082 556 5208	Cherry products
The Courtyard Bakery	324 Market Street East	082 650 1503	Bakery & Delicatessen
The Emporium	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	842 009 440	Clothing & Vintage
The Front Shop	Sandstone Square, Market Street	082 735 5574	Health Products
The Fudge House	324 Market Street East	082 650 1503	Handmade Fudge
The Jacket Shop	526 Sias Oosthuizen Street	082 828 2801	Imported pre-owned jackets
The Knife Maker's Shop	Church Street	072 181 4700	Hand-made knives
The Source	Market Square	087 283 3578	Clothing
The Ugly Duckling	281 Main Street	058 256 1839	Imported Furniture & Décor
Tobias Art & Lifestyle	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	071 208 3400	Art & Gifts
Township Craft	The Maze, Main Street	072 879 7873	Local Crafts
Tsonga Shoes	Windmill Centre, Main Street	087 379 6928	Leather shoes & Accessories
Vermac Tattoos	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	083 510 4906	Tattoos & Piercings
Vintage Village	The Maze, Main Street	082 302 7590	Vintage clothing
Voetstoots Antiques	Voetstoots Centre, 18 Main Street		Antiques & Collectables
Wickit Candles	Meander Centre, Main Street	072 179 5434	Hand-made candles
Yolla	The Country Hub centre, Main Street	083 879 6368	Handmade Pottery



BOUTS FIREWOOD

082 926 1214



CLARENS COURIER AND SHUTTLE SERVICE
PARCELS, PASSENGERS, PETS..

074 454 3786 - 082 926 1214
clarensccouriers@gmail.com

Name	Address	Phone
Body Bliss @ Kiara Lodge	Kiara Lodge, R712	058 256 1062
Clarens Family Pharmacy	Main Street	058 256 1852
Clarens Wellness	410 Main Street	082 887 1503
Dr J v.d. Merwe	Main Street	064 768 0099
Dr Mike Peek	326 Roos Street	072 281 6831
Gypsy Massage Therapy	101 Malherbe Street	083 441 7905
Hair by Yviette	The Country Hub, Main Street	076 688 3650
Jeany Mobile Spa	By appointment only	065 539 3947
Kgubetswana Pharmacy	Malherbe Street	071 587 2288
Mont D'Or Spa	502 Sias Oosthuizen Street	058 256 1224
Neked	The Country Hub, Main Street	074 226 3151
Nicola Martin Grant Physiotherapy	222 Main Street	072 180 1594
Ohm Yoga & Reflexology	By appointment only	082 853 1797
Overcast Tatoos	Sias Oosthuizen Street	071 791 7747
Spa @ Il Castello	28 Hill Street	058 256 1543
The Front Shop	Sandstone Square, 6 Market Street	082 735 5574
Vermac Tattoos & Piercing	The Country Hub, Main Street	083 510 4906
Wildflower Hair Salon	Main Street	073 797 8841



CLARENS FREE STATE
275 MAIN STREET
CLARENS COUNTRY HUB

Vermac Tattoos and Body Piercings offers you a professional experience with heart and soul in every piece. We follow a strict sterilization routine and only the best inks are used. Our client's safety is our priority.

vermactattoos@gmail.com

083 510 4906

 Kgubetswana Pharmacy



Contracted to all Medical Aids

Week Days 9:00 -13:00 14:00 - 17:00
Tuesday 14:00 - 17:00
Saturday 9:00 - 13:00
Sunday/Holidays 10:00 - 12:00

926 Phahameng Location

Tel: 071 587 2288

kbspharmacy@propharm.co.za

Lesedi's
Nails Lounge
& Beauty

Love Your Nails
a Little Extra

Cell: 073 064 6012(Calls), 084 354 3092 (Whatsapp)

EXCELLENCE IS THE STANDARD

Il Castello

BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Discover the magic of Clarens most award-winning boutique hotel. Whether you need to relax & recharge or need a cozy romantic stay, at Il Castello you'll find exactly what you are looking for.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
WWW.LEISUREXCURSIONS.CO.ZA

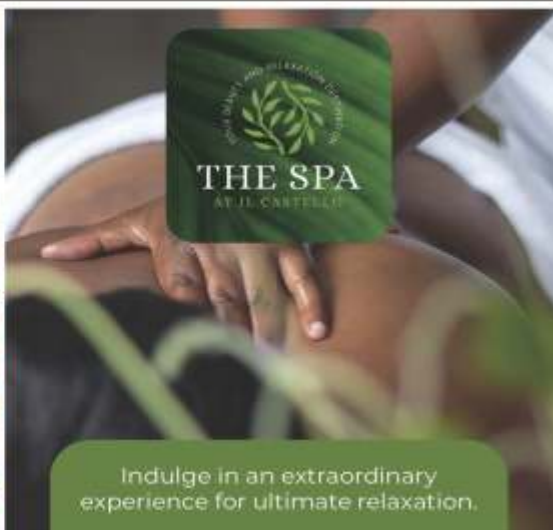
☎ 058 256 1543

☎ 079 500 1914



Limoncello
LOUNGE & RESTAURANT

Open from 7 am to 9 pm daily.
Bookings Essential.



THE SPA
AT IL CASTELLO

Indulge in an extraordinary
experience for ultimate relaxation.

Andes Guest Farm

082 562 7673
www.andesclarens.co.za
info@andesclarens.co.za

Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Clarens Accommodation 365

063 969 2657
www.clarensaccommodation.org
clarensaccommodation365@gmail.com
Children welcome – Pet friendly – Wi-Fi

Clarens Country House

082 449 2082
www.theclarenscountryhouse.com
clarensaccom@gmail.com
No children under 8 – No pets – Wi-Fi

Clarens Exclusive

082 435 2820
www.clarens-exclusive.co.za
info@chms.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Clarens Retreat

083 262 5104
www.clarensretreat.co.za
info@clarensretreat.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

De Molen Farm

082 490 9186
www.demolenfarm.co.za
lintucker@global.co.za
– Children welcome

Gentle Presence Cottage

082 956 5676
www.gentlepresence.co.za
admin@directlink.co.za
No children under 8 – No pets – Wi-Fi

Il Castello Boutique Hotel

058 256 1543
www.leisurexcursions.co.za
bookings@leisurexcursions.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Kiara Lodge

058 255 0140
www.kiaralodge.co.za
kiararecep@beekmanresorts.com
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Knock Out View

082 084 2863
www.clarens-knockoutview.co.za
info@clarens-knockoutview.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Meerkat Cottage

082 266 8986
www.rehobothlodge.co.za
marlinda.kearns@gmail.com
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Mount Horeb Manor

076 392 2605



LUXURY SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION
The Clarens Golf & Leisure Estate

info@chms.co.za
082 435 2820
http://clarens-exclusive.co.za



MIDWEEK SPECIAL

Pay for 2 nights stay for 3



www.clarens-knockoutview.co.za 082 084 2863

www.horebmanor.com
info@horebmanor.com
No Children – No pets – Wi-Fi

Rehoboth Lodge
082 266 8986
www.rehobothlodge.co.za
marlinda.kearns@gmail.com
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

San Rock Guesthouse
079 500 1914
www.leisureexcursions.co.za
bookings@leisureexcursions.co.za
Children welcome – Pet Friendly –

Studio 28 Clarens
079 873 1318
www.studio28clarens.co.za
enquiries@studio28clarens.co.za
No children under 12 – Pet Friendly –
Wi-Fi

The Attic & Below
079 873 1318
www.theatticandbelow.co.za
stay@theatticandbelow.co.za
No children under 6 – No pets – Wi-Fi

Waterford House
079 500 1914
www.leisureexcursions.co.za
bookings@leisureexcursions.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Willow Manor
082 382 3515
www.willowmanorclarens.co.za
redmount@telkomsa.net
No children – No pets – Wi-Fi

Download your electronic version of
Clarens & Surrounds - The Ultimate Guide
from our web page
www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za

The Attic & Below

Self-catering Accommodation

222 Main Street

079 873 1318

www.theatticandbelow.co.za



Studio 28 Clarens

Self-catering apartments

WiFi ● Private Patio ● Pet Friendly



www.studio28clarens.co.za
079 873 1318

De Molen Farm

Only 7km from Clarens



Offers a range of
self-catering accommodation
and wild rainbow trout
fly fishing



www.demolenfarm.co.za
lintucker@global.co.za 0824909186

BOOKING AGENTS

Clarens Bookings - 079 934 4362 - www.clarensbookings.co.za

Clarens Destinations - 074 755 6168 - www.goclarens.co.za

Mountain Odyssey - 058 256 1173 - www.infoclarens.co.za



CLARENS DESTINATIONS ACCOMMODATION BOOKING SERVICE

We offer a free accommodation
booking service according
to your requirements

CONTACT US



Fran ☎ 074 755 6168

✉ info@goclarens.co.za





CLARENS

ACCOMMODATION 365

SIMONE: 071 825 8035

SARAH: 063 969 2657



WWW.CLARENSACCOMMODATION.COM



NOUGAT CABIN



BETHEL LODGE



SCHAAPPLAATS FARM

WWW.HOREBMANOR.COM

MT HOREB MANOR



Experience luxury amid sandstone mountains with top-notch service and stunning views at Mount Horeb Manor Guest House.

