

GARDEN TOURS



South Africa Garden Tour

October 3rd – 16th, 2012

SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA GARDEN TOUR

HIGHLIGHTS

- Airport Pickup Arrival Johannesburg O.R. Tambo
- Airport Delivery Departure Cape Town
- 13 Nights Hotel
- 13 Breakfasts
- 6 Lunches
- 9 Dinners
- 3 Game Drives at Kapama River Game Lodge
- Boat cruise on St. Lucia
- Domestic flight Durban to Port Elizabeth
- Breenhurst Gardens, Pretoria National Botanic Garden,
- Blyde River Canyon, God's Window,
- Swazi Candle Factory, Durban Botanical Gardens,
- Kwa Zulu Natal National Gardens, Tatham Art Gallery,
- Tsitsikamma National Park, Cellars Hohenort,
- Vergelegen Wine Estate, Table Mountain,
- Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- Coach and Driver
- National Guide
- Tips & Gratuities to guide & driver
- Once in a lifetime memories!

South Africa has always been on my wish list...goodness knows at Chelsea each year, the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and their absolutely stunning display garden always amazed me with their choice of plant material... flowers unique to only that country, colours and textures that draw many 'oohs' and ahhs' from all those seeing the display. The exotic looking protea standing among other plants, just bidding me 'welcome', 'come visit and see where I live'.

I know a bit about what it takes to even set a display up at Chelsea each year, a good friend of mine leads the almost always GOLD display garden from Grenada, the hurdles every one of these countries must jump over just to get their plant material in is awesome. They pray it all arrives in good shape and gets through customs in time...so to see them set up here in such perfect condition just makes me wonder even more what it must be like seeing them in their own home, growing happily...and now we are about to find out!

I am so pleased to present this tour. I don't pretend to say it covers it all, but I do believe it will give you an idea of what this country offers us as lovers of plants and at a time of year when a lot of the spring flowers are stunning.

There is a connection here too with England in the biodiversity conservation work being undertaken in South Africa by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, particularly through Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. Although South Africa covers just 2% of the world's surface area, it is home to nearly 10% of all the world's plants, which amounts to 24,000 species.

South Africa's very first sponsored vertical garden has just been installed in Cape Town on the Emirates Airlines building.

"The plants have been grown in a biodynamic felt specially imported from a supplier in Germany, and a fully integrated hydroponic drip irrigation system has been installed behind the felt which is linked to a moisture sensor which waters and naturally fertilizes the plants as and when it is required. The garden is 6m high by 12m wide and is made up entirely of wood and vegetation.

"This is a first for South Africa," says Wall. "With this concept we are able to convert normal dreary bland blank facades into green, breathing spaces, we do not have to rely on traditional soil growing methods and can effectively brighten and bring life to any wall, anywhere."

This project also supports Cape Town's bid for World Design Capital 2014 by actively integrating art and public private spaces."

I would expect that by the time we arrive for our tour, we may even see more of these vertical gardens.

South Africa's scenic wonders are legendary. From Table Mountain to God's Window, their mountains, forests, coasts and deserts will feast your eye and lift your spirit...

From their official tourism site....

'We welcome you with open arms and hearts and the warmest, widest of smiles, excited to invite you to our shores, homes and braais.

Come and experience our hospitality wherever you go and get in touch with our wide variety of fascinating cultures and local traditions. Our people are ready to show you our country's natural wonders, draw you into the rhythm and soul of Africa, give you close encounters with our regal wildlife and take you on an unforgettable journey through our ancient and recent past.

We guarantee you will have incredible stories to tell...'

<http://www.southafrica.net/sat/content/en/za/home>

Your incredible land itinerary:

Wednesday October 3, 2012 Meet & Greet at Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport

Individual Transfers to your hotel where you will rest up from your flight.
Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Rosebank



30 minutes drive from O.R. Tambo International Airport. Crisp white linen and soft bedding enhance the warm ambiance of these stylishly furnished bedrooms, and for further comfort a pillow menu which includes goose down and non-allergenic is available.

