

Wednesday March 17, 2010

Groote Schuur / Canal Walk (Half/Full Day Tour)

Half day until lunch

This tour will give participants a glimpse of the rich social history and natural beauty of Cape Town, visiting Groote Schuur Estate and Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

The Groote Schuur Estate is an area of rich cultural heritage, situated in the northern section of the Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP), on the eastern slopes of Devil's Peak and Mowbray Ridge.

A hundred years ago Cecil John Rhodes started a far-sighted programme of land consolidation and protection on the mountain slopes. Today, a rich legacy is being protected and developed for the enjoyment of all South Africans and visitors, hopefully for generations to come.

Rhodes made Groote Schuur his residence for a short period and many famous visitors trooped through the heavy teak front door and took tea or partied on the colonnaded back veranda, his favourite place for entertaining.

The gardens at Groote Schuur enjoy a matchless setting against the hunched, benevolent presence of Devil's Peak. The massive rose garden is edged with thick hedges of starry blue plumbago - Rhodes's favourite flower.

The Western Cape province is home to one of the six floral kingdoms of the world and Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens is world-renowned for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora it displays and for the magnificence of its setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. Kirstenbosch grows only indigenous South African plants. The estate covers 528 hectares and supports a diverse fynbos flora and natural forest. The cultivated garden (36 hectares) displays collections of South African plants, particularly those from the winter rainfall region of the country. Our tour will include a guided walk through the garden and lunch.

Half day after lunch

Retail Therapy Half-Day Trip

For the international tourist, shopping in Cape Town is relatively inexpensive due to the favourable exchange rates and comparatively low production costs of goods produced locally, especially jewellery and as many of South Africa's most talented goldsmiths and jewellery designers live in Cape Town, shopping for their sought after creations will delight those looking for something special to remember a trip to South Africa.

You will be taken to the Canal Walk Shopping Centre located some 15 minutes from the City Bowl. Canal Walk has approximately 400 stores including curios to clothing boutiques, departmental stores and supermarkets