

A CASTLE OF INCLUSIVITY, HEALING, LEARNING, MEMORIALISATION AND SO MUCH MORE...

Welcome,

Visitors often ask us whether the Castle is a "museum". Technically, they are correct, with only one modification: *Museum (s) in the plural!* Yes, the 358-year-old Castle of Good Hope, a National Heritage site, a critical infrastructure, a former Army base, a former seat of government, a slave port, and many more, is a collection of nine 'permanent' boutique museums (and counting) each contributing to a narrative that is unapologetically decolonial, inclusive, brave, challenging, and educational. In no order, here we go.

The Nine Museums/Exhibitions Inside the Castle of Good Hope

#1 - The Camissa African Centre for Restorative Memory, Castle of Good Hope

Camissa is the creolised variant of the Khoe word ǀKhami Ssa, meaning "**Sweet Water for All**" – a reference to the river that once flowed openly through Cape Town and now flows through channels underground. At least two of these channels go through the Castle of Good Hope. The original indigenous community of traders settled at the river and called themselves the Watermen or ǀAmmaqua. The river is a powerful metaphor for the descendants' history and heritage, whose past was driven underground like the river.



Figure 1: The clear, sweet waters (ǀKhami Ssa) channelled underneath the grounds of the Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, 3 August 2021

In 2018, a process was started to realise this dream of establishing the **Camissa Museum at the Castle** by continuing the public participation processes, establishing a team to implement the Museum, raising funds, and establishing the Museum. Later, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was split into two stages – establishing a **Virtual Museum** (www.camissamuseum.co.za launched on 22 April 2021) with an introductory physical marker (at the Castle's Old Recruitment Centre) and establishing the full physical Camissa Museum at the Castle.



Figure 2: This seven-sided column represents the seven "streams" of the Camissa Museum, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, 5 August 2021

#2 The Cape Heritage Museum, Castle of Good Hope

Welcome to The Cape Heritage Museum in Cape Town, South Africa, located within the historic Castle of Good Hope. Discover the captivating stories of diverse individuals and communities that have shaped South Africa's history. As a community-driven initiative, our Museum showcases the arts, history, culture, and rich heritage of Cape Muslims, their ancestors, and indigenous communities. Our exhibits authentically retell South Africa's political landscape, promoting dialogue and understanding. We aim to challenge preconceptions, provoke thought, and foster unity. Join us in celebrating a shared history, culture, and humanity at The Cape Heritage Museum, where stories come alive. While only operative for two and a half years, the Museum has already raked in two coveted National Heritage Council

awards: *Best National Heritage Destination* in 2021 and *Best National Heritage and Education Museum* in 2023. A must-visit at the Castle!



Figure 3: The third room chronicles the journeys of the religious exiles.



Figure 4: The fourth room is devoted to the colourful but deeply contested heritage of the Bo-Kaap.



Figure 5: One of the most attractive features of the Museum is its simple but poignant representation of our collective past: good, bad, and ugly.

#3 - Secunde's (Deputy-Governor) House, Castle of Good Hope

The Secunde's House was completed in c. 1695. This is where the Secunde lived during colonial times. The Secunde, or Deputy Governor, was second in charge and carried out administrative functions for the Dutch East India Company soon after it took control of the Cape in 1652 until occupation by the British in 1795.

No original furniture from when the Deputy Governors stayed here has survived, but the rooms had been reconstructed to depict interiors from different colonial periods. The spaces represent rooms of a 17th and 18th century VOC official and that of an early 19th century British military officer.

The Secunde's House forms part of the Iziko Museums of South Africa display areas at the Castle.



Figure 6: Seventeenth-century interior at the Secunde's House. The wooden floor has an original diamond-shaped painted pattern: photographer Alain Proust, courtesy Paul Duncan of *Hidden Cape Town*.



Figure 7: A sedan chair made in Europe in the 18th century. Sedan chairs had to be carried by enslaved men for transporting members of wealthy families, possibly women only. Photo credit: Iziko Museums of South Africa.

