

CONGRESS PROGRAMME



Cape Photographers

3-in-1 event - PRINCE ALBERT 2016 - Monday 25 April - Friday 29 April

43 Church Street, Prince Albert

THE SHOWROOM

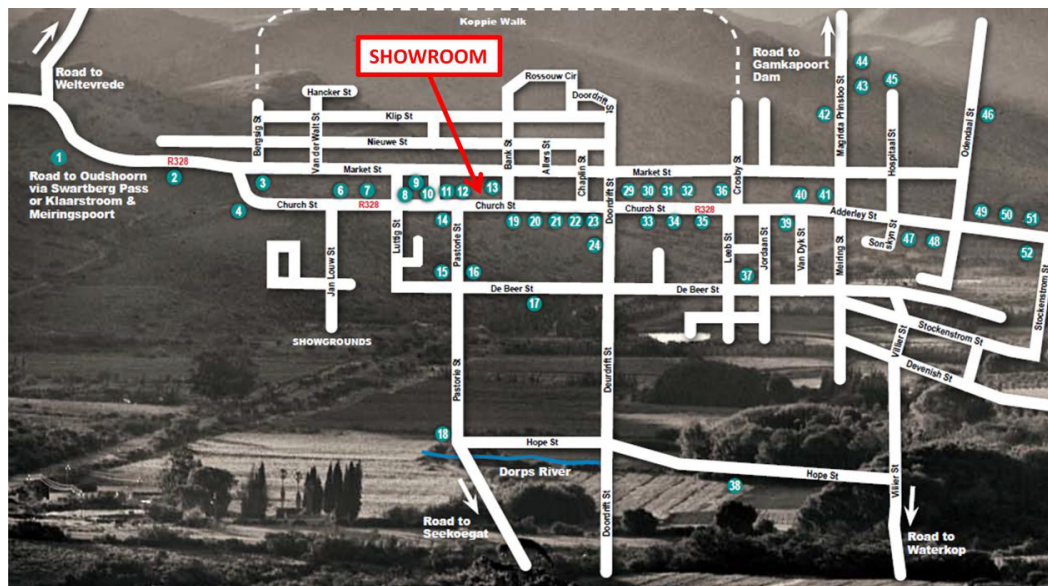
A world class venue in the heart of the Karoo

18TH ANNUAL
CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS CONGRESS

10TH
PSSA AUDIO VISUAL CONVENTION

2ND
PECC INTERNATIONAL AUDIO VISUAL FESTIVAL

THE SHOWROOM



KEY FOR PRINCE ALBERT MAP

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Albert's Mill | 23. Prince Albert Country Store | 42. Striking Metal |
| 2. Dennehof bicycle hire | 24. Karoo Kombuis | 43. Villa Kruger |
| 3. The Olive Branch Restaurant | 25. Karoo Looms | 44. Avoova |
| 4. Gay's Dairy | 26. Prince Albert Gallery & Gallery Café | 45. Hospital |
| 5. Lah-di-dah Farmstall | 27. Rooikamp | 46. Odendal Stadium |
| 6. Lazy Lizard | 28. Handmade-Karoo-Hand-gemaak | 47. Home Hardware |
| 7. Tennis Courts | 29. Prince of Africa | 48. Supermarket |
| 8. Watershed Complex | 30. Victoria Room & Coffee Shop | 49. Badisa |
| 9. Prince Albert Library | 31. Chic Karoo | 50. Naaldwerk Projek |
| 10. Bank | 32. Swartberg Arms | 51. Thusong Centre |
| 11. Prince Albert Municipality | 33. Gordon's Drinkstore | 52. Petrol |
| 12. DR Church | 34. SoetKaroo | |
| 13. St John's Anglican Church | 35. @66 Restaurant | |
| 14. Post Office | 36. Mix Artisan Bistro & Fine Art Gallery | |
| 15. Huis Kweekvallei | 37. Janet Dirksen Art | |
| 16. Hoërskool Zwartberg | 38. Prince Albert Olives | |
| 17. Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg | 39. Renu-Karoo Nursery | |
| 18. The Bush Pub | 40. Police | |
| 19. African Relish | 41. Karoo Kaleidoscope | |
| 20. Fransie Pienaar Museum | | |
| 21. Prince Albert Tourism | | |
| 22. Café Photo Albert | | |

CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Day 1: Monday 25 April 2016

THE SHOWROOM, Church street,
Price Albert

- 16:00: Registration at THE SHOWROOM
- 18:30: Welcoming finger supper at THE SHOWROOM
- 19:30: PSSA AV Honours

Day 2: Tuesday 26 April 2016

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Howard Bagshaw - AV Making
- 10:00 Fiona Ayerst - Underwater
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 PSSA International Salon for PDI
- 12:45 Lunch at NG Church Hall
- 14:00 Red Revenge Sound Studio - Workshop on sound quality
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

Day 3: Wednesday 27 April 2016

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Willem Oets
- 10:00 Louis Botha - Creative Seeing
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 PECC International AV salon (Adri)
- 12:45 Lunch at NG Church Hall
- 14:00 AV Software compared - Roel
- 15:00 Louis Botha portrait workshop
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

