

# Travelling to South-Africa

**Dirk Teeuwen MSc**

*My first journey through South-Africa*

Photographs are available on request.



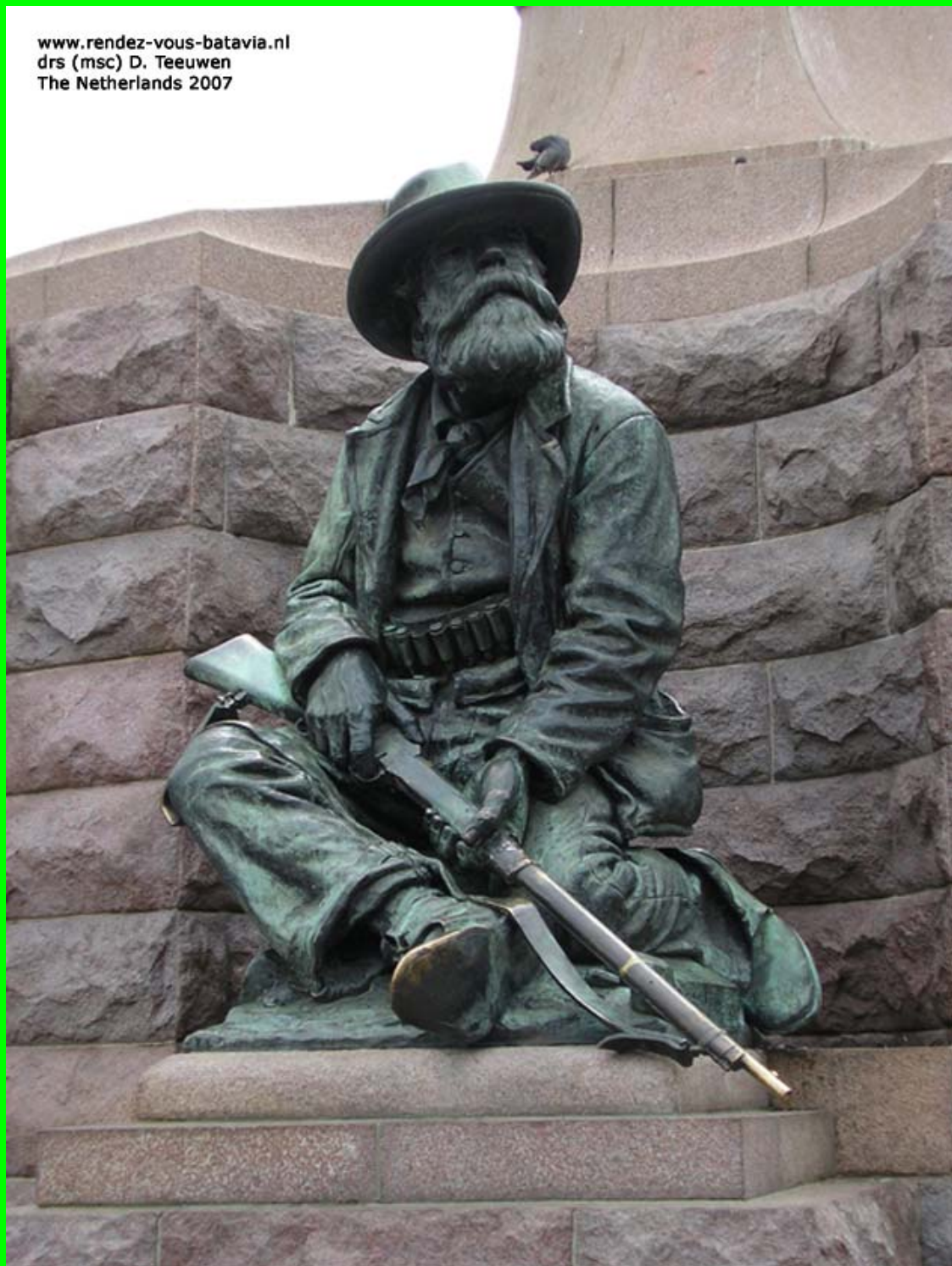
The author and photographer near Shiluvuri Lakeside Lodge, Elim close to Louis Trichardt 2007

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# 1. Introduction



Detail of Paul Kruger Memorial, Kerkplein / Church Square, Pretoria 2007

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This was a journey through South-Africa with the aim to look for Cape-Dutch architecture which is in the Cape area present on a large scale and of course to see wild animals as well. The aim is worked out hereafter light-heartedly with a lot of photographs. Here, I think, is not much point in a lot of text.



From > Kepper, G.L.: De Zuid-Afrikaanse Boerenoorlog; Leiden Holland 1905

It is very easy to travel around South-Africa in a hired car. Main roads are excellent, signposts are everywhere and driving manners are much better than in Holland. By the way, in general, abroad, good manners are normally quite common, while in The Netherlands rudeness is a part of daily life. We leave this point aside.

Safety could be a problem in South-Africa, but if you keep yourself to some rules there will be no problem at all. It is not advisable to visit townships on your own, but local governments together with tourist-organizations organize educational trips to townships. I can assure you: those excursions are a wonderful experience. Do it!

Poverty and unemployment are common and poignant among blacks, although a black middle and upper class are growing. In Holland people have no knowledge of the fact that in South-Africa a white, very poor, subclass is a dominant part of the society for a very, very long time. Because of the burning self-satisfied decorum of the anti-apartheid rage in Holland such information has been banned: even a whispering about poor white South-Africans was politically not correct. Then and nowadays one can see white healthy married young men standing at crossings with cardboards begging for work and money for themselves, wife and children.

