

## WEST COAST & WILD FLOWERS SAFARI (6 DAYS)

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This tour along the West Coast of South Africa and the world-renowned Namaqualand offers the ultimate wildflower experience! This tour is normally conducted in August and September when the wildflowers are in full bloom, but the region is worth visiting at any time of the year. The tour includes some spectacular coastal scenery, birdlife, plantlife, game and cultural experiences, all of which can be enjoyed throughout the year. If you are looking for tranquility, this is the perfect tour for you, as most of the places we visit are rather "off the beaten track". Crisp, clean air and beautiful night skies are a certainty. In Spring, the area really comes alive, when wildflowers of every description cover the valleys in carpets of colour. Please note that this tour must be booked very early for the flower season.

### ***BASIC ITINERARY***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>
<b>1 Citrusdal</b>	Hebron Guest House/ similar
<b>2 Nieuwoudtville</b>	Papkuilsfontein Guest Farm
<b>3 Nieuwoudtville</b>	Papkuilsfontein Guest Farm
<b>4 Kamieskroon</b>	Kamieskroon Hotel
<b>5 Clanwilliam</b>	Oudrif Guest farm
<b>6 Clanwilliam</b>	Oudrif Guest farm

**Price (per person sharing)\*:** *Please refer to rates page on website*

\* These prices include all accommodation, meals, transport, entrance fees and guide fees. Prices exclude beverages, laundry fees, any optional activities, gratuities and items of a personal nature (such as gifts and souvenirs).

## DAY 1: CAPE TOWN TO CITRUSDAL

*Highlights: Scenic coastline, San cultural experience, Bird-watching, Wildflowers*

We will collect you from your place of stay after breakfast and make our way to !Khwa ttu, a recently opened cultural farm, where visitors are introduced to the way of life of the San people. San hunter-gatherers (often referred to as 'Bushmen') were the first indigenous people of southern Africa. At !Khwa ttu we will be taken on a brief walk or tractor ride with local guides of San origin, who will give us insight into the hunter-gatherer lifestyle and the San's ingenious techniques of survival. We conclude our tour with a light lunch in the reserve's thatched outdoor area. We then head northwards to the renowned West Coast National Park. This spectacular reserve truly comes alive in spring, with carpets of flowers contrasting with the azure waters of the Langebaan Lagoon. Besides an amazing variety of flowering plants, this reserve teems with seabirds and waders, such as Flamingos, African Penguins and Cape Gannets, as well as some interesting land-based species such as Ostriches (the largest flightless bird in the world) and the majestic Black Harrier. In August and September we are able to enter a privately owned portion of the reserve, Postberg, which also supports a variety of mammals, including Eland (the largest antelope in Africa), Bontebok, Gemsbok, Springbok (South Africa's national animal), Kudu, Wildebeest, and Cape Mountain Zebra. Whales can also be seen in the bays, especially during spring. After spending the afternoon in this fascinating and diverse reserve, we head inland to Citrusdal where we will spend the night on top of the spectacular Piekenierskloof Pass.

## DAY 2: CITRUSDAL TO NIEUWOUDTVILLE

*Highlights: Succulent nursery, flower reserves, world bulb capital*

After breakfast and a spectacular sunrise over the Cederberg Mountains, we will make our way northwards to Van Rhynsdorp. Here we will visit the world's largest succulent nursery. We then head eastwards to the picturesque and historical village of Nieuwoudtville, the bulb capital of the world. We will visit the Nieuwoudtville Wildflower Reserve (bulbs generally flower here between April and October, with their peak in August/ September) where we will observe a variety of freesias, ixias, gladiolas, babania, sparaxis, clivia and the unusual Red Cat's Tail. In the vicinity of Nieuwoudtville, we find a convergence of the Bokkeveld, Boesmanland, Hantamland and Knersvlakte regions. As a result there is a huge biodiversity in this area, including spectacular arrays of wildflowers (from July to September), numerous rare and unusual plants and a wealth of birdlife to be seen. After lunch in Nieuwoudtville, we will spend the afternoon exploring the area before retiring to our guest house situated on the beautiful and tranquil Papkuilsfontein Farm.

## DAY 3: NIEUWOUDTVILLE

*Highlights: Nature walk, wildflowers, landscape photography*

After breakfast we will embark on a guided walk at Papkuilsfontein, where we can enjoy spectacular views of the Oorlogskloof waterfall as it plunges down an impressive 180m gorge. We will then spend the day exploring this fascinating region, including its numerous nature reserves and interesting gravel tracks. We will again spend the night at Papkuilsfontein.

#### *DAY 4: NIEUWOUDTVILLE TO KAMIESKROON*

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*Highlights: Nature walk, wildflowers, landscape photography*

Today we head northwards to Kamieskroon, a small, picturesque village nestled among granite rock formations of the Kamiesberg range. 'Kroon', the Afrikaans word for crown, refers to the 330m crown-shaped peak located next to the town. Kamieskroon is a well known town to international landscape and wildflower photographers as it is here that the Namaqualand Photographic Workshops are held. After enjoying sundowners overlooking the surrounding rock formations, we will spend the night at the comfortable Kamieskroon Hotel.

#### *DAY 5: KAMIESKROON TO CLANWILLIAM*

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*Highlights: Wildflower reserve, Rooibos Farm tour, stargazing*

In the morning we visit the Namaqualand Nature Reserve for a wildflower spectacle (during flower season: July-September). Here, we can see carpets of colour (in flower season), quiver trees and possibly Klipspringer and the majestic Black Harrier. This reserve is also home to the world's smallest tortoise, the Namaqua Speckled Padloper, and conserves the world's richest succulent flora. We will enjoy a circular drive through the reserve. After exploring this reserve, we head southwards to Clanwilliam, where we will enjoy a light lunch. In the afternoon we will join a tour of a rooibos (meaning 'red bush' in Afrikaans) tea farm. We then make our way into the spectacular Cedarberg mountains where we will spend the night in comfortable 'straw-bale' cottages on the banks of the Doring River. If the skies are clear, we should have spectacular views of the stars later in the evening. Stargazing in this part of the world is generally excellent, so we hope to point out some of the well-known constellations of the southern hemisphere and show you how to navigate using the Southern Cross.

#### *DAY 5: CLANWILLIAM*

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*Highlights: Nature walks, fishing, swimming*

We will embark an early morning guided walk on the Oudrif Guest Farm, with its many bird species, fossils, rock art sites and pristine fynbos. After a hearty brunch, you can spend the day at leisure. Numerous gentle walks are available, as well as fishing and swimming in the crystal waters of the Doring River. In the evening we will enjoy a moonlit barbecue at the boma,

#### *DAY 6: CLANWILLIAM TO CAPE TOWN*

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*Highlights: Historical towns, olive-tasting*

After breakfast, we make our way to the picturesque and historical towns of Riebeeck Kasteel & Riebeeck West, situated on the slopes of Kasteelberg, meaning "Castle Mountain" in Dutch. This area, in the heart of the rolling wheatfields of the Swartland, is well-known for its olive production. We will visit the well-known "Olive Boutique", where we will learn a little about olive oil production, enjoy olive-tasting and sample a wide variety of olive related products – from tapenade to olive oil cosmetics. We then continue our journey

via Malmesbury, the “capital” of the Swartland, towards Cape Town. During our drive we will have magnificent views of Table Mountain, Table Bay and Robben Island and we may even catch the sun setting over the Atlantic. We will return you to your hotel/ guest house in the late afternoon.

If you would like us to transfer you to the airport (either in the evening or the following morning), or arrange accommodation for you in Cape Town, we would be happy to do so.