Day 4: Thursday 28 April 2016

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Chris Daly - Photos that tell a story
- 10:00 Anne d'Oliveira & Franz Jesche
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 Cape Photographers AGM
- 12:45 Lunch at NG Church Hall
- 14:00 Willem Oets Wings demo.
- 15:00 Anne & Franz workshop
- 16:00 Photo opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

Day 5: Friday 29 April 2016

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Chris Daly - Time lapse
- 10:00 Howard Bagshaw - Video in AV
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 PSSA AV Forum
- 12:45 Lunch at NG Church Hall
- 14:00 Wayne Webb (PTE) - Presented by Roel & Adri on Wayne's behalf
- 15:00 Louis Botha - landscape workshop
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Farewell Supper

*Supper arrangements:

Everything happens at The Showroom except lunch and supper from Tuesday to Friday; that will be at the NG Church hall, a short distance away #12 on the map.

20 interesting facts about Prince Albert

Getaway Magazine <http://www.getaway.co.za/travelideas/destinationtravelideas/interestingfactsprincealbert/>

Much has been written about the charming Karoo village of Prince Albert, but there is more to this town than pretty houses, quaint eateries and arty shops. Here are some Prince Albert facts that you may not have heard.

1. Gay's Dairy was the original farm
The original farm, which founded Prince Albert, was called "De Queekvallei" and was given to Zacharius de Beer in 1762. This farm is now home to Gay's Dairy and you can buy various dairy products from them. De Queekvallei was painted by Robert Gordon in 1778 and his original paintings can be found in The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. There is a bench on Gordon's Hill in his honour which is the perfect spot for an aerial view of the town, although now a little different from what Robert saw.

2. The lei water system
The town still uses a lei water system, using water channelled from the mountains. As you may have to remember which day to put out your trash, the people with water rights in Prince Albert have a set day and time in which they can direct the canal water to their home. Back in the day this used to be controlled by a Water Controller, but now operates under an honesty system. However, there are occasions where not everyone is so honest and fights sometimes break out over water use.

3. Watermills
There used to be five watermills in the district, but only one remains in working order. It was built in 1850 and operated until 1972.

4. The Prince Albert Gable
Many of the buildings in Prince Albert have the town's unique gable, known as the Prince Albert Gable. These gables date from 1840 to 1860 and were mostly built by Carel Lotz who came from Tulbagh.

5. The Dutch Reformed Church
The Dutch Reformed Church was completed in 1865 with the bell and clock, both imported from London, installed in 1878. During the Boer War the British forces used the church tower

as a look-out. The corners of the wall surrounding the church and the spikes on the fence have been designed to match the church building.

6. Prince Albert had the country's first multi-racial rugby team
Prince Albert was the first town in South Africa to have a multi-racial rugby team in 1984. The Fransie Pienaar Museum has a collection of rugby photographs, which will prove fascinating for rugby fans. Many visitors have spotted one of their distant relatives in them!

7. Distilling witblitz at The Fransie Pienaar Museum
The Fransie Pienaar Museum was originally the home of the owner of the Swartberg Hotel in 1906 and then a hospital from 1954 to 1978 before it became a museum. To help raise funds, the museum distills their own witblitz in the back yard which is available for purchase. Talk about supporting a good cause!

8. Gold mines
Gold was discovered in Prince Albert in 1870. A second find in 1891 started a gold rush that saw approximately 500 people rushing to stake their claim when the clock struck midnight on the 4th of August 1891.

9. 100-year old vine at the Swartberg Hotel
The Swartberg Hotel has a vine in the garden at the back that is said to be over 100 years old.

10. Forced removals of communities
The coloured communities of Rooikamp, Nuwerus, Die Bos and Albertsplaas that once existed in Prince Albert are no longer, as the Group Areas Act forced the residents of these communities to move to North-End township in 1962. In many cases, the houses they lovingly built were demolished in front of their eyes, along with their possessions. Livestock were also removed. Whilst land claims have now been submitted and restitution payments are ongoing, it's a sad story and one depicted very well by artist Christine Thomas, whose paintings in her "Die Verlede en Hede" collection can be seen at the Fransie Pienaar Museum. Guided tours of the remnants of the of Rooikamp and Nuwerus neighbourhoods can also be arranged at the museum.

11. The doll-maker

Among the many artists who have taken up residence in the town is a rather unique dollmaker who takes her inspiration from the Karoo and the people she meets here. Brita Nathan makes dolls to order using local fabrics, including Karoo sheep's wool for hair. It can take up to two days to make a doll and no two dolls are ever the same. You can find her dolls in The Lazy Lizard and Karoo Looms along Kerk Street, or contact her directly on tel 072 744 4037 or email nobsmc@gmail.com.

12. First movies at Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg

The Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg was originally the outhouse for the home belonging to the parents of artist Gawie Beukes in the late 1800s. The first movies in Prince Albert were shown here and being silent movies, Gawie used to provide the piano accompaniment. Movies are still shown there today, although no piano playing is needed.