#4 – *FIRE*D: An Exhibition of South African Ceramics and Pottery, Castle of Good Hope

*FIRE*D is an exhibition dedicated to the history and development of South African ceramics. It is presented at the Castle in an evocative space with arched ceilings and columns built in the late 17th century as a Granary for the Dutch East India Company. The *FIRE*D exhibition was created in 2012 from the rich array of ceramics held in the permanent collections of the Iziko Museums of South Africa. *FIRE*D celebrates the artistry of South African ceramists, showcasing works in clay created for domestic, ceremonial, or decorative purposes, dating from the archaeological past to the present.



Figure 8: Khoer vessel from the Mossel Bay area. Photograph by Carina Beyer, Iziko Museums of South Africa.



Figure 9: Visitors with one of the two original Castle terracotta lions that can be seen inside the *FIRED* exhibition. Photograph by Carina Beyer, Iziko Museums of South Africa.

#5 - Rethinking the William Fehr Collection, Castle of Good Hope

William Fehr (1892-1968) was a Cape Town-based businessman who assembled a substantial collection of historical oil paintings, artwork on paper and decorative art objects. The artworks date from South Africa's colonial past and were created by visiting artists, professional and amateur, before the era of photography. The collection has been on display at the Castle since 1952. The William Fehr Collection is managed by the Iziko Museums of South Africa and is listed as a declared heritage collection with the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

In *Rethinking the William Fehr Collection*, the collection had been rehung to explore aspects of South Africa's colonial past, including slavery and wars of dispossession. Visitors are encouraged to assess from what perspectives the works were created, what is being portrayed, and what has been omitted or is 'silent' in the representations.



Figure 10: The old Cape Town fish market at Rogge Bay (Roggebaai), by Cecil Schott. Oil on canvas, 1898. William Fehr Collection, Iziko Museums of South Africa.



Figure 11: Portrait of a woman by Wilhelm HFL Langschmidt. Oil on canvas, 1851. The portrait was done during the wars of dispossession in today's Eastern Cape: William Fehr Collection, Iziko Museums of South Africa.

#6 - Five Hundred Years of Circumnavigation Museum, Castle of Good Hope

On 7 November 2022, the Castle of Good Hope added another important permanent exhibition to its museum bouquet. The opening of the *500 Years of Circumnavigation* Museum, in the presence of the Ambassador of Spain to South Africa, H.E.

Raimundo Robredo Rubio, the Consul General of Spain, H.E. Jesús Silva, and the CEO of the Castle of Good Hope, Mr Calvyn Giffellan, marked the 500th anniversary of humankind's first known circumnavigation of the world by ship, as recorded by European historians (Serrano, 2020). It also invertedly triggered and heightened one of the most tragic periods in our global, entangled history: armed colonial conquest, mercantile capitalism, slavery, and Imperialism. This project is a collaboration

between the Castle of Good Hope, the Embassy of Spain in Pretoria, the Consulate General of Spain in Cape Town, and the Society of Spanish Researchers in Southern Africa.



Figure 12: Castle of Good Hope's Heritage & Culture Officer, Mr. Sonwabile Maxebengula (top), unveils the entrance of the new Museum while Spanish Ambassador H.E. Raimundo Robredo Rubio and the Consul General of Spain and Consul General of Spain, H.E. Jesús Silva, look on.

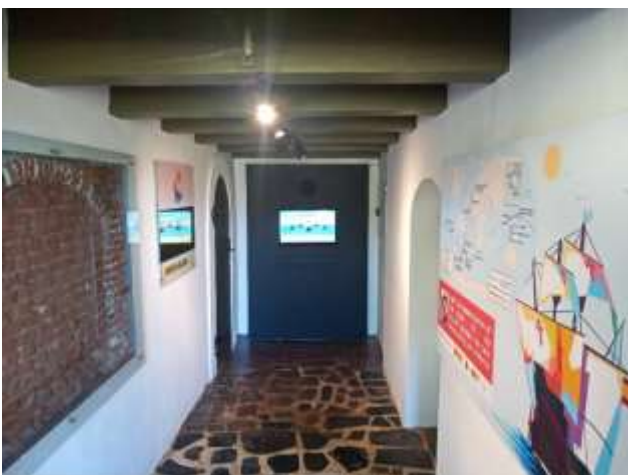


Figure 13 (left): The interior of the Museum, with low ceilings, resembles the inside of a ship (Image: MAGICMILL). Figure 14 (right): The Museum is a mixed-media design with imagery, sound and visuals complimenting the original Castle architecture and construction work (Image: MAGICMILL)

