



CONTACT DETAILS

**Ditsong: National Museum
of Cultural History**
Paul Kruger Street
Pretoria
0001

Tel: +27 (0)12 322 7939

Opening hours:
8h00 - 16h00
(except Christmas Day &
Good Friday)

**Ditsong National Museum
of Military History**
Erlswold Way
Saxonwold
Johannesburg
2196

+27 (0) 11 646 5513

Entrance fees: Adult – R22
Senior citizens and
children – R11

Gauteng



Pretoria

Ditsong: Northern Flagship Institutions

The Ditsong: Northern Flagship Institute develops, manages and administers some of the largest and most significant Southern African collections in the field of fauna, palaeontology, military history, cultural history, anthropology and archaeology.

Ditsong: National Museum of Cultural History

The National Cultural History Museum's history dates back to the founding of the Staatsmuseum in what was then the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek in 1892. The collecting policy of this museum covered a wide brief, including history and natural sciences. Manuscripts were among the first objects collected for the new museum. Today the museum collects objects relating to the cultural heritage of South Africa. Collections span the fields of archaeology, anthropology and cultural history. In addition to historical artifacts, the museum also collects manuscripts, ephemera and other documents of various physical forms, which support research on the museum's fields of interest.

The document and manuscript collections include personal documents such as diaries, letters and memoirs, also family papers, genealogies, newspapers, periodicals, maps, books, pamphlets, music and so on. The Historical Photograph collection includes albums, photos and negatives.

The Museum Archive houses the National Cultural History Museum's institutional records, including correspondence, research reports, council minutes, annual reports, other museum publications and audio records.

Ditsong National Museum of Military History

The Ditsong National Museum of Military History is the only museum of its kind in South Africa.

The museum, which became known as the South African National War Museum, was officially opened by the then Prime





©Frank Mestdagh

Kruger family

Ditsong: National Museum of Cultural History

Minister Of Arts and Culture Ms. Lulu Xingwana at the unveiling of the Ditsong: Northern Flagship Institutions

Ditsong: National Museum of Cultural History

Minister of South Africa, Field Marshal J C Smuts, on 29 August 1947. In 1975 the Museum’s name was changed to the South African National Museum of Military History and its scope was expanded to include the history of all military conflict in which South Africans have played a part.

The Museum’s collection is divided into 37 separate categories and cover fields such as ordnance, armoured fighting vehicles, aircraft, medals, uniforms, small arms, edged weapons, barrack & camping equipment, rations, religion, gifts & comforts, military music, graves & memorials, military insignia, communications, medicine, propaganda and vexillology, to name a few. The exhibits include some of the rarest aircraft, firearms, uniforms, Victoria Crosses and other awards found in the world. The museum library has a unique collection of books, journals and archival material.



CONTACT DETAILS

Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History
Paul Kruger Street
Pretoria
0001

Tel: +27 (0)12 322 7939

Opening hours:
8h00 - 16h00
(except Christmas Day &
Good Friday)

Ditsong: Pioneer Museum
Silverton
Pretoria
0001

Turn off the N4 freeway to
Witbank at exit 3, or travel
along Church Street East and
Pretoria Road, Silverton

Tel: +27 (0)12 803 6086/ 7
or +27 (0)72 323 9758

Opening hours: Mon to Fri
07h30 - 16h00
Sat and Sun 09h00 - 16h00

Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History

Established in 1892, the Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History (Transvaal Museum) is one of the oldest natural history museums in South Africa. As the natural history museum component of the Ditsong: NFI the Transvaal Museum contains large and important collections of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, as well as of many groups of insects; together, these have formed the basis for research for well over a hundred years.

The two main exhibitions focus on the history of life on earth: Genesis I (Hall of Life) and Genesis II (Mammal Hall). These halls include dioramas on the life of our common ancestor such as 'Mrs Ples', whose fossilised skull is undoubtedly the most famous specimen in the Museum. The collection also includes a specimen of the pre-historic coelacanth ('old four legs').

