



Botanical Treasures
of
SOUTH AFRICA

A Tour for Master Gardeners and Friends
September 17 to October 3, 2012

LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE: \$4,995 per person

Airfare is not included in package price; cost will vary depending on the departure airport and can be arranged independently or by the tour leader.

**For more information contact Mary Kroening at (573) 881-6316
or email mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com**

\$1,000 deposit per person holds your reservation. Final payment due by July 9, 2012.

South Africa — 2012

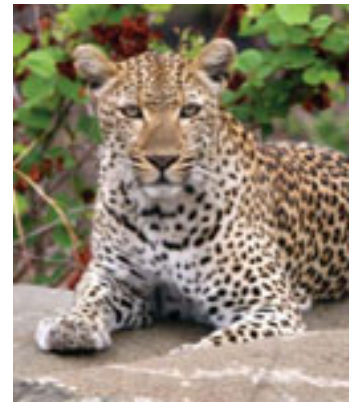
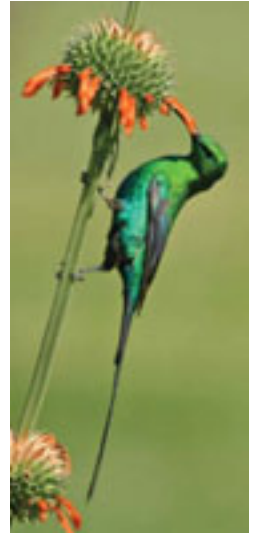
Come discover the special gardens, unique botanical treasures, amazing wildlife and awesome scenery of South Africa!



South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its long coastline stretching more than 1,500 miles from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. The low-lying coastal zone is narrow for much of that distance, soon giving way to a mountainous escarpment that separates it from the high inland plateau. The western part of the country and the great inland Karoo plateau, where rocky hills and mountains rise from sparsely populated scrubland, is very dry. In contrast, the eastern coastline is lush and well watered, with the high Drakensberg mountains forming the eastern escarpment.

The extraordinary floristic diversity in southern Africa is not only one of the region's greatest natural assets, but also one of the botanical wonders of the world. More than 10% of all vascular plants (over 30,000 species) are found on about 2.5% of the world's land surface area south of the Kunene and Zambezi Rivers. One consequence of the general aridity of the region has been the development of succulence as a survival strategy in many plants, so more than 45% of all succulents are found here.

South Africa is home to more than 22,000 species of plants — with about 60% endemic to the region — and boasts the third-highest level of biodiversity in the world. Vegetation biomes include grasslands, savanna, desert and forest. The Cape Floral Region is the smallest, but richest, of the world's six floral kingdoms. Dominated by Mediterranean-type fynbos scrublands, roughly 3% of the world's plant species (9,600 species) are found here on only 0.05% of the earth's land area. Important families include Ericaceae and two strictly southern hemisphere families, Proteaceae and Restionaceae. The country is also rich in animal life, with over 200 species of mammals and more than 725 species of birds.



Your host for the trip:

Susan Mahr
Univ. of Wisconsin Master Gardener Program Coordinator
(608) 265-4504
semahr@wisc.edu

Susan has been on several plant safaris in southern Africa and has hosted a similar tour for MGs previously, as well as MG tours to other countries.

South Africa — 2012

The Itinerary

Monday, September 17

Flights depart the U.S.A. *en route* for Johannesburg to arrive the following day. [At the end of the trip we will depart Cape Town. Please book your airfare for arrival into Johannesburg and departure from Cape Town. If you prefer to secure round trip air in and out of Johannesburg, we can arrange in-country air for you from Cape Town to Johannesburg and bill you accordingly.]

Tuesday, September 18



Upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport you will be met by host Susan Mahr. Later that day we transfer by coach to Cullinan, a picturesque little village, famous for the biggest diamond ever discovered in 1905, steeped in history, with quant buildings, tree lined streets and a variety of good restaurants. Today the mine still produces 5000 carats of diamonds per day and supplies 25% of the world's gem quality diamonds.