13. Indie Karoo Film Festival

Talking of movies, Prince Albert played host to the Indie Karoo Film Festival for the first time over the first weekend of July 2015, showing movies, short films and documentaries by independent South African film-makers. The films were shown over three days in three different venues: The Showroom, the Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg and in a tent at La Di Dah farmstall. The Sunshine Cinema at La Di Dah farmstall harnessed the power of the Karoo sunshine and used solar power to show their movies. The Indie Karoo Film Festival will become an annual event and is a great opportunity to see some interesting films, scoff popcorn for breakfast and explore the town.

14. The Showroom Theatre

The Showroom Theatre (<http://www.showroomtheatre.co.za/>), housed in a beautiful art-deco building, was originally a car showroom. No longer showing cars, it now shows art movies and hosts performing artists in a plush theatre, complete with avant-garde red seats and carpeting and is well-worth a visit if you're in town.

15. J M Coetzee

South African author, JM Coetzee, spent some of his childhood years staying with his grandparents in Prince Albert and his memoirs of his youth feature stories about growing up in the town.

16. Graveyard with no headstones

The graveyard in Bank Street is the oldest one in Prince Albert. Although the church has a record of who is buried there, there are no headstones on most of the graves – they were crafted from wood and have perished over time.

17. Ghosts about town

On the subject of graveyards, Prince Albert could well be one of the most haunted towns in the Karoo! There are over 10 ghosts in the village, including poker-playing ghosts in hotel rooms, ghosts who bake bread, a ghost who doesn't like you to photograph his house and a ghostly hearse seen on misty nights. There's also a ghost on the Swartberg Pass, although not many people drive that pass at night. If you're as intrigued as I was, take a ghost tour with Ailsa, the local Story Weaver.

18. The house that was a post office

The beautifully painted red house on the corner of Mark and Bank Streets is that colour for a reason. The building used to be the town's post office and the current owners painted it red because of this. Look out for their interesting post box as you pass by.

19. Hand-painted dustbins

Nearly all the dustbins in Prince Albert are hand-painted with information about the town, the area, or the history of the building they are placed in front of. There are approximately 107 painted dustbins in total. Now if only all towns would go to that effort with their bins!

20. No mosquitoes at Bushman Valley

If you detest mosquitoes, then stay at Bushman Valley just 5km outside the town. Not only are you surrounded by beautiful mountains in budget-friendly accommodation there are no mosquitoes in summer because of the breeze that gently drifts through there.

THE PRESENTERS

Johan Schreuder - Red Revenge - <http://www.redrevenge.co.za/>



Red Revenge is a creative, full-service video and audio production company - delivering powerful video and audio collateral to enable and enrich communication, on any platform, for any channel, with any audience.

Johan is a dynamic entrepreneur with a passion for music production and is also a qualified sound engineer. He has successfully managed his own recording studio and now media agency for the last 5 years.

Johan aka Conscious Chaos is also a renowned and well celebrated producer of trance music and has enjoyed playing at festivals such as Vortex. His style of hard psychedelic trance is not for the armchair enthusiast but to be enjoyed in the great outdoors.

He began accumulating his enthusiasm for music way back in 1992 when he started doing DJ sets at house parties for his mates. Actually, music had been a key factor in Johan's life since his conception, born into a world of The Beatles, Deep Purple, Uriah Heep and growing up with Guns N Roses, Metallica and Sepultura.

After he finished school in 1996, he made a move to Israel where he started mixing it up a few times at the Boogie Room on the Kfar Bloom Kibbutz in upper Galilea. By the end of 1997 he moved to London where he was introduced to turntables by the legendary Tall Paul at the Turnmills nightclub, also known as Trade and the Gallery (London).

He has also had a large following at one of South Africa's longest running and most successful trance organizations, Vortex. He has become a regular performer at Vortex events, giving the crowd a taste of his explicit beats. Also, due to his great ability to get the crowd rocking, he always manages to land prime time slots everywhere he plays.

Fiona Ayerst - <http://www.fionaayerst.com/>



About Fiona Ayerst Underwater Photography

With over fifteen year's collective experience in photography and wildlife interaction, Fiona Ayerst Underwater Photography is a multi-award winning photography agency which offers both a unique glimpse into aquatic wildlife and also personal photographic shoots underwater.

Fiona and her team prefer the medium of water to work in but they have been known to venture onto dry land on occasions- especially for an interesting animal or story.

One of the team's goals is to shed a light on the current plight of our oceans and to highlight the damage to our oceans through environmental degradation and bad habits of over-use and over-spend. Many people never get to see what the team does when they shoot under the waves.

"We are proud to be an eco-friendly business dedicated to reducing our negative impact on the Earth. We believe that every little bit that you do is a step in the right direction no matter how small and insignificant it may seem."

Fiona writes a regular blog on things involving water or photography. "We would love editors to fling us to any corner of the Earth they can- especially if it has water...."

THE PRESENTERS

Howard Bagshaw ARPS MPAGB



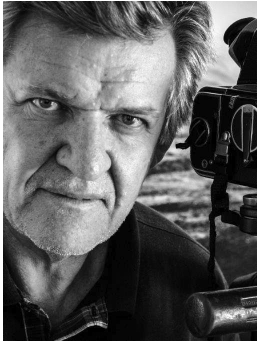
Those who attended the 2014 congress at De Rust need little introduction to this speaker par excellence from Stafford, England!

