



The Cherry Steam Festival, November 18th & 19th, 2022

The annual Cherry Festival in Ficksburg, in the eastern Free State of South Africa, did not take place in 2021 as Covid restrictions on visitors were only lifted a short time before the event was scheduled, so it was cancelled for 2021. However Sandstone Heritage Trust, on the Sandstone Estates farm, just 14km outside Ficksburg, decided to run its own event in conjunction with Iona Cherry Farm which is adjacent to Sandstone. It was obvious that local tourism was starved of opportunities and Sandstone experienced the highest visitor numbers for a number years. Sandstone's Easter 2022 Steam Festival, although plagued by poor weather, was also a successful event.



The Sandstone Steam Railway will operate throughout the Cherry Festival weekend.

Picture by James Attwell

For 2022 the annual Cherry Festival in Ficksburg is scheduled for Friday 18th November and Saturday 19th November. Sandstone will be running its Cherry Steam Festival on those days, partnering with Iona Cherry Farm as in 2021. With Covid restrictions generally being eased in South Africa, a large number of visitors are expected. The world famous Sandstone Steam Railway will be in operation and visitors can enjoy unlimited rides on the steam train as well as an Ox wagon ride or a ride in a military vehicle or vintage bus. Refreshments will be available at the Waenhuis Restaurant throughout the event. Camping accommodation is available on site for the event as well as Sandstone's self-catering cottages. The Railway Cottages sleep two, whilst the Victorian Cottages can sleep up to four people.



Steam will also power Traction Engines and the Sentinel steam waggon.



Take a leisurely ride in a vintage bus or in an ox wagon.



*Military Vehicle rides are always a favourite at Sandstone.
Pictures by Leon Hugo*

Pricing per day is R250 for adults and R140 for children under 12. Steam trains run at 10h00, 12h00, 14h00 and 16h00 from the main station at Hoekfontein at the main complex of Sandstone Estates.

You can contact us via the website “Contact Us” tab or via Mariette, at Sandstone, on 064 752 3852.

Directions to Sandstone can also be found on our web site under the “Map” tab or directly on [Map \(sandstone-estates.com\)](http://sandstone-estates.com)