



SOUTH AFRICA

Wildflowers & National Botanical Gardens Tour

Led by Sarah Reichard

August 23 - September 6, 2016

Home to the world's most diverse floristic kingdom, South Africa is a treat for garden enthusiasts. During August and September, the Western and Southern Cape regions explode into a symphony of colors as abundant wildflowers blanket the landscape. From the scenic mountains of Springbok to exciting wildlife and some of the country's finest nature reserves, South Africa's unique flora and natural habitats will take your breath away.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens.
- Visit Kaggas Kamma Reserve, Skilpad Nature Reserve, Bird Island Nature Reserve, Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve, and Nieuwoudtville Wild Flower Reserve.
- Sample fine wines and cuisine at a Cape wine estate.
- Observe the vibrant floral colors of the Namaqualand region.
- Explore famous Clanwilliam Wild Flower Society Flower Show.
- Escape from the pressures of modern life to enjoy the silence and starlit skies of the peaceful southern Cederberg Mountains.
- Experience spectacular views of Cape Town from the top of Table Mountain.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

AUGUST 23 - DEPARTURE

This evening you will depart Seattle for your British Airways flight to Heathrow.

AUGUST 24 - HEATHROW/EN ROUTE

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, you will proceed via walkway to the Hilton Heathrow Airport Hotel to check in at your day room. Take the opportunity to relax after your flight, enjoy a relaxing and therapeutic swim in their pool, and rest before your next flight to Cape Town. Check in for your evening flight to Cape town at approximately 7:30 pm. *Day room at Hilton Heathrow Airport Hotel.*

AUGUST 25 - CAPE TOWN

You will arrive in Cape Town mid morning. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to your hotel (early check in guaranteed). You will have the remainder of the day to rest, catch up on your sleep, and explore your new surroundings which are electric! The Victoria & Alfred Waterfront is the most visited place in South Africa! *Overnight at Victoria & Alfred.*

AUGUST 26 - CAPE TOWN

This morning you will be given a guided tour of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. This amazing garden lives up to its reputation as the most beautiful National Garden in Africa, and one of the great Botanic Gardens of the world. Few gardens can match the sheer grandeur of the setting of Kirstenbosch, against the eastern slopes of Cape Town's Table Mountain. Enjoy lunch on the grounds at Moyo Kirschenbosch. If weather permits, before or after your tour of Kirstenbosch, you will be have the opportunity to ride the cable car up to Table Mountain for a walk about on the trails on the mountain top, with gorgeous views at every turn. This is quite weather dependent, so cannot be a guaranteed activity. Enjoy any one of the many restaurants on the V&A Waterfront Pier on your own for dinner. *Overnight at Victoria & Alfred. (BL)*

AUGUST 27 - CAPE TOWN

This morning you will travel to the Winelands east of Cape Town, leaving the city behind you. En route, visit the Stellenbosch University Botanical Garden. The botanical garden is located in the historical center of Stellenbosch and is the oldest university botanical garden in South Africa. This compact garden houses an enormous diversity of plants, both indigenous to South Africa and exotic. After a tour of the garden, you will continue to Franschhoek and Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate. Grande Provence Estate wears its 300 year history with dignity. Lush vines spread across 30 hectares with gentle vistas over the valley floor, at odds almost with the rugged mountains beyond. Capturing the essence of the heritage of this gracious estate are Grande Provence's owners and design team. The honest simplicity of its Cape Dutch architecture, in harmony with the precision and clarity of modern design, brings a new pièce de résistance to the Franschhoek Valley. Framing the entry road are rows of vineyards, heavy with the promise of next year's vintage. Here, one bears witness to the duality of old and new settling into an elegant coexistence: old trees take root amongst the 300-year-old oaks,

and manicured hedges blend with the free form of the natural surroundings to create a landscaped Eden. From the entrance to your exit you will be dazzled by the beauty of this estate. Enjoy a tour of the beautifully manicured grounds, with several statues and waterworks that are each pieces of art. Tour the wine shop, art museum, and gift shop, followed by a delicious lunch and informal wine tasting. This is not the typical winery visit, as it is more about the estate and experience than wine production. Return to Cape Town. Dinner is on your own this evening. *Overnight at Victoria & Alfred. (BL)*