The Austin Roberts Bird Hall offers a unique display of all South African bird species (over 870) together with information on their distribution. Lastly, the Museum building also houses the Museum of the Geological Survey, where visitors can catch a glimpse of the amazing mineral wealth of the country.

Ditsong: Pioneer Museum

The Ditsong: Pioneer Museum in Silverton is a well-known land mark in Pretoria, with the thatched house, built in 1848 by Adolf Machiel Botha on the farm Hartebeestpoort, as its main attraction. This picturesque house, built shortly after the Voortrekkers established themselves in the vicinity, is the last remaining thatched dwelling representing the style of housing of this early period in the Apies River region.

In 1900 a modern Victorian house was built next to the original thatched dwelling. An interesting fact is that in time, the modern house disappeared, while the simple dwelling, donated to the Silverton City Council in 1961 By Mrs JL Mundt, a daughter-in-law of Hans Heinrich Mundt, survived as the original thatched Voortrekker house in Pretoria.

On 5 November 1975, Nico Diedericks, the then State President, opened the Pioneer Open Air Museum with the restored house, which has since been declared a national monument.





Ditsong: Pioneer Museum History

Ditsong: Tswaing Meteorite Crater

The Tswaing Meteorite Impact Crater originated approximately 220 000 years ago when a burning meteorite slammed into the earth 40km north of Pretoria.

Today, Tswaing is a 2 000-ha conservation area with the focus on conservation of the natural heritage, although the cultural heritage (mining, farming and oral histories) also features. Major attractions besides the crater are an extensive wetland system; herds of kudu, impala, zebra and many other animal species; a large variety of plant species representing different plant communities typical of the Sourish-Mixed Bushveld, and the 240-odd species of birds found at this site.

It was only during the later Iron Age that people came to Tswaing, approximately 800 years ago. Pieces from decorated clay pots that have been found on the crater floor, indicate the presence of early Sotho or Tswana peoples. The lake's salt and soda also attracted white hunters and settlers, who demarcated the area into a farm and named it Zoutpan. Because of its significance as an important source of salt and soda, it became state property in 1876.

The former National Cultural History Museum took over a portion of the farm Zoutpan from the Department of Agriculture in 1993 to develop it into an ecotourism destination for environmental education, recreation and research. This new entity became the Tswaing Meteorite Crater Museum.



CONTACT DETAILS

**Ditsong: Willem Prinsloo
Agricultural Museum**
Kaalfontein
Rayton
1001

Tel: +27 (0)12 736 2035/ 6



**Ditsong: Tswaing
Meteorite Crater**
40km north of Pretoria
Southpan,

Tel: +27 (0)12 790 2302



Sammy Marks Museum
Church Street
Zwartkoppies
Pretoria
0001

Tel: +27 (0)12 755 9541

Hours of conducted tours:
Tuesdays – Fridays:
10h00, 11h30, 1h00,
02h30, 04h00

Weekends and public holidays:
guided tours start at 10h00

Ditsong: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum

Originally the Kaalfontein Farm, the Ditsong: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum traces the history of agricultural development in South Africa, from the Stone Age to 1945. The earliest history of the farm itself dates back to 1859. The farm house was partially burnt down during the first Anglo-Boer War in 1898 and was rebuilt after the war.

There are two house museums, consisting of furnished farmhouses (built in 1880 and 1913) and authentic Ndebele homesteads. The Museum includes a restaurant that serves traditional South African meals; large collections of farming implements; animal-drawn vehicles and tractors.

Visitors who pre-book tours can enjoy demonstrations of farm life including: milking cows, baking bread in an outside clay oven, traditional candle-making and roasting coffee beans. The Museum also makes its own ‘mampoer’ – South Africa’s very own home-distilled alcohol.

HOW TO GET THERE

On the N4 freeway to Witbank, turn off at exit 27.