Howard has been a keen photographer all his life. He worked in education, teaching science and technology and latterly advising and training teachers. It was only when he retired around 8 years ago that he found that he had sufficient time to make Audio Visual 'sequences'. He feels that he has gained enormously by belonging to photography and AV groups such as Wilmslow AV group and the Royal Photographic Society.

Encouraged by AV friends, he entered local, national and international AV competitions and has been fortunate to gain a number of medals and awards for his sequences including the gold medal at the RPS AV International. He has also gained his Associate distinction from the RPS and the Masters award from the Photographic Alliance of GB in AV.

He and Carole have enjoyed the friendship and support of other AV workers from around the world, not least from those in South Africa.

Louis Botha - <http://www.louisbothaphotography.co.za/>



Louis treasures the simple things in life and his work testifies his belief that less is more. Louis' preference is to capture remote landscapes, ordinary people and things. He is also intensely aware of the value of Light and Time, he uses so attentively each time he presses the shutter.

"SLOW DOWN look again..."

Louis just released his first coffee table book titled "SLOW DOWN look again..."

This is a 148 page, 25cm x 25cm, hard cover book containing beautiful, old style, black and white, storytelling photographs and text of the residents of North End. All the photographs were captured by Louis over the last four to five years. He used an old Hasselblad from the 1950's and black and white film.

The book was launched on 6th November 2015 during the Prince Albert Leesfees. Two more launches were held in Stellenbosch on 26th November and in Pretoria on 6th December.

The book is available at the Louis Botha Photo Gallery in 2 Parsonage Street, Prince Albert.

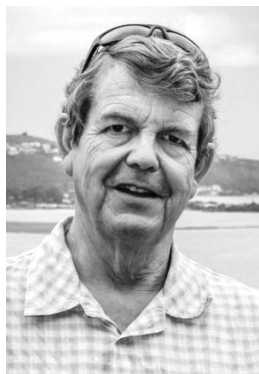


Another persona who rarely requires an introduction:

Willem has been a photographer since he was introduced to photography as a creative medium in 1991. He developed as a landscape and abstract photographer but now explores light and expression. He runs a fine-art printing studio, teaches photography and is a frequent presenter at photographic meetings.....

"If I can respond to my subject, I can capture its essence - be it a landscape, an abstract or a person."

Chris Daly FPSSA APSSA (Vers.) AFIAP



Chris is well known in the Garden Route Region where he also served many years as PSSA Regional Director.

He is a recognised Judge in both Digital Photography and Audio Visual for PSSA Salons and serves as a judge on the PSSA Honours Panel. He has run various workshops for photographers in the Western Cape.

"My interest in photography started at the age of fifteen when I watched a friend's father developing prints in a darkroom. The bug bit and I was soon developing my own prints in a converted closet under the stairs with home-made developing tank, enlarger and print dryer. After leaving school, I packed up the darkroom and for many years reverted to the "happy snap" jumbo print mode.

It was only in 2000 that I became seriously interested in photography again when I bought my first digital compact camera. In January 2004 I joined the George Camera Club and started to submit photos for my club star grading, starting as a One Star worker. During that year I also joined the PSSA and entered my first National Salon and later entered the International Salon scene in order to qualify for my FIAP honours.

In 2007 I received my APSSA in Digital Photography and in October 2008, after gaining honours in both Audio Visual and Published works, I was awarded my APSSA Versatility. In February 2011 I was awarded my Fellowship in the Photographic Society of South Africa (FPSSA) and in October of that year gained my AFIAP (Artiste FIAP) in the International Federation of Photographic Art."

Anne d'Oliveira APSSA

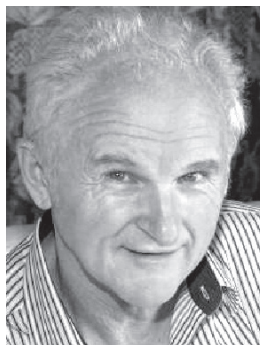


Anne is the First Vice President of PSSA, Regional Director for Central Gauteng and caretaker for other vacant regions and Chair of the PSSA Competitions portfolio.

"My aim since doing "photography" is not to restrict myself to any one genre of photography because I realized that there is so much to photograph I did not want to be bound by categories. As a result I have done just that. I will try anything new and attempt to master it.

I have very itchy feet and love travelling. My travels take me to unusual places and at the front of all the travel is the photography. I have been lucky in this regard and have seen many strange and unusual places. When I am not physically travelling, I am armchair travelling and photographing - always reading books on the subjects to broaden my horizons.

So I am kept quite busy and this is in between running my own business where I do project management and cost control within the construction industry."



"A "lifelong passion for photography" only begins to describe my journey through a long, adventurous and exciting period of time.

Born and raised in Austria, my parents instilled in me, already at an early age, the ability to see and appreciate visual beauty. My father was a keen and proficient photographer too and it was through him that I learned the value of the recorded image, in relation to treasure and equally so share one's precious moments with others.

During the years of schooling my interest in drawing, painting and art developed. But it was only when I studied architecture that I managed to save enough money to buy my own still and movie cameras. From that moment my life changed and I gradually began to pursue adventures further afield.

