

FLOWERS OF NAMAQUALAND

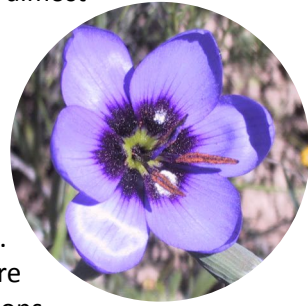
6 Days

Begins in Cape Town *Duration* **Highlights** Namaqualand National Park, Nieuwhoudtville, West Coast

Namaqualand's annual flower spectacle is an ephemeral wonder where the region, which lies barren for almost three-quarters of the year, after good winter rains is transformed into a kaleidoscope of riotous colour. Namaqualand is also unique in being the only desert in the world to have such an extravagant and diverse floral display. With precipitation being the determining factor for germination and growth, the intensity of flower displays may vary from area to area, and from season to season.

After many years of touring in these areas, Landscape has the experience to give you the best possible chance of seeing the famous spring flower displays in all their splendour. Our overnight stops are chosen to give the most flexibility in reaching any of the major flowering areas at any time of the season.

The map indicates our main route and all the flowering areas that are within our reach on this tour. There will be changes in exact routes from one tour to the next, depending on the flowers and weather conditions.



TO THE HEART OF NAMAQUALAND Day 1

We leave Cape Town and head north, traversing the fertile Olifants River Valley and then out on to the dry plains of the Knersvlakte.

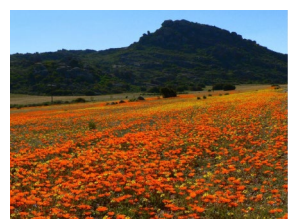


We arrive at Kamieskroon, a small village just off the main road, chosen as our base because it's the geographical centre of Namaqualand's best flower areas. Here we stay at the unpretentious but comfortable Kamieskroon Hotel. Evenings in Kamieskroon often include an after-dinner audio-visual presentations compiled by various amateur and professional photographers.



FLOWERS, SCENERY AND HISTORY Day 2 & 3

For the next two days we concentrate on flower viewing – wherever the flowers are at their best. Depending on climatic factors such as rainfall and sunlight during preceding months, the focus could be on the low-lying plains (mainly in August) or in the higher mountain areas (mainly in September) - but there are many exceptions to this rule!



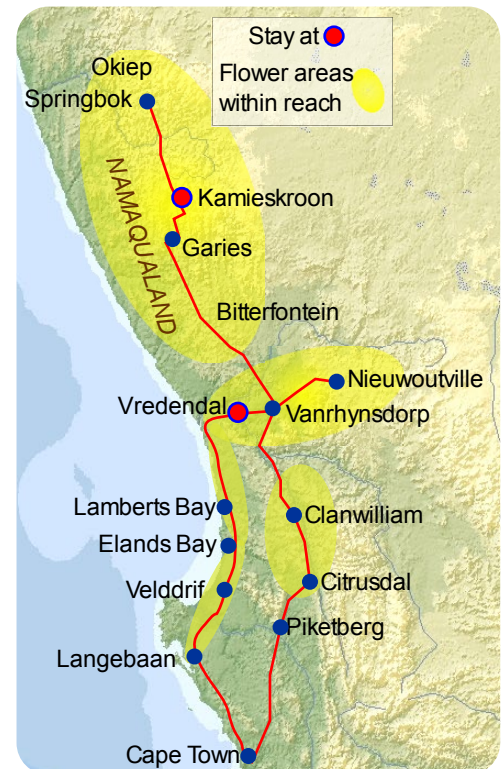
A regular highlight is the Skilpad Section of the Namaqua National Park. We spend as much time as possible among the flowers and return to the hotel for some free time before dinner.

On one of the days we visit the Springbok area with its massive granite domes and multitude of quiver trees, combining flower viewing with general touring. We learn

about the history of the copper mining industry, and the original and present inhabitants of the area. In Springbok we can browse through displays of the incredible variety of semi-precious stones from this area at the Springbok Lodge, a local landmark. We may visit the Goegap Nature Reserve, with its Hester Malan Succulent Garden and seasonal flower displays. Surrounding villages such as Okiep, with its Boer War history, and Nababeep with its mining museum, take us back in time.



Stay At Kamieskroon Hotel (3 Nights)





SOUTHERN NAMAQUALAND Day 4

Bidding farewell to Kamieskroon we head southward, past Garies and its popular tourist centre. En route we have time to enjoy the harsh beauty of the “Knersvlakte”, an area that seems like a wasteland at first sight, but has in fact one of the richest flowering succulent populations on earth. You really have to get your nose close to the ground, since most of these rare and endemic plants are minute!



We continue southward to the valley of the Olifants River, and our base for the next two nights: Vredendal. This prosperous town is central to all the southern flowering areas, and our overnight accommodation is chosen for its strategic location and comfort.



