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SOUTH AFRICAN LARGE TELESCOPE (SALT)

South Africa, in collaboration with international partners, has built the largest single optical telescope in the Southern Hemisphere.

It consists of 91 movable mirrors, each about 1 metre wide, and weighing 100kg. These form a giant mirror, 11 meters wide, capable of observing a candle flame on the moon, analysing the size and age of the universe, and studying star systems and quasars a billion times too far away to be seen with the naked eye. The design is adapted from the Hobby-Eberly telescope in Texas, USA.

The Sutherland radar station was erected in 1991 on Swaarweeberg to fill a gap between Bloemfontein and Cape Town. Air traffic, altitude, speed and direction can be precisely determined to within a radius of a couple of meters, enabling flight routes and times to be quickly determined.



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VERLATENKLOOF In 1874 this was the only route giving entrance to the Roggeveld, Gannaga to the west, Komsberg to the east and Vloksberg to the south. The Verlatenskloof Pass was built in 1876. Thomas Bain was the surveyor and William Henry Hesketh the roads engineer.

The little building on the pass was the **TOLL HOUSE**, later served as a school and is now an iconic watering hole.

N.P. van Wyk Louw

Renowned South African author, Nicolaas Petrus (N.P.) van Wyk Louw, Afrikaans poet, dramatist and essayist, was born in Sutherland, 11 June 1906. He was second in line of four brothers, the youngest of which was the poet W.E.G. Louw. N.P. van Wyk Louw received various literary prizes. His best-known work is his epic poem Raka, recounting a black hero's desperate struggle against a nightmarish beast to save his people's heritage of language and art. President Mbeki bestowed The Order of Ikhamanga in Gold for exceptional contribution in literature and advocacy of language rights for the African languages, posthumously, on him on 27 September 2005.

Sutherland

Sutherland originated on the farm De List and was named after Rev. Henry Sutherland, who annually came to the Roggeveld from Worcester for church services. In 1855 it was decided to establish a congregation here to serve the sheep farmers.

It is situated at a height of 1 450 m above sea level on the southwest escarpment of the inland plateau. At this height the area is exposed to cold air coming from the southwest. Due to the low moisture levels and thin air, heat radiation at night is high. In winter, it is one of the coldest towns in South Africa. The lowest temperature in 33 years of minus 16.4 °C was experienced on 12 July 2003.

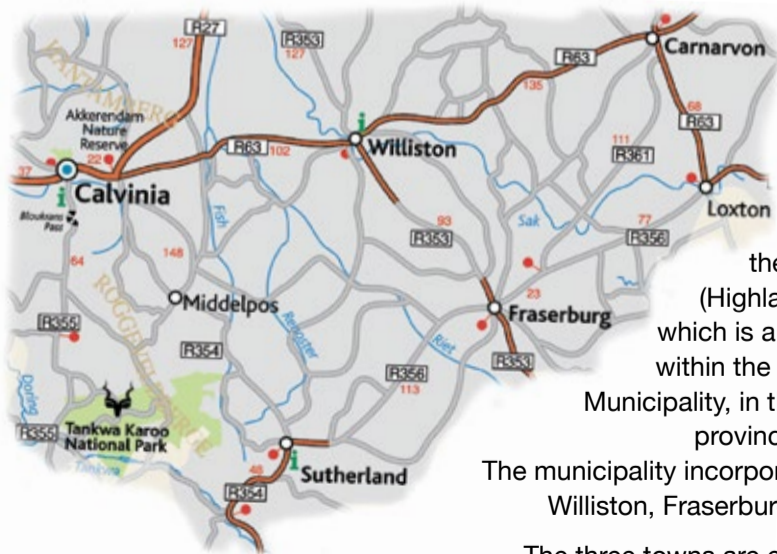
Sutherland's arid climate and remote location 1450 m above sea level also make its night skies among the world's clearest and darkest. The telescopes of the South African Astronomical Observatory are just east of the town. These include the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), the largest single optical telescope in the southern hemisphere. If you would like to visit and see what SAAO researchers do, you can book a tour online.

Sutherland is also close to the sites of unique corbelled houses, historic dome-shaped stone dwellings only found in this region in and around the towns of Fraserburg, Williston and Carnarvon.

South of Sutherland is an eroded volcano Salpeterkop with an east-west diameter of 1 km and a north-south diameter of 1.2 km. The volcano was active during the Cretaceous period, about 65 million years ago. The remnants (of which Salpeterkop is one) consist of sandstone of the Beaufort series, as well as shale and silt. The steep slopes of the surrounding rock formations are attributed to intense gas pressure within the magma, resulting in explosive outpourings of volcanic material.