Each standard room is fully equipped with a minibar, individually controlled air-conditioning, in-room laptop friendly safe, wireless internet connection (charges apply), satellite TV and hairdryer. Outdoor pool and Zen Garden.

<http://www.therosebank.co.za/>

dinner on own

Thursday October 4th, 2012 Coach & Guide : Overland

Brenthurst Gardens



Brenthurst is one of South Africa's most magnificent gardens. In a city dedicated to change, it has enjoyed a unique continuity.

Of all the mansions built for the Randlords a century ago, this is the only one that has survived with its setting intact.

Its trees and shrubs, planted over generations, have had the rare luxury of time and space to grow to a spectacular maturity. Within these sixteen hectares of what is essentially woodland, gardens of different styles and moods, formal, informal and wild, have evolved over time and with the help of a succession of remarkable gardeners into a harmonious whole. The 21st century has brought a new era of naturalism - and a pioneering new role for the garden.

"Nothing could be more enjoyable or more rewarding for me than to share this garden - and the ideas in which I believe so passionately - with other gardeners and nature lovers. We began the implementation of organic, ecologically friendly garden practices here in 2001. At the same time we have gradually been adapting the planting to its Highveld setting, introducing plantings of indigenous grass and endemic plants. We have seen the gardens come alive in a new and enthralling way, with many new birds and many more butterflies and insects in a rich and fascinating web of diversity.



Gardening becomes so much simpler, so much more enjoyable, when you work with nature, rather than against it. A haven for wild life can still be a beautiful garden and we hope you will be able to see the proof of this at Brenthurst and join us in this great adventure." - Strilli Oppenheimer

The rewards of nine years of holistic management (first organic, then biodynamic) and skillful indigenous planting are now clear to see in the estate's lively new beauty and steadily increasing biodiversity.

The garden at Brenthurst Estate is rated as one of the finest in South Africa and can certainly be placed amongst the great gardens of the world.

Its history goes back to the turn of the last century, when the elegant gabled house, now known as Brenthurst, was built for Drummond Chaplin by Sir Herbert Baker.

The dramatic Cape Dutch gables are delicately balanced against a Gauteng kopje, and the house is now set amid a range of formal, informal and wild gardens.

Brenthurst has become what Strilli Oppenheimer planned it should be:

"An inspirational teaching garden that every gardener and every one interested in the natural world can relate to and enjoy."

With the implementation of biodynamic and naturalistic gardening principles a new aesthetic has come into play. The conservative eye needs to adjust to this approach. Plants that were once considered weeds now belong in the picture. Paths are meticulously maintained but elsewhere there is much less control and cutting back. Fallen leaves and flowers are part of the scene, as are dead branches, seed heads and nibbled leaves. The picture is one to be enjoyed over four seasons. Allowing the plants to fulfill their natural cycle also allows other forms of life to do so. The indigenous, biodynamic approach is aimed at encouraging a web of rich diversity in which all elements thrive.

<http://www.brenthurstgardens.co.za/>

a side note and joy to behold while we are here....

Jacaranda

During the months of October and November, Pretoria is transformed into a glowing purple mass - the Jacaranda trees are in bloom! Jacarandas line the streets and dot the parks and gardens throughout the city and carpet their floors with their bee-attracting blossoms. It is estimated that there are between 40 000 and 70 000 Jacaranda trees in Pretoria - nicknamed the Jacaranda City - which choreograph their spectacular show over an eight week period in late spring each year. There are also almost 100 rare white Jacarandas that can be found in Herbert Baker Street in Groenkloof.

Jacarandas are indigenous to South America, but their history in South Africa starts as early as the 1880s when they were imported from Argentina. In 1888 two trees were planted in a school in Arcadia. Their popularity as a street tree soon took off and they now line many kilometres of streets throughout Pretoria.

