

What to do in Letsemeng Local Municipality

Jacobsdal

Adventure and Sport

The Holpan, Balanseer and Springbokkamp Dams are popular local angling spots.

Cuisine

Jacobsdal has two private wine cellars, the Wilreza Private Wine Cellar and Restaurant and the Landzicht Wine Cellar that offers wine tours that allows the visitor to taste and buy. Wilreza sells white wines such as Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Grand Cru and Late Harvest and red wines such as Pinotage and Wilrouge, as well as sweet wines and grape juice.

Fauna and Flora

The Springbokkamp Dam area is a birdwatcher's paradise. Be on the lookout for the elusive blue crane. The Grootfontein Private Nature Reserve provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, game-viewing and birdwatching in a semi-desert area classified as Savannah Karoo where sweet thorn and camel thorn trees abound. Comfortable accommodation is available in the reserve.

History and Architecture



British Block House (Fort):The blockhouse with its unique architecture was built in 1900 on the road to Paardeberg. It was declared a national monument in 1983. Burger Monument: In front of the Dutch Reformed Church - erected in memory of the deceased at the Battle of Roodelaagte 25.11.1899 under command of D.S. Lubbe. Cairn - Heap of stones (Klipstapel):It was erected by the Boers from Jacobsdal in November 1899 before departing for the battle of Roodelaagte (Graspan). Each boer engraved his name on a stone and these stones were used to build the monument. The monument can be reached by a walking trail from the Agricultural School.

Dutch Reformed Church:Consecrated in 1879 and enlarged in 1930, was used as a hospital during the Anglo Boer War - now a national monument. A Bullet hole in the front door is evidence of the many skirmishes which took place between Boer and Brit in the area. Jacobs Farmhouse: The first dwelling by C.J. Jacobs built in the area where Jacobsdal is today. The house is situated in Sarel Cilliers St next to First National Bank. Jacobsdal Cemetery (at the end of De Villiers St): The oldest grave date from 1859. British War graves and monuments can be found dating from the Anglo Boer War (1899 - 1902). Some "Boers" that fought the Magersfontein battle were reburied at Magersfontein which included Commandant D.S. Lubbe's grave (1923).

Old Market Square:The market square was where the city hall is today and it was used as a British soldier's lager. A big battle took place on 25 October 1900. Boers fired at the British from behind a

stone wall which still stands today. Paardeberg (18 - 27 February 1900): By means of a wide flanking movement to avoid the Boers at Magersfontein, Lord Roberts succeeded in relieving Kimberley on 15 February 1900. Due to his precarious position, Cronje was forced to fall back to Bloemfontein along the Modder River. He was denied crossing Vendusiedrift due to the British onslaught with the result that the Boers entrenched themselves on both sides of the river. 40000 British troops supported by 100 guns besieged the small Boer force of 4000 men, women and children. After 10 days of continuous bombardment, the Boer force surrendered on 27 February 1900.

Koffiefontein

Adventure and Sport



The Kalkfontein Dam is a popular angling spot where yellow fish and carp are regularly caught. The Mine Dam is stocked with black bass. Both dams have facilities for sailing and boating.

Archaeology and Palaeontology

There are several impressive examples of San rock art in the area.

Art and Crafts

During the Second World War, Italian prisoners of war were interned in prisoner-of-war camps at Koffiefontein. An Italian inmate painted the fascinating murals now displayed at the entrance to the town. The Municipal Caravan Park features other articles made by the Italian prisoners of war.

Fauna and Flora

The Bird Park, in Engelbrecht Street, is home to various species of exotic and indigenous birds. Approximately seven km out of town, a man-made bird park in the open countryside attracts many water birds. Diamond Mine Game Farm: Several species of wildlife can be seen in the tranquil surroundings of the Diamond Mine Game Farm.

History and Architecture

Anglo Boer War Forts: Several forts were erected by the British after Boer forces under the command of General Brand and Commandant Hertzog attacked the town and mine. The remains of the first fort built here lies on a hill behind the golf course. The 17 men who guarded this fort left their signatures on the rocks surrounding the fort. Blue Diamond Tavern: The Blue Diamond Tavern is a historic watering hole. Coffee Pot Fountain: The Coffee Pot Fountain, built in the shape of a coffee pot, symbolically welcomes visitors by "pouring them coffee". Etienne le Roux homestead and grave: The homestead and grave of renowned South African novelist, Etienne le Roux, is located in the district. Guard House: The guard house that was situated at the entrance to the internment camp has been meticulously restored.

Historic Buildings: Koffiefontein also boasts a number of interesting old buildings such as the Town Hall, which was erected in 1896, St Mark's Church, the old Presbyterian Church and the Dutch Reformed Church (all built in the early 1900s), as well as the house in which Mr GSF Rörich, who established the town, lived. Rörich's barn, erected in 1877, is the oldest building in town and served first as a barn, then as a shop, a church and as the town's first school. Library: The library exhibits numerous historical items donated by local inhabitants. Mining traction engine: A mining traction engine used in 1907 during the early mining days of the town stands at the entrance to the town. Open-air Museum: The Open-air Museum is situated at the entrance to the town. Town Monument: A monument, situated on a small hillock behind the school was erected with funds from local inhabitants to honour local men and women who died during the First World War. The cannon next to the monument dates back to the same period.

Luckhoff

History and Architecture

Dutch Reformed Church:The church was built in 1892 out of stones from the area. 100 years old (1892)



- In front of the City Hall stands a gaslamp that was used as a streetlight in earlier years.
- Gunpowder house from the Anglo-Boer War
- A monument commemorating the Groot Trek is located approximately 3 km outside the town on the Fauresmith road.
- Primary School 100 years old and "Ossewa" tracks dating from the Groot Trek can be seen in front of the school.
- Unique weather rock at the entrance of the town.

Petrusburg

History and Architecture

Blockhouses: At the entrance to the town stand two British-built blockhouses dating from the Anglo-Boer War. Anglo-Boer War Battlefields: Many battles, such as the Battle of Poplar Grove, during which the Boer General, Christiaan De Wet, and his men concealed themselves in a poplar grove near town to try to stop the British from advancing on Bloemfontein, were fought in this area. The Paardeberg Anglo-Boer War Museum and Battlefield is situated 23 km from the town. Mission Church: The historic little Mission Church erected on the farm Kalvedon in 1885 and now a National monument, was used as a stable by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War. Petrusburg Cemetery:

A monument dedicated to British soldiers was erected in the cemetery. Petrusburg Monument: This monument, at the entrance to the town, honours all the citizens of Petrusburg, both past and present.

Natural wonders

The vast saltpans in the area produce large amounts of sodium chloride