The Roggeveld

Sutherland is part of the Roggeveld, a name derived from 'wild rye' and was once in abundance throughout the well-known Roggeveld Mountains. It extends from the vicinity of Calvinia in the northwest, past Sutherland in the south, where it terminates in the Klein-Roggeveld range. Several road passes ascend the plateau from the south and west. From the south they are the Komsberg Pass, Verlatenkloof, Ouberg Pass at an altitude of 1,404 metres, Gannaga Pass and the Bloukrans Pass which ascends its northern promontory, the Bloukrans Mountain.



Sutherland

is a town within the Karoo Hoogland (Highlands) Municipality, which is a local municipality within the Namakwa District Municipality, in the Northern Cape province of South Africa.

The municipality incorporates the towns of Williston, Fraserburg and Sutherland.

The three towns are each separated by approximately 100 km of road which, in the past, was a day's ride on an ox-wagon.

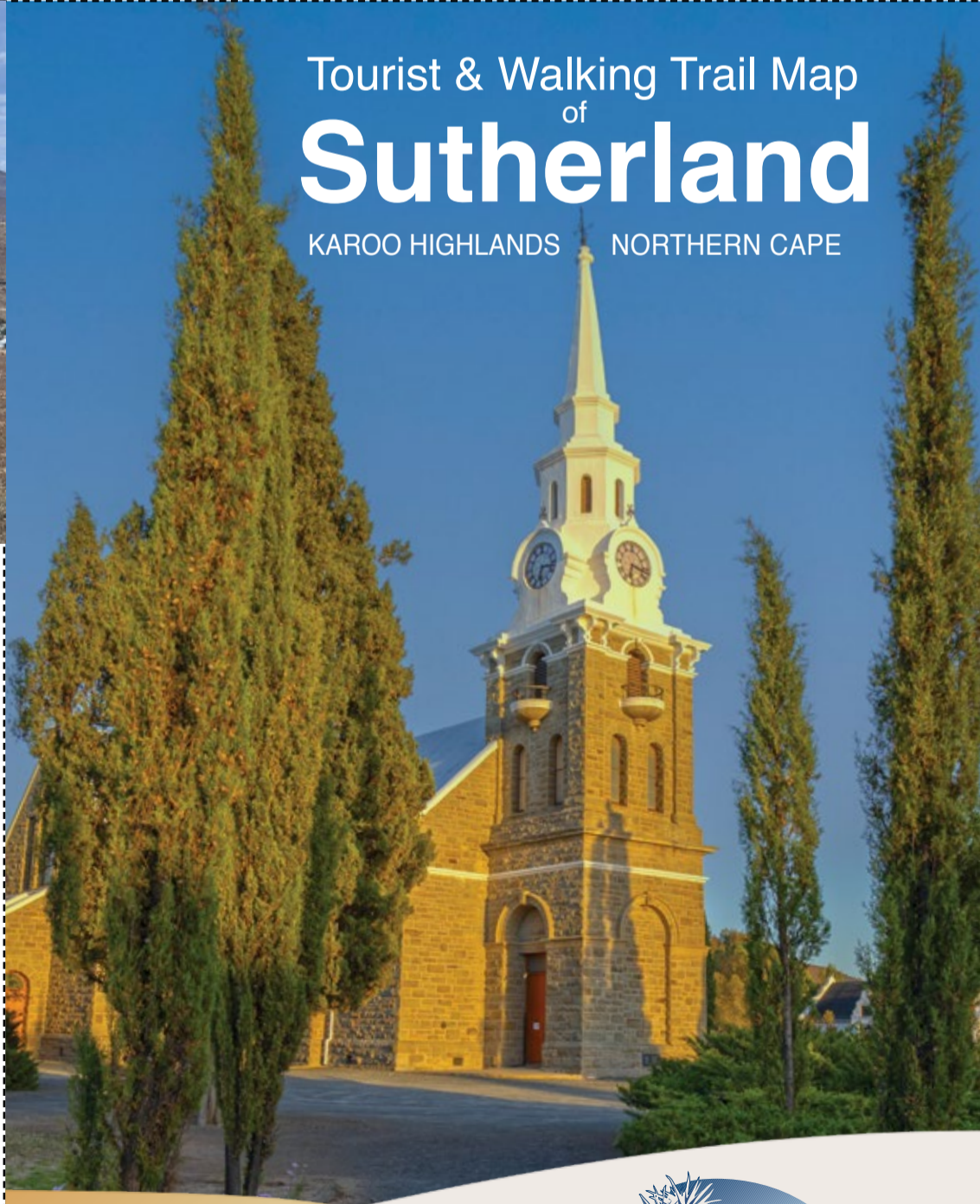
Indulge in the rich, uniquely Karoo cultural heritage of Sutherland with a leisurely stroll through its streets.

