



**MEDIA RELEASE
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GROOTFONTEIN SHOW 2026 PROMISES AGRICULTURE, CHAMPIONSHIP HORSES AND TRUE PIRATE ADVENTURE

From championship Saddlebreds and some of Namibia's leading livestock breeders to tractors, food, family entertainment and a town filled with pirates, the **Grootfontein Show returns from 23 to 25 September 2026** for three days of agriculture, competition and the famous Grootfontein *kuier*.

This year's theme is **Pirates**, and the festivities will kick off in true Grootfontein fashion with the traditional procession through town. Schools, organisations and other participants are already preparing decorated vehicles and floats, with everything pirate-inspired expected to take to the streets before the procession makes its way to the showgrounds.

The pirate antics will continue at the **official opening at around 17:00 on Wednesday, 23 September with the legendary Grootfontein farmer Mecki Schneider as the main speaker**. But first a few well-known Grootfontein business figures will discover that no one is entirely safe from the Show's pirate crew. They will be ceremoniously "kidnapped" and brought before the crowd, where they will be **auctioned off** as part of a light-hearted fundraising event. Who will be captured – and what their freedom will cost – will remain a surprise until the day.

SADDLEBRED NATIONALS RETURN TO GROOTFONTEIN

The Grootfontein Show is proud to once again host the **Namibian Saddlebred Horse Championships**, bringing some of the country's finest Saddlebreds and competitors together during the Show.

This year will also include a special link to Grootfontein's own equestrian history, with some of the offspring of legendary locally bred Saddlebred **Highland Joe** being showcased.

Bred in Grootfontein, Highland Joe became a true Saddlebred legend, winning the title of **South African Grand Champion Fine Harness Horse four times** and later siring several South African champions. His exceptional bloodline lives on, and visitors will have the opportunity to see some of his offspring during the 2026 Championships.

LIVESTOCK TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Livestock remains at the heart of the Grootfontein Show, with **various cattle breeds** represented and breeders travelling to Grootfontein to participate.

The small-stock section is also preparing for a milestone in 2026, with the Show set to host its **first-ever small-stock stud auction**. Prominent breeders will travel from further afield to attend and participate, adding a new dimension to the Show's growing small-stock programme.

Livestock will also become part of the pirate festivities during the Show, including an appearance in the main arena as part of the themed programme.

CREATIVITY TAKES ON A PIRATE TWIST

The Show's popular school art competition is expanding this year, with high school learners also invited to enter. And the creativity is no longer just for the youngsters – adults can get involved too, with an open art category under the fitting theme "Pirates go Picasso", with great prizes up for grabs.

The pirate spirit also extends behind the camera with the "Pirates for Life" photography competition. Entrants are invited to grab their best mate, dress up as pirates and capture the moment on camera for a chance to win.

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR WOMEN

Women attending the Show can also look forward to a **special motivational talk on Thursday, 24 September**, presented by life coach, speaker and healing group facilitator Chantel Stroh. The session will offer women an opportunity to step away from the bustle of the Show for a while and enjoy an uplifting and inspiring conversation focused especially on them.

SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

For children, there will be no shortage of entertainment. A **barrel train, maze, bull riding, ghost house** and various other activities will keep younger visitors busy while their parents explore the rest of the Show.

Across the grounds, visitors will find a wide variety of **food stalls and exhibitors**, with products ranging from jewellery and clothing to agricultural equipment. The agricultural and industrial side of the Show will once again be well represented, including tractors, machinery and businesses serving the farming and wider commercial sectors.

And then, of course, there is the *kuier*.

Grootfontein has become known for creating a Show where business, agriculture and competition go hand in hand with a great social atmosphere. It is a place where producers meet, old friends reconnect, families spend the day together and visitors stay to enjoy the festivities long after they have finished walking through the exhibits.

ENTRANCE FEES

Daily entrance is **N\$50 for adults** and **N\$30 for children aged 7 to 18**, with vehicle entry at N\$50. Children aged six and younger enter free, as do visitors aged 65 and older upon presentation of identification.

Season tickets are also available. A family season ticket costs N\$400 and covers two adults, three children and two vehicles. An individual season ticket covering one adult and one vehicle costs N\$200. Separate season tickets are N\$120 per adult, N\$50 per child and N\$80 per vehicle.

Whether you come for the livestock, championship horses, agricultural exhibits, food, family activities or simply one of Grootfontein's biggest *kuiers* of the year, the **2026 Grootfontein Show promises three packed days from 23 to 25 September.**

And with pirates taking over Grootfontein this year, visitors should expect a few surprises along the way.

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PHOTOS OF THE GROOTFONTEIN SHOW AVAILABLE HERE:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X_ypTurVWLeB9kbeyu2EI3NRRRLcM2jRv?usp=sharing

For more information or interviews, contact the show president Nita Pretorius at 081 124 2182 or send an email to grootshow.helpdesk@gmail.com. To arrange for media access to the Grootfontein Show from 23–25 September 2026, please also send a written inquiry to grootshow.helpdesk@gmail.com.