Explore 'Clarens' vibrant scene, art, and adventure tours while immersing in the town's allure.



📧 info@horebmanor.com

📞 076 392 2605

Clarens is undoubtedly the “art Mecca” of the Free State, with numerous galleries and resident artists. Take a stroll through town and spend a worthwhile time immersing yourself in art! For those of you who have the sudden inspiration to unleash your inner artist (but not sure how), why not take an art class with one of our local teachers.

Addy Hoyle Gallery
277 Main Street
058 256 1875
www.addyhoyle.co.za

Annie Sloan Chalk Paint
workshops @ Clarens Interiors
082 069 3635
(by appointment)

Art de Triomphe
Lonely Rooster Main Street
076 727 2854

Art Spoken
On the Square, Market Street
083 673 8126

Bear's Art – Drawing lessons,
illustrations, cartooning
083 724 3817

Blou Donki Art Gallery
Windmill Centre, Main Street
082 466 6406

Brush Strokes
898 Sias Oosthuizen Street
083 410 3368

Helen Claassen Gallery
Meander Centre, Van Zyl Street
082 434 5125

House of Woven Art
1 Market Street East
082 809 5003

Knife Making Courses
All materials provided
Church Street



Bossie 072 181 4700
or Yolande 082 805 5565

Louise Hansen
All mediums and levels
teaching –
Half and full day classes
082 614 5688

**Peter Badcock-Walters
Gallery**
Clarens Golf & Leisure Estate
082 851 0484

Peter Bonney Studio
329 Roos Street
058 256 1538
www.peterbonney.co.za

Rodin Gallery
Market Square
083 250 3530

VISUAL VIBES
art gallery

POST HOUSE CORNER

Main Street

Veronica 0823652712

visualvibes73@gmail.com

VISUAL VIBES
art gallery

Ruth Walter
Painting workshops
084 510 4200

Something Quilty
425 Berg Street
082 577 2232

Tobias Art & Lifestyle
The Country Hub, Main Street
071 208 3400

Township Craft
The Maze, Main Street
072 879 7873

Visual Vibes
Post House Corner, Main Street
082 365 2712

Emergency Numbers

National Police	10111
Local Police	058 256 6001
Fire (Bethlehem)	058 303 5161
Working on Fire	058 303 9654
Ambulance	10177
Netcare 911	082 911
ER 24	084 124
Dr Mike Peek	072 281 6831 326 Roos Street

The closest hospitals are situated in Bethlehem (see Bethlehem section)

Kgubetswanan Pharmacy 071 587 2288

For emergencies, the closest veterinaries are situated in Bethlehem or Fouriesburg
Cluny Animal Trust Clinic 078 246 2553 by appointment only

ATMs

Absa/FNB/NedbankMeander Centre Forecourt, Main Steet
Standard Bank The Country Hub, Main Street

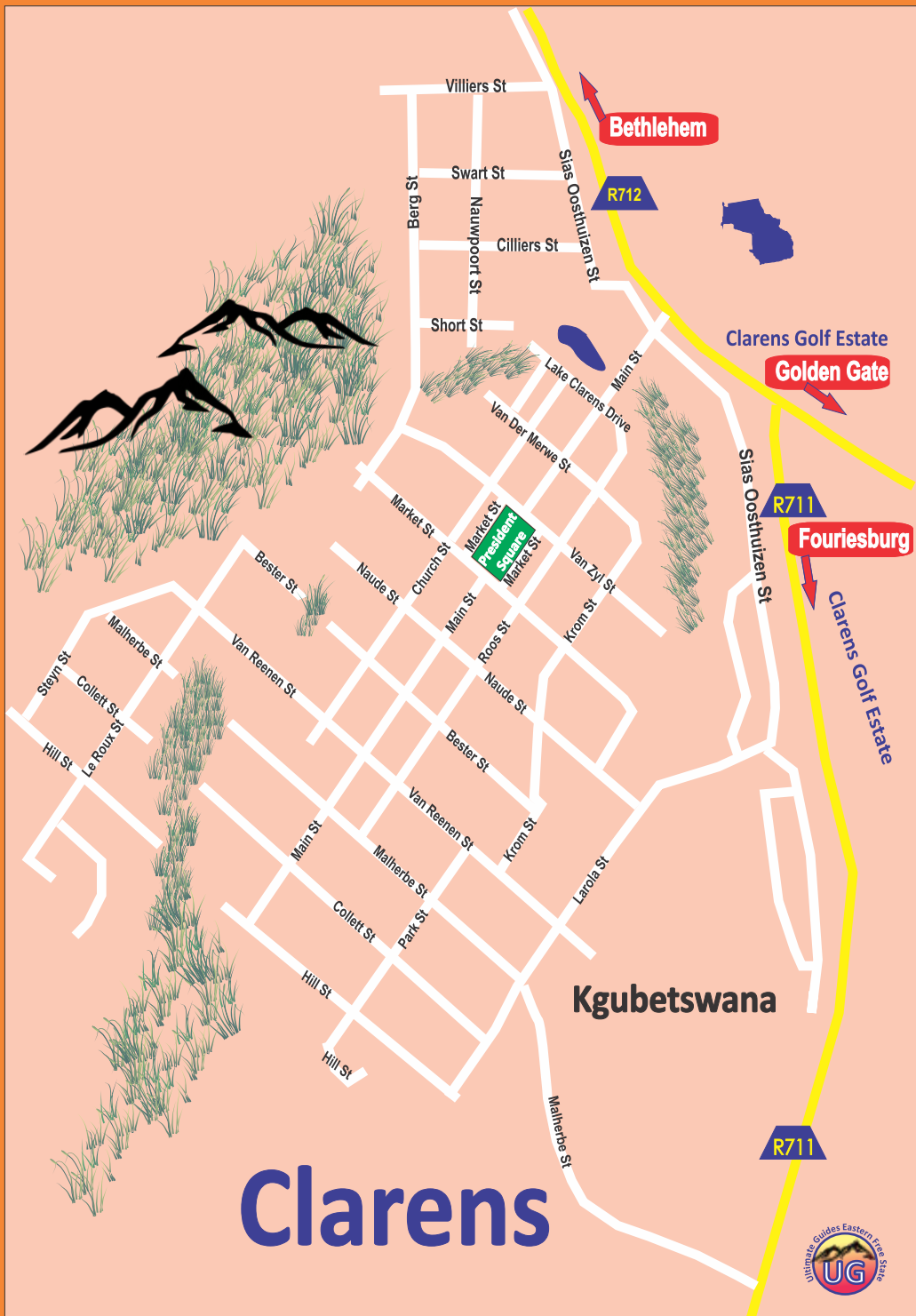
Please note that there are no bank branches in Clarens

Fuel Stations, Tyre repairs & Mechanic

Puma GarageMeander Centre Forecourt, Main Street – 078 343 4105
Horeb Filling Station Sias Oosthuizen Street – 058 256 1375
Zane Frost – Mechanic - 072 128 9113

Snake Catchers

Ollie Esplin079 505 6419
JP Lees072 979 2364



Bethlehem

R712

Clarens Golf Estate

Golden Gate

R711

Fouriesburg

Clarens Golf Estate

Kgubetswana

Clarens

R711





After the ongoing skirmishes of the late 1800's were subdued and Eastern borders were tamed, an increasing number of people settled in the area. Although both Ficksburg and Bethlehem were relatively close (a day's ride), many of the residents lived between the two. In 1891 it was decided to establish a town to service the new settlers. Amongst the reasons given were the bad state of the route between Ficksburg and Bethlehem, the lack of solid bridges over rivers, the need

for the local community to have their own church, and the need of services and shops to the residents.

It was eventually decided to negotiate with Mr Christoffel Fourie (also known as Rooi Stoffel, after whom Fouriesburg is reputedly named), to buy his 146 morgan farm 'Grootfoontein'. Rooi Stoffel retained 82 morgan which renamed 'Restant' in October of 1891. At an auction, the stands were sold for the equivalent of R30.00 to R40.00. Stands were kept small at 750sqm to discourage residents from keeping livestock or growing their own crops, necessitating support of the local farmer. The new town was recognised by the Volksraad on the 1st June 1893. In 1894, the

first town council was established to run the village. Not much is known about these early days as many of the records were destroyed by the British forces that entered the town in 1900. Fouriesburg took its leap into modernity in 1954 when electric street lights were switched on for the first time (18 years before Clarens!). 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. Thank goodness it survived!