TOURIST INFORMATION Karoo Hoogland Tourism Tel 053 285 0998

Design & Photography - tourismblueprint.co.za

Tourist & Walking Trail Map of Sutherland

KAROO HIGHLANDS NORTHERN CAPE



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DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH *Piet Retief Street.*
 Designed by Charles Freeman and built 1899 by John Delbridge. The consecration of the church on 27 October 1900 had to be postponed because of a diphtheria epidemic. Meanwhile the Anglo-Boer War had reached the Roggeveld and martial law was declared.
 On 3 September 1901 the minister was compelled to hand over the keys of the church to the British military authorities, who used it as a fort and barracks. After the war the buildings and furnishings had to be restored at great expense. The consecration finally took place on 25 April 1903, attended by 1 200 people. Graffiti scribbled on the walls by British troops are still visible today.

NG CHURCH HALL *Piet Retief Street.*
 Built by the NG congregation for gatherings, and functions. The following words appear on the foundation stone (translation of the Dutch): "This foundation stone was laid by Rev B R Hattingh 12 May 1906. Taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34.9.



SUTHERLAND PLANETARIUM *Piet Retief Street.*
 Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including powerful telescopes and a high-resolution planetarium dome. Whether you're a seasoned astronomer or simply curious about the cosmos, the planetarium offers a truly awe-inspiring experience that will leave you with a deeper appreciation for the universe. (Not to be confused with the South African Large Telescope SALT, see no 15 for more on this)



BLUE MOON *34 Piet Retief Street.*
 The little sandstone house, now a well known restaurant, was originally one of a series of town houses (circa 1880) used by farmers.



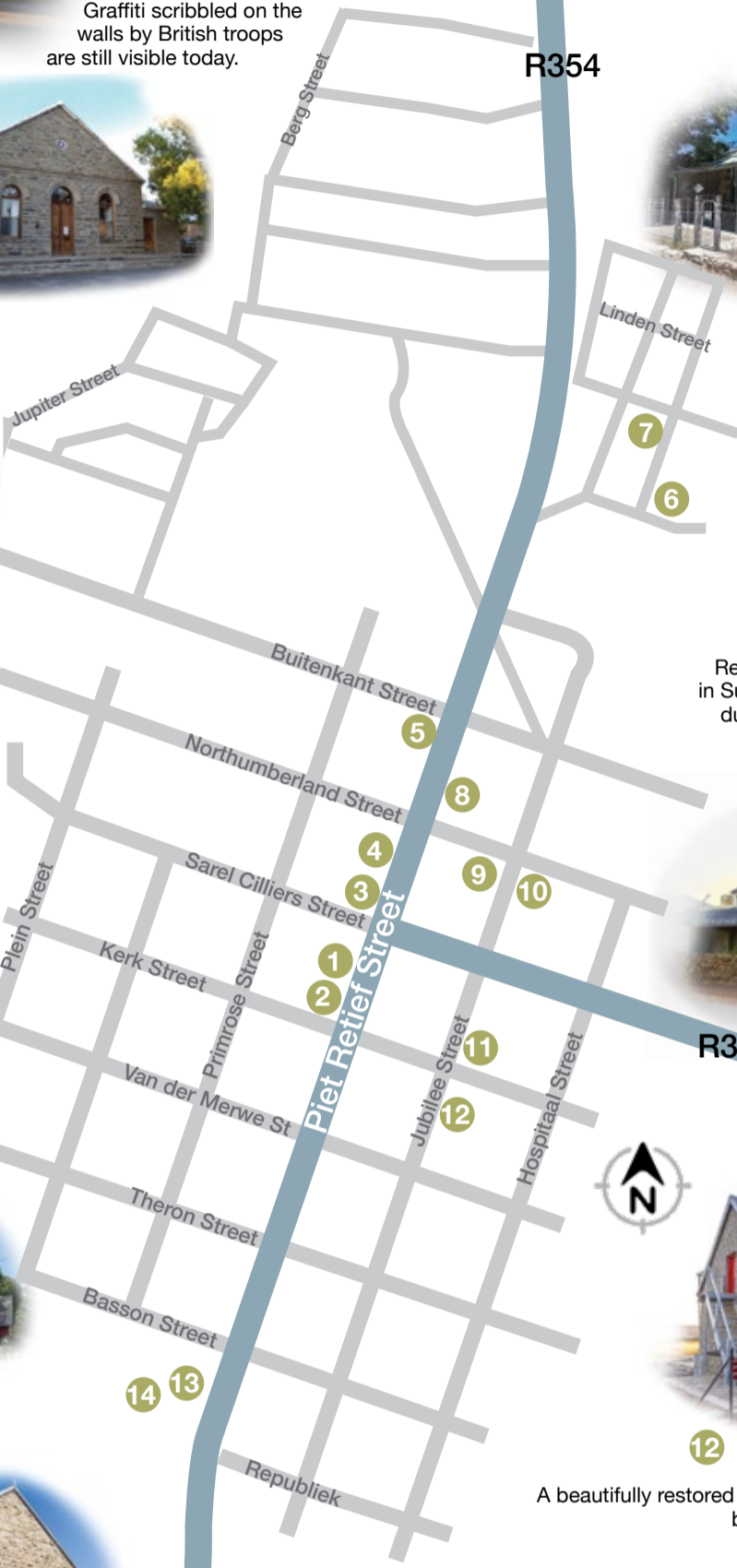
OLD MILL *corner of Piet Retief and Buitenkant Street.*
 This building housed the first grain mill in the town. Bookkeeping was done mainly on the walls, and the remains of the pulley used to load grain sacks inside the mill are still visible.