Blacks and whites in South-Africa are very religious in mostly protestant diversities. There are only a few catholics in the Republic. It is a wonderful experience to attend a service in, for example, the Nederlands Hervormde Kerk (Dutch reformed Church) in the centre of the city of Graaff-Reinet in the northern part of the East-Cape.

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The author/photographer had good and dear experiences with such services. I am convinced that even the unbelievers among my readers could take advantage of such sermons with a lot of thunder and lightning and a lot of singing from the chest by the churchgoers.

Game reserves, estates and museums are worth a visit of course. The organization is always perfect and fee is reasonable. Talking about money! Don't travel with a lot of money in your pocket. You will find cash dispensers everywhere: use your credit card and pin code. Be on guard against shady customers who want to help you to pin. You could lose your credit card and your family capital as well.



From > Kepper, G.L.: De Zuid-Afrikaanse Boerenoorlog; Leiden Holland 1905

## 2. A short historical survey

The past is not buried in South-Africa. History has not become a thing of the past, so to say. The white Afrikaners have not forgotten their fierce and bitter fighting as well as many other traumatic experiences during the Anglo-Boer Wars. In 1880 Paul Kruger was the leader of a Boer Revolt against the English. The Boers shot the English to pieces during the Battle of Majuba and regained self-government in Transvaal and Orange Free State.

In 1895 an Englishman, a certain dr Jameson with a rough crew of drunks (Jameson himself was an experienced boozer), came in from Natal on horseback and tried to take over power in Transvaal. The idea came from Cecil Rhodes, his brother Frank and their business companion Alfred Beit. On their way to Pretoria the raiders cut the wrong telegraph line (in an attempt to prevent communication between local authorities and Pretoria). As a result the Pretoria authorities knew exactly where they were. Without any trouble the Transvaal army could take the half drunken bunch prisoner. It was quite easy! This English trash did not know where it was in Transvaal, the Boer cavalry on its turn knew where it could find Jameson: at Doornkop.

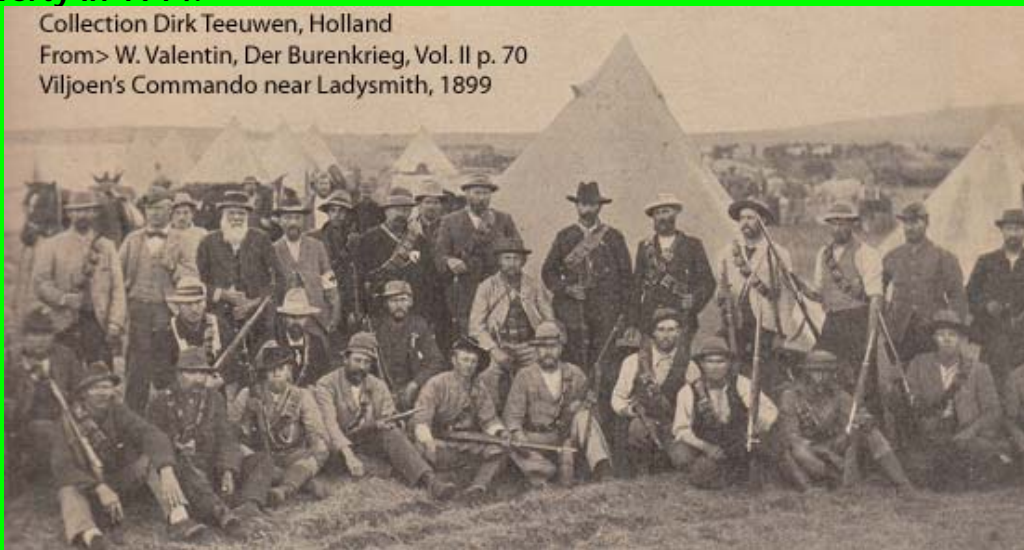
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Battle near Modderspruit S.A. 1899-1902  
From: W. Valentin, Der Burenkrieg, Vol. II  
Leipzig, 1903

