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Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein

The origin of the name Bloemfontein, 'Flower Fountain', remains something of a mystery. But given the Free State city's fine floral heritage, the name's literal translation is perhaps the most fitting these days. Sites and events worth visiting are The National Botanical Gardens, The Ficksburg Cherry Festival in November, the picturesque town of Clarens, the soaring sandstone formations at Golden Gate National Park and Bloemfontein's Hobbit House, a Victorian delight packed with eccentricities inspired by The Hobbit author JR Tolkien, who was born in the house.



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Picturesque views, Clarens



★★★★ Protea Hotel Bloemfontein - Bloemfontein 12 Minutes from Bloemfontein Airport - 94 Bedrooms

The hotel is within walking distance of shopping centres, sporting facilities, movie theatres, restaurants and the ever-developing corporate hub. Set in secure landscaped gardens - its swimming pool and terrace is the ideal setting to wrap up after a hard day of business. All rooms offer laminated wooden floors, crisp, white, soft duvets, state-of-the-art executive desks, multi adapter plugs mounted next to the desks, electronic safes, tea and coffee making facilities and separate baths and showers. The Amoretta Restaurant offers scrumptious buffet breakfasts and a la carte lunches and dinners.



★★★★ Protea Hotel Black Mountain - Free State 45 Minutes from Bloemfontein Airport - 118 Bedrooms

Overlooking a dam and 5 800 hectares of game reserve, the hotel is a celebration of African traditional architecture, where the design combines the luxury and elegance demanded of a sophisticated resort. Rooms are all elegantly furnished and decorated, in spectacular surroundings. Dining facilities include a restaurant, terrace, Residents Lounge and several bars. Leisure and sporting facilities include a fully-equipped gymnasium with sauna and Jacuzzi, entertainment centre for children, sundowner cruises, fishing and a Solarium.



★★★ City Lodge Bloemfontein - Bloemfontein 12 Minutes from Bloemfontein Airport - 151 Bedrooms

This convenient location has numerous amenities within walking distance, such as the Hydromed Hospital, Zoo, Free State Stadium, restaurants and shopping centres. Fully carpeted, spacious air-conditioned rooms are equipped with a double bed, colour TV, en-suite bathroom, tea and coffee making facilities and a sofa-bed is available on request if needed. Rooms all equipped with a radio, TV and phone. An Internet usage area is also available to guests.



Mont d'Or Hotel & Conference Centre - Clarens 150 Minutes from Bloemfontein Airport - 24 Bedrooms

This newly built hotel & conference centre is situated in the picturesque town of Clarens. Clarens has long been known for its scenic beauty and quaint village atmosphere, and has become a favourite destination for art and adventure lovers alike. Known as "The Jewel of the Eastern Free State" another gem is being added to Clarens. All rooms have tea / coffee making facilities, equipped with microwave stove as well as fridges, Television (M-Net), fully serviced daily, laundry and dry cleaning facilities, safes in all rooms, air-conditioned or open fireplaces and room service.