AUGUST 28 - LAMBERT'S BAY

Today you will start your journey north through the Western Cape to Lambert's Bay, via Clanwilliam. You will be treated to a day at the famous Clanwilliam Wild Flower Society Flower Show, giving you a good introduction to what is ahead for you to see in the wild. (Lunch on own while at the show). Set against a backdrop of majestic gothic architecture in the historic Clanwilliam church, the Flower Show, which will open on August 28th and run through September 6th, is the very easiest and most dramatic way to see all the flowers from the region, conveniently collected in one spot for your viewing pleasure. The intention behind the show design is to allow the user to navigate between the different biomes of the region. The planning starts months in advance, while the site construction usually begins a month before. About four days before the opening the mountain flora and other flowers with a long life are picked and 'planted' in the display, while more tender plants are placed in position during the last days. Owing to the tremendous differences in topography (Cederberg, Karoo, Sandveld, Wetlands and Coastal area), Clanwilliam is blessed with an exceptional variety of wild flowers. The greater part of the district falls within the world renowned Fynbos Biome. Certain species in the district are found nowhere else in the world. These include the yellow *Leucospermum reflexum* (geel Perdekop), *Proteaceae cryophila* (Snow Protea), blue *Lachnaea filamentosa* (blou Bergaster), *Widdringtonia cedarbergensis* (Clanwilliam Cedar tree), *Aspalathus linearis* (Rooibos), *Yellow Sparaxis* (Botterblom), pink *Cyanella alba* (pienk Handjie) and the *Proteaceae glabra* (Kreupel Waboom). About 400 species from 32 families are exhibited at each show. Following your time at the Flower Show, you will be transferred to the coast, where you will have the opportunity to spend the evening at Lambert's Bay on the Atlantic Ocean. Dinner at your hotel. *Overnight at Lambert's Bay Hotel or similar. (BD)*

AUGUST 29 - LAMBERT'S BAY

After a leisurely breakfast, pick up a boxed lunch from the hotel, and then travel to Ramskop Wild Flower Garden. The nature reserve was established in 1960. Cared for and nurtured by workers (from the Cederberg municipality) and volunteers. One tenth of the 66 hectares is planted. The rest is Nama Karroo, by nature. Enjoy a picnic in the reserve. Dinner on own this evening. *Overnight at Lambert's Bay Hotel or similar. (BL)*

AUGUST 30 - NIEUWOUDTVILLE

This morning, after an early breakfast, enjoy a visit on Bird Island Nature Reserve. The world's most accessible Cape gannet colony can be found on Bird Island, linked to Lambert's Bay by a breakwater wall. Bird Island also gives shelter to thousands of cormorants and penguins, whilst Cape fur seals can still be found

on the rocks on the sea side of the island. Following your time on the island, return to the hotel to freshen up and perhaps pick up a snack before traveling the short distance to Nieuwoudtville. Enjoy lunch in town. Nieuwoudtville is extremely popular during the wild flower season, and indeed, because of its unique placement in the Karoo plain known as the Bokkeveld, where the Hantam Karoo meets Cape Fynbos. It has a reputation as the bulb capital of the world. During spring, bulbs (known as geophytes) of every description bloom in the area around town, rain dependent. Following lunch, you will have the opportunity to explore Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve. Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve is an untamed accumulation of gorges, rivers, caves and plateaus that provide you with wonderful chances for exploration. You will then return to Nieuwoudtville for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Van Zijl. (BLD)*

AUGUST 31 - NIEUWOUDTVILLE

Today you will visit the Hantam National Botanical Garden. During flower season the garden is a feast of flowers and this is one of the loveliest places to explore the bulbs on the Bokkeveld Plateau during spring. You will also visit the Nieuwoudtville Wild Flower Reserve, an area that encompasses 115 ha and consists of renosterveld and dolerite dyke. The flora is particularly rich with 306 species and 199 genera identified. If time permits, also visit Akkerendam Nature Reserve. Enjoy a picnic boxed lunch during your day in the garden and reserves. *Overnight at Van Zijl. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 1 - SPRINGBOK

Today you will travel north to Namaqualand and the town of Springbok. En route, enjoy lunch at a typical South African restaurant. The town of Springbok lies nestled in a valley of the Klein Koperberge, in the heart of Namaqualand, an area renowned for its natural beauty. The Klein Koperberge, meaning “Small Copper Mountains” were named after the primary reason the settlement was initially established to mine the rich copper reserves in the area. During the months of August to October each year, Springbok is bursting at the seams with tourists who have traveled from far and wide, drawn by the amazing transformation of the dry scrubland into the multicolored carpet of flowers which has made Namaqualand famous. The oddly shaped Kokerboom, or Quiver tree, which derives its name from the San people’s practice of using its tubular branches to make quivers for their arrows, is another common sight in South Africa’s Northern Cape region. Enjoy dinner this evening at the top-rated Tauren Steak Ranch, where you will enjoy a cozy, welcoming atmosphere and the sensational smell of steaks sizzling on the open grill. Vegetarian? They can accommodate you too! *Overnight at Masonic Hotel. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 2 - SPRINGBOK

This morning you will depart to Namaqua National Park (including Skilpad Nature Reserve). This 103,000 hectare Namaqua showcase captures the full grandeur of the flower seasons. Every turn in the road paints an unforgettable picture: valleys filled with Namaqualand daisies and other spring flowers that pulse with sheer energy and joy. Next to some eye catching succulents, a porcupine, and a tall aloe, perhaps pay witness to a baboon overturning a rock and pouncing on a scorpion. During early August and September, seemingly overnight, the dusty valleys of Namaqualand are transformed into a wonderland, carpeted with wildflowers. With its winter rainfall, Namaqualand is home

to the richest bulb flora of any arid region in the world and more than a 1,000 of its estimated 3,500 plant species are found nowhere else on earth. Escape to the land of contrasts, where the rigorous climate has created a myriad of life forms superbly adapted to their specific habitat. Fields of flowers, star-studded nights, quiver trees, enormous granite outcrops, and the icy Atlantic are but a few wonders that await the visitor to what is truly nature’s playground. You will have a boxed lunch so that you can picnic during your day in the park. This evening, dinner will be at your hotel. *Overnight at Masonic Hotel. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 3 - KAGGA KAMMA