The **NG Kerk** – Brand Street – The church was built on the site of the graves of those who fought with Paul Kruger during the Basotho Wars. The cornerstone was laid in 1893 and the church was inaugurated in 1894. The blockhouse where Paul Kruger and his men camped can still be seen in the south-west side of the grounds.

The Town Hall – Martin Street - Situated across the road from the Municipal offices, the Town Hall is a beautiful example of the sandstone architecture that proliferates around town.

The Intermediary School – Steyn Street – Originally named 'Die Goewermentskool', the building was first used in 1903.

Saint Mary's Church Methodist Church – This beautiful old sandstone church was built in 1911 and is now home to the Fouriesburg United Church serving the residents of the town.

The Old Magistrates Building – The original building seen from Reitz Street was built in 1936 and is an interesting example of the architectural style of the period.

Die Ou Pastorie – corner Heyns & Noorder Streets – Built in 1896 and considered one of the most

attractive sandstone dwellings in the town. Die Ou Pastorie nowadays is not only a home, but also hosts a lovely guesthouse.

The President Steyn House – corner of Du Preez & Robertson Streets – This was the home of the President of the Orange Free State Republic, Marthinus Theunis Steyn, during the Anglo-Boer War. During the second Anglo-Boer War, Fouriesburg became Capital of the Orange Free State, when President Steyn had to flee Bloemfontein that was then occupied by the British Forces and the Boer Forces established their headquarters in the town. The house is now a private residence.

Fouriesburg Graveyard – The history in the area can be discerned through the local graveyard and Fouriesburg's cemetery is no exception. Many of the town's leaders are buried here. The earliest grave is that of JC Van Den Berg 1818-1896.

Destiny Castle – The castle started to be built in the seventies and was finished by the current owner some thirty years later. It has been extensively remodelled since. It can only be reached with a 4x4 vehicle, either your own (following the guide) or via a tour arranged with Liz Lee (084 512 5030). The castle is built on top of a mountain with 360-degree views into Lesotho and over the Witteberge.



HEALTH & BEAUTY

Cabelo Beleza – Hairdresser – Jolene Potgieter – By appointment – 073 149 8331
Dr Frank Garmany & Dispensary – Doherty Centre, Reitz Street – 058 223 0755
Natural Earth @ Jackal's Hill Country Café – Health products - 066 333 0755
Riekie Opperman – Life Coach & Reiki Master – By appointment – 072 670 4065
Therese Du Plessis – Physiotherapist – By appointment – 084 978 9428

ART AND CRAFT

Doherty Art – Reitz Street – 058 223 0375
Jenlees – Corner R711 & Caledonspoor Rd – 084 512 5030
Jackal's Hill Country Café – Corner Noorder & Robertson Streets
– 066 333 0755 (monthly workshops)



LICONI

SLAGHUIS • BUTCHERY • CHESA NYAMA
- EST 2009 -

☎ 058 223 0814

Chilli bites
Biltong
Droëwors
Letwasi
Salami
Pork sausage
Boerewors
Mashala
Steak

With enough
bacon I could
rule the
world!

either you like bacon or you
are wrong

14 Robertson str
Fouriesburg
liconi@icloud.com

☎ 079 499 5800

Fouriesburg is slowly becoming known as the Adventure & Outdoors Mecca of the Free State!

For the MTB enthusiasts, there are a few options around Fouriesburg, from easy to quite technical. Perfect trails for the whole family can be found at **Wynford Holiday Farm** (058 223 0274), **Oranje Guest Farm** (084 712 0427) and **Welgelegen Cherry Farm** (072 075 0760). **Camelroc Guest Farm** offers more technical trails. There are two routes – a 10km figure-of-eight route and a 30km loop, both with shortcut options. The route is quite difficult with a very tough climb up to the mountainous summit. All venues charge a fee per rider, and it is advised to call ahead.

The Boulders Riding Academy (Mike – 082 856 7181) and **Happy Days Farm** (Steve – 082 412 9975) are the perfect venues for bikers, whether it is enduro, dual-purpose motorcycles or quad bikes.

The Union Trails are a network of trails on a 1200 hectare estate, consisting of natural and hand-crafted trails which make use of the terrain to provide different levels of difficulty. The trails offer all mountain bikers and enduro riders some incredible riding, mixing flowing single-track, technical sections, eye-watering descents and some steep ascents. The route is contained within the estate and takes riders past the awesome Destiny Castle. www.unionhouse.co.za

With the beautiful scenery, horse-riding is also a popular activity around Fouriesburg. Guided rides featuring 1 to 4 hour trips, sundowners and moonlight rides are available from **De Hoop Adventures** – contact Fritz 072 371 9732 for bookings. **Old Mill's Drift Farm** (071 760 7333) and **Wynford Holiday Farm** (058 223 0274) also offer horse and pony rides.

Meiringskloof Nature Park (058 223 0067 – www.meiringskloof.co.za) has numerous hikes and walks, including *The Fouriesburg Water Tunnels* where Boer women and children hid during the Anglo Boer War. But this is quite a technical hike as there is a steep chain ladder to climb up. Alternatively, access to the Town Dam and the Water Tunnels can be gained through the locked gate at the Farmers Association Sales Yard. It is off road and only accessible with 4x4 vehicles. The key is available at the **Di Plaasstoep** (there is a R100 deposit fee, which will be refunded when the key is returned). This is a conservation and heritage site, and visitors are requested not to make any fires, remove plants or wildlife, and make sure they do not litter. Fishing is permitted at the Town Dam, and is strictly on a catch and release basis.

For the enthusiast hikers, there are many options around Fouriesburg. **Affi-Lande** (084 838 4110), **Di Plaaswerf** (082 927 6712), **Lesoba Guest Farm** (072 660

0840), **Oranje Guest Farm** (084 712 0427), **Uithoek Nature Park** (062 505 6854) and **Welgelegen Cherry Farm** (072 075 0760), all have numerous hiking trails of all levels. But if you are also a keen historian, then take a hike at **Camelroc Guest Farm** to view the rock art or **Mafube Mountain Retreat** (084 668 4499) for dinosaur footprints.

There are also numerous 4x4 routes of different levels in the area. **Camelroc Guest Farm** (difficult), **Di Plaaswerf** (easy to difficult), **Lesoba Guest Farm** (difficult), and **Uithoek Nature Park** are some the options available. Experienced 4x4 drivers can also book a guided drive with **De Hoop Adventures** (Fritz 072 371 9732)

If you want to enjoy a game of squash, the

local courts are managed by Gert Venter. Call him on 072 445 4159 to book.

Fouriesburg is in the heart of the cherry growing area, with September being the flowering season and mid-October to early December being the harvesting season. Don't miss a visit to the local orchards. Farms offering cherry tours and products are:

Ionia Cherry Farm – 072 585 3684
Loskop Boerdery – Cassie van Zyl 083 631 9540
Welgelegen – Mary-Anne 072 075 0760

A visit to the **Sandstone Estates** (R26 towards Ficksburg) is a must if you want to view the remarkable collection of narrow gauge railway stock, military

vehicles and agricultural machinery. The famous Festival of Steam, attracts visitors from around the world. An entry fee applies for visitors; visit their website www.sandstone-estates.com for more information.

Contact:

051 933 2235



Fouriesburg

Eateries

B - Breakfast L - Lunch S - Supper C - Children Policy D - Disabled Friendly P - Pet Friendly W - Wifi

Name	Address	Phone	B	L	S	C	D	P	W
Di Plaasstoep Restaurant	Crn De la Harpe & Truter Streets	082 894 2219	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fouriesburg Country Inn	17 Reitz Street	058 223 0207	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fouriesburg Fried Chicken FFC	Reitz Street	073 168 7756	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ing @ Sandstone	12 De Villiers Street	082 451 9513	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ionia Cherry Farm	R26 towards Ficksburg	072 585 3684	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jackal's Hill Country Café	Crn Robertson & Noorder Streets	079 873 1318	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jenlees Country Kitchen	Crn of R711 & Caledonspoort Roads	084 512 5030	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mile High Vineyard	R711 @ The Rose House	072 142 3183	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Munch Box Takeaways	Brand Street	076 991 2863	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nosh Takeaways	Doherty Centre, Reitz Street	079 163 4498	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Orange Apple	28 Theron Street	071 336 8628	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Thyme Restaurant	38 Robertson Street	064 484 3980	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Windmill's Pub & Grill	Robertson Street	082 959 8120	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