Meals included: In-flight
Lodging: Destiny Lodge, Cullinan

Wednesday, September 19

Enjoy a day at leisure in the beautiful environment of Destiny Lodge. A variety of exciting optional day trips in and around Pretoria and Johannesburg are also available at extra cost.

Meals included: Breakfast, Welcome Dinner
Lodging: Destiny Lodge, Cullinan



Thursday, September 20



Journey of a Diamond is an exciting guided motorized tour through the Cullinan Diamond Mine. You will see the shafts in operation, replica of an underground tunnel and the big hole, four times bigger than that of Kimberley. On the mine dump, consisting of 350 million tons of waste which has been excavated since 1903 and described as 'like being on the moon', you can see as far as Pretoria, as well as the huge dam of the processed water. In the diamond specialist showroom situated on the mine, you can view the Cullinan Diamond Cutting factory with a brief explanation about how

diamonds are graded and qualified. Replicas of famous diamonds are on display. There is also the largest range of loose polished diamonds available to the public in South Africa. We will then transfer to Johannesburg International Airport for the flight to George and our overnight accommodation in Plettenberg Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast
Lodging: Whalesong, Plettenberg Bay



South Africa — 2012

Friday, September 21

We are now on South Africa's glorious Garden Route! This is one of the most magnificent, awe-inspiring stretches of land in South Africa, offering majestic mountains, breath-taking views, colourful vistas with valleys and lakes, rivers and forests. A paradise for nature lovers, it offers never-ending adventure opportunities and activities. Primordial forests still clothe some slopes of the mountains and the deep valleys.



We will take a morning hike to enjoy the magnificent scenery on Robberg Nature Reserve and National Monument where we find a fine example of how plants and animals adapt to the interacting influence of land and sea. We will also visit Tsitsikamma National Park, declared in 1964, which encompasses a marine reserve made up of 50 miles of coastline and offers the visitor splendid scenery, walks, a small beach, restaurant and shop.

The famous Storms River Suspension Bridge spans the river mouth. There will be an optional activity for boat-based whale watching in Plettenberg Bay which is highly recommended (extra expense).

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Whalesong, Plettenberg Bay



Saturday, September 22

This morning we take a game drive in Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve, the Garden Route's largest Wildlife Reserve. Experienced and knowledgeable game rangers will take you in open Land Rovers so you can feel close to nature and enjoy the sensory experience of Africa. Expect to see any of the Big



Four (buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino) as well as numerous species of antelope, giraffe, zebra, hippo and crocodile. The rangers will share their knowledge of indigenous reptiles, insects, vegetation and birdlife. We then depart for the Klein Karoo and travel via wilderness and

the lakes district. The Wilderness National Park protects this sensitive wetland area with five rivers, six lakes, two estuaries and 17 miles of coast line. We go over the Outeniqua Mountain Pass, the fifth pass to be built to take the traveller across the formidable barrier of the Outeniqua Mountains into the Klein Karoo. The Klein Karoo is the only place where succulent karoo, fynbos and sub-tropical thicket interface, resulting in a wonderful mosaic of plant life. This is an area of magnificent landscapes and towering cliffs, crystal clear streams and an abundance of indigenous flora, contributing to making this one of the most diverse regions.



In the vicinity of Oudshoorn, Louis Jordaan will ensure an amazing experience with his floral interpretive tour on his farm MinWater where the uniqueness of the Klein Karoo botanical treasures will come alive.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging: De Opstal



South Africa — 2012

Sunday, September 23

Today we depart for Gordons Bay. A coffee stop in the artistic small village of Barrydale gives you some unique shopping opportunities. On the beautiful Tradouw Pass you can view an abundant display of aloes. We will then drive through Bontebok National Park. This park is known for many species of game



animals indigenous to this area and for re-establishing the bontebok, which has become the rarest species of antelope on earth. There are also 187 species of birds and 470 species of flora and 52



varieties of grass. We will lunch in Hermanus and enjoy the buzzing of this small harbor town, also famous for its whales. If time allows we will take a hike in the 180,000 acre Fernkloof Nature Reserve where 1474 different species of plants have been identified. We end the day enjoying the spectacular drive along the Atlantic Ocean from Hermanus to Gordons Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Manor on the Bay, Gordons Bay