<http://gopretoria.co.za/the-jacaranda-city>

Pretoria National Botanical Garden

This 76 ha urban oasis is a pristine getaway situated in the eastern suburbs of South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria.



A 35 m high quartzite outcrop divides the Garden in two sections. Its frosty south-facing section and the north-facing, warmer section present two different worlds to the visitor and botanist. A paved nature trail gives access to the fascinating natural vegetation on the ridge, which boasts a diversity of indigenous fauna and flora.





Fifty hectares of the total area is devoted to developed garden, using almost exclusively South African plants. All the flowering plant species to be seen, including 50% of the country's tree species, make this Garden a botanical tapestry. Visitors are offered a glimpse of different biomes such as savanna and forest biomes and different theme gardens are being developed.

The Garden is home to the Head Office of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and successfully bridges the gap between scientific research and the recreational environment.

Website of the garden

http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=134&Itemid=73

on this page you can download a map of the garden

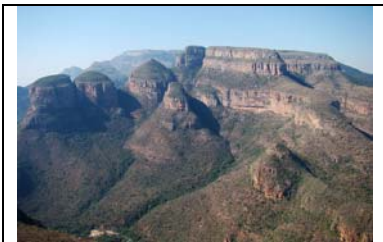
http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=documentdetails&id=428

Breakfast and Dinner at hotel

Overnight: Royal Hotel – standard room

Friday October 5th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Overland

Gods Window



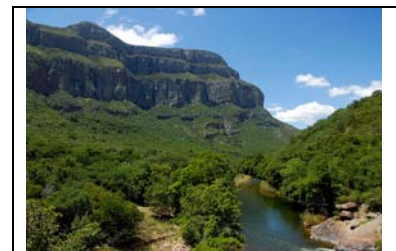
Godswindow
(photo by Lukas Kaffer)

Situated on the Drakensberg escarpment in Mpumalanga is God's Window. Just one look down and you will begin to understand why it is called "God's Window".

Blyde River Canyon

The Blyde River Canyon Reserve extends along the Blyde River Canyon's winding path, which at every turn offers more and more impressive views over sheer edges dropping 800m into the riverbed. Blyde means "glad" or "happy" in Dutch, a name derived from a voortrekkers expedition. The 'happy river' was thus named in 1844, when Hendrik Potgieter and others returned safely from Delagoa Bay to the rest of their party of trekkers who had considered them dead. While still under this misapprehension they had named the nearby river where they had been encamped, Treurrivier, or 'mourning river'

Continue our drive to arrive at the Kapama River Lodge for late lunch then an afternoon Game Drive. We spend two nights here and you will experience 3 Game Drives...what an adventure we will have! Each Game Drive (including night drive by spotlight) in open safari vehicles, accompanied by experienced rangers and expert Shangaan trackers.



blyderiver
(photo by Paul Tosio)

Kapama Private Game Reserve occupies a vast area between the northern Drakensberg Mountains and the Greater Kruger National Park. Kapama Game Reserve is in Limpopo Province, an area renowned for superb safari vacations. Kapama's 13,000 hectares has all the big game of Africa with 42 mammal species and approximately 350 bird species. This equates to huge natural diversity and includes the famed

'Big 5' - lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino. Game drives are conducted through the rolling savannah grasslands and riverine forests that make up this appealing African reserve.

Kapama River Lodge is so named because it lies in a curve of the Kapama. A small permanent water source lies just beyond Kapama River Lodge perimeter fence attracting animals like antelopes, elephant and buffalo. Watch this truly African spectacle from the warm blue water of the big rim flow swimming pool, or relax in the shade of an umbrella on loungers around the pool.