Jackal's Hill Fromage & Country Café

Award Winning Artisan Cheeses

Farm Deli & Gifts



Corner of Noorder &
Robertson Streets
Fouriesburg

Open 7 days a week
066 333 0755
cheese@jackalshill.co.za



SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION

Village Studio Guesthouse

www.studio28clarens.co.za
079 873 1318



Domsa Lapeng Guesthouse

082 303 4714
www.domsalapeng.co.za
info@domsalapeng.co.za
No children under 12 – No pets – Wi-Fi

Fouriesburg Country Inn

058 223 0207
www.fouriesburgcountryinn.co.za
stay@fouriesburgcountryinn.co.za
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Mafube Mountain Retreat

084 668 4499
www.mafubemountainretreat.co.za
Mafube.retreat@gmail.com
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

The Fat Mulberry Guest Farm

074 683 0332
www.fatmulberry.com
fatmulberry@gmail.com
Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Village Studio Guesthouse

079 873 1318
www.studio28clarens.co.za
enquiries@studio28clarens.co.za
Children welcome – Pet Friendly



Emergency Numbers

National Police	10111
Local Police	058 223 8350
Fire (Bethlehem)	058 303 5161
Ambulance	10177 or 058 306 8092
Netcare 911	082 911
ER 24	084 460 7007

Doctors

Dr Frank Garmany & dispensary	058 223 0755
Doherty Centre, Reitz Street (open Monday to Friday only)	
The closest hospitals are situated in Bethlehem (see Bethlehem section)	
Therese du Plessis Physiotherapy	084 978 9428 (by appointment only)

Veterinary Clinic

Cluny Animal Trust Clinic	078 246 2553 (by appointment only)
---------------------------	------------------------------------

ATMs

Absa	Reitz Street
FNB	Brand Street

Please note that there are no bank branches in Fouriesburg

Fuel Stations & Tyre repairs

OVK Cooperative	Brand Street	058 223 0268
Open Monday to Saturday 12pm - Closed on Public holidays)		
Kennaway Service Station	Crn Reitz & Robertson Str,	058 223 0192

Fuel can be an issue on weekends and holidays in Fouriesburg. As a precautionary measure, make sure you have enough fuel to get to Clarens or Bethlehem.

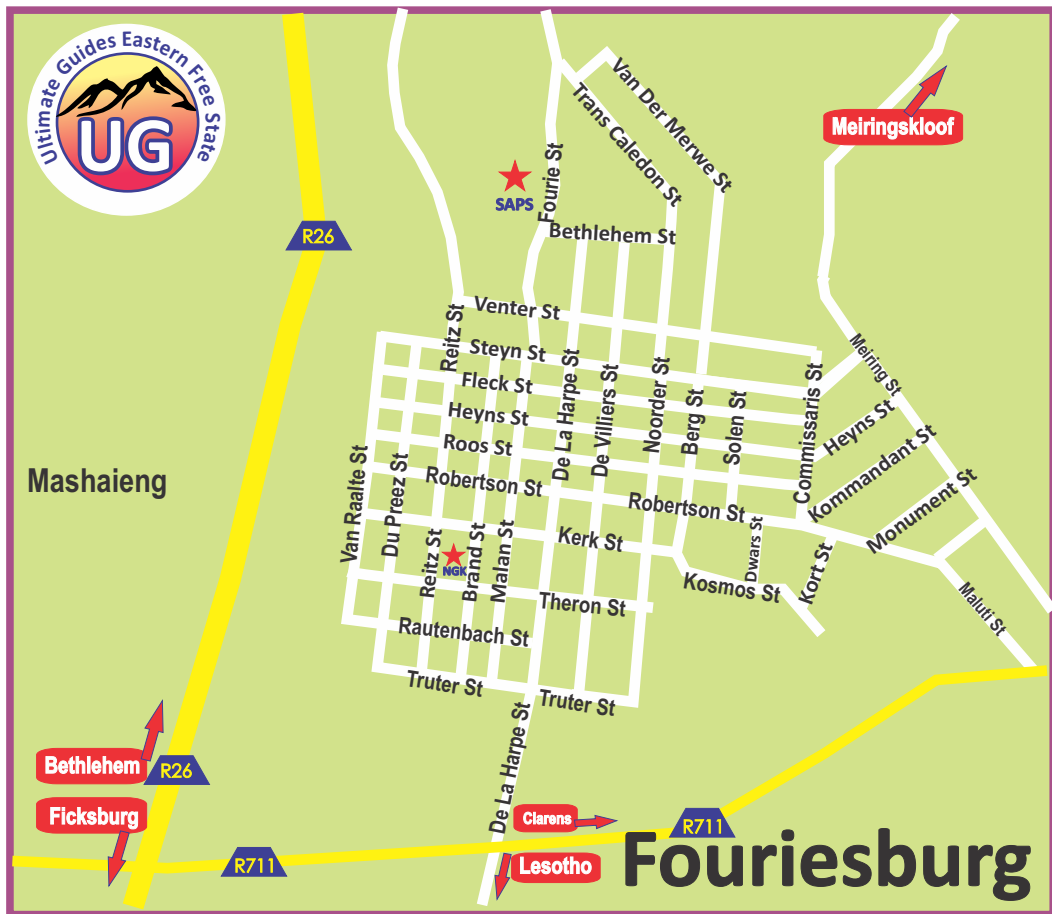
Mechanics

Jan Lee	083 627 6554
Zane Frost	072 128 9113

Snake Catcher

Jan Sander	065 680 9020
(he will ask for a donation to Cluny Animal Trust)	







Situated 43km north of Ficksburg on the Senekal road, the **Rosendal** area first became known for farming, with the town being founded in 1908 and declared a Municipality in 1914. This followed a request from local farmers for a church and a market place that was within reasonable distance of their farms. The widow of Philip Botha donated the farm on which the town was founded, and she was asked to choose a name for it. She and her young son Hansie came up with two suggestions: Leliefontein and Rosendal. The later ('valley of roses') was eventually agreed upon.

A church, a bank, a post office, a school and a hotel were built, but because of its isolation and no railway, it never became the large town intended.

Post lockdown this small Free State farming town, with cattle and horses roaming the streets, started flourishing and numerous new accommodation establishments, eateries and galleries opened.

Today, **Rosendal** is still more of a village with open spaces and spectacular scenery. It has a small community of permanent residents – artists and business owners, as well as weekenders and holiday makers who have lovingly restored the old sandstone buildings, but also built quality newly designed houses and tiny homes.

The Post office, the Bank and the Old schoolmaster's house, amongst others, have been beautifully renovated and are now holiday rentals.

Rosendal NG Kerk: The first church services were held in the local blacksmith's workshop, and by 1913, the Rosendal community's desire to have a church of their own became stronger. The cornerstone was laid on 8th July 1914. The First World War slowed the construction and the church was only completed in 1916. (501 Van Niekerk Street).



A walk around town (everything is within walking distance in Rosendal!) is the best way to discover the numerous historical buildings it has to offer, the views over the Witteberge and the peace and quiet of this charming dorpie. The avid birders can book a birding tour at Rosendal Handelshuis (082 878 3139), and for the children a "milk a cow by hand" experience is a must! (Rosendal Handelshuis 082 878 3139).

For the more adventurous, there are many outdoor activities such as hiking, mountain biking, horse riding or a sunset at the Holkrans. Visit the Rosendal Outdoor Hub (33 Neethling Street) or contact them on 083 294 5260 to book.

With over 300km of gravel roads, Rosendal is fast becoming a popular destination amongst mountain bikers and social MTB weekends are organised throughout the year.

Mosamane Hiking Trails offer spectacular hikes for the average to fit hiker. Bookings are essential, contact Henriette on 082 901 8799 (henriettewakeford@gmail.com).

The well maintained Rosendal Tennis Club welcomes visitors and locals alike to play on Saturday afternoons from 2pm. For bookings and fees, contact Jan 073 210 9141 or Peter 082 818 2461.