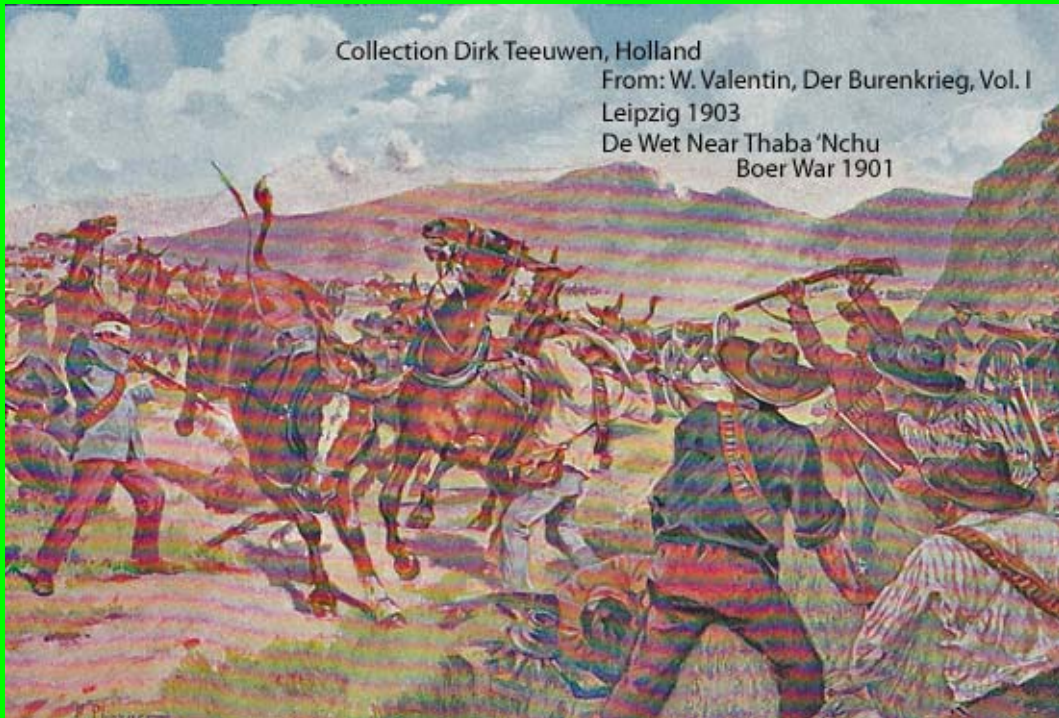
From 1899-1902 the third Anglo-Boer war was sweeping the country. The Boers were excellent horsemen and excellent sharpshooters (even on horseback at a full gallop). Their fierce, bitter, fearless cavalry charges terrified the British, who at the end of the war could only claim victory after stowing away 120.000 women, children and old men in concentration camps (where 26.000 of them, mostly children, died from sickness and starvation); after destroying farm houses and fields, after shooting most of the horses and cattle in Transvaal and Orange Free State. Even then many Boers did not want to give up and organized commando-raids into Natal and the Cape making desperate attempts to force the English to transfer troops from Transvaal and Orange Free State. It was of no avail. The Boers lost the war in a military way, the British lost mentally and lost their decency as well. Their was, without success, a Boer uprising caused by poverty in 1914.



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland  
From> W. Valentin, Der Burenkrieg, Vol. II p. 70  
Viljoen's Commando near Ladysmith, 1899

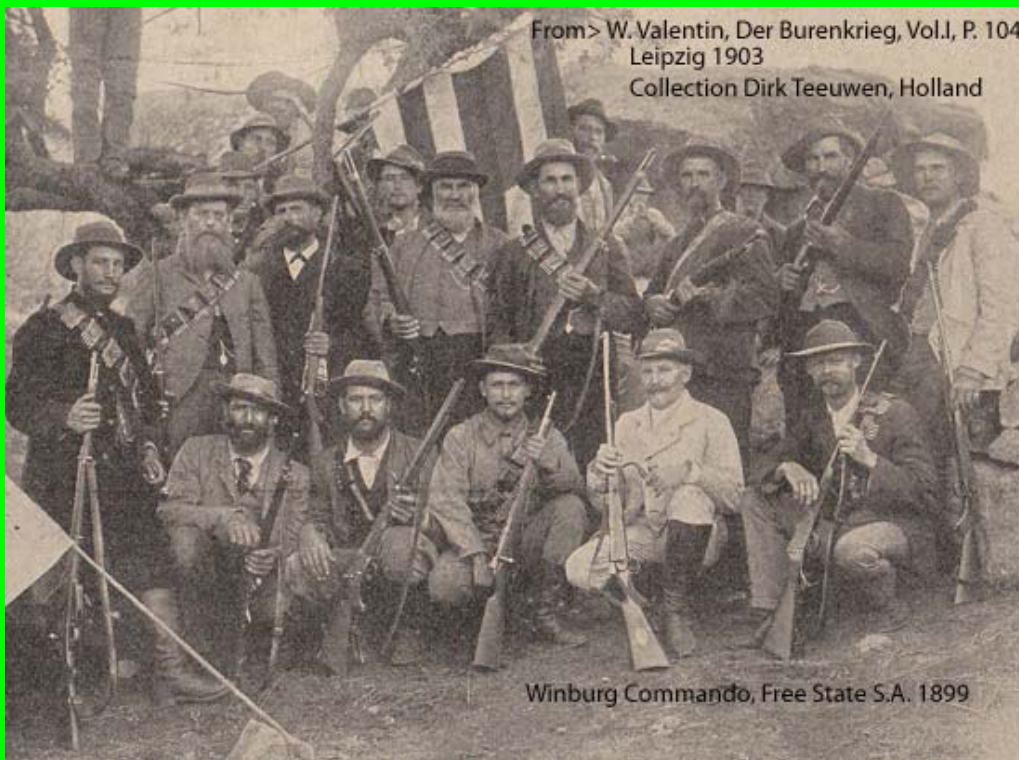
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Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland  
 From: W. Valentin, Der Burenkrieg, Vol. I  
 Leipzig 1903  
 De Wet Near Thaba 'Nchu  
 Boer War 1901

Of course, agrarian land-laws (1912) and apartheid meant severe suffering for black South-Africans and South-Africans of mixed blood and have left deep wound until now. Dutch cultural and economic influence South-Africa is enormous. Many people speak (Dutch) Afrikaans. White Afrikaners from Dutch origin are the driving force of the economy.