Each spacious standard suite at Kapama River Lodge features a full en-suite bathroom and terrace with uninterrupted views into the leafy-green Big 5 Game Reserve. The central guest entertainment areas include a large rim-flow swimming pool with sun umbrellas and recliners for lazy afternoons. The long L-shaped relaxation lounge and bar under a double-volume thatch roof curves around the pool and on either side is a huge double-sided fireplace creating a wondrous open-plan yet cozy atmosphere. The Rhino Boma dining area with tables arranged under a low thatch in a horseshoe curve has a central open space where a roaring outdoor fire gives a glow to evening meals. Buffet-style meals introduce African flavours with Pan African dishes using fresh local ingredients and specialist dishes featuring venison like kudu and impala.



<http://www.kapama.co.za/kapama-river-lodge/>

I also found this which might be of real interest to you...the blog of the rangers at the park...

<http://rangerblog.kapama.co.za/>

Overnight: Kapama River Lodge

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Game Drive

Saturday October 6th, 2012 Lodge

Expect a wake up call at between 5am and 5.30am and gather for tea or coffee and rusks before heading out at first light. If you are lucky, the big cats will still be around after their night of hunting. This is Big 5 country (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino and Buffalo) all of which are possible to see during a two-day safari in Kapama Game Reserve.

There are also many other species to be seen, large and small, as well as fascinating plants and colourful birds. Stop halfway through the morning game drive for hot drinks and rusks from the Landrover snack box and return at around 9am for breakfast. During the rest of the day, you are likely to see wildlife like Nyala antelope and Vervet monkeys around the lodges.

At about 3.30pm everybody convenes for high tea, before departing with the same ranger/tracker team for the day's second African bush safari.

Enjoy a sundowner drink along the way (not included in the tariff), and get out of the vehicle to stretch your legs and watch the sun go down over the distant Drakensberg Mountains.



As darkness descends it's time to return to the safety of the Landrover and let the tracker scan the landscape with a spotlight picking out the glinting eyes of nocturnal animals. Return to the lodge at around 7pm, where there is time to freshen up before dinner.

Between the Game Drives your time is your time to relax and just be in the moment. Perhaps book a spa treatment to fully relax and rejuvenate.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
2 Game Drives – early morning and afternoon/evening

Overnight: Kapama River Lodge

Sunday October 7th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Overland

Swazi Candle Factory – Light from Africa



Swazi Candle Factory -Swazi Candles was started in an old cowshed of a former Dairy in 1981 by two South African art graduates. They are a long time member of International Federation of Fair Trading (IFAT) and their founder Tony Marshak is a committed environmentalist and conservationist. He started Swazi Candles after spending time in Berkeley with a friend who was a candle maker. In those days The Kingdom of Swaziland was a haven of freedom and refuge from the old Apartheid Regime across the border, It proved to be an excellent place for setting up a Craft Cottage industry. The mountainous countryside was beautiful. The Swazi people being warm and friendly and receptive to training soon proved to be fine handcraft workers and skilled artisans and ideal partners for their industry. Swazi Candles began to develop a distinctly Swazi ethnic flavor! His employees receive higher than the national average in pay and in response to increased international food prices he was to start a garden for them so they could grow their own vegetables.

<http://www.swazicandlesusa.com/index.php>

Lunch at local restaurant

Zululand

Zululand history, King Shaka, Ulundi, Eshowe and Richards Bay are some of the terms associated with the world-renowned region of KwaZulu-Natal's Zululand. The sheer majesty of Zululand will take your breath away. Under the hot African sun, the cobalt blue Indian Ocean, mangrove swamps and limpid lagoons give way to rolling green hills and indigenous forests which shimmer in the distance before they reach the Drakensberg Mountains.