#7 – The Military Museum, Castle of Good Hope

In 1952, the former Defence Force of S.A. decided to establish a Military Museum in Cape Town and Pretoria. In 1961, it was agreed that the Cape Town Military Museum would be housed in the Castle, which later developed into the Military and Maritime Museum and was situated in Block D of the Castle. This Museum was closed in 1980 owing to the restoration project on the Castle. Most of the Museum's collection was moved to other museums. A small nucleus collection of the Military Museum was stored whilst the restoration process on the Castle was being brought about. Block E of the Castle was identified to start a new Military Museum.



Figure 15: former Defence Minister Mapisa-Nqakula inspecting an all-female military guard.

The theme of the Castle Military Museum is mainly Cape Military History. The then minister of defence, Joe Modise, officially opened the new Castle Military Museum on 1 August 1995. The narrative of the Museum is being expanded to include an exhibition dealing with the liberation struggle.



Figure 16: Tourist Guide Steven Fredericks at the entrance of the Military Museum.

#8 – Crying for Justice Outdoor Installation, Castle of Good Hope



Figure 17: Installed on the Castle lawns at the intersection of Darling and Castle Streets, and the approximate spot of the Gallows, lie the 'Crying for Justice' outdoor exhibition.

Crying for Justice is a site-specific installation by Haroon Gunn-Salie presented on the unmarked site of the historic gallows at the Castle of Good Hope in Central Cape Town.

Crying for Justice is excavated into the landscape to form 118 graves, representing the 117 known activists killed in detention by apartheid security forces. The last grave is symbolic of those who died in detention whom we don't know and remain unacknowledged, and others who survived near-death treatment and torture in detention.

The graves highlight the need to dig up the past to reveal the truth behind these brutal killings; the graves are intended to remain unmarked until the whole truth is told.

When viewed from the rampart elevation of the Castle walls, the installation spells the word JUSTICE as a reverberating need to continue the fight for truth, justice and accountability in South Africa and for the prosecution of those responsible for these politically motivated crimes against humanity.

<https://www.haroongunnsalie.studio/projects/cryingforjustice>



Haroon Gunn-Salie (Cape Town, South Africa, 1989) is an award-winning artist and activist who believes art has the potential to effect change in societies. Gunn-Salie's multidisciplinary practice draws focus to forms of collaboration based on socially engaged dialogue and exchange.

#9 The Koena Art Institute @ The Castle of Good Hope

The Koena Art Institute is a women-led NPC dedicated to preserving the Khoi and San heritage. It opened at the Castle of Good Hope on 2 December 2023.



The Art Gallery-cum-cultural centre celebrates creativity, openness, tolerance and generosity. The institute hosts established and upcoming artists whose work represents the Khoi and San heritage. More to follow.

Events as Vehicles for Peace and Healing

We have long discovered that the easiest way to achieve our objectives is to invite and create a reason for people from all walks of life to visit this citadel. And what better way than through picnics, concerts, music, markets, festivals, commemorations, celebrations, and the like? Nobody, even if they come blindfolded, can escape the historical, cultural, spiritual and aesthetic appeal when you enter through the massive green doors of this 358-year-old building:

#1 Monthly Kuier@theCastle Craft Market+

The Craft + Design Institute (CDI), in partnership with the Castle of Good Hope, launched a new monthly market on 24 February 2024, featuring a diverse array of Cape Town's creative talent at one of the country's eminent cultural tourism attractions.

"Kuier@theCastle" offers a multifaceted experience with various local artisanal products, culinary delights and entertainment designed to cater to all the senses and provide a memorable day out for the whole family. The two institutions envision this becoming the biggest monthly creative event in the central business district.