MISSION CHURCH *Acacia Avenue, Newtown.*
 This sturdy stone building cost 800 pounds, and was consecrated on 13 March 1913. The brickwork was done by Warwick and Son. The building served as a school, and today is used as a community hall.



NEWTOWN
 In the township, located north of the central business district, you'll discover numerous characterful examples of the town's original buildings.



PERLMAN HOUSE *39 Piet Retief Street.*
 This building belonged to a Jewish trader, Mr Perlman. Tradition has it that, during the flu epidemic of 1918, he refused to lend a stretcher to a family who wished to wash the body of one of their members who had died. He was then warned "Mr Perlman, you think you can seal your door with riches, but God will come in through the chimney." He died eight days later, leaving an estate worth 23 thousand pounds. This building was also the first hospital in Sutherland.



LOUW HOUSE *corner of Jubilee and Northumberland Streets.*
 The original house consisted of four rooms and was built in 1861. In 1904 the house was purchased by Moltke Louw, who restored it and added the distinctive concave verandah. This is the home in which the writer-poet brothers N P van Wyk Louw and W E G Louw were born. At the back of the large plot is a unique example of an old water well where water was scooped up in cans (blikkies) drawn up by a donkey (see photo). Also old carriages are on display. The house serves as a literary museum and promotes past and present Sutherlanders who have been outstanding achievers. (see more about N P van Wyk Louw overleaf)



TABAK HUIS *33 Jubilee Street.*
 Reverend Alling, the first minister in Sutherland, occupied this house during his period of service from 1868 to 1873.



BOORGAT HOUSE *21 Jubilee Street.*
 This typical Karoo style house earned its name after a borehole that was discovered on the property.



ARTISTS HOUSE *Jubilee Street.*
 A beautifully restored example of a Karoo house built of dressed sandstone.



SOUTH AFRICAN LARGE TELESCOPE
 (see overleaf)



SUTHERLAND NINE *Town's Anglo-Boer War Cemetery.*
 On Sunday, 26 November 2023, the remains of nine Khoi and San individuals, known as the Sutherland Nine were finally laid to rest in Sutherland's historic cemetery. Igui, Cornelius Abraham, Jannetjie, Klaas Stuurman, Saartje, Totje, Voetje and two children named Glae and Saa were laid to rest six years after their skeletal remains were discovered during a 2017 audit which revealed they were unethically brought to the University of Cape Town in the 1920s by a medical student.



ANGLO BOER WAR GRAVES
 Graves of British troops who died during the Anglo-Boer War may be seen in the old cemetery. During the ABW the British troops gathered up Boer women and children from Bo-wadriif, Kareerivier, Blouheuwel and Klipbanksrivier in the Tanqua Karoo and transported them by wagon to Sutherland, where they remained captive in rooms in the town. During the journey Boer and Brit came to blows, and a young girl was so afraid that she tried to hide under a wooden bedstead on the wagon. Somehow she managed to push her head into a bucket of sheep fat, and the place became known as Vetemmerdrif (the Drift of the Fat Bucket).



VERLATENKLOOF & N1
 Rogge Cloof Private Reserve

