

details see Pretoria News Classified or the phone directory)

■ **JOURNAL:** Start a journal, try writing poetry or letters to special friends. Paste in pictures and other items of personal significance.

■ **JAKARANDA CENTRE:** Contact Louise 082 775 2988.

■ **KOLONNADE:** Shopping Centre, Zambesi Drive, Montana Park. The centre has many activities until December 24, including Ryan Walt, Juggling Elf, CH2, Stilts and balloons, Santa on Stilts with balloons Jingle Jangle Piano show, Christmas Cracker, Travelling Christmas Tree, Soweto String Quartet, Roberto, Liza Brenner and Riaan Grobler. The shows are at various times during the day. See [www.kolonnadecenter.co.za](http://www.kolonnadecenter.co.za) or call 012 548 1902. The Ice Rink is also open during the holidays. Go Karts are available, ten pin bowling, games arcade and cinemas. There is also a Christmas Wish List competition, entry forms and entry box at the Client Services desk (upper level).

■ **KITCHEN:** A great time to get into the kitchen; try making a luscious pudding (see also baking)

■ **KITE:** On windy days, make and try flying a kite

■ **KNITTING:** Try making a scarf for next winter. Get some funky yarn from Metro or a wool shop and get knitting. On average you need 20 to 30 stitches on size 5 to 7 needles and three to four balls of wool.

■ **KRUGERSDORP GAME RESERVE:** spend a memorable day viewing lions, buffalo, hippo, zebra, giraffe and antelope; 011 950 9900.

■ **LIBRARY:** Visit the local library for some great reading material.

■ **LIONS:** Lion enclosure at Lanseria, corner of Hans Strydom and Old Pretoria roads, 011 460 1490.

■ The Lion Park in Muldersdrift with a children's petting zoo, 011 460 1814.

■ The Lion Park in Honeydew, corner Malibongwe and R114 has lions, meerkats, tigers, rare side stripe jackals and hyenas. Call Earl Smith at 082 884 8889 or check [www.lion-park.com](http://www.lion-park.com).

■ **LIPIZZANERS:** These fabulous horses do Carol performances at their centre at Zoetendal, near Pretoria. Call Moira Becker 082 374 4349 for details. (No shows during the 2009/2010 Xmas holidays).

■ **LISTEN TO MUSIC:** Catch up on the latest tunes on the radio or with new CD releases. Swap with your friends.

■ **LYNNRIDGE MALL:** Has the Angels and Elves play area with magical movie time, creative corner: arts and crafts, Xmas card and stocking making and photos with Santa on Fridays. December 11 to 24 at 10am to 3pm weekdays, 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Call 012 348 1373.

■ **MOVIES:** No holiday would be complete without a trip to the movies. Check your local newspaper for the listings.

■ **MODELS:** Holidays are ideal time to try your hand at model-making. Visit Jix Hobbies at Menlyn Retail Park (348 0308)

for a superb range of model kits.

■ **MAROPENG:** The name means "returning to the place of origin", and the Sterkfontein Caves are within the World Heritage Site at the Cradle of Humankind. See rare dinosaur fossils and plant fossils where Mrs Ples and Little Foot were found, 9am to 5pm daily. Call 014 577 9000.

■ **MONEY:** Visit the Mint in Centurion to find out more about coins. Call 66 72342 for details.

■ **MUSEUMS:** Transvaal Museum, Paul Kruger St, open 8am to 4pm, 012 322 7632. The Discovery Centre will be open these holidays.

■ Cultural History Museum, Visagie Street. Open 8am to 4pm, 012 324 6082

■ Melrose House, Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 5pm. Parking in Scheiding Street, entrance in Jacob Mare Street. 012 322 0420.

■ Kruger Museum, 60 Church St West, 012 326 9172, open weekdays 8.30am to 4.30pm, weekends 9am to 4.30pm.

■ Sammy Marks Museum, 012 802 1150, Old Bronkhorstspuit Road. Tours every hour on the hour, weekends and weekdays 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 4pm.

■ Jan Smuts House, Irene, 012 667 1176, open daily 9.30am to 4.30pm. The restored home of General Smuts, tea garden, walking trail to the top of the koppie. The Irene Craft Market has Christmas Markets during December this year.

■ Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum. Take the Rayton/Cullinan/Bapsfontein off ramp from the N4, turn left, follow the signs, 012 736 2035/36. Find out more about farm life in the past. Open 8am to 4pm.

■ Pioneer Museum, Watermeyer Street, Silverton, Pretoria 012 803 6086. Open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm, weekends 9am to 4pm. There is an historic Voortrekker farm, farm animals and plants. Picnic and braai facilities available.

■ Tswaing Meteor Crater and Eco Museum, situated 30km north-west of Pretoria on the Onderstepoort Road. This is an interesting impact site measuring 1.4km in diameter. Self-guided trails around the crater or guided tour. Bird watching and animals can be seen. Open daily 7.30am to 4pm, call 012 790 2302 for directions.

■ South African Air Force Museum, Paul Kruger Road, off Route 101, Valhalla, Tshwane 012 351 2153. Open Monday to Friday 8am to 3.30pm, Saturdays 10am to 3pm. Flying machines, old and new on display alongside the Swartkop runway. Police Museum, Pretorius Street, open Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 3.30pm.

■ Origins Centre, Wits University, 1 Yale Road, Braamfontein, Johannesburg 011 717 4700. Open Monday to Sunday 9am to 5pm, exhibits include San and Bantu rock art, self-guided and guided group tours offered.

■ Constitution Hill Children's Room, Constitution Hill, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 011 381 3110. Open daily 9am to 5pm. Ages 3-12 years, educates children about their rights and responsibilities in an interactive and entertaining way. Visit to Nelson Mandela's cell is included in the programme.

■ Museum of Military History, 22 Erlsworld Way, Saxonworld, Johannesburg, 011 646 5513, open daily 9am to 4.30pm. Adjacent to the Johannesburg Zoo, it houses a collection of old weapons and aircraft. Groups must book in advance; guided tours may be arranged.

■ Santarama Miniland, Rosettenville Road, La Rochelle, Johannesburg, 011 435 0543, daily 9am to 5pm. Miniature models of historical sites in South Africa; Jan van Riebeeck's Dromedaris; miniature train operates daily.

■ James Hall museum of Transport, Pioneer Park, Rosettenville Road, La Rochelle, Johannesburg, 011 435 9718/9485. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9am to 4.30pm. An impressive collection of modes of transport through the ages.

■ Lillesleaf Farm, an interactive museum where you can see where Nelson Mandela spent his last days before he was imprisoned. Open every day 8am to 6pm. Take the N1 to Johannesburg. Take the Rivonia offramp and go down Rivonia Road. Turn right into Rietfontein where there is a sign for Lillesleaf Farm. Go through the boom gate and turn left into Winston Rd and left again into George Road. On the right is the museum. 011 8037882.

■ **MENLYN CENTRE:** Visit [www.menlynpark.co.za](http://www.menlynpark.co.za) for detailed programme. The centre has a Menlyn Beach Event from December 4 to 23. Spend the day in the summer sun, play in the beach sand and all the water activities. The Menlyn Play Park ensures you never have a boring moment; there are just so many things you can do.

■ **MALL@REDS:** Several children's activities: Photos with Santa, December 3 to 24, all day, in the Pick n Pay Court. Carols by Candlelight, December 11, at 6pm in the

Pick n Pay Court. Takalani Sesame Show, December 13 at 9am to 1pm in the Pick n Pay Court. Child Minding Centre December 16 to 23 from 10am to 5pm and Sundays 10am to 3pm, Shop 65 next to Phase 2 CDs. Christmas Fair December 17 to 19 all day. Call 012 656 8957 for details.

■ **MINIATURE:** Johannesburg, look down on a tiny version, with mini trains at Santarama Miniland, 183 Rosettenville Rd, Wemmer Pan, 011 435 0543.

■ **NATURE TRAILS:** Faerie Glen Nature Reserve, entrance at General Louis Botha Ave, at Plumbago, 6am to 6pm, entrance in Helios Street, free of charge. Three hiking trails: Hadeda route 6.2km, Akasia route 4.5km and Klepersol route 11.3km. Inquiries 012 358 1510.