Monday, September 24



Today we travel to Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve which was established for the protection of the unique plant life of the Cape Floral Kingdom and is part of



the Table Mountain National Park, a World Heritage Site. We then travel along the spectacular scenery, idyllic beaches and many charming small towns on our way to a stop at Boulders Beach for an opportunity to see the most remarkable of the mainland colonies of endangered African Penguins with over 2500 birds. Of the 17 species of penguins, only the African Penguin inhabits the African continent and its inshore islands.

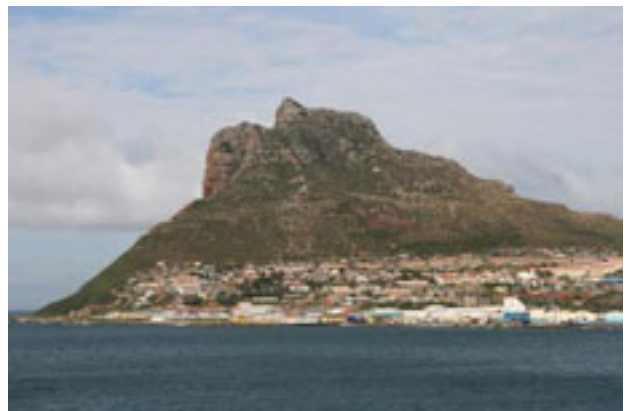


A boat cruise to visit seals and shipwrecks departs daily (weather permitting) from Hout Bay Harbour, with its magnificent views of Sentinel Mountain and Chapman's Peak, to the island to view the Cape

Fur seals, close up, in their natural habitat. The island is a sanctuary for thousands of Cape Fur seals as well as a variety of seabirds including cormorants and gulls. It is illegal to land on the island, but the trip takes you within arm's reach of the seals who seem to know they're the center of attention. We then end our day and travel into Cape Town.

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Mandela Rhodes Place, Cape Town



South Africa — 2012

Tuesday, September 25



This morning we will hike across the top of Table Mountain — recently voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the Natural World — a beacon of complex beauty, a special place and a source of inspiration, myths and legends. Table Mountain has an unusually rich biodiversity. The mountain's vegetation



types form part of the Cape Floral Region protected areas. These protected areas are a World Heritage Site, and an estimated 2,200 species of plants are confined to Table Mountain — more than exist in the whole of the United Kingdom. Many of these species, including a great many types of proteas, are endemic to the mountain and can be found nowhere else. In addition, the Table Mountain range has the highest concentration of threatened species of any continental area of equivalent size in the world.



We will then visit the beautiful Kirstenbosch Gardens covering an area of 1,300 acres with 90 acres of cultivated garden at the base of Table Mountain. The gardens are a celebration of South African flora — showcasing only indigenous South African plants. Fynbos, proteas, cycads and rolling lawns are intermingled with streams and ponds and well-laid out pathways for easy walking. A great variety of birds inhabit the gardens and the sweeping views from the upper slopes are spectacular. Here every season is a delight, every path a treat and each visit unique. In the evening, you will be free to visit the world famous Victoria & Albert Waterfront in Cape Town, where a forlorn dockyard has been transformed into the city's most vibrant attraction. There is also a

choice of taking a walk through historical Cape Town.

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Mandela Rhodes Place, Cape Town



Wednesday, September 26



Today we will be travelling along the west coast and through the West Coast National Park, where the Langebaan Lagoon is the focal point. Thousands of seabirds roost on sheltered islands, pristine golden beaches stretch endlessly and brooding salt marches are home to vast concentrations of migrant waders from the northern hemisphere. During spring, the Park is embroidered with a tapestry of multi-hued flowers.