"We are inviting people to come and experience the magic within the Castle," says Erica Elk, Group CEO of the Craft + Design Institute. "Come and 'Kuier' with us in this magnificent space – one of the oldest in South Africa – to chill, shop, eat, play and explore the fantastic local delights at this extraordinary heritage site we are so lucky to have such easy access to."

"We chose the name 'Kuier' because it is such a colourful local expression that speaks to people coming together to relax together, break bread together, embodying the spirit of communal gathering and shared experiences," she says.

"This aligns seamlessly with the overarching sentiment of what we want to provide with Kuier@theCastle – a space and opportunity for diverse people to connect, engage, and celebrate the extraordinary talents of local artisans alongside great music and food."

"We forget that we are only 18 months out of the pandemic and are still rebuilding our lives in physical and shared spaces. Many markets and events closed, and thousands of creative practitioners shattered their lives over that devastating period; we need to reconnect and rebuild in purposeful ways and do it better than before."

Calvyn Gilfellan, CEO of the Castle, is very excited about the partnership and the launch of the new initiative when we celebrate 30 years of democracy. Says Gilfellan: "Our mission at the Castle is to create an accessible space where all are welcome, can learn and understand our history and heritage, and can participate in building our shared future in the spirit of Ubuntu."

"The Kuier@theCastle market with the CDI has the potential to be a beautiful platform to bring Capetonians and tourists from all walks of life together, to relax on the green grass

and drink in the most spectacular views of Table Mountain and the City ... and spread the love by supporting local creative artisans and performers.”

Here's what locals and tourists alike can look forward to:

A diverse range of products, food and entertainment: The event market will feature a diverse range of products, including jewellery, ceramics, textiles, woodwork, and fine art, accompanied by local performers and a feast of food options. With networks stretching far and wide, the CDI is sourcing new products and vendors to delight visitors.

Historic setting: Set within the Castle of Good Hope, with Table Mountain as the backdrop, Kuier@theCastle offers a unique and picturesque venue for locals and tourists to explore the Castle’s six museums, historically significant sites, and more on their own or through guided tours.

Live demonstrations: Gain insight into the creative process as artisans conduct live demonstrations and workshops, allowing visitors to explore the skill that goes into crafting unique pieces.

A dynamic array of pop-ups: The event will be a lively space for smaller niche pop-ups to trade monthly, adding to the ethos of inclusivity and a multi-faceted visitor experience.

Community spirit and family: Chill and shade areas set up for Kuier@theCastle will create inviting spaces for individuals and families to come together in the spirit of "Ubuntu" – fostering a sense of community and connection while supporting local talent and contributing to the growth of the creative economy.

Elk says the new market is an essential new offering as part of the CDI’s mission to help SMMEs and artists grow.

“The Mother City thrives as a dynamic hub for creative practitioners, artisans and designers who infuse their unique talents into the very fabric of the city – it’s what makes Cape Town a major global centre of design and creativity.”

She adds that the East City precinct of the CBD offers visitors an excellent opportunity to explore the oldest parts of the city, which is also a cultural and creative hub.

“The East City part of the CBD has a host of museums such as the District Six Museum and Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation, galleries, design stores and new cafes and restaurants starting up. A short wander down Buitenkant and Harrington streets allows visitors to explore and discover. The East City is an emerging canvas for artists, designers, and other creatives to showcase their talents and contribute to the city's creative identity.”

Gilfellan adds that the Castle saw a 24% increase in visitor numbers year-on-year. In 2023, 82 889 visitors were recorded, and festivals and events are a significant contributor to this growth in the local tourism economy.

To increase affordability, the Castle offers a significant discount on its entrance fee on each

Kuier@theCastle market day, with adult entry tickets at R30 and children at R15.

Kuier@theCastle will be open from 9 am – 4 pm and will run on the last Saturday of each month in future. Visitors will have access to safe parking inside the Castle via the Darling Street entrance.

#2 Indigenous Full Moon Ceremony at the Castle - We Gather Again Under the Full Moon – “*Ek is hier vir die Klippe*”

The Koena Art Institute, the latest addition to the Castle of Good Hope’s diverse and inclusive heritage offering, proudly presents an immersive series *Indigenous Full Moon Ceremony* every full-moon evening from 19h00 to 21h00.