From> W. Valentin, Der Burenkrieg, Vol.I, P. 104  
 Leipzig 1903  
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Winburg Commando, Free State S.A. 1899

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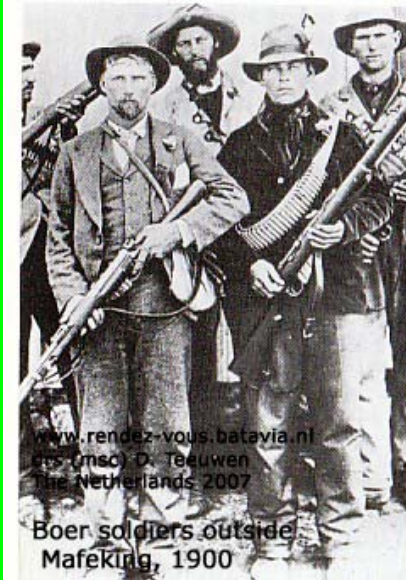


From> R. Danes, History of the Boer War, London 1902, p. 160  
Assault on Boers near Ladysmith, last British survivors  
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### 3. This journey



I make a large jump now: hotels and guest houses during our stay in South Africa are the following ones. In most accomodations we spent two nights or more.

See maps on page 9 and 10.

1. Guest Lodge Meintjieskop, Eastwood Street Pretoria Gauteng (Transvaal)
2. Shiluvuri Lakeside Lodge, Elim (near Louis Trichardt) Limpopo
3. Silonque Bush Estate, Phalaborwa (1 km from Kruger Park) Limpopo
4. Hannah Game Lodge, Orighstad (not far from Blyde Canyon and Pilgrim's Rest) Mpumalanga (Transvaal)
5. Kirby Country Lodge, Witrivier Mpumalanga (Transvaal)
6. Mantega Lodge, Ezulwini Valley Swaziland (near the capital Mbabane)
7. Sungalwane Hills Game Lodge, Hluhluwe Kwazulu-Natal
8. Hotel Protea Shakaland, Eshowe Kwazulu-Natal

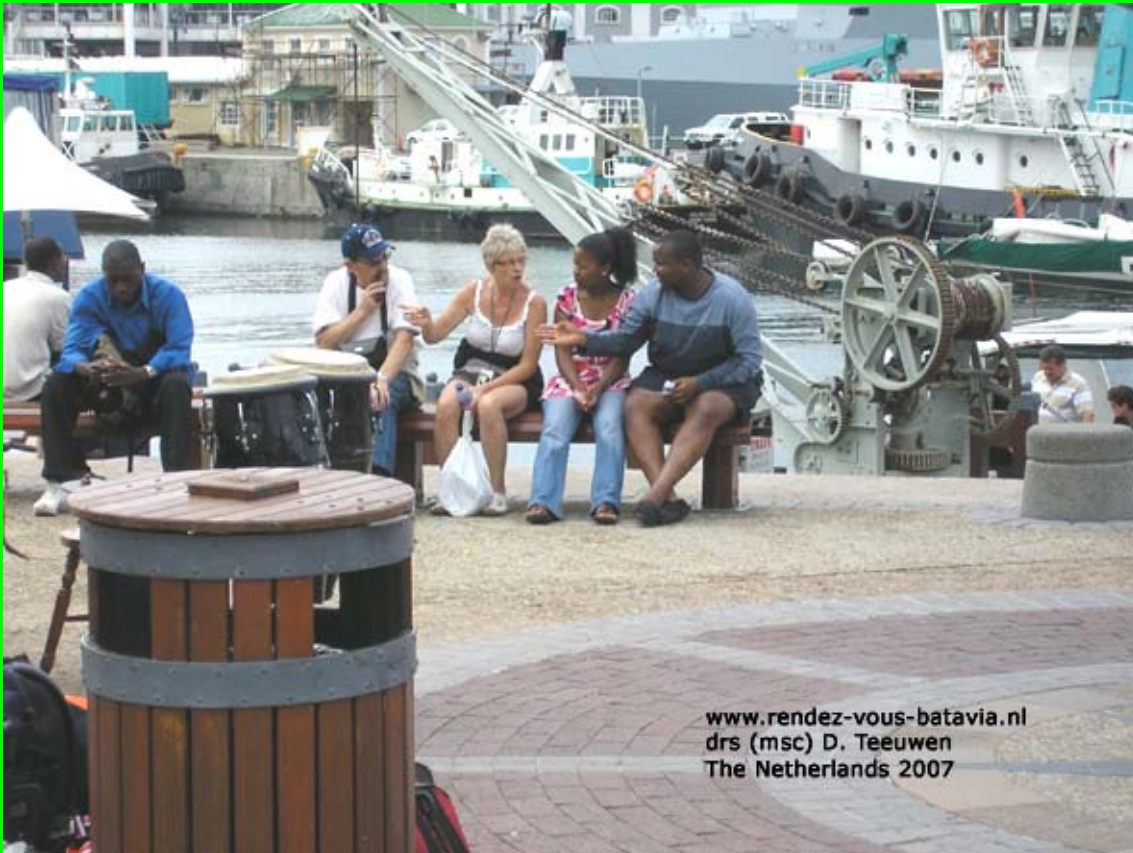
Picture page 8, from > Kepper, G.L.: De Zuid-Afrikaanse Boerenoorlog; Leiden Holland 1905

9. Tumble Inn, Underberg Kwazulu-Natal
10. Hotel Ocean View, Coffee Bay Eastern Cape (Transkei)
11. Lodge The Manderson, Stutterheim Eastern Cape
12. Guest House Villa Reinet, Graaff-Reinet, Eastern Cape
13. Hotel Protea Knysna Quays, Knysna Western Cape
14. Quest House and Restaurant Roosje van de Kaap, Swellendam Western Cape
15. Hotel Windsor, Hermanus Western Cape
16. Hotel Protea Cape Castle, Cape Town (Main Road, 15 walking-minutes from Waterfront) Western Cape

Note! We made, at that time, only one afternoon walk through Stellenbosch (centre of the wine district, Western Cape near Cape Town). A stay of one or two nights in this beautiful Cape-Dutch town can be recommended highly.