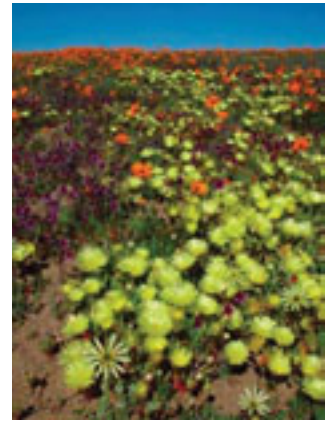
South Africa — 2012



After that we will drive along and through the Cederberg Wilderness Area with its dramatic peaks, precipitous, orange rock walls and bizarre rock formations. This area is a center of plant species richness which include 97 families, 409 genera and 1778 species. Along the way we'll stop in Vanrhynsdorp to visit one of the largest succulent nurseries in the world devoted to preservation of African succulents, with

over 500 species of indigenous succulents of which about 50 are endemic to the area. We then head into the Northern Cape and continue to Nieuwoudtville where we will overnight the next two nights. This is an area of ecological interest with the highest speciation of geophytes (bulbs) in the world. At our accommodations, the rustic guest houses are beautifully restored traditional sandstone buildings typical of the architecture and stone masonry of Nieuwoudtville. Owner Hendrik Van Zijl will share his immense knowledge of the botanical marvels of the area with us.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging: Van Zijl Guest House, Nieuwoudtville



Thursday, September 27

On the Bokkeveld escarpment, where the Hantam Karoo meets Cape Fynbos, the picturesque town of Nieuwoudtville is famous for its spectacular wild flowers during spring (rain dependent). Just outside of town is the Nieuwoudtville waterfall, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the country, and on the other side of town is the Hantam National Botanical Gardens, the newest of South Africa's nine national gardens.



The 15,500 acre property, a former farm, is internationally significant for its amazing bulb diversity, in addition to sections of renosterveld fynbos and succulent karoo habitats. We will also visit the and nearby kokerboom/quiver tree (*Aloe dichotoma*) forest, the largest and the most southerly colony of one of South Africa's giant aloes. This aloe grows almost exclusively on hot north facing slopes, with thousands of plants in this colony. We may also visit the Nieuwoudtville Wildflower Reserve, home to many rare and endangered species, especially bulbs, if things are in bloom.



Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging: Van Zijl Guest House, Nieuwoudtville

Friday, September 28



Today we travel further north into Namaqualand, visiting the 'Knersvlakte', an area that seems like a wasteland at first sight, but has in fact one of the richest populations of succulent plants on earth. We will explore the vast quartz fields with a local guide where we will see the interesting, minute plant life that has adapted to these extreme conditions, an ecosystem that mostly

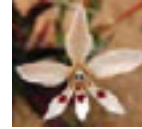


South Africa — 2012

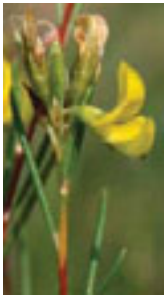
goes unseen by the uninformed. Most of these plants are so rare that they are found nowhere else in the world. We then return south to Clanwilliam, where we stay at a converted former girls' boarding school (built in 1920).

Meals included: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Clanwilliam Lodge



Saturday, September 29



This morning we will enjoy a wonderful guided interpretative tour of a rooibos tea farm and learn more about the indigenous flora. The 'Red Bush' from which the world famous Rooibos Tea is produced, is only found in the Cederberg Mountains. In 1904 a Russian Jew realised the commercial potential of the spindly leaves from the bush growing wild on the mountain slopes. Tannin free and rich in vitamins, over 3,000 tons per year are exported all over the world. Then we



visit Ramskop Wildflower Garden, a large municipal garden focused on native plants, with a large area devoted to succulent plants, other areas with spring-flowering daisies, a medicinal plants area, and lots of native bush. We continue on to Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve, included amongst the 'Top 500 – The World's Best Hotels,



Resorts, Lodges, Inns and Safari Camps' by readers of the USA Travel & Leisure magazine. Bushmanskloof is home to many exceptional San rock art sites and is a South African Natural Heritage Site, laying within the Cederberg Wilderness Area, which forms part of the Cape Floral Region, a World Heritage Site. Here you can enjoy delicious organic cuisine and breathtaking dining venues, discover the wonders of nature and choose from a vast range of outdoor activities.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging: Bushmanskloof Wilderness Reserve