Photography established itself as the driving force behind my exploits. I began to travel extensively, not only throughout Southern Africa, but equally so to many places throughout the world.

Being inquisitive and a perfectionist at heart, I continued to analyse and study photography, film making, art, design, architecture... and always managed to apply myself to these topics quite successfully.

Through National and International competitions I have gained insight into the competitive spirit of the "photographic world". Although I enjoyed great success with my submissions, I always know that there is still much more to do and learn. The ongoing quest for new and exciting visuals will never end."

OTHER:

There will be software demonstrations, workshops and outings and plenty opportunity to photograph or conversations with fellow delegates.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

As the Internationally recognised Society,
PSSA actively embraces the future in its
service to all photographers.

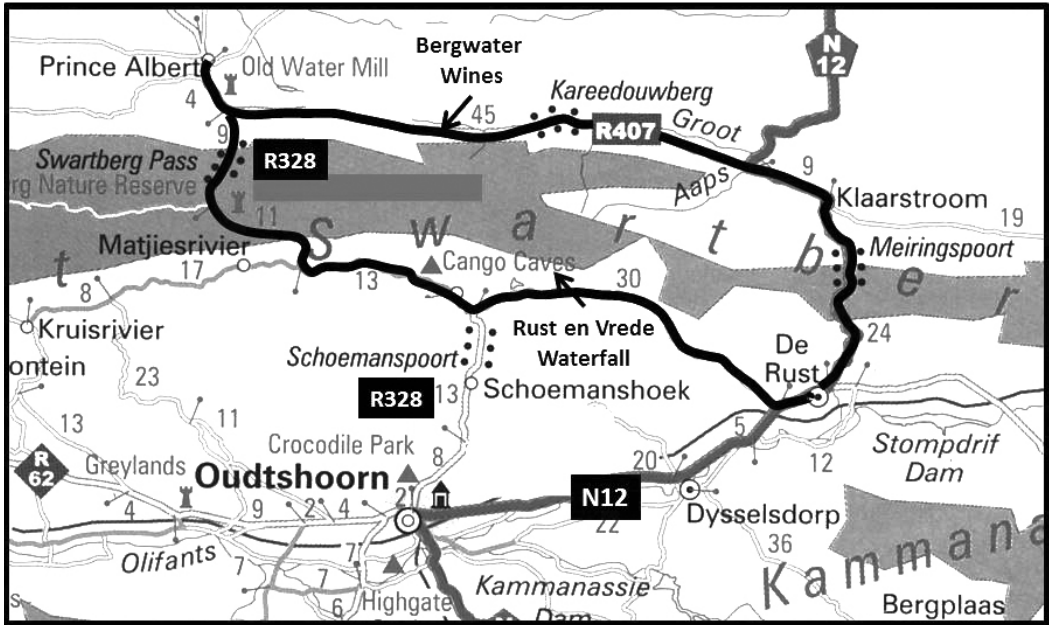
Our mission is to bring together all those
interested in photography, to promote the
highest possible standards and to embrace
the future of photography whilst continually
supporting the present.

For further information contact us:
www.pssa.co.za

The Photographic Society of South Africa
(Incorporated Association not for gain)
Reg. No. 54/01845/08



The Swartberg Pass/Meringspoort Circular Route
(approx. 160 kms) - Compiled by Paul Rixom



This approximately 160 km circular route can be done from Prince Albert in either direction, but this guide follows the route in an anti-clockwise direction from Prince Albert over the Swartberg Pass then past the Cango Caves and the Rust en Vrede waterfall to De Rust. From De Rust the route continues through Meiringspoort and Klaarstroom and then via the R407 over the Kareedouw Pass returning to Prince Albert. To appreciate this circular route it is really a day trip from Prince Albert, taking lunch in one of the restaurants in De Rust.

Prince Albert

In 1703, Matthys de Beer, a Swedish agriculturist and wagonmaker of Dutch origin and the forebear of all De Beer families in southern Africa, landed in Cape Town. He married Hilletjie Smit two years later and settled in Stellenbosch. His sons, Zacharias, Mattys and Johannes came to the harsh Roggeveld Karoo in 1757 where they farmed with cattle and horses, but when Dutch East India Company loan farms became available in 1762 they all moved to the present Prince Albert area. The farm Kweekvallei was granted to Zacharias which, with the help of a strong perennial spring coming out of the Swartberg, he transformed from a barren wilderness into a fertile productive unit. The farm stayed in the De Beer family till the late 1790s when Zacharias' eldest son Samuel sold the farm to the Bothma brothers.

The community living in the lee of the Swartberg decided to break away from the distant Beaufort West congregation and, after negotiations with the Bothmas, a church and a parsonage were completed and the first minister appointed by 1844. The town elders applied to the British monarchy to name the town after the husband of Queen Victoria and this was granted in 1846. By 1879 a new railway line had been completed as far as Prince Albert Road station (44 km away on the present N1) and the opening of Thomas Bain's Swartberg Pass in 1887 created further economic potential for the town's inhabitants.

The Town acquired municipal status in 1902 and its rich architectural heritage reflects its social history. Building styles range from the modest Karoo cottage (now called 'Karoostyle') to high Victorian and even Georgian buildings, impressive in their refinement and detail. The older grand houses are situated on De Beer street (east of the main Church street), towards the Dorps River, on extensive plots with large water reservoirs. Also don't miss the 'smallest house in town', which is a tiny thatch building on De Beer street which is used as an office for a thatching company.