Booking Agent

Rosendal Stays

www.rosendalstays.co.za

083 294 5260 (WhatsApp only)

Rosendal

Retail & Services

Name	Address	Phone	Type of business
Ark Contemporary	342 Kriek Street	079 587 6282	Art Gallery
Bull & Satchel	General Fick Street	071 442 0331	Handmade leather goods
Kaboedel Arts & Crafts	Hertzog Street		Glass, weaving
Monate Cash Store	511 General Fick Street	071 957 5861	Groceries
OVK	General Fick Street	058 211 0740	Cooperative & Fuel
Rosendal Bakery & Liquor	511 General Fick Street	076 588 3170	Bakery & Liquor
Rosendal Handelshuis	292 Hertzog Street	082 878 319	Vintage & Crafts
Stallery Fine Art	447 van Niekerk Street	072 275 5571	Fine Art
Studio Ben	247 Botha Street	082 576 5273	Soap & crochet studio



Eateries

			B	L	S	C	P	W
Agterplaas	513 General Fick Street	068 400 7570	*	*		*	*	*
Glas Eatery	33 Neethling Street	082 828 0588		*	*	*		*
Kasi Pizza	124 Mautse	079 411 7009	*	*	*	*		
Krummel	364 Kriek Street	071 442 0331	*	*		*	*	*
The Service Station Wine Bar	393 Van der Merwe Street	072 824 9151		*	*	*	*	*
Yolla's Pub & Restaurant	Hertzog Street	082 660 5443	*	*	*	*	*	*

Please note that not all restaurants are open every day. Call to confirm opening hours

rosendal
HANDLSHUIS
ougoed . kougoed . leesgoed
Die huis waar almal welkom is
Smullekker deli produkte.
Vintage dinge en geliefde boeke.
Rosendal Informasie en Toere .
Tuiste van RealNet Rosendal.
082 878 3139 . www.rosendalhandelshuis.co.za

The Service Station Wine Bar



Open 12 til late
Friday-Sunday & all holidays
T + 27 72 824 9151

*Beautiful design, food, wines, spirits
& cocktails in the heart of Rosendal*



which have put Ficksburg firmly on the map.

Clocolan is situated 34km from Ficksburg. The town was established in 1906 on the farms Reinzi and Herold. The town grew out of the need for schools, churches and business services for the surrounding farming community. It obtained municipal status on 18th July 1910. The Eastern Free State cherry

The area between Ficksburg and Ladybrand has been witness to many historical battles, from the Dikwane Wars through to the Anglo-Boer Wars, and is steeped not only in military history, but also rich in San rock art and fossils.

Ficksburg was named after the Boer General, General Fick, who proclaimed the town in 1867 to act as a buffer zone between the then Orange Free State and Basotholand. By 1883 it had established itself as a trading area and an influx of British traders supplied everything from agricultural equipment to dresses. Ficksburg today boasts a cosmopolitan population of about 84.000 people. Ficksburg is the only town in South Africa where the border post is part of the town. The main source of income is derived from agriculture with cherries and asparagus being the two crops

industry originated in the Clocolan district where the first trees were planted by Henry Pickstone in 1904 on the farm Platkop. The name Clocolan is derived from the South Sotho word Hlohlowane, meaning 'stand up and fight', which refers to an altercation between two tribes which took place many years before.

Ladybrand was founded in 1867 and named after Lady Catharina Brand, the mother of President Brand, then President of the Orange Free State Colony. Ladybrand was initially established as a frontier post to defend the conquered territory from their neighbours. Today, it is a cosmopolitan town serving as a trade and business centre on the border of Lesotho, as well as being the administrative centre of the Mantsopa District Municipality.

Ficksburg Museum (General Fick Museum) is a museum which largely details the life of Gen. Fick and, amongst other exhibits, the history of the town's cherry industry. The building was completed in 1893, is a National Monument and is listed as a Provincial Heritage Site. (23 Vootrekker Street).

Ficksburg Town Hall: The cornerstone of the building was laid on 21st July 1897 by

Mr M I Fourie, the then Chairman of the Municipality. It was completed before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and is a

National and Provincial Heritage Site. (Vootrekker Street)

Ficksburg NG Kerk: Ds JD Kestell was confirmed as the community's new minister in 1903. He had served as chaplain to General C J de Wet during the Anglo-Boer War. I was decided to build this Romanesque styled church to honour the Boers who had died in the conflict. The site had to be excavated to a depth of 4 meters to reach bedrock, but remarkably it only took 3 years to complete the

building. It was consecrated on 12th April 1907 and is an example of the community spirit of the time. Every member of the congregation worked towards raising funds for the project. The women undertook to supply the impressive organ and lights for the building, the young people collected for the bell and the clock which was made by J Smith & Sons of England

Remarkably, even after all this time, it only loses 2 minutes a week. Even the children of the community were



involved, and responsible for the pulpit. The total cost for the building and furnishing was £ 17.526 and this National Monument is now insured for over R 5.000.000. (Office 051 933 4959).

Gumtree, a small settlement 20km from Ficksburg, has the tallest sandstone structure in the world. The mill which used to be the hub of this once thriving district is no longer operative, but the shell of the magnificent building remains.

There are many venues in the region offering outdoor activities, whether it be hiking, MTB, horse riding, game viewing or 4x4 trails.

Daskop Guest & Game Farm

071 606 7035 – www.daskop.co.za

MTB professional, Glen Harrison designed the trails where you can choose between 4 levels, each offering something different.

EarthRise Mountain Lodge –

087 808 2709

www.earthrisemountainlodge.co.za

EarthRise offers visitors MTB trails ranging from an easy loop for beginners to thrilling downhill and single tracks for seasoned riders. Trained staff members are on hand to guide you. Exhilarating rides with one of the most beautiful backdrops in South Africa are a guarantee.

Hoekfontein Oxwagon Camp –

071 657 4307 or 082 397 8055 –

www.oxwagon.co.za

Offering accommodation in ox wagons, the farm offers a variety of activities, including a cement farm dam to swim in and walking trails to explore. Other activities include abseiling and paint ball.

Langesnek Hiking Trail

086 152 2262

This trail comprises two day-trails suitable for all levels of fitness. One is 11.2km and the other 10.5km, with an optional 2km walk up Pyramid Mountain.

There are overnight facilities for 24 people in an old farmhouse with outbuildings that houses the ablution facilities. The youth centre can cater for groups for up to 150 persons. There is also a campsite for 4x4 roof or surface tents.

Meulspruit Dam

051 933 2527

The MTB trail offers an intermediate to difficult, custom-built, 7.5km single-track look through the hills. The course was used for the MTB Nationals in 1999 and 2000, and is excellent practice for anyone wanting to improve their cross-country skills.

Moolmanshoek Private Game Reserve

051 933 2220 or 082 788 6623

www.moolmanshoek.co.za

Moolmanshoek offers day walks through the reserve. In the 'Serengeti' section, you can view an abundance of game. For more adventurous, there are options of 2- and 3-days hikes, which include ambitious climbs to the mountain peaks of the reserve. The 4x4 trails are 'Drive Out' magazine Roll of Honour Top 10 winner (2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006). Enjoy the reserve in a 4x4, accompanied by a qualified driver or a guide on horseback. There are 3 routes that can be accomplished over a weekend, showing different aspects of the reserve. Experience the sandstone splendour at its best all year round.

Bring your MTB and explore the game reserve on the tracks and paths, or

venture further on the gravel roads of this beautiful district.

Moolmanshoek offers a range of horseback day trails and horse safaris. They breed award-winning SA Boerperd and endurance horses which are used and trusted by international horse tourism operators. There are hundreds of horses on the reserve and it is an experience you will never forget!

Moolmanshoek is also a game reserve and the guided tours in the mini 'Serengeti' bring guests close to the numerous wildlife, such as Black Wildebeest, Zebra, Springbok, Blesbok, Mountain Reedbuck, Steenbok, Duiker, Fellow Deer, Red Hartebeest, Eland, Oryx and Ostrich.

Tempelhof Guest & Game Farm

082 213 1299

www.tempelhof.co.za

The 230ha Tempelhof Game Reserve was established as a game farm in the late 1990s. Game drives offer viewing of Lion, Cheetah, Eland, Zebra, Wild Dog, Springbok and Black Wildebeest. It is situated on the R70, towards Rosendal.

Thaba Thabo Nature Reserve

082 344 9100

www.thabathabo.co.za

Four hiking loop-trails have been designed for hikers of all abilities, and take in the natural beauty that each change of season brings. The turnoff onto the gravel road to Thaba Thabo is between Ficksburg and Fouriesburg on the R26. Take either the S385 or S384 gravel roads.

Two 4x4 trails are in development which are relatively easy with some grade 3 obstacles, although during the rainy season some of the obstacles will become very difficult. One can also explore the reserve on horseback, by following the trail or using any of the existing roads for shorter rides.

There are also several Golf courses in the area, all of which welcome visitors.