Breakfast, Lunch
And Dinner at hotel



Overnight: Royal Swazi Sun - standard

<http://www.suninternational.com/Destinations/Resorts/RoyalSwaziSpaValley/Pages/default.aspx>

extensive brochure on hotel

<http://www.suninternational.com/Destinations/Resorts/RoyalSwaziSpaValley/Documents/RoyalSwaziSpaValley-brochure.pdf>

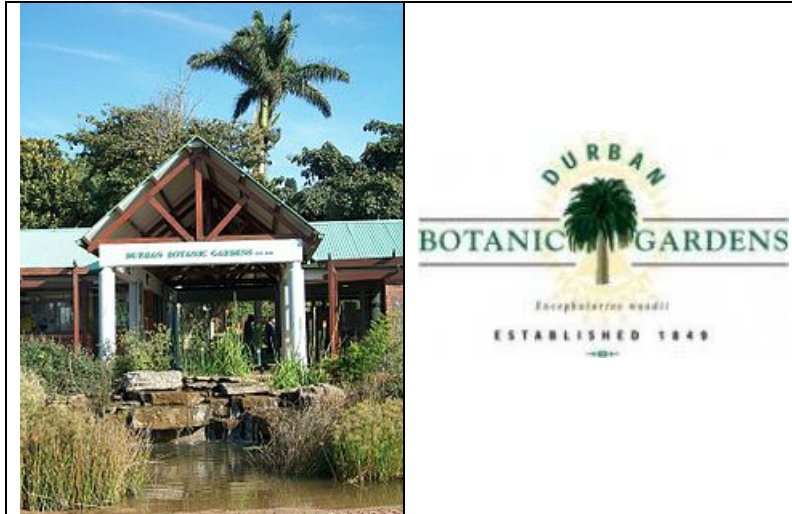
Monday October 8th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Overland

Boat Cruise on ST Lucia



Saint Lucia is possibly the lushest, most verdant and spectacular of the Windward Isles, and what better way to experience its beauty. All aboard the comfortable Santa Lucia, a spacious double-decker boat on St Lucia Estuary, with ample room for everybody to have the best view possible. We're off on a two-hour relaxed interpretative cruise from the smartest vantage point – the water. We'll get up close to the sight and sounds of hippo, crocodiles and other game species, and if we're lucky, we'll be serenaded by the haunting cry of the fish eagle...perhaps even watch one catch a fish. The boat has a coffee, snack and full bar on board, so relaxation is the order of the day.

Durban Botanical Gardens



Durban Botanical Gardens - On the lower slopes of Durban's Berea ridge lies the city's brightest jewel, the Durban Botanic Gardens. It is the city's oldest public institution and Africa's oldest surviving botanic gardens.

The Durban Botanic Gardens (DBG) traces its origins to colonial times, when it was founded in 1849 for the introduction and trial of potentially useful commercial crops. The gardens later developed collections of sub-tropical trees, palms and orchids. The Durban Botanic Gardens remains a classic botanic gardens, reflecting the universality of the plant kingdom.

It has, for over 100 years, had a fine mixed arboretum of African, Asian and American trees. The Gardens are a few minutes walk from the bustling Warwick Triangle, site of one of the largest retail medicinal plant markets in the country.



"Orchids, Palms and Cycads are the main collections of the Gardens, and the focus of present and forthcoming collection efforts. It is our intention to maintain the cosmopolitan flavour of our cycad collection, which is currently ranked among the top ten botanical garden cycad collections in the world <http://www.bgci.org/worldwide/gspc/> .

Palm and orchid collections will increasingly focus on documented accessions of African species. World-wide, botanic gardens are changing, as threats to plants and ecosystems become more grave. Ironically, this makes it an exciting time for botanic gardens, as their multiple possible roles in conservation and education are recognised by governments and international agencies.

Fundamental to our participation in these new challenges, is the development of conservation-significant plant collections, and professional management of these collections. Unless our collections are curated comparably with those of the world's top gardens, then attempts to increase their educational and scientific value are diminished."

Map of the Gardens

<http://www.durbanbotanicgardens.org.za/site%20images/pics/bot-maps-concert2010.jpg>

<http://www.durbanbotanicgardens.org.za/about-us.html>

Breakfast

Dinner at hotel



Overnight: Southern Sun Elangeni – standard partial sea view room
 Situated on Durban's Golden Mile, the hotel is two hundred meters from the beach and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean.

