

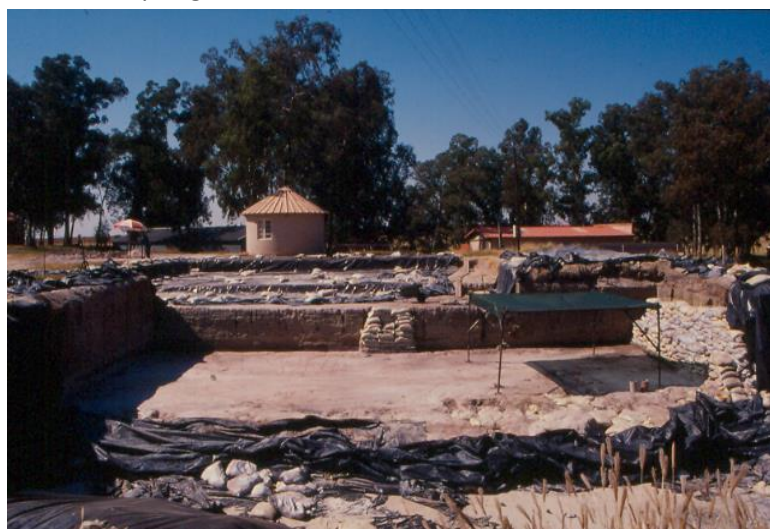
National Museum Holiday Program:

Archaeological Digs at the Florisbad Quaternary Research Station !!!

18 - 22 January 2021

Summary: The National Museum's Quaternary Research Station at Florisbad is looking for five motivated volunteers to lend a hand and get dirty for one workweek (5 days) by participating in excavations at the well-known Florisbad archaeological site during the holidays from **18 to 22 January 2021**. In exchange for hard work and sweat, participants receive hands-on instruction, room and board, and the deep gratification of contributing to important scientific discoveries.

The site: Florisbad consists of a large, fossil-bearing spring mound situated in the southeastern corner of an extensive pan called Soutpan, approximately 45 km northwest of Bloemfontein. The actions of a thermal spring at Florisbad resulted in the formation of a 7m - high mound, consisting of sand with



interbedded, silts, clays and organic horizons.

The finds: The spring mound contains fossils with an age ranging between 100 000 and 300 000 thousand years ago as well as a Middle Stone Age horizon with fossilized animal remains and associated stone tools dated to around 120 000 thousand years ago. The stone tools and associated animal remains represent multiple brief visits by

humans to a hunting and butchery site on the edge of an active spring pool, where periodic sedimentation gently buried occupation debris in a near-pristine context.



The details: No experience is necessary but volunteers must be undergraduate - level students and higher that are committed and in healthy physical condition. The program includes room and board, evening lectures, all meals and transport to and from the site from the Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein. Participants stay in fully equipped bungalows with laundry available if needed.

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