Sunday, September 30

After a leisurely departure we take a beautiful drive via Ceres to the Breede River Valley, one of the great secrets of the Western Cape. There are magnificent mountains and breath-taking views in this, the largest wine and fruit growing region in the country.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner, and Wine Tasting

Lodging: Leipzig Guest House, Nuy Valley



Monday, October 1



In the morning we will visit the Karoo Desert National Botanical Garden, the only true succulent garden in the southern hemisphere (celebrating 90 years of displaying the arid regions' flora!). Southern Africa is one of the most succulent rich areas in the world. Of the world's approximately 10,000 succulent species, nearly half originate from Southern Africa.



South Africa — 2012

We then take a trip through the famous Cape Wine Region to experience the finest wines, warm hospitality and memorable moments. Wine lover or not, a visit to the Cape Winelands is an absolute must as the region is one of breath-taking vistas and majestic mountain backdrops while being steeped in rich culture and history. Rolling vineyards and quaint Cape Dutch homesteads await you, as well as award-winning wine farms offering some of the country's best wines. We visit the town of Franschhoek, lying against the backdrop of the majestic Franschhoek and Drakenstein mountains; the town with its picturesque main street showcases antique stores and art galleries, rubbing shoulders with bakeries and chocolatiers.

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Dorpshuis, Stellenbosch

Tuesday, October 2

Stellenbosch is nationally and internationally acclaimed as the 'must see' town. It has unique beauty and remains a picture-perfect town of white-washed cottages and oak-lined avenues. This charming town has a rich history and many interesting things to do



and see. Walk around at your own leisure and find the perfect spot for lunch. We will also visit Stellenbosch University Botanical Gardens and if time allows, we will take a drive or walk through Jonkershoek Nature Reserve and enjoy the awesome scenery. We will also be tasting some of South Africa's excellent wines.

Meals included: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Lodging: Dorpshuis, Stellenbosch

Wednesday, October 3

Enjoy a relaxing morning with breakfast at your leisure.

Depart for Cape Town's famous Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, allowing for some last minute great shopping or enjoy a walk through historical Cape Town before transferring to the Cape Town Airport for your flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast



\$1,000 deposit holds your reservation

Final payment due July 9, 2012

Our Local Guide



Nikki Strassburg has been a South African National Tourist Guide for 16 years. She is passionate about her country and considers it a privilege to show people its amazing and immense diversity. She has an interest in plants and horticulture, having owned a nursery for some years. She has done considerable traveling in other countries to broaden her understanding of other cultures. She has used her experience and passion to start her own tour company, *Africa Treasure: Tours, Travel & Safaris*, and is enthusiastic about sharing the treasures with you!

South Africa — 2012

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR: 4 days in Mpumalanga & Kruger National Park

September 15-18 (joins main tour on the 19th in Cullinan)

For an extraordinary wildlife viewing experience visit the legendary Kruger National Park



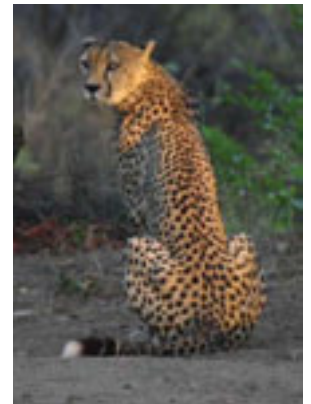
Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, Kruger National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa (7,332 square miles, 220 miles long and 37 miles wide) from north to south and 60 kilometres (37 mi) from east to west. It is now part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, a peace park that links Kruger National Park with the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, and with the

Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.