NIEUWOUDTVILLE Day 5

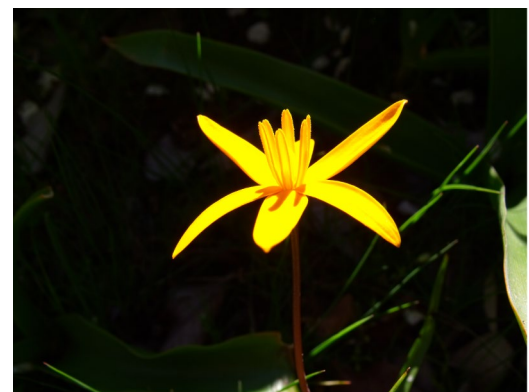
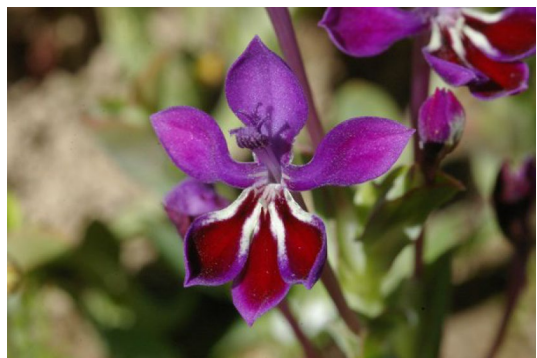
Depending on current weather conditions we will seek out the best flowering areas in the region. Typically, on one of the days we will strike inland to visit the Nieuwoudtville area, famous for its variety of flowering bulbs. We head up the spectacular Vanrhyns Pass to the top of the escarpment, where a total change in scenery awaits us. The higher rainfall and differing soils produce a host of plant varieties: from fynbos to renosterveld, with many plants endemic to the area. We visit the best flowering areas, and a private flower reserve near Nieuwoudtville. A popular stop is the Doornrivier Waterfall, with its impressive gorge and interesting bird life. We return to our guesthouse in the late afternoon.



Voorsorg Guest House , Vredendal (2 nights) THIS VENUE MAY CHANGE

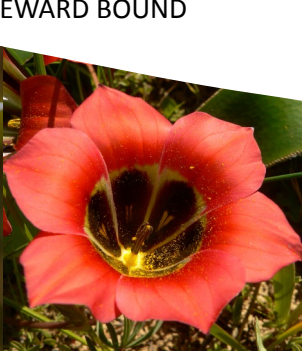
THE WEST COAST Day 6

Our homeward route takes us southward once more, but this time along the coast. This is good for viewing flowers from the vehicle, since all the flowers are facing north, and the overall display is much more impressive! Our exact route will once again depend on incorporating the very best flowering areas for today’s weather conditions. The West Coast is famous for its impressive displays of



flowering annuals in large fields of white and yellow. At times the masses of blue “Sporrie” can be breathtaking. We avoid the overcrowded areas where possible, enjoying nature in peace and quiet. We slowly make our way back to Cape Town, dropping you off at home, your guest house or at the airport at approximately 17h30.

HOMEWARD BOUND



Spring Flowers of the Cape Information sheet

Please read the following information, and phone us to discuss anything you're not sure of. We will be calling you within a week before the tour departs to discuss your pick-up arrangements and any other aspects of the tour. Please ensure that you also read our terms and conditions.

PICK-UP: Our transfer service will collect you at your home or hotel. The **exact time will be advised** when we phone you a few days prior to departure. Please note that two complimentary transfers are included. Should you need extra transfers, e.g. when you fly in before a tour starts, please talk to us and we will arrange it for you.

LUGGAGE: Allowed - stowed luggage: a soft bag max 15 kg per person.

PAYMENT FOR DRINKS: Drinks at hotels and with meals are for your own account. This includes soft drinks. At hotels you can sign these to your room, and settle on departure. Credit card facilities are available. At individual restaurants where you may want a drink with your meal, you will be presented with a bill after the meal. Best practice is to keep some cash at hand for this. Landscape will provide water on board our vehicle and at the table during meals.

TIPS AND GRATUITIES: Your Landscape tour leader will tip hotel porters and restaurant staff on your behalf. Please feel free to tip individuals at lodges for any special service.

Tipping of your Landscape tour leader is **entirely at your discretion**, with the following industry guidelines:

Landscape tour leader: R50 – R80 per person per day.

WEATHER: Nieuwoudtville temperature and rainfall by month: (Coastal temperatures will be up to 5 degrees warmer)

	August	September
Avg. Temperature (°C)	11.4	13.2
Min. Temperature (°C)	4.2	5.3
Max. Temperature (°C)	18.7	21.1
Precipitation / Rainfall (mm)	45	25

CLOTHING: We recommend "casual comfortable" throughout, and recommend dressing with varying numbers of thinnish 'layers': a light fleece / sweater and a warm, waterproof jacket / windbreaker for evenings and early mornings. Comfortable lace-up shoes with good gripping rubber soles are the best (such as athletic trainers or walking boots). No dress code is prescribed at the places we are staying. Where mosquitoes may be present, and especially in the evenings, it is preferable to wear long sleeves, slacks, etc. and to use mosquito repellent.

CHECK LIST:

Highly desirable:

- Sun-hat
- Sunscreen
- Binoculars
- Camera

INCLUDED

**Two complimentary transfers, for example: pick-up from, and return to, your home or hotel in Cape Town/Johannesburg/Durban on first and last day of tour, subject to being within a 40 Km radius from the nearest airport.*

**Safe, comfortable air-conditioned minibuses or small coaches.*

**Expert and friendly guides who care about your personal enjoyment and welfare.*

**Comfortable accommodation with bathroom en-suite.*

**All meals – breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

**Entrance fees (excluding optional extras if any).*

**Tips to hotels & restaurants, and portage.*

IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO CONTACT YOU VERY URGENTLY at anytime but particularly during the daytime when you will usually be travelling, it is best to contact us, and we will assist in getting hold of you.

Landscape Tours numbers are:

Office: 021-8517706

Cell phone: (Grant) 083-6576645 (Michelle) 083 698 5772