

| Graaff-Reinet because...

GRAAFF-REINET IS BEST KNOWN for its restored [Cape Dutch buildings](#) and [Cape Malay](#) flat roof houses and its serene [Karoo](#) tranquility.

THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO VISIT is in spring and early summer with the gardens covered with flowering bougainvillia and the streets lined with blooming jacarandas. Autumn days are also so special with its almost perfect weather – never too cold or too hot.

WHEN THE WEATHER IS GOOD, get a picnic basket and take a ride along the [Mountain Drive](#) on the western side of the town and find a place where you can enjoy your breakfast at leisure, overlooking the town of Graaff-Reinet.

FOR LUNCH, WE SUGGEST [Polka Restaurant](#) with its happy atmosphere and special ambience - and the nicest thin based pizzas in town, not to talk about the rest of the light dishes on the menu. The coffee at [Our Yard](#) is reckoned as the best in town. At [Blue Magnolia](#), the local nursery, you can have unbeatable Lemon Meringue and other sweet treats, as well as breakfast and light lunches.

OUR FAVOURITE RESTAURANT ISimpossible to choose!!! We have such a variety of very good restaurants that it is difficult to choose, so we rotate.... [Karoo Lamb Chops](#), [Neck](#), or [Shank](#) is a must for the meat eaters.

IF YOU WANT TO MEET LOCALS, GO TO [The Graaff-Reinet Men's Club](#) especially on a Friday night and have a chat with the golden oldies.

YOU CAN SPEND A WONDERFUL TIME having a skottelbraai or picnic basket on top of [The Valley of Desolation](#). From where you park, it is a 200m walk (or less) to the breathtaking view of the cathedral of mountains. Get your picture taken here during the spectacularly beautiful sunset or sunrise. Before you get to the top, stop at the lookout point at the [Valley of Desolation](#) and view Graaff-Reinet from 1700m and you will realize why the town was established here. There are a couple of short trails and one trail of an hour at the top of the Valley. A further 3km from the entrance gate, is another entrance to view a big variety of game as they come and drink water at the [Nqweba Dam](#).

AN OUTSTANDING BIRD WATCHING SPOT IS near the shore at the northern end of the [Nqweba Dam in the Game Reserve](#).

IF YOU'RE FEELING ADVENTUROUS, try the 4 wheel drive track in the [Camdeboo National Park](#) and get a close-up view of the game in the [Nature Reserve](#). There is also a beautiful drive to the top of [Driekoppen](#) (±10km) where you can have a picnic or stay overnight in a basic chalet.

IF YOU ARE A MUSEUM LOVER, [Reinet House Museum](#) is the place you should visit – thoughtfully and beautifully restored. No matter how often you've been there, there is always something you have not noticed before. You will also see the vine with the biggest girth in the world. The other Museums that you can choose from, include [The Old Library](#), [The Old Residency](#), [The Military History Museum and Urquhart House](#). Do not miss the [Hester Rupert Art Gallery](#), wonderfully restored with the most incredible lighting - one can't even make out where the light comes from!

IT IS WORTHWHILE visiting the [Old Dutch Reformed Church](#) for its beauty and the largest church [Africana Silverware](#) collection in South Africa.

A FAVOURITE IN TOWN is [Reinet Antiques](#) where one usually ends up talking to the owner, [Eira Maasdorp](#), with her vast knowledge of antiques and Graaff-Reinet history. We ever so often pop in at the art and craft shops, [Die Smous](#) and [Windmill](#), to pick up a bargain, with a choice of old as well as new goodies.

THE Karoo Taxidermi is a **WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE** without fear, unless you have a very imaginative mind!! They are the biggest exporters in the Southern Hemisphere. Absolutely worthwhile visiting.

THE LARGEST CACTUS PLANT GROWER / EXPORTER ON THE PLANET, is also in Graaff-Reinet, namely **Obesa**. They are also involved in supplying coloured Cacti for the **GIANT RSA FLAG**, the size of 66 soccer fields and will consist of 2½ million cactus plants

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FOSSILS, the places to visit are the **Lex Bremner Collection** in the **Old Library Museum** or the renown **Rubidge Collection** on the farm, **Wellwood**, belonging to **Robert Rubidge**.

IF YOU ARE HERE IN SEPTEMBER, JOIN IN THE FUN of the **Karoo-Lus Festival**. It is growing extensionally every year and has a myriad of stalls and artists, as well as music entertainment.

A VILLAGE WORTHWHILE VISITING is the rural, water rich village of **Nieu Bethesda** where the beautiful **Dutch Reformed Church** can accommodate the total population of the town. (± 50 km from Graaff-Reinet.) Don't forget to visit the world renowned **Owl House**, made known by **Athel Fugard's** play, **The Road to Mecca**. **The Brewery and Two Goats Deli** serves a fantastic cheeseboard wit homemade salami, cheese, preserves and THE best Rosemary and Olive bread anybody can wish for! Combine that with one of the three different beers that André brews himself and you have the perfect brunch/lunch!

WHEN MONEY IS NO OBJECT, have a day out at **Samara Game Lodge**, about 60 km out of town, and do a game drive and have a divine brunch in the veld.

A LOVELY WEEKEND GETAWAY IS to the **Addo Elephant Park** some 200km from Graaff-Reinet. This is a worthwhile trip, especially when the orange trees are in flower.

GRAAFF-REINET'S BEST KEPT SECRET IS its old world charm, unaffected by the present time. You can't help but be affected by the euphoria created by Graaff-Reinet