



Diamond Fields

During the world's greatest diamond rush, hordes of prospectors converged on the Diamond Fields region, scouring the river banks and sifting soil in a frenetic quest for wealth. The most famed of all being Kimberley!

KIMBERLEY

The capital city of the Northern Cape, Kimberley, is often referred to as the City of Diamonds. The memories of Kimberley's days as a tent town still linger today. Many old buildings, museums and one of South Africa's most important art galleries pay homage to the days of the diamond rush.

EXPERIENCES

Belgravia Historical Walk – opulent lifestyles, famous people, unique architecture, entertaining anecdotes and gossip of years gone by as well as the ambience of Kimberley's first exclusive residential suburb are what visitors doing the Belgravia Historical Walk will be exposed to. Start at the McGregor Museum; turn right in Egerton Road, left in Lodge road then on to Du Toitspan Road.

Dronfield Nature Reserve – some 10km outside of Kimberley is the 12 000 hectare Dronfield Nature Reserve, stocked with herds of eland, gemsbok, blue wildebeest, red hartebeest, zebra, giraffe, kudu and sable antelope. There is a vulture hide and a wide range of resident bird life, and the six luxurious self-catering chalets nestled in the shade of indigenous camelthorn trees make this the perfect place to spend a few days. Contact +27(0)53 838 82223/4.

Ghost Trail Tour – death on the diamond diggings and later during the Anglo-Boer War, gave Kimberley many haunted corners. So too did failed romance and other downright gory deaths, like a huge fire in the old De

Beers Mine in which hundreds of miners perished. The shivering facts and fallacies about ghostly visitations are packed in a fun and entertaining guided ghost trail. Jaco Powell: +27 (0)82 572 0065.

Guided Cycle Township Tour – learn more about the culture of the Northern Cape and Kimberley, lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy a taste of the local cuisine. Native Minds Tours: +27 (0)78 069 5104.

McGregor Museum – a national monument, built in 1896 at Rhodes instigation as a hotel and health resort. The museum displays natural history, the siege of Kimberley, a Hall of Religions and the acclaimed Ancestors Gallery depicting three million years of human history in the Northern Cape. 5 Atlas Street Tel +27 (0)53 839 2700.

Sol Plaatje – discover the history of Kimberley through the eye of a Tswana, Griqua or San person, all three indigenous to the region. A mixture of first and third world, the tour takes you through historic Kimberley in the footsteps of one of the greatest Africans of last century, Solomon Thekiso Plaatje, and where better to start than at his own house, now the Sol Plaatje Museum. Plaatje, famous for his literary efforts as an author and newspaper man, was also the first Secretary-General of the ANC. Angel Street tel +27(0)53 833 2526.

The Big Hole & Kimberley Mine Museum – the largest hand-dug excavation in the world. The spectacular site and the mining museum and town bring the magnificent era of Diamond Discovery in Kimberley back to life. Contact +27(0)53 830 4417.

PHOTO REFERENCE ❶ Kimberley Tram ❷ Mokala National Park

❸ Big Hole Complex, Kimberley ❹ Kimberley Market Square

❺ World War Memorial Monument ❻ The Big Hole



www.experiencenortherncape.com



William Humphrey Art Gallery – one of South Africa's top art museums to view modern African art and some old masters. It was opened in 1952 and named after its principal benefactor, William Benbow Humphreys (1889-1965). Contact +27(0)53 831 1724.

Duggan-Cronin Gallery - The fascinating story of Alfred Duggan-Cronin and his photographs is one of a Kimberley mine compound guard who bought a cheap box camera and became South African photographic legend. The Irish man, with his assistant Richard Madela by his side, travelled the length and breadth of the of the country photographing the lives of indigenous people from 50 years and the Thandabantu exhibition is just a fraction of his collection.

Take the Tram

The only tram still in service in South Africa runs several times a day from the Museum in Kimberley. This vintage tram - introduced in 1887 - was refurbished to enhance the tourist experience of historical Kimberley, Book a ride at the Big Hole.

SURROUNDS

Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre – the centre is situated on a farm belonging to the!Xun & !Khe, who collaborated in making this pristine Khoisan heritage site open to the public. The centre boasts a superb visitors' centre, a movie auditorium, art & craft shop and tearoom and an audio-guided walk through the rock art site. Contact +27(0)53 833 7069.

Mattanu Private Game Reserve is less than an hour from Kimberley, and offers an excellent, personalized wildlife experience. Game drives, spa treatments, starlit dinners in the middle of the bush and even helicopter safaris - fly fishing to the mighty Orange and Vaal rivers, game viewing or the unique wildlife experience safari – you will join the wildlife monitoring and capture specialist during their daily routines for a behind-the-scenes experience - all are excellent value-for-money reasons to visit. Contact Mattanu on +27(0) 83 235 1993 or email: info@mattanu.co.za.

ON THE N12

Magersfontein Battlefields Memorial Museum. (35km) During the second South African War, Kimberley was besieged by the Boers for four months. Boer forces surrounding Kimberley showed how a determined, small and under resourced force could keep the British army at bay for months. Take a tour of the Magersfontein battlefields with an experience guide and historian and visit the graves, the Burgher Monument, the Magersfontein Hills and the Boer Trenches. Contact Scotty Ross 082 320 4380 or Frank Hugo +27 (0)72 712 1905.





Mokala National Park – 86km outside Kimberley on the N12 to Cape Town, Mokala National Park is home to a variety of game, including the Giraffe, Black Wildebeest and Roan Antelope. Contact +27(0)53 204 8000/1/2.

PHOTO REFERENCE

- 1 Kimberley McGregor Museum
- 2 Dronfield Nature Reserve
- 3 Mattanu Private Game Reserve
- 4 Mokala National Park
- 5 Rock Painting at Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre
- 6 Soloman Thsekisho Plaatjies

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Kimberley

DIAMOND FIELDS REGION

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We encourage you to experience one or more of the iconic memorable tourism activities available.



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Native Minds Tours tel 078 069 5104



Kumba Skate Park - This awesome 100 000 sq. was built in 2011 and is the venue for the Kimberley Diamond Cup- the world skateboarding championships. The park is one of the top skate parks in the country, offering a street park with quarter pipes, marble ledges, banisters, handrails and a massive vert ramp.



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