

Museums

JULIUS GORDON AFRICANA CENTRE

The internationally recognised Julius Gordon Africana Centre (Versfeld House), built in 1880, houses the largest collection of Thomas Bowler paintings in South Africa. Included in the permanent exhibition are works by Jan Volschenk and Johannes Meintjes (both natives of Riversdale), Irma Stern, Pierneef, Maggie Loubser, Gregoire Boonzaaier, Erich Mayer, Terence McCaw, Ruth Prowse and Pieter Wenning.

The centre also features Khoisan rock paintings and stone implements, Africana furniture of the region, and the history of Riversdale. Modern man (*Homo sapiens*) lived in and around the Riversdale area from as far back as 130 000 years and more ago and some of their ancient stone artifact can be seen here.

HOW TO GET THERE

From the N2 take the Main Road into Riversdale, turn right into Long Street and the Versfeld House will be the second house on the left.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The museum is open from 09:00 – 13:00 during weekdays.

WHAT WILL IT COST

Entrance is free, however donations are appreciated.

AROUND THE AREA

Enjoy delicious carrot cake at the Old Jail around the corner and see the paintings of Marilise Lombard at Paddavlei Kunsgoete down the road.

WHO TO CONTACT

Julius Gordon Africana Centre

Phone: +27 (0)28 713 7939

Email: rvdmuseum@gmail.com

PALINGGAT HOMESTEAD

The iconic homestead in the hart of Stilbaai was originally built in 1809 and after it burnt down, rebuilt by Andries de Jager in 1814. It was declared a national monument in 1985. The walls, 70cm thick, are constructed with sandstone and clay, while the beautiful old ceilings made from indigenous Yellowwood transports you back 200 years ago. After the house was in the de Jager family for 168 years, it was sold and purchased by Jan Jordaan in 1982. The property was subsequently resold and the property divided into 5 portions of which the part with the homestead was bought by Albie Basson. It preserves all the historical elements like the attic stairs, beam above the fireplace, oven and back door. Today it houses the Archaeological Museum and the Tourism Bureau.

HOW TO GET THERE

Cross the bridge to Stilbaai West and follow the main road till you see the green info sign to turn left. Follow the signs to Langenhoven Street where the homestead is located right at the end.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Be sure to plan your visit that you are present at 11:00 for the daily feeding of the indigenous fresh-water eels in the pond right next to the homestead.

WHAT WILL IT COST

Free to enter the tourism office part of the homestead.

WHO TO CONTACT

Stilbaai Tourism Bureau

Phone: +27(0)28 754 2602

Email: stilbaaiinfo@easycoms.co.za

Website: www.stilbaaitourism.co.za