



CONTACT DETAILS

351 Langelibalele Street
Pietermaritzburg

Tel: +27 (0)33 394 6834

www.voortrekkermuseum.co.za

Opening hours:
Mon - Fri: 09h00 - 16h00,
Sat: 09h00 - 13h00

KwaZulu-Natal



Pietermaritzburg

Ncome Heritage Site
Blood River

Tel: +27 (0)34 271 8121 /
+27 (0)72 754 1011

www.ncomemuseum.org.za

Opening hours: Mon - Sun:
08h00 - 16h30

The Voortrekker/ Msunduzi Museum

Since the 1990s, the Voortrekker/ Msunduzi Museum in Pietermaritzburg has changed from a historically single-themed museum to one that depicts the heritage of the different cultural groups of KwaZulu-Natal.

The museum was started in 1912 as a tribute to the Voortrekkers, mostly Dutch-speaking farmers who left the Cape in 1837-1838 in order to escape British rule. Voortrekker history is still displayed in the Voortrekker Complex, i.e. the historic Church of the Vow, the Andries Pretorius House and the E.G. Jansen Extension.

However, the main building of the Museum (formerly the old Longmarket Street Girls School), now features a variety of cultural history exhibitions like the Birth of Democracy, Colour, Grace and Spice (the Indian Community of Kwazulu-Natal) etc. This is supplemented by a Hindu Shiva temple, a traditional Zulu home and a beautiful herb garden.

Displays on the Anglo Boer War can be seen at the Voortrekker House, at 333 Boom Street.

The museum also has a very active outreach programme, which includes herbal and craft workshops. During July 2010 a traditional Zulu potter will be demonstrating her skills to the public, and visitors will be able to participate in the process.

Ncome Museum, Nquthu: The other side of the story

The Ncome-Blood River heritage site is a unique battlefield in South Africa. The site witnessed a major battle between the Voortrekkers and amaZulu on 16 December 1838, and is named after the nearby river known as 'Ncome' in isiZulu and 'Bloedrivier' in Afrikaans.

The site is unique in that the Voortrekker perspective is displayed at the Blood River Monument and Museum Complex on the



western side of the river, while the Ncome Museum (east of the river) provides the Zulu version. Visitors to both sites can therefore get a more balanced view of the events that took place before, during and after the 1838 Voortrekker-Zulu confrontation.

The Ncome Museum building was designed in the shape of buffalo horns, which was the formation, initiated by King Shaka kaSenzangakhona, in which the Zulu army attacked. It offers visitors a re-interpretation of the Battle of Blood River/ Ncome of 16 December 1838. The rich symbolism of the Zulu language is captured through items on display.

The museum came into being in 1999 as part of the National Government's Legacy Project of preserving the histories of all people of South Africa.