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[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
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The Netherlands 2007

**Chat with the neighbours, Cape Town at the Waterfront 2007**

**Map A and map B on page 8 and 9!**

**A journey in four weeks:**

**Map A page 10 > Johannesburg, Pretoria, Louis Trichard (Makahado), Phlaborwa, Krugerpark, Blyde Canyon, Ohrigstad, Witrivier, Mbabane – Ezulwini (Swaziland), Hluhluwe, Eshowe, Drakensbergen – Underberg, Coffee Bay, Stutterheim, (Graaff-Reinet);**

**Map B page 11 > Graaff-Reinet, Knysna, Swellendam, Hermanus, Stellenbosch, Kaapstad.**

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Map A

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Map B

## 4. Pretoria, Kruger National Park, Blyde Canyon, Orighstad

Pretoria, Meitjieskop Quest Lodge: highly recommended!



Pretoria has a nice historic city centre. Some buildings are from 1870-1900. Such as: de Oude Raadzaal (the Old Court of Justice), Hooggerechtshof (Supreme Court), Melrose House, Café (Pub) Riche (Kerkplein, Church Square) excellent coffees, Paul Kruger Huis (Paul Kruger's Residence) right across the Dutch Reformed Church. And there is much more. The Zoo and the Botanic Gardens, the Culture Museum, the old Railway Station, the ols Hotel Victoria are more than worth a visit. As well as near Paul Kruger's Residence: the Old Hero Cemetary.

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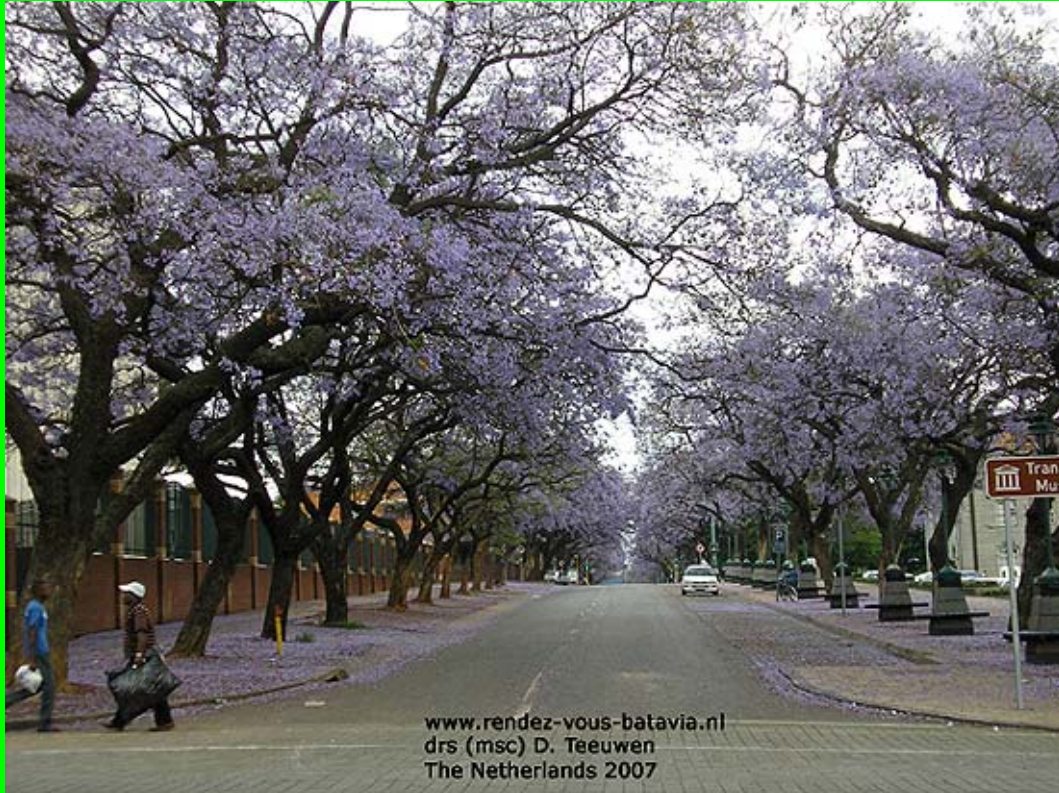
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Voortrekkersbegraafplaats (Trekboers' cemetery from 1840) Tombstone with poignant text ("Johan, you have peace in the nearness of Jesus, till we meet again."), Ohrigstad, Transvaal (Mpumalanga)