“This poignant event will culminate our inaugural *Kuier@theCastle*, an arts and craft festival running throughout the day. The latter will run on the last Saturday of each month in future. When nature allows, we will merge the two events to show that the ancient and the modern are linked through the umbilical cord of our common humanity,” states Castle CEO Calvyn Gilfellan.

The full-moon ceremony starts with an *In-Bodi-Ment* practice to connect bodies and energy to the surroundings.

Following this grounding practice, participants will be guided into a transformative sound journey from our local musicians. It offers a captivating exploration of sound and its power to facilitate movement and emotional processing.

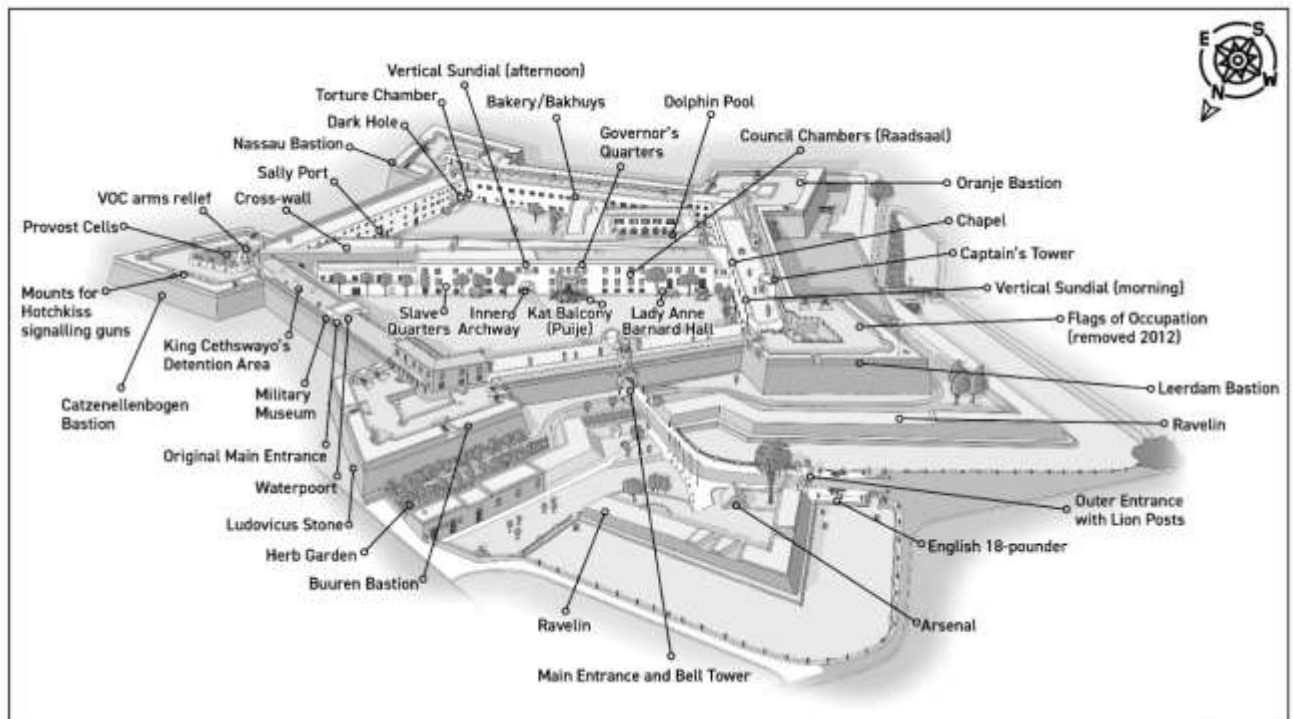
The overarching intention of this ancient spiritual event is to encourage movement and the release of any emotional burdens, fostering an environment where the walls of the Castle may begin to tremble, metaphorically and spiritually.