<http://www.southernsun.com/hotels/elangeni/pages/overview.aspx>

Tuesday October 9th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Full Day Pietermaritzburg

KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Gardens



"An ideal Botanical Garden: the Pride of Natal - and of Kew" - Sir Frederick Keeble in the 1930s

The beautiful and tranquil KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden specializes in the conservation of plants from the eastern region of South Africa and of rare and endangered species from elsewhere.

On the 3rd of March, 1874, the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Garden was founded. It was run by the newly formed Pietermaritzburg Botanical Society until 1969, when it was taken over by the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa. In 1991, the Botanical Research Institute and the National Botanical Gardens combined to form the National Botanical Institute. The NBI is now the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) - the present custodians of the Garden.

The Garden's Victorian past is evident in its magnificent specimens of northern hemisphere plants, such as the swamp cypress, tulip trees, camphor trees, plane trees, giant figs and magnolias. One of the finest features of the Garden is the avenue of London Plane trees, which has been stunning visitors since 1908.

The focus of the Garden is to collect, display and promote the conservation of plants of the eastern grasslands, in particular the genera *Clivia*, *Gerbera*, *Kniphofia* and *Watsonia*.

A section of the Garden is planted specifically to attract birds which, along with other diverse habitats, makes the Garden rich in bird life, with over 150 species recorded.

A special feature is the fascinating Useful Plants Garden, displaying plants used culturally by the Zulu people for medicine, crafts, food and other uses.



Download a map of the garden here...

http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=documentdetails&id=77

Tatham Art Gallery



The Gallery owes its origins to Mrs Ada Susan Tatham who collected donations early in 1903 and purchased works in Britain later that same year. After an initial exhibition the collection was first housed in the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. In 1923 the collection was greatly enhanced

through the donations of Lieutenant Colonel R.H. Whitwell.

The main body of the Tatham Art Gallery collection can be divided into a number of sections. There is a significant group of British and French work. The British group includes works from the New English Art Club artists and the Bloomsbury Group.

The collection also consists of a large number of 20th and 21st century South African art and craft works. Recently the major focus has been on collecting works by artists and crafters from KwaZulu-Natal. An effort has also been made to fill gaps in the historical South African art collection.



There are two significant aspects to the craft collection of the Tatham Art Gallery:

- traditional artifacts and beadwork of Zulu, Mfengu and Xhosa origins. There are also a small number of Zimbabwean works.
- a sizable collection of South African studio ceramics, including traditional Zulu pottery.

<http://www.tatham.org.za/index.html>

Dinner at hotel

Overnight: Southern Sun Elangeni

Wednesday October 10th, 2012 Coach & Guide:

Transfer from hotel to Durban Airport FLIGHT: DBN-PLZ

Group Meet & Greet at Port Elizabeth Airport

Coach & Guide: Overland

Dinner at hotel



Overnight: Protea Knysna Quays - superior lagoon facing

One of the best hotel locations in South Africa, the 4-star Protea Hotel Knysna Quays enjoys a spectacular perspective of the popular coastal town of Knysna. The hotel is nestled in the heart of the Garden Route and offers you a unique guest experience with premium accommodation accentuated with scenic beauty and natural surrounds.

All rooms are equipped with en-suite bathrooms with separate bath and shower, air-conditioning, coffee and tea making facilities, hair dryers, fridges, electronic safes, telephone, wireless Internet connection and satellite television.

Thursday October 11th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Half Day

Tsitsikamma National Park



"The Garden of the Garden Route" welcomes you to the area the ancient San people called the "place of many waters."

Tsitsikamma is a khoi word meaning "place of abundant or sparkling water". The region stretches from the Bloukrans River in the west to Eerste Rivier in the east, is bordered on the north by the imposing Tsitsikamma mountains and in the south by the Indian Ocean.