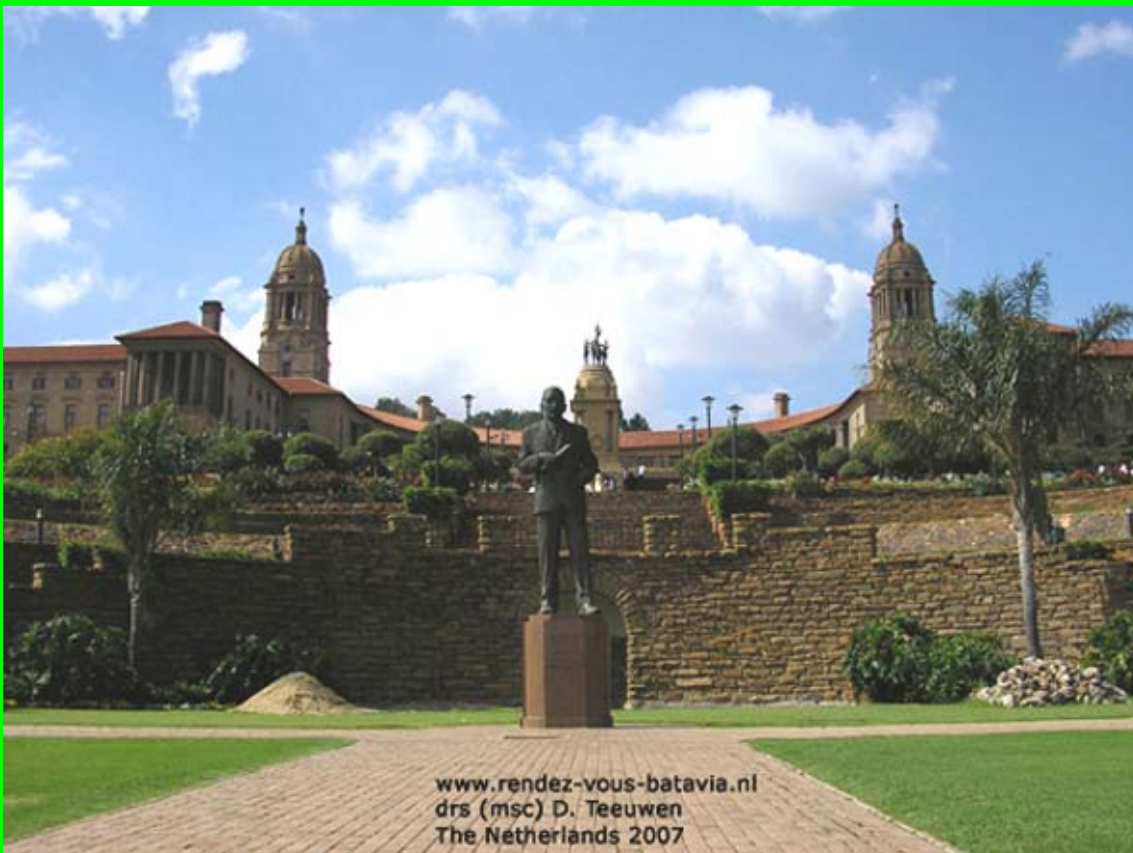
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**Flowering jacarandas, Pretoria**



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**Union Buildings and gardens with mr Strijdom viewing over town, Pretoria**

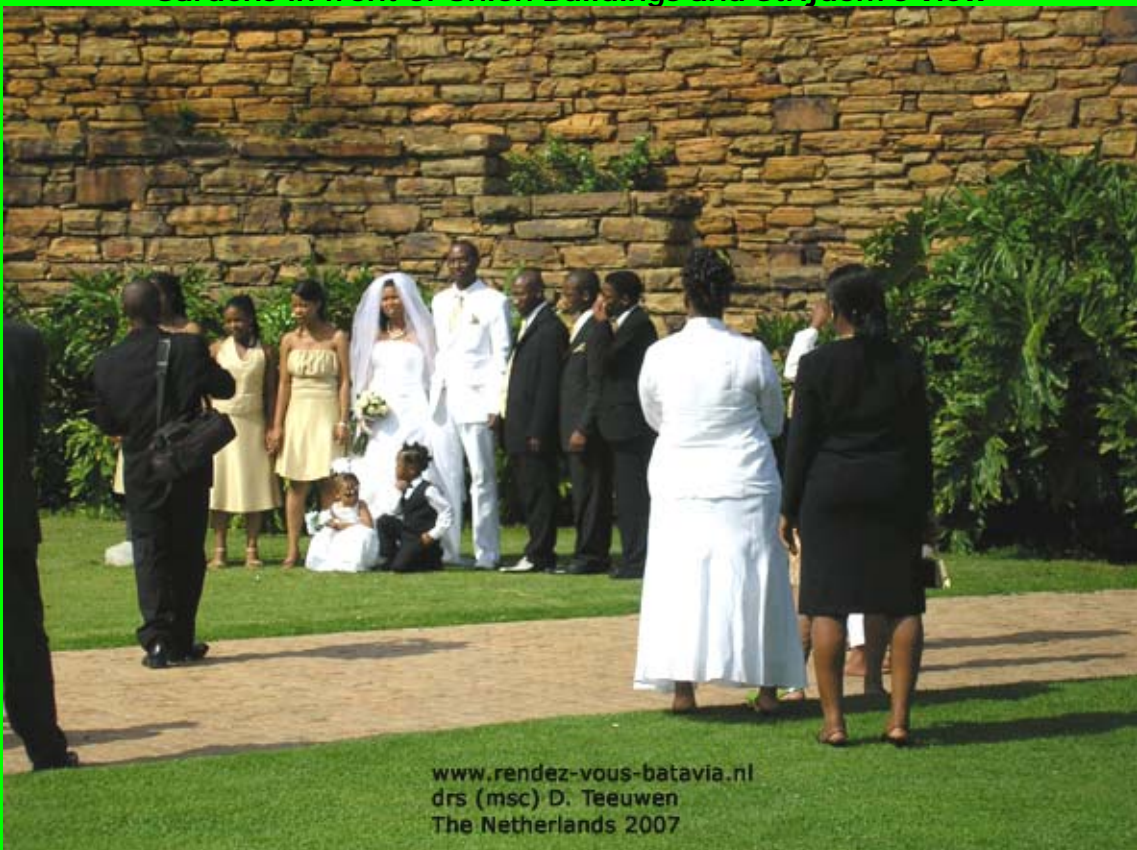
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**Gardens in front of Union Buildings and Strijdom's view**



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**A wedding around Union Building Gardens....  
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**....can be so deadly dull!**

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However? Not for everybody! But, of course, you can expect a lot of exhausting complications.