Ficksburg Golf Club

1 Hill Street – 083 274 9058

Clocolan Golf Club

051 943 1933

Ladybrand Country Club

Loop Street – 083 319 8795



Name	Address	Town	Phone	B	L	S	C	D	F	W
Bella Rosa GH & Restaurant	21 Bloem Street	Ficksburg	063 516 7759	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blu Bottle Bistro	17 A Prinsloo Street	Ladybrand	082 847 2103	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Clocolan Golf Club	Andries Pretorius Avenue	Clocolan	051 943 1933	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Constantia Padstal	R26	Clocolan	082 304 7043	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cranberry	37 Beeton Street	Ladybrand	051 923 1517	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Frango's	Piet Retief Street	Ladybrand	051 924 0894	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gallito's	15 A Joubert Street	Ladybrand	051 011 8777	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Handmade with Love	83 McCabe Street	Ficksburg	076 977 9477	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Imperani	53 McCabe Street	Ficksburg	051 933 3606	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
KFC	68 Fontein Street	Ficksburg	051 933 2416	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
KFC	Joubert Street	Ladybrand	051 924 1263	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
The Cabin Farm Stall	R26	Clocolan	079 492 5976	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Victoria House	4 Erwee Street	Ficksburg	082 920 5551	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wimpy	26 Band Street	Ficksburg	051 933 3557	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wimpy	Spar Centre, Joubert Street	Ladybrand	051 924 3362	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Arts & Crafts

Die Blikplek – 17 Fontein Street, Ficksburg – 051 993 2746 – www.blikplek.co.za
Highland Essential Oils – Vlakbult Farm, Clocolan – 082 789 3035



Emergency Numbers

National Police - 10111

Local Police Ficksburg - 051 933 9601

Clocolan - 051 943 9200

Ladybrand - 051 923 4000

Rosendal - 058 211 0810

Fire Ficksburg - 051 933 2423

Clocolan - 072 600 6734

Ladybrand - 051 924 0659

Ambulance - 10177

Netcare - 082 911

Er24 - 084 124

Hospitals

Ficksburg

Ficksburg Provincial Hospital -
056 262 8087

Phutholoha Hospital -
051 933 2284

Clocolan

Clocolan Provincial Hospital -
051 943 0433

John Daniel Newbury Hospital -
051 943 0434

Ladybrand

Ladybrand Provincial Hospital -
051 924 3268

Mantsopa Hospital -
051 924 3268

Senorita Nhlabathi Hospital -
051 923 2001

Doctors

Ficksburg

Dr Mpeake.L Makhalema
051 933 2017

Drs Du Toit & Vorster
051 933 2259

Maluti Health Centre
051 933 6333

Shifaa Health Care Inc.
051 933 2033

Clocolan

Dr RS Beeton -
051 943 0417
Dr WH Enslin -
051 943 0515

Ladybrand

Drs Strauss & Van Der Merwe -
051 924 3081
Keystone Health Centre -
051 924 2092
Mokonotela MP -
051 924 0036

Dentists

Ficksburg

Oral & Dental - 051 933 2023
Dr JHC Loots - 051 933 3420

Clocolan

Oral & Dental - 067 108 5587

Ladybrand

B Steenkamp & Partner -
051 924 0055
Mantsopa Hospital – Dentistry Dept -
051 923 2020

Pharmacies

Ficksburg

Alpha Pharmacy - 051 933 3365

Clicks Pharmacy - 051 933 5988

Ferdi Botha Pharmacy - 051 933 5784

Clocolan

Ernesto Family Pharmacy - 051 943 0005

John Daniel Newbury Hospital Pharm. -
051 943 0433

Ladybrand

Ladybrand Pharmacy - 051 924 2061

Joal Chemist - 051 924 0933

Vets

Ficksburg

Oosvrystaat Diere Produkte -

051 933 2664

Clocolan

Clocolan Animal Clinic - 051 943 0436

Liezel Animal Clinic - 051 943 7160

Ladybrand

Ladybrand Dierekliniek - 051 924 3028

Banks & ATMs

Ficksburg

All major banks have branches and ATMs
in Ficksburg.

FNB, Capitec, Absa, Standard Bank

Clocolan

FNB and Standard Bank have branches
and ATMs

Ladybrand

All major banks have branches and ATMs
in Ladybrand.

FNB, Capitec, Absa, Standard Bank
and Nedbank

Tyre Sales

Ficksburg

Supa Quick 051 933 2739

Clocolan

Holmes Meule & Bande 051 943 0631

Ladybrand

Best Drive OVK Tyres - 051 923 4712

Supa Quick - 051 924 0702

Spare Shops

Ficksburg

AutoZone - 051 933 2024

Carjoy Spares - 051 933 2439

Southkop Auto Spares - 051 933 2587

Midas - 051 933 4009

Ladybrand

AutoZone - 051 924 0032

Midas 051 924 3007

Towing Services

Ficksburg

Eugene's Towing - 051 933 5026

Ladybrand

Thomson's Towing - 051 924 2095

Car Rental

Ladybrand

EuropCar - 051 933 4752

Due to the increasing movement of people between Winburg and Harrismith after the Boers had settled in the area, a request was made to establish a town to service the growing population. Permission was granted by president Snyman, and so Bethlehem was founded. Messrs Francois Naude, Johannes Muller and Daniel Malan held a public auction on the farm Pretoriuskloof in 1864 and 120 stands with prices ranging from £10 to £21 were sold.

Because of Bethlehem's location on the main route between Natal and the Kimberley diamond fields, the growth of the new town was rapid. By the time the first railway line reached Bethlehem from the Cape in 1890, the town boasted a population of over 15.247 souls. In 1900 President Steyn moved the Free State Government to Bethlehem.

Bethlehem sits in a fertile valley at the very northern tip of the Maluti mountain range, close to the towns of Clarens, Fouriesburg and Paul Roux, and is the commercial heart of the region that is based on crop and livestock farming as well as nature and outdoor activities focused on tourism. The area around Bethlehem is South Africa's bread basket, with about 60% of the country's wheat production grown in the region.



Bethlehem is known as 'The Bread Basket' after the original Hebrew meaning of the word Bethlehem 'house of bread'. It is so called because the town and surroundings boast fertile lands where wheat grows in abundance. It lies at an altitude of 1700 meter and has a cool climate with an average annual temperature of around 24 degrees C, but cold and sunny winters. For those who appreciate history and architecture, Bethlehem features numerous Victorian sandstone buildings that can be viewed on a Sandstone Walking Tour, as well as cemeteries dating from the Anglo-Boer War.

For those with a love for things from yesteryear, there are numerous Heritage sites and buildings around Bethlehem that are well worth a visit.

14 President Burger Street

AB Bartman Building

Muller & Landdrost Streets

Main Building Technical College

Wessels Street

Nederduitse Gereformeerde Mother Church

Church Square

Old Magistrates Court

Louw Street

Old Nederduitse Gereformeerde Mission Church Parsonage

President Boshoff Street

St Andrew Presbyterian Church

144 Cambridge Street

St Augustine Anglican Church – 34 Louw Street

Town Hall

20-22 Muller Street

Pretoriuskloof Bird Sanctuary: Located on the bank of the Jordaan River that runs through the centre of town. The Pretoriuskloof Bird Sanctuary is named after the original farm that Bethlehem was established on. Shady trees provide an ideal spot for a picnic.

The Bethlehem Museum: The museum is one of cultural history and is housed in the Old Nazareth Mission Church on Muller Street. The church was originally built in 1906 and is both architecturally and aesthetically pleasing. The museum contains a number of historical items including an old steam train which is housed on the grounds. Children will be fascinated learning more about this method of travel their great grandparents used in 'days of yore'. The museum represents the town's history and culture as seen by the exhibits of farming implements and period furniture that depict the lifestyle of former residents of town. Military historians will be impressed with the collection of war memorabilia. It is advisable to call before hand as the museum is only open at selected times. 7 Muller Street – 058 303 5076, For those interested in history, the Anglo-Boer War British Soldiers Cemetery is a must. Situated at the start of Muller Street it boasts tombs of soldiers and volunteers fallen in the region during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

PHONE:

+27 (0)58 304 1691 +27 (0)83 408 0473

EMAIL:

reservations@lionsrock.org

WEB:

www.lionsrock.org

www.four-paws.org.za

ADDRESS:

Farm Kleinbloemhof,
Bethlehem, South Africa



LIONSROCK
Big Cat Sanctuary



Lionsrock Big Cat Sanctuary: Lionsrock is situated on a 1200 hectares park 18km outside Bethlehem (GPS Coordinates 28°13'11.4"S – 28°27'46.6" E). As a Four Paws big cat sanctuary, it provides a lifelong home for big cats previously kept in inadequate conditions in zoos, circuses or in private captivity. The habitats constructed for the predators offer the highest standards, including large areas for family groups, facilitation of natural behaviour, through enrichment, excellent medical care and top security standards of enclosures. All hunting, trading or breeding of wild animals is strictly prohibited. Male lions are vasectomised as lions raised in captivity cannot be released into the wild. Lionsrock is also home to wildebeest, springbok, eland, zebras, ostriches, and a wide variety of bird species. There is also accommodation, a restaurant and a bar at the lodge. Contact: 058 304 1003 – www.lionsrock.org

Wolhutterskop Nature & Game Reserve: Situated on the R26, 6km towards Fouriesburg, the reserve was developed to conserve a small part of the Eastern Free State's grassland with its sandstone ridges, and to bring in the game that used to occur there naturally, including springbok, eland, impala, black wildebeest and blesbuck. Apart from the larger game, the reserve offers a wide range of species, including the water mongoose, cape clawless otter, caracal and large-spotted genet. Today Wolhutterskop Game & Nature Reserve is a retreat where visitors can experience this part of the Eastern Free State as it

once was. There are three circular routes through the reserve for day drives. Visitors can also hike, mountain bike or take a led horse trail. For birders, about 120 species have been identified, including the signature bird of Africa, the fish eagle, and plenty water birds on the Baber Bay Dam in the reserve, which originally supplied Bethlehem with water. For those interest in plants and trees, the reserve offers a wide range, including the jackal berry tree, the white olive tree and grass aloe. Contact: 058 303 5732. Entry fee applies.

