



## **Sandstone Special Steam Events 2016, Walking Tours & Other Things To Do At Sandstone**

The Sandstone Heritage Trust collection ranges from the smallest industrial locomotives to the giants of South African Railways narrow gauge. To accommodate the collection, of which 22 locomotives are in working order together with nearly 100 items of rolling stock, a 2ft narrow gauge line was constructed on Sandstone Estates farm in 1999 from Mooihoek to Grootdraai followed by extensions in 2002 to Vailima and in 2004 to Vailima Halt and to form a balloon at Pandora Junction. The central point is Hoekfontein where the main station is situated together with the loco depot and workshops. The running line is now nearly 16kms end to end with a 26km round trip journey from start to finish at Hoekfontein. The line is well known throughout the world for its scenery and fearsome gradients and is a photographer's paradise.

Today Sandstone is a centre of excellence in 2ft narrow gauge railways with the largest private collection in the world. It is a magnet to local and overseas visitors and enthusiasts who head to the Eastern Free State for the Sandstone experience. The annual Stars of Sandstone festival is a highlight of the heritage world having been held annually since 2013. The next event will be held from March 29<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and will feature the launch of Class NGG11 Garratt locomotive No: 52, the oldest surviving Garratt locomotive in South Africa and the second oldest in the world.

### **Our dates for 2016**

Our dates for 2016 coincide with public holidays and long weekends in South Africa.

#### **Easter Weekend**

Saturday March 26  
Sunday March 27

#### **Women's Day Weekend**

Saturday August 6

#### **Workers Day Weekend**

Saturday April 30

#### **Heritage Day**

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Youth Day Weekend**

Saturday June 18

#### **The Cherry Express**

Thursday- Saturday 17-19<sup>th</sup> November

## Timetable and Fares

Sandstone operates two routes for train trips.

### **The Lesotho Meander**

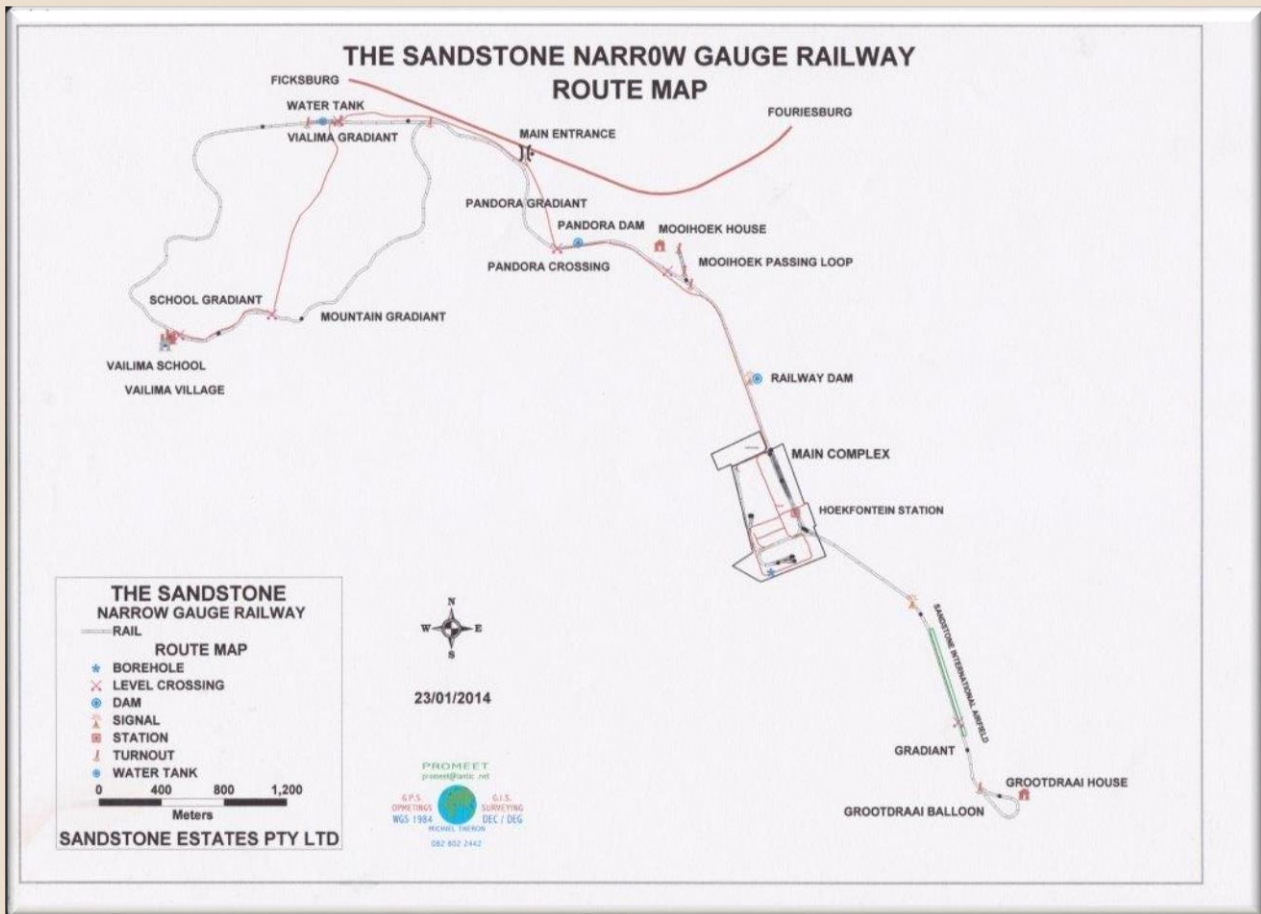
Hoekfontein to Grootdraai and return, a trip of approximately 40 minutes to the Lesotho border and back.



