



**August 2013**

Spring is spreading its rays in the Southern Hemisphere and with it comes a huge profusion of flowers that spreads in the West Coast until Namaqualand, an explosion of colour. The animal kingdom also celebrates the arrival of this season with the birth of their little ones in the many reservations that are spread throughout the whole of South Africa.

Whether planning your first visit to this magnificent country or just considering a comeback, the experience is always extraordinary and there are many suggestions for this period: The Botanical Garden in the Cape, a trip packed with adventure throughout the heart of South Africa, the Island where Mandela was locked up for 18 years or the breathtaking floral carpets in the Northern Cape...

The **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**, in Cape Town, is among the most beautiful gardens in the world. Created in 1913 on the slopes of *Table Mountain* to preserve and promote the vast Southern Africa flora, was the first garden in the world totally dedicated to indigenous vegetation. The *fynbos*, the characteristic vegetation of the Cape region or the *strelizia regina* (also known as Mandela Gold), are some of the attractions.

More information:

<http://www.sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch>





### Robben Island, Western Cape

Occupied in the 16th century as a leper colony, Robben Island later became a hospital for the mentally ill as well as a base for military training, before it was transformed into one of the worst prisons during the Apartheid era, the one in which Nelson Mandela and his companions were incarcerated. Nowadays Robben Island is home to the Apartheid Museum and is a **World Heritage** site. Every year thousands of tourists visit the island situated a 45 minute boat ride from Cape Town.

More information: <http://www.robben-island.org.za/>

### Through Africa by truck

Active and adventure tourism is a different and accessible form to travel through Africa. Gather a group of friends and travel through Southern Africa: South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia or Botswana are some of the destinations. An intense and unique experience offered by **Nomad Adventure Tours**: experience the real Africa, by truck, with specialized guides, for a period of 1 or more weeks: Garden Route, Drakensberg, Swaziland, Cape-Namibia, Karoo, Kalahari....

More information: <http://www.nomadtours.co.za/page/home/>



### Carpets of flowers in the desert

The Northern Cape Province transforms itself during this time of the year: the barrenness gives way to an ocean of flowers and these vibrant carpets burst out for miles creating a dream-like landscape. It's the **Namakwa Flower Season** and the colours and flowers of Namaqualand are simply breathtaking. Did you know that you can call to find out if the flowers are in bloom?

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/Northerncape>



### Safaris on horseback in the Wild Coast

The safaris on horseback in the Wild Coast (coastal strip that extends northwards from East London until Port Edward) are unique experiences. This vast, wild landscape is breathtaking and the far horizons compel us to take long rides while feeling the ocean breeze on your face. Just choose of the many available paths, through small roads, beach or *veld* trails .

More information:

[www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica-net-wild-coast-horseback-safaris#](http://www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica-net-wild-coast-horseback-safaris#)

### Spring marks the beginning of a cycle

During this time of the year, the wild life is busier than ever in South Africa as they are having its young cubs all over the country. **Pestana Kruger Lodge**, situated only 150 meters away from the Malelane Gate, which is one of the most important access gates, in Mpumalanga, is surrounded by wonderful gardens and offers a fantastic view over the Crocodile River. The Kruger National, with its approximately 2.000 km of roads and 6 rivers that cross the savannah, is a safe haven to countless wild animals and tourists have the opportunity to see Africa's Big Five: Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and the Rhinoceros.

More information:

[www.pestana.com/pt/pestana-kruger-lodge/pages/home.aspx](http://www.pestana.com/pt/pestana-kruger-lodge/pages/home.aspx)



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### Newsletter of the Tourism Section of the South African Embassy

#### South African Embassy

Address: Av Luís Bivar, 10 1069-024 Lisboa

Telephone: 21 3192200 E-mail: [tourism@embaixada-africadosul.pt](mailto:tourism@embaixada-africadosul.pt)

Website: [www.embaixada-africadosul.pt](http://www.embaixada-africadosul.pt)

Facebook: South African Embassy, Portugal

South African Tourism: [www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)