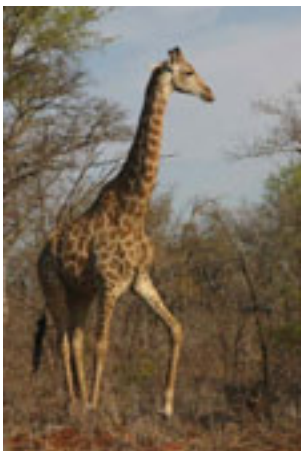
Kruger is home to an impressive number of species: 1,982 species of plants, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals in six eco-systems: Baobab sandveld, Mopane scrub, Lebombo knobthorn-marula bushveld, mixed acacia thicket, Combretum-silver clusterleaf woodland on granite, and riverine forest. The southern part of the park along the Sabie and Crocodile river is rich in water and has a lot of game viewing opportunities. Here you can see the best of African flora and fauna, including the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, buffalo), but there are plenty of others to see as well. The northern part of the park supports less flora and fauna and is

often considered a birding paradise.



This journey takes us into the province of Mpumalanga, which means “land of the rising sun” in the local SiSwati language, and is known for its extraordinary natural beauty. We include one park visits and a drive along the Panorama Route, which leads through the rugged mountain range of the northern Drakensberg and the Blyde River Canyon.

Extension cost: \$1,350



South Africa — 2012

TRIP COST AND CONDITIONS

This trip has been organized by Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C. and they reserve the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours will provide details on necessary supplies and logistics for this trip when the departure date gets closer. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail within 30 days of receipt of registration. Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure and all invoices will be sent in advance of this date.

Land-only package price \$4,995
(based upon double occupancy)
Single occupancy price \$900

**Airfare not included in price.



TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- * private coach with driver and air-conditioning
- * scheduled flight from Johannesburg to George
- * local, English-speaking Registered National Tourist Guide throughout
- * meals as indicated on the itinerary (all breakfasts, 8 dinners, 1 lunch)
- * 2 bottles of water per person per day
- * entrance fees pertinent to itinerary
- * 14 nights accommodation as specified above
- * local taxes on lodging and included meals
- * tips for local guides, maids, porters, waiters, etc

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- * international flights
- * meals other than those stated
- * insurance
- * tips for the guide and driver
- * optional tours
- * personal expenses
- * alcoholic beverages
- * any service or activity not specified above

PASSPORT

A passport is mandatory to enter any foreign country and to return to the United States. Passport must

be valid for six months beyond return date. Allow several months to obtain a passport or a renewal.

REFUND SCHEDULE

Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. Once final payment is made, there are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as airfare is booked at that time, and non-refundable hotel deposits have been paid. If we can re-sell the slot, we can offer a full refund minus the original deposit and airfare. Please see our Terms and Conditions document for specific refund schedule.

We highly recommend trip insurance, which including cancellation and trip delay coverage, as well as baggage and medical coverage. Most trip insurance policies waive pre-existing conditions if you sign up for trip insurance within 15 days of sending in this registration form and paying your initial trip deposit.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

This tour will include onsite visits to private gardens, wildlife preserves, national parks, and botanical gardens. Please keep in mind that the very nature of an eco-tour will put us in out-of-the-way places. This means walking trails might be rough, uneven or steep, and there is always a chance of encountering exotic insects, animals and snakes.

You are traveling into another country where conditions are not the same as in the States. Our accommodations will be wonderfully pleasant, but often rooms will not have all the amenities you may be used to at home. Please leave our country with the attitude that you are traveling to experience another culture, another climate, and to see how people in another country live.

We will dine in several restaurants during the tour. Although we will try to be accommodating, there are limits to meeting special dietary needs. Special foods and/or special preparation may not be available at every location.

Registration Form

Botanical Treasures of South Africa September 17 - October 3, 2012

Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport _____ Name as on passport _____

Passport # _____ Passport # _____

Passport Exp. Date _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and / or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements

- I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements
- I would like Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from this airport:

- Single Occupancy — add \$900
- Double Occupancy — (if not named above**) I would like to room with: _____
** (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single supplement)
- I am interested in an extension to Kruger National Park; please provide me with more information.

Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

amount \$ _____ check no. _____

If paying by credit card (we can accept only VISA or Mastercard)

****Payments by credit card will have an additional 3% surcharge!**

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be charged _____ Three digit security code from back of the card _____

Signature _____

Direct Inquires and mail this form to:
Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.
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Rocheport, MO 65279
573-881-6316
Email: mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com