



SENIOR SAFARIS

EXPERTS IN SENIOR TRAVEL

FLOWERS OF NAMAQUALAND

Highlights: Kamieskroon, Skilpad Reserve, Nieuwoudtville, West Coast National Park

LEISURE TOUR

Duration

6 Days

Starts/Ends in

Cape Town

Cost

R19 500 pp sharing • R22 300 pp single

Accommodation

Hotel; Guest Lodge

Vehicle

Mini Bus

BOOKINGS

✉ info@seniorsafaris.co.za

☎ +27 83 657 6645

Flowers Of Namaqualand

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 are transformed into a kaleidoscope of riotous colour. Namaqualand is also unique in being the only desert in the world to offer 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 these areas, we have the experience to give you the best chance of seeing the famous spring flower displays in all their splendour. Our overnight stops are chosen to offer the most flexibility in reaching any major flowering areas at any time of the season.

DAY 1 - TO THE HEART OF NAMAQUALAND

We leave Cape Town and head north, traversing the fertile Olifants River Valley and then out onto 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.

Stay at Kamieskroon Hotel (3 nights)





DAYS 2 & 3 - FLOWERS, SCENERY AND HISTORY

In 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 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 abundance 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, where we find the 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.

DAY 4 - VREDENDAL

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. Ideally, you need 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.

Stay at a Guest House in Vredendal (2 nights)

DAY 5 - NIEUWOUTVILLE

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 many 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.

DAY 6 - THE WEST COAST

Our homeward route takes us southward once more, but this time along the coast, which is very good for viewing flowers from the vehicle since all the flowers face north, and the overall display is much more impressive! Our exact route will again depend on incorporating the best flowering areas for today's weather conditions. The West Coast is famous for its spectacular displays of flowering annuals in large fields of white and yellow. At times masses of blue "Sporrie" can be breath-taking. We avoid the over-crowded areas where possible, enjoying the quietness of nature. We slowly wend our way back to Cape Town, dropping you off at your home, guest house, or the airport in the late afternoon.



FOR MORE INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

✉ info@seniorsafaris.co.za

☎ +27 83 657 6645

All travel reservations are subject to LST Travels (Pty) Ltd Terms and Conditions

