

What about the burial (interment) of ashes?

There is no limit as to the number of ash urns which a family may inter in an existing crypt as long as there is sufficient space.

Can one recycle a crypt?

Yes. The next of kin can decide to remove the interred remains from the crypt and sell the right to interment back to the City at 50% of the original purchase price.

What about exhumation?

Exhumation of the remains may be undertaken subject to the standard rules for normal earth exhumation.

Can I transfer or re-sell the right to interment?

You can only transfer the right back to the City, or you can ask the City to re-allocate this to a family member. If no interment has yet taken place in a pre-purchased crypt, the right may be sold to a third party with the City's approval.

What are the visiting hours?

For security reasons, the mausoleum is kept locked at all times but visitors can access the facility by prior appointment.

Where do I get more information?

You can call City Parks on (021) 528 8108/9 or e-mail Susan.Brice@capetown.gov.za



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MAITLAND MAUSOLEUM

A safe and dignified
burial option



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What are the current burial options in Cape Town?

The traditional choice is to be buried in a grave. The second most favoured option is to be cremated. The third and newest option is to be interred in a mausoleum.

What is a mausoleum?

A mausoleum is a secure building providing an above-ground burial option in the form of rows of crypts, each large enough to accommodate a coffin with human remains.

Is this a new concept?

No. The first known mausoleum dates back to over 300 years BC when special tombs were built to house the remains of important people.

One of the most famous structures is the Taj Mahal in India which was built by Emperor Shah Jahan to house the remains of his much loved wife.

Today, due to the scarcity of burial space near urban areas, mausolea have become popular all over the world, such as in the United States, South America, Europe and Australia.

In South Africa, one of the best known facilities is at West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg.

In Cape Town, where high water tables present a problem for in-ground burials, several family mausolea can be found at Maitland Cemetery, where the land is water-logged or rocky.

Does Cape Town have a public mausoleum?

Yes. The city's first public mausoleum has been built by the City of Cape Town at Maitland Cemetery. It can be reached from Gate 4(a) in Voortrekker Road.

How many crypts have been provided?

The Maitland Mausoleum currently consists of 144 crypts stacked in three rows, with ample space for future expansion.

How do the remains decompose?

A mausoleum offers one of the cleanest, most secure forms of burial. It is designed and scientifically tested to meet modern environmental and health standards. Once a crypt is sealed, it is ventilated to promote rapid body decomposition.

How is the crypt sealed?

The crypt is sealed at the front with a concrete panel which is cemented closed. A further granite tablet is sealed over the front concrete panel - so there is minimal risk of theft or vandalism. Access to the mausoleum is also restricted by security gates.

Is there space for a memorial plaque?

Yes. Once the crypt has been sealed, a granite plaque measuring 80cm x 80cm is affixed to the concrete panel. Details of the deceased can be engraved on this plaque.

Is there a place for flowers or wreaths?

Yes. These can be placed on the ledge in front of the crypt or on the ground below the crypt.

What about maintenance?

Minimal maintenance is necessary in a mausoleum which is engineered to endure all weather conditions. A cemetery on the other hand is prone to flooding, soil erosion, weeds, mole invasion and vandalism. City Parks is responsible for the cleanliness and upkeep of the facility in perpetuity.

How do I purchase a crypt?

While the crypts belong to the City of Cape Town, any member of the public is allowed to purchase the right to be buried in a crypt.

How much does it cost?

There is a different tariff for each of the three rows. These tariffs are amended in July each year. Please contact City Parks for the latest rates.

Is a mausoleum burial cheaper than a grave burial?

Yes. Even though the purchase price of a crypt costs more than the price of a cemetery plot, a mausoleum burial can cost considerably less than an in-ground burial because the granite plaque is included in the price of the crypt. All in all, there is minimal maintenance with a mausoleum crypt and virtually no risk of vandalism.

Can one book a crypt in advance?

Yes, you can book a crypt in advance at the Maitland Mausoleum, whereas you can no longer book a cemetery plot. Due to the increasing scarcity of burial space within Cape Town, new cemeteries will have to be developed as far afield as Atlantis.

How does a mausoleum funeral work?

All burials (interments) must be conducted by a registered funeral undertaker. Unless forbidden by religious beliefs, or where special permission has been granted, deceased persons must preferably be embalmed and interred in a coffin.

During bad weather, a burial in a mausoleum crypt provides for better shelter, audibility, privacy and overall, a more dignified ceremony is made possible.

Can a crypt be re-opened for second interments?

Yes. Crypts may be re-utilised by the next of kin for second burials (provided that certain space limitations are met), or for ash burials (interments) thereby making it possible to keep family remains together in one place. A crypt will only be re-opened with the authority of the next of kin.