Tsitsikamma National Park, declared in 1964, encompasses a marine reserve made up of 80km of coastline and offers the visitor magnificent scenery, walks, a small beach, restaurant and shop. The famous Storms River suspension Bridge spans the river mouth.

<http://www.tsitsikamma.info/>

Afternoon at leisure

Overnight: Protea Knysna Quays

Friday October 12th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Overland To Cape Town via Hermanus

Dinner at hotel



Overnight: Protea President - sea facing room – last four nights

Situated in Bantry Bay, the Protea Hotel President in Cape Town enjoys a very central and beautiful location near the ocean providing magnificent views.

<http://www.proteahotels.com/protea-hotel-president.html>

Saturday October 13th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Full Day

Cellars Hohenort including lunch



The Cellars-Hohenort rests on the breathtaking slopes of Table Mountain. Located in Constantia, Cape Town, it shares its home with some of South Africa's most historically significant wine estates. Set over nine spectacular acres, The Cellars-Hohenort gardens are widely regarded as one of the finest privately owned gardens in the world.

These exceptional gardens - awarded the prestigious 2010 Relais & Châteaux Garden Award - are the result of Liz McGrath's 20-year vision, which has been realized through hard work, dedication and love.

The Cellars-Hohenort gardens highlight the history and heritage of this spectacular property. Trees, dating back to Simon van der Stel's time, are surrounded by more recent gardens including the unrivaled Cellars-Hohenort rose garden; each designed to showcase the Table Mountain slope they call home.

Throughout the year, The Cellars-Hohenort gardens proffer up a sensational display of the natural world. Here the mood and beauty of the four seasons is uniquely captured, creating seasonally influenced gardens that change from day to day and month to month.

Overnight: Protea President

Sunday October 14th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Full Day Winelands

Vergelegen Wine Estate
Vergelegen – no ordinary Estate.

Since 1700 and to this day, Vergelegen (meaning "situated far away"), has been crafted by some of the world's great explorers and visionaries, who each in their own way have helped shape Vergelegen to what it is today: a world-class Estate.

With its world renowned handcrafted wines, 310 year old history and heritage, exquisite gardens and refined cuisine, it comes as no surprise that Vergelegen continues to be the choice of the discerning visitor seeking a total sensory experience. For this reason, the Estate has borne witness to many visits of heads of state and celebrities from all over the world.



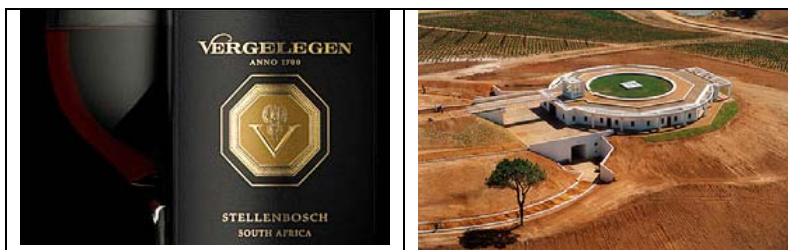
Vergelegen has been a gardener's paradise since the van der Stel era in the 1700's and today 17 exquisitely themed gardens are on display for visitors to enjoy.

Other than being a farmer, the founder of Vergelegen, Willem Adriaan van der Stel, was also a botanist, a forester and a horticulturist. He wrote "The African Gardeners' and Agriculturists Calendar" of which much is still relevant to this day. The oldest oak tree in South Africa, the ancient White Mulberry tree and of course the five camphor trees gracing the front of the Homestead all bear testimony to his great horticultural talent.

After purchasing Vergelegen in 1987, Anglo American Farms Ltd restored the gardens and grounds in the Estate's historic core, based on the concept of retaining the best from all periods. The historic core, approximately 60 ha in extent, includes the Octagonal Garden, the surrounding gardens and lawns, oak parklands and oak plantation, camphor forest and open pastures. At no point is the garden visible in its entirety.

Landscape architect, the late Ian Ford, developed a theme of generous and intimate garden areas, contrasting the simple with the bold, the formal of the gardens with the informal of grasses and woodlands.