Leaving Prince Albert, we drive back east along the R407, pass the old water mill and after about 4 km we turn right (33°15.69'S, 22°02.88'E) on to the sand road (R328) leading to the Swartberg Pass. Just before we enter the pass we can see on the right a covered water channel transporting water from the Dorps River to the water works just outside the town. It is this perennial stream that allowed the establishment of the farm Kweekvallei in 1762 which ultimately became Prince Albert.

The Swartberg Pass

The Swartberg Pass between Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn is regarded as one of the most spectacular and best known passes in South Africa. The pass is the creation of that remarkable road builder Thomas Charles Bain (1830 – 1893). This is the last of the seventeen passes built by Bain in the Cape and is considered to be his masterpiece. Originally the routes through Meiringspoort and Seweweekspoort were the only links between the coast and the Great Karoo. Meiringspoort was constructed by Thomas Bain's brother in law, Adam de Smidt, in 1858, but these routes were very often closed by flooding and rock falls. In 1879 Bain was commissioned to plan a new route over the Swartberg which was approved by the Government in 1880. Bain started construction in 1883 with about 220 convicts and work was completed in 1887 at a total cost of £14,500, which in today's money is nearly £1 million or about R24 million. The present day road is very much as originally constructed and traverses land owned and administered by Cape Nature.

At Eerstewater the draught animals could be outspanned and watered before the long tiring journey over the Swartberg. Bain's first convict base camp was situated here and the remains are still visible on slightly raised ground to the right of the road. Amazing contortions of the Table Mountain sandstone are seen here and at Tweedewater where the Dorps River is crossed and further on at Malvadraai many geraniums (*Pelargonium cicillatum*) are seen close to the road. On the right are the remains of Blikstasie 'the jail' where the convicts were confined at night.

Then, to your left, the famous Bain ziz-zag road climbs up the apparently impossible slope of the mountainside. It is amazing to think that when Bain did his initial surveys of the pass, on foot, without modern instruments, he must have looked at this mountainside and came to the conclusion that his road could traverse it. The dry-stone walls climb like parts of a giant snake up the steep slope. His packed dry-stone technique for building the retaining walls uses no cement yet has held these huge rocks in place for over 120 years, using the principles of friction and cohesion. The longest wall on the southern side of the pass stretches for 2.4 kilometres and the highest reaches 13 metres. He learned the technique from his road-building father, Andrew Geddes Bain, and trained his men to trim the stones into wedges and then lay them down, narrow end on top of wider end, with the wall sloping inward to the mountain. As the retaining wall was raised, rock fill was used between the wall and the mountain, and when the road was laid the pressure of the total weight simply increased the rigidity of the wall.

From the top of the zig-zags a gentle climb takes you to the Teeberg viewpoint around which the honey tea bush can be found. From this vantage point we can look ahead at the Otto du Plessis road going to Gamkaskloof (Die Hell) which branches off the main road in a westerly direction. Gamkaskloof is about 39 km away but the journey takes about 2 hours. Below, and back to the north, a great gorge opens up and we have a glimpse of the road at Malvadraai (geranium bend) which we negotiated earlier many hundreds of metres below.

Past the Gamkaskloof turning (33°20.37'S, 22°02.31'E), a little further down the road at 'Fontejntjie' the date 1884 can be seen near the top of the dry stone walling on the left side of the road. Further on to the left is the site of the original tollhouse where now only the old foundations remain. This was also the position of the road-builders camp, where a roof caved in after a heavy snowfall one winter, killing many of the convict labourers inside. It is worth remembering that snow can fall on the Swartberg in any month of the year and Bain himself was caught out in a snow storm one Christmas. It was here that the official opening of the pass in 1888 and the centenary celebrations of 1988 took place. Further on several restored buildings can be seen to the right representing a cafe and overnight accommodation which occasionally operate under a private concession granted by Cape Nature.

Soon several hair pin bends take you up to Die Top at an elevation of 1585 metres. It is almost always windy here and on a clear day you can see, to the north-east, the Nuweveld Mountains, above the Karoo National Park near Beaufort West, over 120 km away. To the south and below lies the beautiful cultivated valley of Matjiesrivier. For the birders, look out for the Cape Rockjumper which is often seen here. As we descend the Table Mountain sandstone dips steeply away to the south and klipspringers can sometimes be seen standing tip-toe on the outcrops.

On the impressive high dry-stone walling on the right of the road at Boegoekloof (Buchu Kloof) the date 1886 can be seen carved into a rock near the water culvert. Various species of medicinal buchu grow here and the plant was usually put in brandy or vinegar and the extract used as medicine for stomach and many other ailments. Halfway down this descent, the ruins of the Hotelletjie are seen. After the completion of the pass a postal service was instituted between Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert and to offer overnight accommodation, a modest hotel, was erected here. Some old maps refer to this inn as the Victoria Hotel. Further down at the ruins of Stalletjie the mail coach horses were rested, watered and fed.