This morning you journey south until you reach your final destination of the day, Kaggga Kamma Reserve. Lunch en route. Following arrival, you will have the remainder of the late afternoon at leisure to relax and explore your new surroundings. Away from mobile phones, traffic pollution, highways, and city lights, you can enjoy the silence and starlit skies. The stunning location of the lodge was once home to the Bushmen, and today many of their ancient cave paintings are still clearly visible on the rocks, some dating back 6,000 years. This spiritual land offers spectacular scenery, majestic mountains and phenomenal night skies, where the Milky Way, billions of stars, planets, satellites, and shooting stars may be seen by the naked eye. *Overnight at Kaggga Kamma. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 4 - KAGGA KAMMA

You will have a full day at Kaggga Kamma to enjoy what this unique area has to offer. Start your day early with a nature drive, which can be repeated this evening if you wish. Dry Mountain Fynbos and Succulent Karoo plants provide grazing for animals in this western part of South Africa. Kaggga Kamma’s qualified guides take guests on game drives where breathtaking views over the Ceres Karoo and Cederberg can be enjoyed. Morning and night drives cross the 15,000 ha reserve to spot resident animal species such as antelope and ostrich. Guests may also spot lynx, jackal, and the spectacular Cape Mountain leopard. On the drive the guides will also point out interesting bird and reptile species and share fascinating facts about plants of the area. This experience between the magnificent rock formations will leave you with a deep appreciation for Kaggga Kamma’s unique environment. During the remainder of the day, for approximately \$35 per person, you can sign up for any of the other optional activities offered by Kaggga Kamma. Mountain bike trails take guests on a scenic adventure through the unique terrain, 4x4 enthusiasts will enjoy the spectacular views and vast stretches of Karoo mountains and valleys while encountering antelope, rare birds, and reptiles, and for the fun loving Kaggga Kamma recommends a quad bike safari, taking place on otherwise inaccessible routes. The mini observatory is a perfect stargazing spot and rock art tours provide guests with a cultural experience like no other. *Overnight at Kaggga Kamma. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 5 - DEPARTURE

Following a morning at leisure, you will have time to enjoy lunch at Kaggga Kamma before heading back to Cape Town International Airport for your flights back to Seattle via Heathrow, or begin a customized extension to other areas of South Africa. *(BL)*

SEPTEMBER 6 - ARRIVAL IN UNITED STATES

This afternoon you will arrive in Seattle around noon. Welcome home!

PROGRAM PRICING

\$3,795 (minimum 14 participants)

Plus a \$300 donation to UWBG.

Cost includes:

- Accommodations, entrance fees, and activities as listed in the itinerary
- Meals as listed in the itinerary (11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners)
- Private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Full time guide for duration of program
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offset

Not included:

- International airfare (estimated at \$2,200 from Seattle)
- Gratuities
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

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THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room add \$875 (limited availability).

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is required by April 25, 2016 to hold your space on the trip. Deposit is refundable until May 20, 2016 excluding a non-refundable \$100 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date will result in loss of full deposit. Final payments are due no later than May 20, 2016. Travel/ trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

MEET YOUR LEADER

Sarah Reichard is the Orin and Althea Soest Professor of Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, and Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. Her professional interests include the biology of invasive plants as well as rare plants, urban food systems, and botanic gardens. Her personal interests include designing and maintaining her own 3/4 acre garden, testing new and rare plants, and reading long novels. Sarah loves to travel and has visited more than 20 countries, doing everything from tasting wines in South Africa, Chile, and Australia, to zip lining in Costa Rica. She believes that traveling and seeing how people live across the world expands horizons and teaches understanding of the human condition, and that seeing great gardens and natural features helps one appreciate the diversity and beauty of life!



Photo by Martin Smit



Photo by Winifried Bruenken



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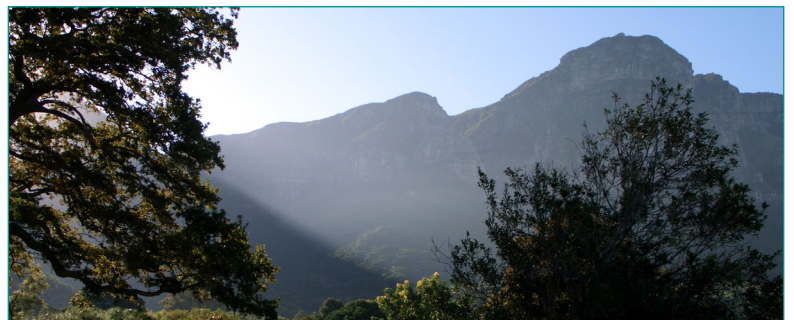


Photo by Salim Fadhley

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360

Register online at <http://holbrooktravel.com/privategroups/uwbgsouthafrica>