



Community-Based Natural Resource Management

Program

Day 1: Fly into Johannesburg and connect to Cape Town - first stop on the developing South-North Tourism Route. Transfer to your hotel where a welcome party will be held to make introductions and to outline the significance of the South-North Tourism Route, the activities and objectives of the next two weeks. Overnight iKhaya Guest Lodge.

Day 2: The Cape Peninsula National Park (a World Heritage Site) has 4 million people living in and around its largely unfenced borders, and thousands of tourists visit the Park to see Table Mountain and Cape Point - two of the most popular tourism destinations in Africa. This creates interesting managerial problems, unique opportunities and an absolute necessity to ensure local communities are involved in and benefit from the Park. A walk along the top of Table Mountain and down into Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens will provide excellent visual perspective on this issue and will stimulate discussion in the session held after the walk. Overnight iKhaya Guest Lodge.

Day 3: From the top of Table Mountain we will have seen the affluent suburbs immediately adjacent to the Parks borders and the poverty stricken, informal settlements further away from the Park's borders on the Cape Flats. Today we visit an informal settlement to look at pressing environmental and social problems that are their daily reality and at some of the means they are using to address and manage the problems, including environmental education and tourism. This will be followed by a discussion session on the differences, if any, between the environmental priorities faced by the Park and informal settlements, and why and how the Park should help address the problems faced in informal settlements. Overnight iKhaya Guest Lodge.

Day 4: Today we look at and discuss some of the obvious reasons as to why resource management both inside and outside protected areas must become a delicate balance of environmental, social and economic factors, and a process in which local communities and protected area managers play a key role. Thousands of tourists and locals, many of them homeless and cooking on open fires, live around and have open access to a Park that protects unique, fire prone vegetation infested by even more flammable exotic trees. Driving through the Park we will see the damage created by the recent fires that swept across the Cape Peninsula and how communities and protected area managers are working together, to mitigate the threat posed by fire and alien infestation to the worlds smallest and richest floral kingdom. From Noordhoek beach we will see the popular scenic drive along Chapmans Peak, now closed because of rapidly degrading road conditions and dangerous falling rocks, stimulating discussion on the difficulties involved in utilizing resources sustainably, and the role/dangers of tourism as a driving force in achieving this. Overnight iKhaya Guest Lodge.

Day 5: Continuing up the South-North Tourism Route we drive up the West Coast to Vanrhynsdorp, and the Gifberg rock art sites. Following the rains, wildflowers carpet the plains of the arid West Coast each year between July and October. Vanrhynsdorp is one of several small towns that are quiet for most of the year but flourish during the flower tourism season. Traditionally flower tourism benefits have reached only a small sector of the community. The responsible development of the South-North Tourism Route is helping to turn this situation around and to create sustainable lifestyles, by cultivating nature and culture tourism that will attract tourists throughout the year and bring benefit to previously uninvolved and disadvantaged sectors of the community. The South-North Tourism Route project coordinator Malinda Boonzaier is an integral part of this initiative and today we listen to her story - where it all started for her, the difficulties she's faced and rewards she's gained by getting involved in the process of responsible community based tourism development. Overnight Lombard's Guesthouse.

Day 6: Continue on to Garies and then head down across the coastal plains to a little coastal village with massive tourism potential and a mass of conflicting interests. Diamond mining vies with commercial and subsistence fisherman, who vie with each other and to add fat to the fire a potentially lucrative gas pocket was recently discovered off the coast. What is even more obvious at Hondeklipbaai is that big business gains at the expense of an impoverished local community. This visit is designed to stimulate discussion on the clear need for integrated coastal zone management and the role of the local community and its developing multi-purpose resource centre, in redressing the social imbalances and resource management problems apparent in Hondeklipbaai. Overnight Honnehok Chalets.

Day 7: Today we take a further look at the attractions that link various community-based tourism developments along the South-North Tourism Route. From Hondeklipbaai we follow an off the beaten track scenic pass, to a mainstream tourism attraction at Goegap wildflower reserve, before continuing on to lunch at Steinkopf. In the afternoon we drive through the Richtersveld, home to a variety of cultures, including the Nama descendants of the Khoisan, to the proposed community based Rooiberg Conservancy. Overnight Rooiberg Guesthouse near Eksteenfontein.

Tours

Outdoor Adventure Series

Cycling the South-North
Riding the Richtersveld
Walking with Wildflowers
Mountain Desert Walk
Wilderness Challenge
4x4 Getaway

Specialist Series

Diamond Discovery
Succulent Safari
Photographic Safari
Koisian Trail

Study Tour Series

Community-Based
Natural Resource
Management
Youth Leaders For The
Environment

Day 8: Today we look at the ingredients of a successful community-based tourism venture and discuss some of the problems surrounding ownership and management of such initiatives. After exploring the potential of the wilderness area around Rooiberg we visit Eksteenfontein to meet the women's forum who, against all odds, used their initiative and what little they had to start a guesthouse that attracted such interest it led to the eventual formation and financing of Rooiberg Guesthouse. Following this Floors Strauss and Eco-Africa will lead a discussion on what it took get to Rooiberg off the ground and what new issues are arising at this stage of the development. Overnight Rooiberg Guesthouse.

Day 9: The Richtersveld National Park was established to protect the high biodiversity of endemic succulents found in this mountain desert. The Park and communities on the periphery of the Park, work together on several programs to preserve the unique cultural as well as natural resources of the region. These programs add to the region's tourism attractions, are helping to create environmental awareness and to revive the rapidly disappearing Nama language and history. This morning we visit Kuboes to learn of Nama customs and follow a walking trail laid out by school children from the region. The walking trail will stimulate a lively discussion period as it highlights some of the difficulties and solutions to developing sustainable tourism in a sensitive mountain desert filled with a high diversity of endemic succulents. It also highlights the conflicts between tourism and out of control mining operations that have no concern for the environment or for the tourism initiatives that depend on the well being of that environment. In the afternoon, we continue on to the Richtersveld National Park for a talk on the importance of social ecology in Park management, with special reference to Park support and involvement in community programs and the South-North Tourism Route. Overnight in a hutted Nama camp on the banks of the Orange River, with traditional dancers from Kuboes and hosts from the Sanddrift community.

Day 10: Starting out with a brief outline of land-use problems in the Richtersveld we explore the Richtersveld National Park and meet the semi-nomadic pastoralists who herd their goats through the Park. Overnight in traditional hutted camp.

Day 11: Depart the Richtersveld to explore the ruggedly beautiful Kamiesberge with its communal grazing lands and small settlements. In a final feedback session provide constructive criticism on the South-North Tourism Route in general and the manner in which services and facilities offered along the route can be improved. Overnight Kamieskroon Hotel.

Day 12: Return to Cape Town.