"In troubling times, the ultimate act of rebellion is to dance," the event's organiser, Ms Lukretia Booysen, emphasises. This Indigenous Full Moon Ceremony provides a space for attendees to engage in a powerful, collective act of movement and celebration. Given its ancient, spiritual nature, it is difficult to articulate this experience in a Western language; hence, our call to people – from indigenous backgrounds and otherwise – to join us and find out themselves.

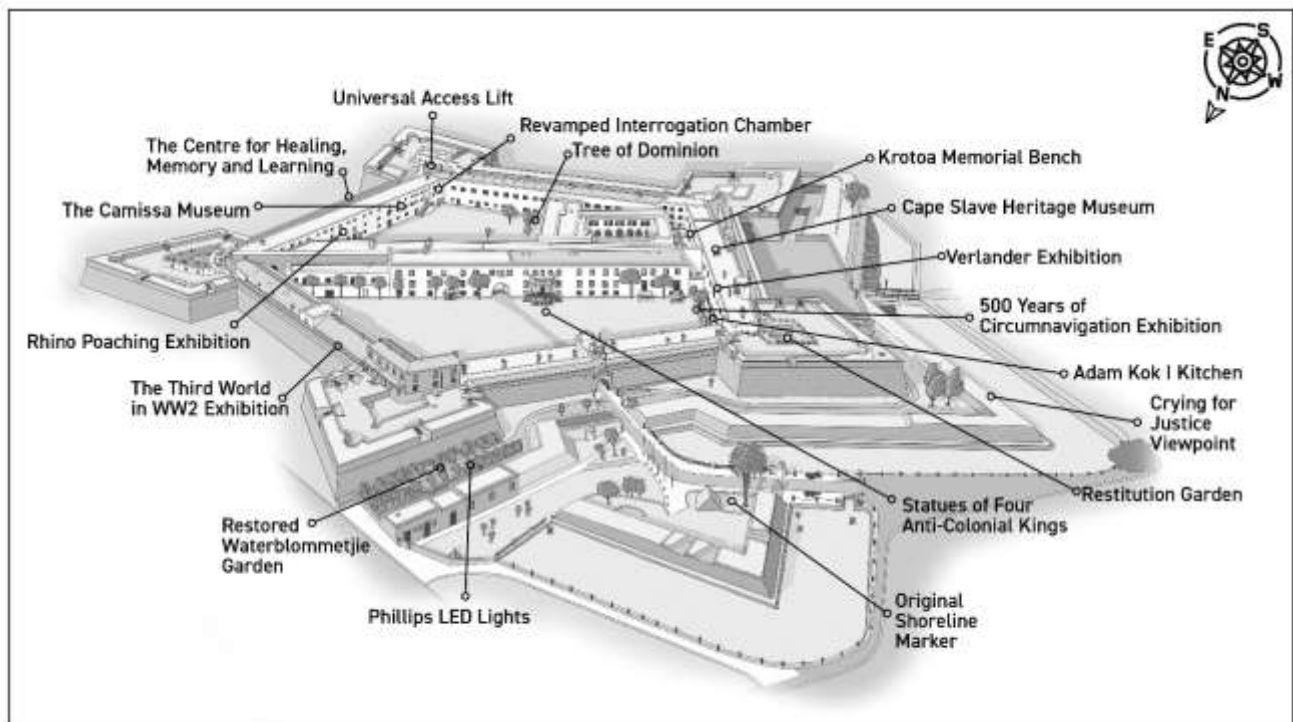
Decolonising the Castle: A painful but peaceful, people-led process

The transformation of the Castle’s image from a bastion of armed colonial conquest, enslavement, torture, and apartheid-oppression to one of inclusivity, healing and nation-building, is a tedious and often painful process. However, with the support from all our African compatriots, we have managed to make some significant inroads as per this before and after diagram maps:

THE CASTLE: *BEFORE* (CIRCA 1666 – 2011)



THE CASTLE: *AFTER* (CIRCA 2012 – CURRENT)



Thanks so much for your support, patience and understanding when engaging with this complex part of our built and intangible heritage.

Calvyn Gilfellan, CEO, Castle Control Board.