Resident horticulturist Richard Arm and his team continue to manure these exquisite gardens and grounds, ensuring that each season brings new delights for visitors to the Estate.



Wine Tasting & Cellar Tour

The octagonal design of the winery reflects that of the octagonal walled garden laid out by Willem Adriaan van der Stel in 1700. Of the four levels, only one level (harvest plaza and visitor level) is visible above the ground. The other three working levels (red wine fermentation platform, main tank floor with bottling room and the barrel cellar) lie buried 11 meters under the ground in a tower configuration that allows for gravitational flow and gentle handling.

Lunch at wine estate
<http://www.vergelegen.co.za/>

Afternoon at leisure
Overnight: Protea President

Monday October 15th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Full Day Tour

Table Mountain (weather permitting)



The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company has been providing visitors with a world-class experience since October 4, 1929. The company operates in a National Park and World Heritage site.

For more than 80 years, the company has been committed to providing visitors with a memorable experience and delivering outstanding service, while being passionate about preserving our natural environment.

The Cableway aspires to be the best attractions operator in South Africa.

<http://tablemountain.net/>

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is acclaimed as 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.



Kirstenbosch was established in 1913 to promote, conserve and display the extraordinarily rich and diverse flora of southern Africa, and was the first botanic garden in the world to be devoted to a country's indigenous flora. Kirstenbosch displays a wide variety of the unique plant life of the Cape Flora, as well as plants from all the diverse regions of southern Africa, both outdoors and in the Botanical Society Conservatory. There are over 7 000 species in cultivation at Kirstenbosch, including many rare and threatened species.

The Garden covers 36 hectares in a 528 hectare estate that contains protected mountainside supporting natural forest and fynbos along with a variety of animals and birds. Kirstenbosch lies in the heart of the Cape Floristic Region, also known as the Cape Floral Kingdom. In 2004 the Cape Floristic Region, including Kirstenbosch, was declared a

UNESCO World Heritage Site – another first for Kirstenbosch, it is the first botanic garden in the world to be included within a natural World Heritage Site.

Read about the art in the garden here...

http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=964&Itemid=838



Download the garden map here http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=312&Itemid=368

Main site

http://www.sanbi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=139&Itemid=57

Lunch at Silver Tree Restaurant

The Silver Tree Restaurant invites you to discover the heart of quality dining, personal service and warmth in the most beautiful garden in Africa.

Farewell Dinner at local restaurant

Overnight: Protea President

Tuesday October 16th, 2012 Coach & Guide: Transfer from hotel to Cape Town Airport B

Your land package includes:

- Airport Pickup Arrival Johannesburg O.R. Tambo
- Airport Delivery Departure Cape Town
- 13 Nights Hotel
- 13 Breakfasts
- 6 Lunches
- 9 Dinners
- 3 Game Drives at Kapama River Game Lodge
- Boat cruise on St. Lucia
- Domestic flight Durban to Port Elizabeth
- Brenthurst Gardens, Pretoria National Botanic Garden,
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- Vergelegen Wine Estate, Table Mountain,
- Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- Coach and Driver
- National Guide
- Tips & Gratuities to guide & driver
- Once in a lifetime memories!

Land package does not include:

Expenses of personal nature such as laundry, telephones, international airfare, travel insurance, departure tax and drinks not included with meals.

Please note you Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your return flight.

Tour Dates: October 3rd – 16th, 2012



LAND only \$5,724 Cdn p/p sharing
SINGLE Supplement \$1,320 Cdn (Very Limited)
See **Highlights Box** for all inclusions on this tour.

NOTE Minimum number of 16 tour registrants required for this tour to run, so please do not book your air until you have heard from us that the tour is confirmed.

See Highlights Box for all inclusions on this tour.

Email: donna@icangarden.com
Toll Free – 1-866-642-7120

Subject to change without notice – October 2, 2011