■ Moreletakloof Nature Reserve has self guided hiking trails for viewing the rich bird life or springbok, blesbok and zebra, and the different vegetation zones. Inquiries and reservations: 012 358 1510, restaurant bookings: 012 998 1503.

■ **NDEBELE CULTURAL VILLAGE:** at The Zebra Country Lodge, visit a cultural site and journey through four periods of settlement of indigenous people. Contact 012 470 5300.

■ **OX WAGON:** Rides at Voortrekker Monument; call Alwyn 082 920 5413. Open 9am to 4pm.

■ **OSTRICH OASIS:** Half an hour from Pretoria, on the Moloto Road. Learn about these unusual birds, relax in the tea garden, visit the curio shop, tours arranged. Call 012 735 1533.

■ **PICNIC:** Botanical Gardens (see B), Magnolia Dell, Queen Wilhelmina Rd, Fountains or Derdepoort resorts

■ **PAINTBALL:** Paintball Extreme, 082 497 8395 operates at Derdepoort Park. A booking must be made. Paintball Games, 082 961 2906, Zinnia Street, Newlands. Opens 8.30am, booking essential.

■ Paintball Park, 082 413 8955, between Garsfontein and Lynnwood Road, Pretoria East. Opens 8am, booking essential.

■ **PLANETARIUM:** Johannesburg, Wits University Campus, Empire Rd, Parktown. Learn about space and cosmic origins. Space travel for kids 5-8years, every Saturday. Hubble Vision Show, tour through the eyes of the Hubble Space Telescope Fridays 8pm and Saturdays 3pm. Booking essential for daily activities; call 011 717 1392 for information.

■ **PUTT PUTT:** Adventure Golf at Brooklyn Mall, Veal St, Opposite Absa Bank, 9am to 10pm 073 268 0336. 19th Hole, corner of Serene Street and Gen Louis Botha Avenue, Garsfontein.

■ **QUAGGA CENTRE:** Located at the corner of Church and Quagga Street, Pretoria West.

■ **ZWARTKOPS QUADBIKES:** Route R55, Centurion, at the same premises as the Zwartkops Raceway, 9am-5pm. Jumping Castles, Jungle Gym, Sandpit, Trampolines. Call Linky Scholtz 082 688 6046.

■ **QUAD BIKES:** 011 795 1091, Daytona Adventure Park in William Nichol St, Fourways, opens 9am. Caters for children 4 years and up. For older kids there's a guided outride into the bush and across rivers.

■ **RESORTS:** Derdepoort open 7am. Swimming pool, braai facilities, paintball. Book with Gert at 083 297 2641. Wonderboom open 7am to 4pm, R13pp. Braai and picnic facilities, hiking trails, paths to the Fort, and waterfall and cave plus the 1 000 year-old-tree. Inquiries and bookings 012 341 0591 or 012 440 8316.

■ Fountains Resort for swimming, picnics, hiking, 440 7131/440 2121.

■ Rooddeplaas Nature Reserve 012 808 5131, has picnic facilities, game drives and hiking trails. They also have an environmental education programme for all grade learners. call Thuli Sikhosana 083 528 0582 for more information.

■ **RHINO AND LION NATURE RESERVE:** Cradle of Humankind, 520 Kromdraai Road, between Krugersdorp and Lanseria Airport. Various tours and children's events during December. Booking essential; call 011 957 0349.

■ **SANDTON CITY FOUNTAIN COURT:** Being transformed into Barney's Playground between December 4 and 24. Craft workshops at 10am, Barney stage show at 11am, fabulous face painting at noon, Barney stage show at 2pm and 4pm on Sundays, Barney stage show at 6pm. Photos with Santa open most days. There is a gift wrapping kiosk available until December 24. Call 011 217 6044.

■ **SCI-ENZA:** University of Pretoria; enter the amazing world of science, weekdays 9am to 4pm. Call 420 2865, or 420 3767.

■ **SHOWS:** *Beauty and the Beast* produced by Pretoria Youth Theatre, today, tomorrow and on December 17-19, daily at 10.30am, 3 and 7pm at Irene Village Hall, Irene. Book at 084 249 9292 or

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