### **The Mountain Wanderer**

This trip of approximately two hours covers the entire rail system from Hoekfontein to Grootdraai to Vailima and the mountain section before returning to Hoekfontein.





## Timetable

All departures are from Hoekfontein

### The Lesotho Meander

09h00, 11h00, 12h30, 14h30, 16h00

### The Mountain Wanderer

10h00, 14h00

## Fares

### The Lesotho Meander

Adults R120 Children under 12 R60

### The Mountain Wanderer

Adults R250 Children under 12 R125

All prices plus VAT.

## Other Attractions

### Walking Tours

Enjoy a walking tour of the Sandstone collection of Military Vehicles, Classic Cars, Vintage Tractors, Traction Engines and Agricultural Machinery plus the 2ft Narrow Gauge Locomotive Depot and Cape Gauge locomotives and Rolling Stock. The tour lasts approximately two hours and is conducted by an experienced tour guide.

### Pricing

- R150-00 plus VAT per person
- R75-00 plus VAT per child (under 12 years)

### Our famous Afrikaner Oxen

We have a team of trained Afrikaner oxen who can be in-spanned at the client's request. We have a variety of ox wagons and we can seat up to 8-people on what is a very bumpy and slow ride. We recommend a slow trip out to our airfield and a return by foot or you can be collected in a Samil 20 Troop Carrier or the BSA Rail Car depending on the size of the group.

The price is R700.00 plus VAT per trip.



## **Our Military collection**

We have a substantial collection of Military vehicles including a Sherman Tank, a Ratel, Samil 100, Elands, Ferrets, Casspir, Buffel, and many others. For people that are interested in these vehicles and particularly those that would like to see more of the local countryside we do offer Military vehicle experiences. Obviously many of our Military vehicles are not designed to carry many passengers so once again we have featured a few of those below that can be used for this purpose.

Our pricing for these excursions is for a 20 minute trip depending on which vehicle is chosen.

- Sherman Tank - seats driver plus 4 passengers. R850.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Ratel – seats driver plus 3 passengers. R850.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Samil 20 – seats 15 passengers. R700.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Power Wagon – seats 12 passengers. R650.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Casspir – seats 8-10 passengers. R750.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Samil 100 Gun Tractor – seats 8 passengers. R750.00 plus VAT per trip.
- Willy's Jeep - seats 3 passengers. R450.00 plus VAT per trip.



## **The Waenhuis Café**

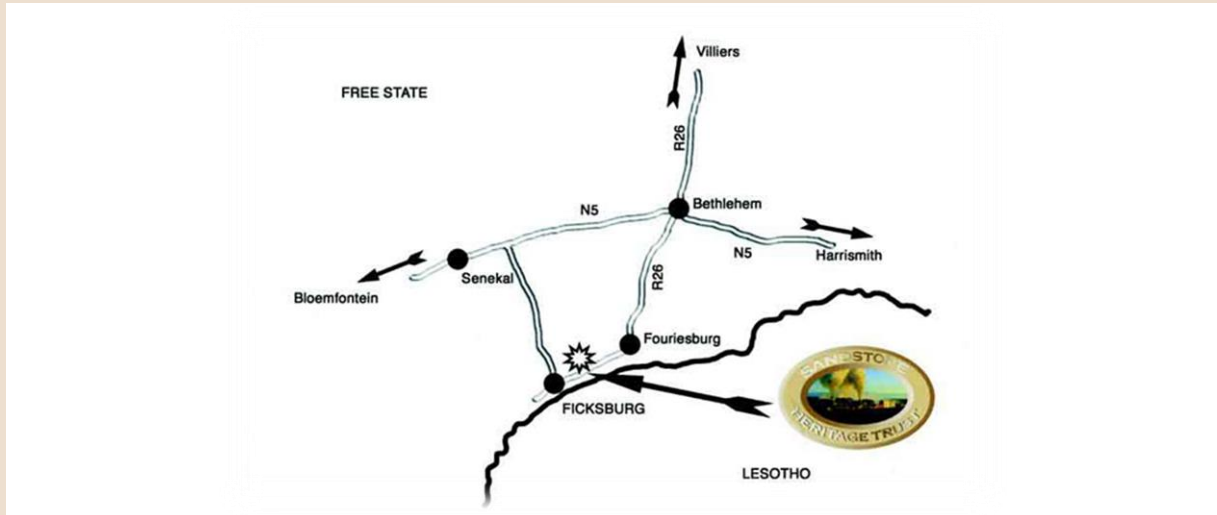
Our Café next to Hoekfontein Station has a wide selection of home baked cakes and homemade sandwiches together with tea and coffee and cold drinks so you can sit and relax as you wait for your tour or your train.

## **The Sandstone Shop**

Our shop is open to visitors and has a large selection of Sandstone memorabilia such as clothing, books and DVD's for sale to complete your Sandstone experience.

## How to find us

Sandstone Estates is situated on the R26 arterial road from Bethlehem to Ficksburg, 14 kms east of Ficksburg and is clearly signposted on the southern side of the road.



## Contact us

For all visitor enquiries contact Alina T: +27(0)51 933 2235 / [alinah@sandstone.co.za](mailto:alinah@sandstone.co.za)  
or Babita T: +27(0)11 805 4692 / [babitan@sandstone.co.za](mailto:babitan@sandstone.co.za)  
After Hours on 079 327 7649 or book on [www.sandstone-estates.com](http://www.sandstone-estates.com)

Please remember that Sandstone Estates is a working farm. All visitors must sign an indemnity form before entering the Estate.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sandstone