 Download your free electronic version of
**The Ultimate Guide
Clarens & Surrounds**
from our website - www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za

**THE
ROADSIDE
DINER
RESTAURANT**

TEL 082 927 0209

**R26 NEXT TO
LOCH ATHLONE**

Sun & Mon 8h to 14h • Tues to Sat 8h to 16h



Name	Address	Phone	B	L	S	C	D	P	W
Café Al Fesco	Riverwalk Centre, Muller Street	082 420 5964	*	*		*			
Café Maunte	14 President Burger Street	082 703 9698	*	*	*	*			*
Cheetau Lodge	R26 towards Fouriesburg	082 804 4166	*	*	*	*			*
Debonairs Pizza	Village Square, Baartman Street	058 303 2355	*	*	*	*			
Fish Away	Village Square, Baartman Street	058 303 8226	*	*	*	*			*
Jenka Restaurant	Lavender Hill Country Estate	058 303 1673	*	*	*	*			*
Lionsrock Lodge	Farm Kleinbloemhof	058 304 1691	*	*	*	*			*
Mon Reve Café	74 Buite Street	072 983 7926	*	*		*			*
Mugg & Bean	Dihlabeng Mall, Preekstoel Road	058 303 0240	*	*		*			*
Nando's	Crn Muller & Hospital Streets	058 303 8722	*	*	*	*			
Niin's Bistro	56 Church Street	082 466 0547	*	*		*			*
Ocean Basket	Sanlam Centre, Church Street	058 303 2124		*	*	*			*
Panarottis Bethlehem	Dihlabeng Mall, Preekstoel Road	058 303 0513	*	*	*	*	*		*
Park Grill @ Park Hotel	23 Muller Street	058 303 5191	*	*	*	*			*
Polka Dot Café	8172 Malan Street	058 303 4930	*	*		*			*
Roadside Diner	R26 towards Fouriesburg	082 927 0209	*	*		*			*
Smith Coffee Company	23 Church Street	079 631 2496	*	*		*			*
Steers	Village Square, Baartman Street	058 303 2850	*	*	*	*			
Tasteroom Dorptoe	Dihlabeng Mall, Preekstoel Road	079 401 7333	*	*	*	*	*		*
Watashi Spur Steak Ranch	Dihlabeng Mall, Preekstoel Road	058 303 7557	*	*	*	*	*		*
Wimpi	Hospital Street	058 303 0534	*	*	*	*			*

Discover craft brewery excellence with Darling Brew at Dihlabeng Mall, Bethlehem.



Darling Brew is one of the most recognisable, award-winning South African craft beer brands that originates from the small town Darling on the West Coast. In addition, Darling Brew is the first carbon-neutral brewery on the African continent. Each craft beer has been dedicated to an endangered animal and has its own personality, so the best way to find your favourite is to try them all!



Enough said, let's get into the good stuff...

Darling Brew's Dorptoe Taste Room is situated in Bethlehem at Dihlabeng Mall and is a must visit! Enjoy delicious, contemporary pub-style food paired with the full craft beer experience, ranging from lagers to stouts – you name it! Not a beer drinker, no worries! Darling Brew offers refreshing non-alcoholic drinks as well as delicious coffees and milkshakes – perfect for the kiddies as well!

Book your table today and you won't be disappointed!

WhatsApp us at 079 401 7333 or email dorptoe@darlingbrew.co.za. Want the full story? Visit Darling Brew at www.darlingbrew.co.za and check out @DarlingBrew on Facebook and Instagram.



0000 DARLINGBREW.CO.ZA



Sports & Activities

Goble Park Stadium: This multi-use stadium is currently mostly used for football matches and is used as a home venue by both Free State Stars FC and Super Eagles FC. It has a capacity of 5.000 spectators. 128 Cambridge Street

Bethlehem Golf Club: A Par 72 this 18 hole course is considered one of the best maintained in the Free State. Facilities at the Bethlehem Golf Club include a pro-shop and a driving range. Visitors are welcome. Golf Street – 058 303 4656

Bethlehem Tennis Club: Cnr Naude & Commissioner Streets - 083 630 8534

Bethlehem Bowling Club: 061 133 4699

Tenaciti Fitness & Performance Centre:
Maluti Square, Oxford Street
076 173 8747

Miller Shooting Range: Outdoor shooting range on the farm Ritefontein.
082 375 9328
millershootingrange@gmail.com



**18A Kerk Street
Bethlehem
9701**

**Cell:069 823 4500 (whatsapp)
061 674 9977, 076 542 6324**

E-mail: manager@tawonder.co.za

NAME TAGS/BADGES

WELCOME BOARDS

COMPUTER REPAIRS

PRINTING & COPYING

T-SHIRT PRINTING

COMPUTER REPAIRS

PHOTOGRAPHY

BUSINESS PROFILES

SIGNAGE & BANNERS

GRAPHIC DESIGNING

Not Even The Sky Is The Limit

Lionsrock Lodge

058 304 1691

www.lionsrock.org

reservations@lionsrock.org

Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi

Cheetau Lodge

082 804 4166

www.cheetaulodge.com

info@cheetaulodge.com

Children welcome – No pets – Wi-Fi



Download your free electronic version of

The Ultimate Guide Clarens & Surrounds

from our website - www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za

**CHEETAU
GAME LODGE**

Escape the city lights and enjoy a picturesque sunset with the roar of a lion in the background

Indulge in extraordinary authentic Eastern Free State Cuisine, hospitality and a unforgettable Big Cat Experience

WHAT WE OFFER

- Fully serviced luxury units
- On-site restaurant and Bar
- Conference facility
- Playground for kids
- Free WiFi
- Big cat tours
- Complimentary breakfast with your stay

www.cheetaulodge.com
info@cheetaulodge.com
082 804 4166



Emergency numbers

National Police - 10111

Local Police - 058 307 5700

Fire (Bethlehem) - 058 303 5161

Ambulance - 10177

Netcare - 911082 911

ER - 24084 124

Hospitals

Bethlehem Provincial - 058 303 5311

Hoogland Medi-Clinic - 058 307 2000

Phekelong - 058 303 5123

Dr Marx - 058 303 5397

Chemists

Clicks Pharmacy - 058 303 0286

Eureka Pharmacy - 058 303 5431

Hoek Pharmacy - 058 303 5240

Kroon Pharmacy - 058 307 0200

Village Pharmacy - 058 303 1016

Doctors

Bethlehem Medical Centre - 058 303 6846

Drs Y & C Kotze - 058 303 1189

Dentists

Bethlehem Dental Clinic - 058 303 4751

Dr Bezuidenhout - 058 303 5102

Veterinaries

Bethlehem Animal Hospital

058 303 2274

Dr Piet Louw - 058 303 4612

Banks

Absa 22 Kerk Street - 058 307 4200

Capitec Dihlabeng Mall - 086 010 2043

FNB Dihlabeng Mall - 058 303 0329

Nedbank, 17B President Boshoff Str

058 307 3900

StandardCrn Kerk & Roux Str - 086 012 3000

Schwimm's Tyres - 058 303 4419

Tiger Wheel & Tyre - 058 303 1410

Spare Shops

Goldwagen - 058 303 0002

Midas - 058 303 5181

Wassa Spares - 058 303 0977

Bicycle Repairs

Bethlehem Cycle World - 058 303 6381

Towing Services

Gary's Towing - 072 143 8683

Car Rental

Avis - 058 303 2364

Bidvest Car Rental - 058 303 5255

Tyre Sales

Hi-Q Bethlehem - 058 303 7566



The quaint village of Paul Roux is situated on the N5 route between Bethlehem and Senekal. It is the birthplace of former President P.W. Botha who was born there on 12th January 1916.

Established as a coach station between Winburg and Harrismith in 1909, it was named after Reverend Paul Roux from the Dutch Reformed Church.

Plots were originally sold in 1910 for a shilling each! Although homesteads were immediately built, Paul Roux had no official church and services were held on the banks of the Sand River

under the willow trees. A sandstone church was finally built in 1914 and inaugurated in October 1917.

Paul Roux' history dates back to the Jurassic period and dinosaur footprints can be seen on a large block of sandstone at Uniondale Farm. Take a hike on the Holhoek Hiking Trail to visit caves and admire bushman paintings.