By the time the gravel road gives way to tarmac you have completed the approximately 20 km traverse of probably the most spectacular mountain pass in South Africa which still stands today as a magnificent monument to the work of that brilliant engineer and road builder Thomas Charles Bain.

South of the Swartberg

There is now a scenic drive eastwards along the R328. Before the left turn off to the world famous Cango Caves (33°22.27'S, 22°10.59'E), discovered in 1780 by the farmer Jacobus van Zyl, another limestone cave can be seen to the left above the Grobbelaars River on private farm land. This is Boomplaas Cave and is a very important site for South African archaeologists as the deposits found there represent human occupation from 1,500 to 70,000 years ago.

After beautiful views of farms nestling in the southern slopes of the Swartberg the road enters the scenic Schoemanspoort, carved out by the Grobbelaars River. If you continue with the R328 it will take you south past the settlement of Schoemanshoek, Buffelsdrift Game Lodge and Cango Wildlife Ranch into the town of Oudtshoorn, where you turn left on the N12 north-east to De Rust. However, a short way through Schoemanspoort, a road appears to the left (33°25.64'S, 22°15.10'E) indicating Cango Mountain Resort and Rust en Vrede waterfall. This is a beautiful, highly recommended, 34 km sand back road, running along the southern flanks of the Swartberg and ultimately coming out on the N12 just southwest of De Rust.

The road starts as tarmac but becomes gravel as it passes the Cango Mountain Resort where magnificent views of the Koos Raubenheimer Dam, an important water source for Oudtshoorn, can be seen on the left, cradled in the foothills of the Swartberg. The gravel road continues through farmland till a sign to the left (33°24.63'S, 22°20.29'E) indicates the entry to the Rust en Vrede waterfall. Danie Nel, of Rust en Vrede farm, was persuaded to sell his water rights to the

Oudtshoorn Municipality and a pipeline was completed in 1900. The waterfall, adjacent land and 35 km pipeline is still managed by the Municipality who sometimes closes the approach road, but if the gates are open the 6 km return detour to the waterfall is really worth it.

There is a small charge that has to be paid and then the drive takes you to a small car park close to the southern slopes of the main Swartberg. From there a short walk along a specially constructed walkway takes you into a cool shaded gorge where at the end the beautiful Rust en Verde waterfall tumbles down from the heights above into a deep pool. Being in a steep narrow valley on the southern slopes of the Swartberg, the waterfall is mainly in shade, even in summer. The Groot River has luxuriant vegetation along its banks and as you walk back look out for the two manhole covers over the pipeline near the weir, that are both cast with the words 'Oudtshoorn Municipality 1901'.

Return to the main gravel road and turn left in an easterly direction. The road can be a little muddy after rain, but the farmers generally keep it in good condition as it is the road that services most of the farms in the area. The shapely peak of Spietskop (2,039 metres) is visible to the immediate north and later you will see the turning to Oudemuragie Guest Farm to the left (33°27.61'S, 22°26.24'E). Oudemuragie offers very reasonable self catering accommodation in a series of lovely cottages set in the foothills of the mountains. Soon The Red Hills will appear on your right and you will join the N12 just 4km southwest of De Rust (33°30.19'S, 22°30.08'E).

De Rust

The name of this town literally means 'The Rest' and is an indication of how it came about. In the early 19th century a farmer Petrus Johannes Meiring found a pass through the Swartberg Mountains (Meiringspoort), and travellers, before tackling the daunting route, used to outspan at a favourite spot near a mountain spring. In 1900 this outspan, which was situated on Meiring's farm, was proclaimed a town and retained its traditional name of De Rust. It is a serene, little Victorian village scarcely touched by the passage of time and as yet undiscovered by rapacious developers. Considered to be the gateway between the Klein Karoo and the Great Karoo, De Rust has a typical Karoo atmosphere steeped in history, hospitality and time; time for well-being and time for community. This slow pace of life and clean fresh air has an appeal to those who seldom have time to quiet their minds. Its people breed ostriches and grow olives, fruit, and grapes from which wines are made. De Rust boasts quite a few historical buildings, of which the Dutch Reformed Church is but one and it was at the church hall in April 2014 that the 16th annual Cape Photographers Congress was held.

Meiringspoort

Going north out of De Rust on the N12 you enter the incredible scenic spectacle of Meiringspoort. The pass is named after the above mentioned Petrus Johannes Meiring, the farmer who lived south of the pass on De Rust farm and who campaigned tirelessly for the construction of a wagon route to link Great Karoo farmers to new southern markets. Adam de Smidt, Thomas Bain's brother-in-law, was put in charge of upgrading the existing bridle path in 1856 and completed the task two years later. Early doubts about the route were justified for in 1859, 1861, 1875 and 1885 severe floods forced the closure of the road for periods up to a month. While Thomas Bain was building the Swartberg Pass in 1866 he was asked to assist in the reconstruction of the road. He re-directed the road to a higher line and reduced on the number of crossings of the Groot River. Meiringspoort has been upgraded many times and the road was tarred and upgraded for modern traffic in 1971. However, the floods of 1996 were particularly bad, destroying many of the concrete causeways and much of the road. Full restoration took three years and the 25 low water crossings over the river are now designed to allow floods to pass over them. The South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL) have constructed several excellent paved parking areas, braai facilities, toilets and an information centre as part of the upgrade.

