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WHERE CULTURES
COME ALIVE



Family-friendly outings for the festive season

If you're looking for something to do with the whole family this festive season, a visit to one of DITSONG's many museums will serve as an excellent day out. From Natural History and Cultural History Museums to the famous Tswaing Meteorite Crater, DITSONG offers valuable experiences for children and undoubtedly has something for every member of the family. So the *Creative Feel* team jotted down a few recommendations.

Road Trip! Where are we going?



A brief history of South Africa's Day of Reconciliation

The date **16 December** is an important day in South African military history. Originally, it was officially known as the **Day of the Covenant** and commemorated the **Battle of Blood River fought in 1838**. In the years following from 1961, it also came to recall the date of the official founding of **Umkhonto we Sizwe**, the military arm of the African National Congress, and the commencement of its campaign to destabilise the state in response to South Africa's apartheid policies. More recently, following the establishment of democracy in 1994, the date has become celebrated as the **Day of Reconciliation**.

Learn a little history

Not many people are aware that that the same date also commemorates another event in our nation's military history. **The Battle of El Wak**, fought on 16 December 1940, was **South Africa's first action of the Second World War (1939**

– 1945). The encounter was relatively minor in comparison to the number of other crucial battles of that conflict and has largely been forgotten over the years. [Read about](#) the decision taken to fight the battle, the preparations involved, and a brief account of the action that took place, and also learn about the equipment that was unique to the East African campaign and which can be viewed on display at the Ditsong National Museum of Military History.



Find some fossils at the National Museum of Natural History

For all the fossil-fanatics out there, the National Museum of Natural History is the only natural history museum in Gauteng and one of the largest in South Africa. Let your children be palaeontologists for a day and excavate fossils at the Fossil World of Bolts Farm Exhibition. Toddlers will also enjoy the Discovery Centre; a hands-on activity centre, where the five human senses are used to discover the wonders of nature, offering an invaluable educational adventure. It affords easy access for wheelchairs and display texts are also transcribed in Braille. This centre is ideal for younger learners that are eager to explore with their hands. A night at the Museum enables children to spend a fun night at the Museum exploring the exhibits after dark. They get to snuggle up next to their favourite exhibit afterwards.



Discover the unique collections at the National Museum of Military History

A uniquely interesting set of items is on display in the museum's collection. The National Museum of Military History is both a memorial for all South Africans who have died in, or as a result of military actions, and a museum for the preservation and contextualisation of the country's military history for future generations. This museum offers the perfect space for family picnics while children take selfies on the aeroplanes and fighter tanks.



Take a trip back in time at the Pioneer Museum

Looking to spend an afternoon in another time? While enjoying a cup of coffee and homemade bread, visitors can experience a way of life that has irrevocably passed. Children get an opportunity to bake bread in the 19th century oven, learn to make their own butter and play indigenous games. The museum offers braai facilities and beautiful gardens for family picnics.



Travel through SA's agricultural and transport history at the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum

Before McDonalds, Nando's, Uber, and Gautrain, South Africans had a host of other ways of filling their bellies and making their way about town. The Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum is home to both the remarkable history of agriculture in South Africa, as well as the unique forms of transport in the country. Farm animals roam around the museum taking us back to life in the farm. The Museum offers coffee grinding demonstrations, bread baking, candle making and Mampoer distillation.



Tour a grand old mansion at the Sammy Marks Museum

If you've ever wondered how one of South Africa's earliest entrepreneurs lived, a trip to the Sammy Marks Museum is for you. The museum, which is Marks' old highveld mansion, is filled with original items and possessions from the Marks family. This Museum is ideal for filming and photography of vintage weddings.



See the Bratina of Russian Brotherhood at the Kruger Museum

Beyond serving as a home to Paul Kruger and the relevant period of his presidency in South African history, the Kruger Museum also houses rare gems such as the Bratina of Russian Brotherhood. Not sure what that is? Find out by visiting!



Learn about South Africa's cultural diversity at the National Museum of Cultural History

The museum explores South Africa's cultural diversity through rock paintings and engravings of the San people, thousand-year-old Iron Age figurines from Schroda in the Limpopo Province, Alph Khumalo's photographic exhibition, Poisoned Past exhibition and many more. Amidst the many wonders at the National Museum of Cultural History is a host of hidden treasures, a missing heritage site, and a striking collection of ceramics.



Experience the natural wonders of the Tswaing Meteorite Crater

The Tswaing Meteorite Crater in Soshanguve is perfect for a day trip. What is it exactly? Some 220 000 years ago a blazing stony meteorite the size of half a football field slammed into the earth's crust. The impact formed a huge crater, one of the best-preserved meteorite impact craters in the world. To view the crater, visitors may take a 7.2km hike with scenic views of vegetation, wildlife (zebras, antelopes, monkeys, etc.). If bird watching is on your to do list, this is the right place for you. It is located on wetland where bird enthusiasts may see over 200 species of birds. The site is also ideal for picnics and offers braai facilities. Self-catering accommodation is available for those wish to spend the night at the museum.

I've read enough... Let's explore!

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