

Outline for pre-congress excursion from Windhoek to Stellenbosch

Title: Southern summer rainfall to winter rainfall tour along the southern Africa BIOTA transect.

Route: Windhoek – Lichtenstein – Narais/Duruchaus – Gellap Ost –Stellenbosch

Time schedule: 25th to 27th September 2008

Guides: Dave Joubert, partly Ibo Zimmermann and Kuniberth Shamathe

Expected costs: NAM\$ 5,000.00 (Please note: this excludes accommodation in Windhoek and in Stellenbosch)

Tues. 23rd &

Wed. 24th Sep Arrival Windhoek

Transport from Airport to your accommodation in Windhoek is organised
Overnight at Hotel Pension Steiner in Windhoek

Thurs. 25th Sep Windhoek – Hardap

Departure at 8:00. We will be traveling through the Highland Savanna and entering the Dwarf Shrub Savanna along a gradient of increasing aridity. Visit farm Lichtenstein-Sued in the Highland Savanna to see the initial effects of restoring a gully system in a fertile valley.

Visit BIOTA observatories at Narais/ Duruchaus to observe a fence-line effect, experimental grazing plots and eco-friendly parasite control in sheep.

Along the way, the dynamics of bush thickening, mainly by *Acacia mellifera*, will be observed and discussed.

Overnight at Hardap Recreation Resort. Lunch-pack, dinner and breakfast is included.

Fri. 26th Sep Hardap – Springbok

Departure at 8:00. Travel south along aridity gradient in Dwarf Shrub Savanna through small stock farming area. Visit Quiver Tree forest; discuss quiver tree dynamics in relation to climatic variability and climate change. Visit Gellap Ost, observe and discuss differences between the communal farm observatory and the research station. Travel through arid transition from arid summer rainfall in the Dwarf Shrub Savanna to arid winter rainfall in Namaqualand succulent Karroo.

Overnight at Springbok Hotel in South Africa. Lunch-pack, dinner and breakfast is included.

Sat. 27th

Springbok – Stellenbosch

Departure at 8:00. Brief look at Succulent Karroo (arid winter rainfall) and observe the gradient to wetter winter rainfall (renosterveld and fynbos). Observe the changes in land use from extensive livestock production to eventually intensive crop production also related to rainfall gradient and soil conditions (limited due to time constraints).

Arrive at Stellenbosch late evening. Lunch is included.

Please note: Booking accommodation in Stellenbosch is the responsibility of the participants.