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Five hundred meters from Kruger's home, see below: the "Oude Raadzaal"  
(parliament building) of the former Transvaal Republic

(Page 13) Paul Kruger's Residence, now a museum

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### Krugerpark



**This photo was a lucky chance! Krugerpark 2007**

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Without words      Krugerpark and Hluhluwe (below) 2007



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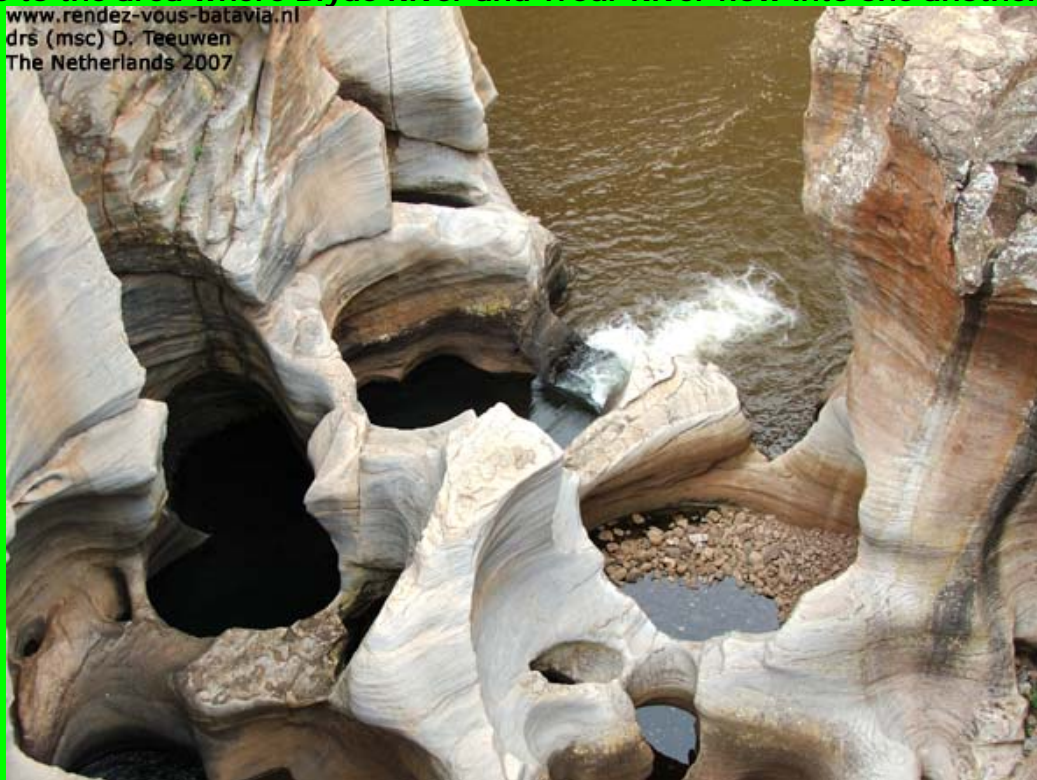


**Blyde Canyon en Ohrigstad  
Blyde River Canyon South Africa 2007**



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**Close to the area where Blyde River and Treur River flow into one another, S.A.**



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Boerpioneer cemetery from 1845, Ohrigstad Transvaal

