



August 2014

In this edition we propose a visit to a place in province of the Western Cape, more precisely to Mossel Bay. The choice of this quaint little town between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth is not taken by chance. Aguada de São Braz, now called Mossel Bay, was the local where the first Europeans stepped on South African soil in the 15th century: Bartolomeu Dias and his men disembarked on these shores on 3 February 1488. Up to today this date is celebrated with an annual festival, the *Dias Festival*. Our suggestions range from what this beautiful region has to offer to the landmarks left by the Portuguese presence in the region.

Mossel Bay

Known as the first place where the first Europeans disembarked in South African soil, this little maritime city in the Western Cape celebrates to this day the date when Bartolomeu Dias and his men first arrived in this beautiful bay, on 3 February 1488. The Portuguese navigator first named it *Angra dos Vaqueiros* (The Bay of Cowherds). This was later renamed *Aguada de São Braz*, around 1497, due to a fresh water fountain which supplied water to the boats to and from India.

More information: <http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za/>





Bartolomeu Dias Museum Complex

Officially inaugurated on 3 February 1989, this complex houses various attractions such as a replica of the Bartolomeu Dias' *caravelle*. It is possible to visit the fresh water fountain which attracted so many navigators to the site and also the oldest mail box in the world (mentioned below). The complex is also known for its botanical garden with the Braille path, making it possible for people with visual impairments to have access to its fantastic collection through touch and smell.

More information: <http://www.diasmuseum.co.za>

Post Office Tree

During the year 1500, Pedro de Ataíde, a Portuguese navigator returning from one of his trips to India, left an important letter inside a shoe (there are those that vouch it was inside a pot) which was hung on a tree. In 1501, *en route* to India, João da Nóvoa found the letter bearing important information about what was happening in Calcutta. And thus, the first mail box in South Africa was created. The tree was considered a national monument and was named the *post office tree*.

More information: <http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za/>



Dias beach

A visit to Mossel Bay and to the region's Portuguese references will not be complete without a visit to the strikingly beautiful Dias beach. Situated 5 mins from the center of Mossel Bay, Dias beach extends for about 3 km and is a prime choice to be with the family and relax. Enjoy some leisure time and let your imagination run down history lane until the time of the brave sea faring men and their maritime trips around the magnificent South African coast.

More information: <http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za/>

FESTIVAL & EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA – August 2014



HERMANUS TIMES KALFIEFEES

When: 7 – 10 August 2014

Where: Hermanus

More information: www.kalfiefees-hermanus.co.za

Celebrate the arrival of the Southern Right Whales at the Hermanus Times Kalfiefees. Bring the family, watch the whales and have some fun!



CLAMWILLIAM WILD FLOWER SHOW

When: 28 Aug – 6 Sept 2014

Where: Clamwilliam

More information: www.clanwilliam-flowerfestival.co.za

Clamwilliam, the gateway to South Africa's finest floral region, is opening its doors once again with its Wild Flower Show. Various exciting activities are on offer throughout the Clanwilliam Wild Flower show which promises the whole family a fun-filled time that will not be forgotten.



ROTARY GREATEST TRAIN RACE

When: 23 August 2014

Where: Witbank

More information: www.qtr.co.za

In 1987 the Rotary Club launched the first relay event against a steam train. Now the largest community event in the country, this event accommodates athletes in various categories for running and walking. A carnival atmosphere greets you at the finish where all finishers receive a medal.



MORE EVENTS

- ☑ Oppikoppi Festival (7-9 Aug) www.oppikoppi.co.za
- ☑ Gariep Kunhstefees (28-31 Aug) www.gariepfes.co.za
- ☑ Klein Karoo Klassique (14-17 Aug) www.klassique.co.za
- ☑ Wild Coast Jikeleza Festival (2-3 Aug) www.wildcoastjikeleza.co.za
- ☑ Cradle of Humankind Sheepdog Trails (5-6 Aug) www.getaway.co.za
- ☑ Vaal River Meander Wine Route (12-17 Aug) www.vaalwineroute.co.za

South African Embassy Tourism Newsletter

Address: Av Luís Bívar, 10 1069-024 Lisboa

Telephone: 21 3192200 **E-mail:** tourism@embaixada-africadosul.pt

Website: www.embaixada-africadosul.pt

Facebook: South African Embassy, Portugal

South african Tourism: www.southafrica.net