The Paul Roux Conservancy manages and protects the environment in and around town, especially The Rooidam where wetlands are a birder's paradise. Don't miss the yearly Ghost Walk which is great fun for the whole family.



The **Postal Tree** – corner of Van Rooyen & Market Streets. In yesteryears, the residents' post was left under this tree by the postal coach. To this day, the tree may not be cut or damaged in any way.

National Bank – Voortrekker Street. The old bank building used to host church services on the veranda before the church was built. Today it is a private dwelling.

Rosenhof Guest Lodge – 18 Market Street . This lovely sandstone building

has been the town's hotel since it was built in 1927.

Uniondale Game Farm: Situated 8km outside the town of Paul Roux, Uniondale Game Farm is the perfect day outing. Day visitors can enjoy a braai or a picnic at the numerous spots on the farm, or go for a game drive on the farm (booking essential). Uniondale Game Farm is also home to dinosaur footprints that can be viewed when visiting. *Contact: 083 998 4493 - www.uniondalefarm.co.za*



No part of this publication may be used or reproduced in any form without prior consent of the publishers

www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za
info@ultimateguideclarens.co.za

 TheUltimateGuide, Claren&Surrounds
@ClarensandSurrounds

Printing:
Typo Colour Printing Specialists
Johannesburg
011 402 3468

Download your electronic version of
The Ultimate Guide, Claren & Surrounds
from our website
www.ultimateguideclarens.co.za



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guide would not have been possible without the help and assistance of the various people who gave permission to use material and photographs of the region. To all of you, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude.


- **Stephen Dunkley, for letting me use extracts from his excellent book, 'The Clarens Chronicles' (IBN 976-0-620-46616-5)**
- **Fouriesburg se Kerkmense – Dr IL Ferreira (1994)**
- **Fouriesburg Eeufees 1893-1993 – Maj WH De La Harpe**
- **Tannie Nan Oosthuizen for sharing the myth of Mama Lubane**
- **Aunty Google for the numerous snippets of information found on hundreds of websites!**

Photographs & Images


- Altie du Plessis-Dreyer
- Amanda van Blerk
- Danie Smith
- Fat Mulberry Guest Farm
- Golden Gate Highlands National Park
- Ian Van Straaten
- Ionia Cherry Farm
- Kjirsten Forrester
- Valerie Kneppert
- Zane Frost



Published by Le Comptoir Francais cc
T/A The Ultimate Guide, Clarens & Surrounds
Content, listings, sales & marketing - Valerie Kneppert
Design & Layout - Tawanda Muviyi
Printed by Typo Printing (Pty) Ltd, Sandton, 011 719 0700


 Facebook Group - UG Clarens & Surrounds

www.ultimatguideclarens.co.za

 Instagram @ug_clarensandsurrounds

info@ultimatguideclarens.co.za

ultimatguide.clarens@gmail.com

 Facebook Page - The Ultimate Guide, Clarens & Surrounds @ClarensandSurrounds

Distances

Between Major Areas

Bethlehem to Clarens - 41km

Bethlehem to Fouriesburg - 49km

Bethlehem to Paul Roux - 38km

Bethlehem to Sterkfontein Dam - 107km

Bloemfontein to Bethlehem (N5) - 249km

Caledonspoort Border Post to Afriski - 82km

Caledonspoort Border Post to Katse Dam - 153km

Cape Town to Bethlehem - 1249km

Clarens to Caledonspoort Border Post - 43km

Clarens to Golden Gate National Park - 22km

Clarens to Sterkfontein Dam - 90km

Durban to Bethlehem - 390km

Durban to Clarens - 379km

Ficksburg to Bloemfontein - 205km

Ficksburg to Rosendal - 45km

Fouriesburg to Ficksburg - 49km

Johannesburg to Bethlehem - 269km

OR Tambo International Airport to Bethlehem - 275km

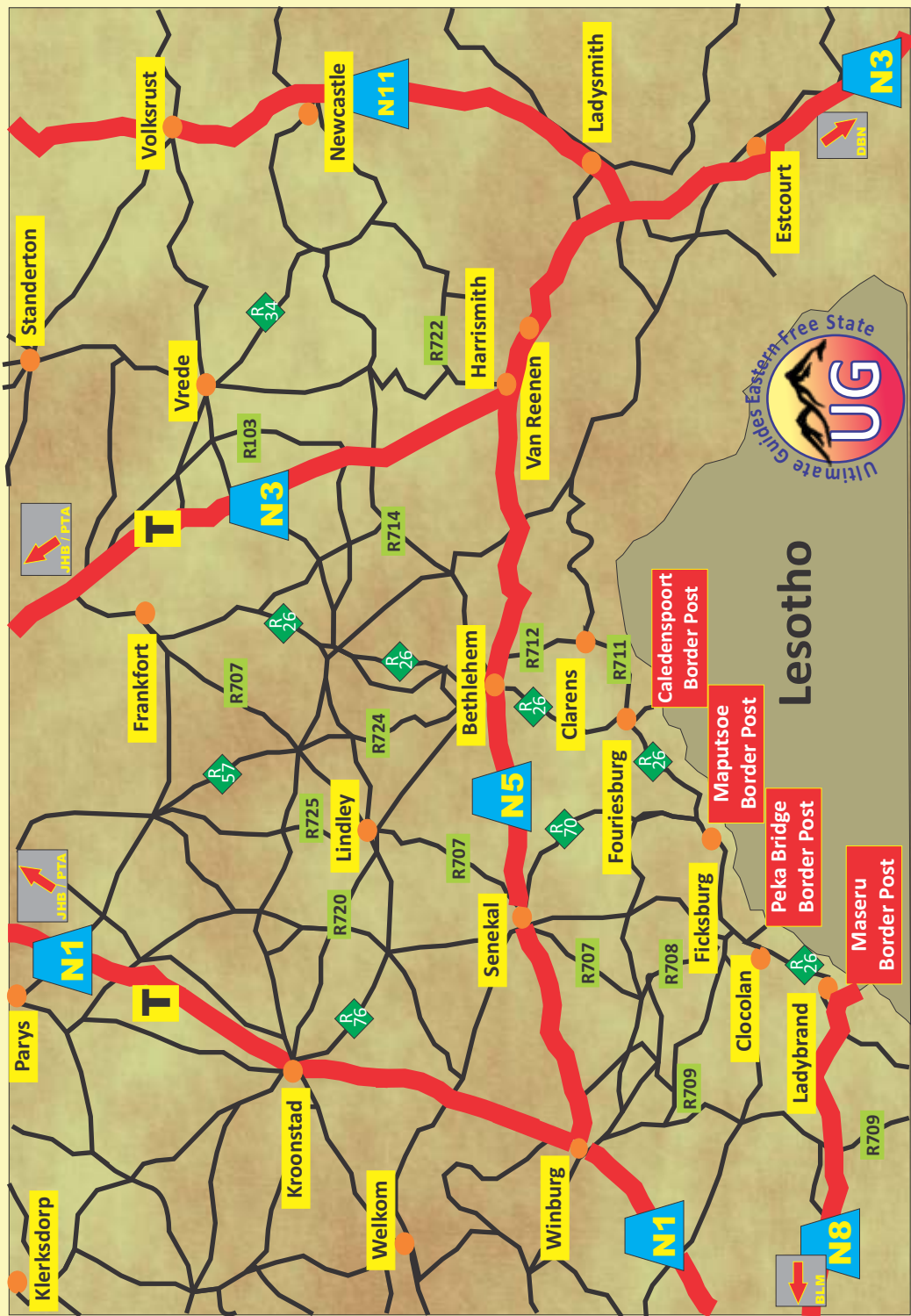
Port Elizabeth to Bethlehem - 898km

Pretoria to Bethlehem - 334km

Welkom to Bethlehem - 175km



Robert Frost



ESCAPE TO NATURE

Kiara
Lodge

Golden Gate, Maluti Mountains

Nestled in the picturesque Maluti Mountains, bordering the Golden Gate and only 15 minutes from Clarens, Kiara Lodge is a haven for those seeking either a laid-back retreat or an adventurous mountain getaway. The on-site Body Bliss Day Spa provides a full range of treatments. For thrill-seekers, Leap Adventures offers adrenaline-pumping experiences. The cosy on-site eatery, Maluti Melt, caters to all tastes, offering mouth-watering fondues to oven-baked pizza. **For an unforgettable holiday, make Kiara Lodge your next destination.**

OUR FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



LEAP
Adventures

Don't forget to play!




BODY BLISS
Day Spa

Spoil yourself!



A taste of the Alps

SCAN HERE to subscribe
to Beekman Holidays.



@KiaraLodge



www.kiarylodge.co.za



058 255 0140