

HISTORY

Montagu was founded in 1851 on the farm Uitvlucht. The town was named after John Montagu, then Colonial Secretary of the Cape. Erven were sold to colonists and building material had to be brought by ox wagon over Bain's Kloof from the "Wagenmakersvallei" (Wagon Builders Valley) near Wellington. Most of the Cape Dutch thatched roof houses date from the years 1853 - 1870.

In the 19th century the only exit to the West of the town was through Cogmanskloof. Strong teams of horses or oxen were required for the trip as carts and wagons were very often stranded in the Kloof. After the tunnel, constructed by Thomas Bain, was completed in 1877, a decent road was built through Cogmanskloof and other roads soon followed. In 1931 the road through the Kloof was tarred, streets and the provision of electricity in the village soon followed.

THINGS TO DO IN MONTAGU (A SUMMARY)

1. CHEAUFFEUR DRIVEN TOURS

It is advisable to make reservations as early as possible.

a) **AMERICAN DREAM CAR TOUR (023 614 3125)**

Take a trip of a lifetime in our classic American Dream Cars! For a chauffeur driven trip to the Robertson Wine Route, choose between the following American Dream Cars:

1956 Cadillac Sedan De Ville or 1956 De Soto Fireflight Sportsman.

Trips are custom made to your requirements, with unlimited mileage included in the rate of R535 per hour.

b) **GUNSTIG ZUID-AFRIKA TOURS (023 614 2412 or 076 247 5638)**

Allow Han Gunst to take you on a guided tour – you do the tasting, she does the driving. She will collect you and drop you back at In Abundance. Choose from a variety of packages including a Township Tour, Wine tasting or Cellar Tour and Wine pairing. Rates vary between R500 pp and R650 pp and take anywhere from 4 – 6 hours. As an accredited tour guide, Han can also organise tours according to your own requirements and needs.

c) **ROUTE 62 WINE TOURS (084 202 2222)**

Make use of R62 Wine Tour's shuttle service or book a driver for groups. They collect you at In Abundance Guest House and will drop you off again safely when you are done. Reliable, safe & friendly service. R62 Wine Tours has been in operation since 2008.

2. HISTORICAL WALK OF MONTAGU

Take a leisurely walk through Montagu and view all, or some of, the Historical Houses. Do take an information pamphlet provided in the reception area with you as it has all the details and points of historical interest for these properties.

3. VILLAGE MARKET (Bath Street – opposite the information bureau, 24 Bath Street)

Our Village Market is held every Saturday morning from around 8h00 until 12h30 in the Euvrard Park, Bath Street, opposite the Tourism Bureau. (Just a short walk from In Abundance). A real winner with locals and visitors alike, this is the place to experience a slice of Montagu life.

4. MONTAGU MUSEUM COMPLEX

The three beautiful historical buildings namely Joubert House, Old Mission Church and the KWV Building Complex, make up what is known as “The Montagu Museum”.

- a) **JOUBERT HOUSE** (25 Long Street, Montagu) - Built in 1853, Joubert House is thought to be the oldest dwelling in Montagu. As a house museum, Joubert House portrays the typical country lifestyle of the 1850's. Of special interest is a small side room which houses a comprehensive collection of toys from bygone days. Pride of place belongs to a unique collection of individually numbered handmade porcelain dolls.

Over the past 22 years the museum has been researching and recording the rich oral history and traditional uses of medicinal plants, in the Montagu district, passed down by the Khoikhoi, San and settler farmers from Europe. The garden, which was established behind Joubert House, contains most of the more than 120 plants that have been researched and published in “Herbal Remedies of Montagu Museum”

- b) **MISSION CHURCH** (Long Street, Montagu)- A collection of pulpit Bibles and church artefacts, including old wedding dresses, form the focal point of the church with its original pulpit and pulpit cloth. Frequently changing, temporary exhibitions form a showcase for the large and diverse museum collection.
- c) **KWV ART GALLERY** (cnr Kohler and Long Streets, Montagu) - The KWV buildings on the corner of Long and Kohler Streets are fine examples of historical, industrial architecture in a rural area.

5. ART EXPERIENCES

- a) **IBIS GALLERY** (16 Bath Street, Montagu) – For many years now Carolyn Metcalfe has lived and worked across the road from a breeding colony of water birds (one of Montagu's well-known landmarks) and she has observed, been involved with and come to love the Sacred Ibis. Given their beauty and grace, their significance in mythology and her love for them, Ibis Gallery seemed the inevitable and not at all prosaic choice.

Ceramics: "I work exclusively in earthenware, producing large, richly decorated maiolica bowls, crosses, also garden pots and rustic terracotta cooking ware as well as Provencal style pottery. I hand throw and decorate everything myself". **Art:** Paintings in oils, water colours and drawings. Subjects are landscapes, still life, animal studies and portraits. I accept commissions for the latter."