Old cemetery near Ohrigstad, Transvaal 2007



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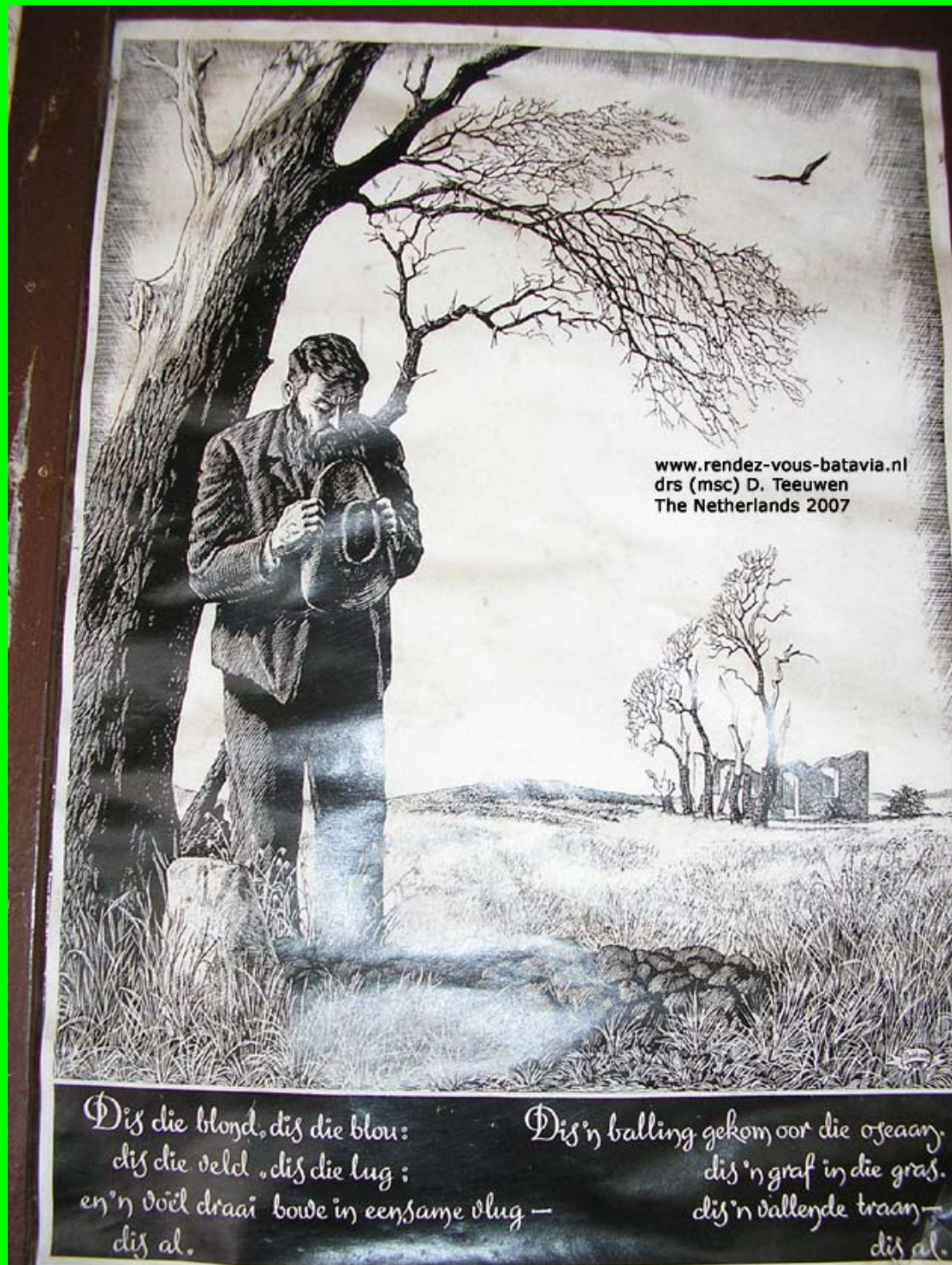
Small chapel with the original tombstones from 1845-1850  
with a painting of a boerpioneer ox-waggon

Tombstone:  
see  
next  
picture

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## 5. Pilgrim's Rest, Swaziland and Hluhluwe (Kwazulu-Natal)



For sale in a shop in Pilgrim's Rest

A Boer finds his house in ruins and his wife and children buried near his yard after his return from war in 1902. Blessings from Rhodes and many other British.

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Text tombstone > Here are the remains of these tough Dutch boerpioneers: J. J. Burger (1795!-1848), D. J. Opperman, J. G. S. Bronkhorst, mevrouw (mrs) H. G. Bronkhorst (19 years only), C. E. Schutte (slechts 16 jaar / 16 years only), D. R. Smuts, mevrouw mrs J. H. Combrink, W. H. Neethling, J. P. D. de Villiers, S. G. Potgieter.  
And 40 other deceased from Orighstad from that period (1845-1850).

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### 3. Pilgrim's Rest, Swaziland and Hluhluwe (Kwazulu-Natal)



Inside an old shop, Pilgrims Rest Transvaal 2007

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**Just guess! Right: outside the old shop**



**Mantega Lodge, Ezulwini Valley Swaziland**

**Dirk Teeuwen, Holland**



**Main Street Mbabane, Swaziland**



**Hilltop restaurant, Hluhluwe Park  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland**



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**Hilltop Restaurant, Hluhluwe Park**

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**Bar Hilltop Restaurant. This lion has departed this world many years ago.**

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## 6. Eshowe, Drakensbergen, Coffee Bay



Fort Nongqayi, Eshowe 2007



Museum Fort Nongqayi, Eshowe 2007  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland





**Coffee Bay**



**Coffee Bay**

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**Coffee Bay**  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland





Coffee Bay



Coffee Bay

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## 7. Cape districts: Graaff Reinet, Knysna, Swellendam, Hermanus and Stellenbosch



**Stutterheim**



**Graaff-Reinet**  
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**Graaff-Reinet**

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**Graaff-Reinet**

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**Graaff-Reinet**  
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**Graaff-Reinet**



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**Knysna**

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**Swellendam**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



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**Swellendam**



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**Swellendam (restaurant, guesthouse Roosje van de Kaap)**  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

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**Swellendam**

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**Hermanus**  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



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**Hermanus**

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**Stellenbosch, Dorpsstraat (Main Street)**  
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



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**Stellenbosch, Cape-Dutch architecture**

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**Stellenbosch, Kruithuis (Powder Magazine, 17th century)**

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Stellenbosch

## 8. Cape Town impressions



Kaapstad (Cape Town), National Museum  
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**Kaapstad (Cape Town), old protestant-dutch church**



**Kaapstad (Cape Town), old slave accomodation**

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Kaapstad (Cape Town), colonial centre

End

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