



BIOTA AFRICA, post-congress Namaqualand excursion

Outline of post-congress excursion to Namaqualand, South Africa

Focus & theme: Sustainable land use in a biodiversity hotspot

Route: Stellenbosch - Knersvlakte - Paulshoek - Namaqua National Park - Soebatsfontein and Kamieskroon - Nieuwoudtville - Cape Town

Time Schedule: 4 to 9 October, 2008

Guides: Ute Schmiedel & Timm Hoffman

Number of participants: maximum 12 (excluding BIOTA guides)

Expected total costs: ZAR 4,000 to ZAR 6,000 per person depending on the number of participants

Breakfast and dinner is included. Soft drinks and lunch packs will be provided whenever possible. Due to availability of accommodation, sharing of rooms may be necessary.

- Sat 4/10 Stellenbosch – Knersvlakte.
Leave at 08h00. Stop at Olifants Rivier (environmental change). Visit Vanrhynsdorp Succulent Nursery and the local Museum. Introduction to Conservation Planning and development of the Knersvlakte Biosphere Reserve (by Mr Elbé Cloete). Travel to Knersvlakte quartz fields. Introduction to Griqua Development Project (by Mr Jan Joseph / Mr Cecil Le Fleur). Stay over at Ratelgat Griqua farm (chalets). Catering by Griqua community
- Sun 5/10 Knersvlakte to Paulshoek (Kamiesberg). Travel to Paulshoek village via Kliprand & Platbakkies. Visit BIOTA Observatory and other research activities at Paulshoek, fence line contrast, discuss issues of communal farming and eco-tourism development. Stay over at Paulshoek Guesthouses, catering by Paulshoek community.
- Mon 6/10 Paulshoek to Namaqua National Park (NNP). Drive to Kamieskroon via Rooifontein/Kamassies Kokerboom forest. Stay over at Namaqua National Park (Park Manger Mr Bernard van Lente will give a short introduction into the development and planning of the park).
- Tue 7/10 NNP to Soebatsfontein and Kamieskroon. Visit Namaqua National Park, drive through NN Park to Soebatsfontein, visit Soebatsfontein community, BIOTA observatory, local initiatives (e.g., Soebatsfontein Nature trail, etc.). Stay over at Succulent Karoo Knowledge Centre in Kamieskroon, catering by local catering group
- Wed 8/10 Kamieskroon to Nieuwoudtville (Hantam area). Travel to Nieuwoudtville via Vanrhynsdorp. Visit Melkkraal Rooibos tea farm, new Hantam Botanical Garden, Geophyte Nursery, sundowner at Kokerboom Forest or waterfall. Stay over at Nieuwoudtville.
- Thu 9/10 Nieuwoudtville to Cape Town. Return to CT via West Coast route. Look at the impact of wheat farming and potato farming on the Renosterveld and Sandveld vegetation. Visit West Coast Fossil Park to see 5 million year-old fossils of the proto-Berg River environment. Arrive in CT late afternoon.

Please note: Booking accommodation at the last day in Cape Town lies in the responsibility of the participants.

The tour is subject to changes depending on circumstances. Participants will be informed in time.