- b) **KWV ART GALLERY** (cnr Kohler and Long Streets) - The KWV buildings on the corner of Long and Kohler Streets are fine examples of historical, industrial architecture in a rural area. Here you can view a permanent collection of agricultural vehicles and implements in the enclosed courtyard behind the complex, as well as Art & Artefacts in the recently opened KWV Art Gallery.
- c) **HICKS GALLERY** (9 Joubert Street, Montagu) – Richard & Joy Hickman have turned their home at 9 Joubert Street, Montagu, into a fine art gallery, which is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm, except for emergencies. Beside his own work, various artists' works are also on display. This is ideal for souvenirs for the traveller. Paintings can be taken without frames, and or, packaged and posted worldwide if necessary.

6. HIKING, WALKING AND NATURE

Some routes are for the casual walker and others for the more serious hiker. Some highlights below. Pamphlets available in the reception area.

- a) **LOVER'S WALK** - also sometimes referred to as Mayor's walk is a **short 500m walk** along the banks of the Keisie river and below Kanonkop, through to Joubert starting at the upper end of Barry street, an ideal extension to the Badskloof trail. No entry fee/ permit unless done in conjunction with the Badskloof Trail (see below)
- b) **BADSKLOOF TRAIL** – a lovely **2,2km stroll** through to the famous Montagu Hot Springs – our suggestion is to do it back and forth rather than walking along the roadside to get back to town (a tedious provincial road with a fair amount of traffic). Wear casual, comfortable shoes but not necessarily your best shoes as you will cross through the occasional puddle while walking there. This trail offers a nice 1 hour walk through Badskloof with its many rock formations, rich bird life and sport climbing routes. The trail, as shown on the map, is only a rough indication, as the occasional floods have caused deviations of the trail. An entry fee of R36 per person is charged at the “Ou Meul” (meaning Old Mill)
- c) **AASVOELKRAANS HIKING TRAIL** - This hike is **3.2km long**, it'll take around 1.5 hours to complete. The trail starts on Van Riebeeck Street opposite the Aasvoelkraans B&B. It's a nice short hike to a 430m viewpoint overlooking the Cogmanskloof with Fort Sydney and the tunnel (or cutting) in the distance. No entry fee / permit.
- d) **BLOUPUNT** – definitely for the more seasoned hiker – this walk is **15,6km long and rises over a 1000m** from the start at Joubert Park to the summit and can be completed in **5 - 9 hours** (you need to start early, have enough time, energy and lots of water) – not for the faint hearted – please tell us if you decide to do this hike, so we are aware of where you are.
- e) **AMBLE IN THE MONTAGU NATURE GARDEN** – see the local flora and fauna while sitting on the occasional bench to take in the view and your surrounds. A must for Montagu citizens and its visitors is the tranquil Montagu Nature Garden situated in Montagu South. You can also just relax and enjoy the surroundings at the Tea Garden which is open for tea and mouth-watering cakes on Tuesday mornings up until November. Be aware that during the height of summer the walk can be hot and dry with less growth.

7. SHOPPING FOR GIFTS

- a) **ART AFRICA** (Cnr Bath and Kohler Street, Montagu)
Quality ethnic gifts and curios including basketry, beaded cutlery, fabric, painted and hand embroidered table linen, ceramic figures and animals and wire bowls to name but a few.
- b) **AFRICAN ART** (38 Bath Street, at the back of Mystic Tin)
We are very fortunate that the owner of this beautiful shop moved her shop from Stellenbosch to Montagu a few years ago. They stock a variety of selected gifts for the discerning buyer, all distinctly South African or African merchandise.
- c) **KLOOF PADSTAL** (1 Long Street)
Basketry, home bakes and jams, African art and other small curios and nick-nacks.

8. DRIED FRUIT

Montagu has a proud history of exporting “stone fruit” both in the fresh form as well as the dried form

a) **CAPEDRY FARMSTALL, WINE BOUTIQUE AND BISTRO** (102 Bath Street, Montagu)

A great range of locally produced dried fruit products with specialization in Cape Peeled Peaches are sold at factory shop prices. They sell a wide selection of local products from the Montagu area at affordable prices.

b) **LOCARNO** (13 Du Toit Street, Montagu)

Locarno offer a full product range that consists of a vast selection of dried fruit, nuts, fruit sweets and much more, all of the highest quality. Their products are stocked all year round and they always try to live up to their motto that “dried fruit is our life @ Locarno”

c) **MONTAGU DRIED FRUIT AND NUTS** (1 Long Street, Montagu)

Montagu Dried Fruit and Nuts is one of South Africa's foremost dried fruit, nuts and seeds suppliers. The national brand recently opened their very own Montagu Dried Fruit and Nuts Factory shop at the Kloof Padstal in Long Street, Montagu. Their range has something for everyone; dried fruit rolls, nuts and seeds bars, dried fruit and nut mixes, snack packs, unique Montagu dried fruit and nuts mixes and much more.