Take the Cullinan Road and turn right at the 4-way stop on the R104.

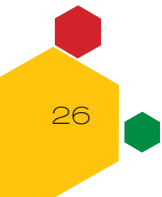
Follow the R104 for approximately 4km.

Turn left at the signboard indicated with a steam engine.

Ditsong: Sammy Marks Museum

The Ditsong: Sammy Marks Museum is situated on the farm Zwartkoppies east of Pretoria. This Victorian mansion was the residence of the Jewish industrialist and entrepreneur Sammy Marks (1844-1920) who made significant contributions to the industrial, mining and agricultural development of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (the old Transvaal). The Museum is set in a magnificent park-like garden and houses the unique collection of Victoriana and personal effects of Sammy Marks and his wife, Bertha.

Conducted tours through the house are presented from Tuesdays to Sundays.





Ditsong: Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum



Ditsong National Museum of Military History

Visitors can play a game of croquet or walk through the garden. Refreshments can be enjoyed under shady trees in the teagarden. The restaurant also offers a Victorian picnic in the garden or dinner in the kitchen.

During the World Cup tours will be conducted at the normal times. Please phone the Museum to make bookings, as several tours have been fully booked for overseas visitors.

HOW TO GET THERE

From Pretoria, take the N4 (Witbank highway) and turn off at the Verwoerdburg off-ramp (exit 11).

From this point, signposts clearly indicate the way to the museum: turn left at the top of the off-ramp and continue until you reach a T-junction where the road joins the old Bronkhorstspuit Road (R104).

Turn right, cross a small bridge and you will see the turn-off to the museum a little further along on your left.

Ditsong: Kruger Museum

The Kruger Museum was opened in 1934 and declared a national monument in 1936. The museum and its contents bear witness to the powerful personality of the man who lived here as leader of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR), at a stormy and unsettling time in the history of the Afrikaner people. Kruger lived here from 1884 until 1900 while he was President of the ZAR.



CONTACT DETAILS

Ditsong: Kruger Museum
60 Church Street
Sunnyside
Pretoria
0132

Tel: +27 (0) 12 326 9172

Visiting hours:
Monday to Friday: 08h30-
17h30; Saturday, Sunday
and Public Holidays: 08h30-
17h00

THE MUSEUM CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

The House

The Presidency, as the house was called, was not an official residence but a private home. It has been refurbished to look almost as it did during the time President and Mrs Kruger lived there, based on a thorough study of the available evidence of the original furnishings. The house is an excellent example of the Victorian style of architecture.

West Hall

Here the focus of the displays is on Paul Kruger as an international statesman. A small number of the international tributes, as well as some of the tokens of sympathy and honour which President Kruger received from different countries during the South African War, are exhibited here.

President Kruger's rifle, saddle, pocket knife and state coach are also exhibited here. One of the most impressive tributes is the Brattina, which was presented by the Russian people.

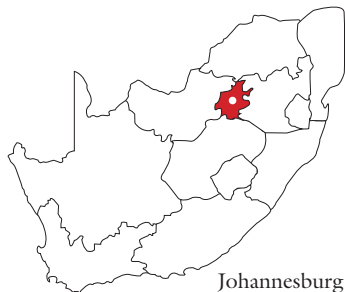
East Hall

The displays here cover President Kruger's journey into exile from Mozambique to Europe, his train journey through Europe, the houses in which he stayed there and his death in Clarens, Switzerland. There is also a display of the Presidents' state funeral in Pretoria on 16 December 1904.

Railway Coach

This was the President's private coach. It was used for official visits to Natal and Bloemfontein and during political campaigns to other parts of the ZAR. The train was also used when Kruger went into exile. He first travelled to Machadodorp and then crossed the border to Mozambique at Komatipoort. The railway coach was brought to this site by the Department of Public Works in 1952.

Gauteng



Ditsong: Kruger Museum



Ditsong: Tswaing Meteorite Crater



Ditsong: Sammy Marks