As you drive north through Meiringspoort you can see Herrieklip on your left. This is where the Afrikaans poet C.J. Langehoven chiselled the name of his imaginary pet elephant 'Herrie' into the rock in 1929. He was also a campaigner for official recognition of the Afrikaans language and he finally achieved his goal when it became an official language in 1925. He wrote the words of the Afrikaans portion of the South African National Anthem and many believe that Meiringspoort was the inspiration for the lines "Over everlasting mountains, where the echoing crags resound". His former home in Oudtshoorn, Arbeitsgenot, is now a museum and is preserved as it was at the time of his death in 1932.

The main information centre on the right is worth a visit with displays covering the history, natural history and geology of Meringspoort. A short walk up a path from the information centre will take you to the 60 metre high perennial Great Waterfall. It plunges into a deep pool which for many years was believed to be the bottomless home of a mermaid. However, in 1987, divers established the depth at 9 metres and although you are unlikely to see a mermaid you probably will see the younger generation leaping from high ledges on the rocks into the pool.

Klaarstroom

As we leave Meringspoort we see the hamlet of Klarstroom and if we take the signposted left turn (33°20.14'S, 22°32.45'E) we will be able to drive through the little settlement. The permit for a farm called 'Klaare Stroom' was issued in 1763 but the settlement was only established in 1860 and named after the clear streams flowing north from the Swartberg. The little village soon prospered as a stopover for farmers travelling from the Karoo, via Meiringspoort, to Mossel Bay and a hotel was built in 1868. The farmers would wash their cargos of wool in the clear mountain streams. The first wool washery in South Africa was opened here in 1874 by Percy Alport, a Canadian, who also had business interests in Prince Albert and Beaufort West. The village consists of a single street with about a dozen buildings in typical Victorian style. The police station was built in 1897 and housed the circuit court. At the back were stables as police patrolled the area on horseback up till the 1950s. The Anglican church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1880 and the small Dutch Reform church in 1926. Behind the Anglican church are the Anglo-Boer War graves of Corporal Boyd of the Imperial Yeomanry and Trooper Hirschford of Brabant's Horse who were killed in action on 2nd February 1901 in a skirmish near Klarstroom. It is a quiet place now with electricity only connected as recently as 1996. The film "Faan se trein" (Released in 2014) was filmed here and Koos Roets showcased this to us at our 2014 congress. Situated in the middle of the village is the charming Klarstroom Guest House.

Die Gang (the Passage) - between Klarstroom and Prince Albert

Driving through Klarstroom and past the township, we rejoin the N12 going north (33°19.55'S, 22°31.89'E) and after about 6km take the R407 left to Prince Albert (33°18.41'S, 22°28.78'E). This road runs west along a valley with the Swartberg Mountains to the south and the Witteberg Mountains to the north and was called Die Gang or the Passage.

It is an interesting and little-known fact that South Africa's first natural essential oils were extracted in this valley. In 1894 a Dane called Frederick Nielsen built a little plant on a farm in the valley where he extracted essential and volatile oils from blossoms and citrus rinds. He also cultivated aniseed, peppermint and fennel, which were snapped up by buyers in Cape Town, as formerly, all such products had been imported from Europe. However, he married a widow who had no time for his work and he simply vanished never to be heard of again.

Further west, after crossing over the Kredouw Pass, we descend into the beautiful Prince Albert valley and discover Bergwater Wines. The estate is owned by two brothers, Heimie and Stephan Schoeman. The winemaker is Jacques Kruger, who joined Bergwater Wines in January 2013 after starting his winemaking career at a well-known wine producer in Stellenbosch in 1981. During 2002 the official status "Wine of Origin Prince Albert Valley" was announced by the Wine and

Spirits Board. The wines have won various medals and awards and were also served in the Business Class of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as well as the Royal wedding of Prince Albert of Monaco. The cultivars include; Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc. A moderate climate prevails throughout the growing season, with a southerly wind cooling down the valley at night. This sharp drop in temperatures enables the grapes to preserve the rich aromas naturally embodied during the sunny days. The average annual rainfall is only 200mm with a result the vineyards are irrigated with quality spring mountain water good enough to bottle or drink. From the planting of the first vineyards in 1999, the owners aimed to farm in harmony with nature and to minimize all impacts on the natural environment. Vineyards were only planted according to the availability of irrigation water. After harvest, in winter, dorper sheep graze between the vineyards to eliminate the weeds instead of spraying chemicals.

As we return to Prince Albert we pass through the Oukloofberg cliffs. Green lichens grow on the cool south facing rock faces. Lichens are formed by a symbiotic association between fungi and algae and grow in exposed localities where few other plants would survive. They have no roots, stems or leaves to trap water and survive predominantly from moisture in the air. The fungus contains the thallus, or main structure, which houses the algae and attaches the lichen to the rocks. The fungus dominates the entrapped algae to benefit nutritionally from the algae's photosynthesis. Lichens are permeable, allowing the effortless passage of fluids through their surfaces. When exposed to moist air, they promptly absorb water and photosynthesise for as long as they are moist.

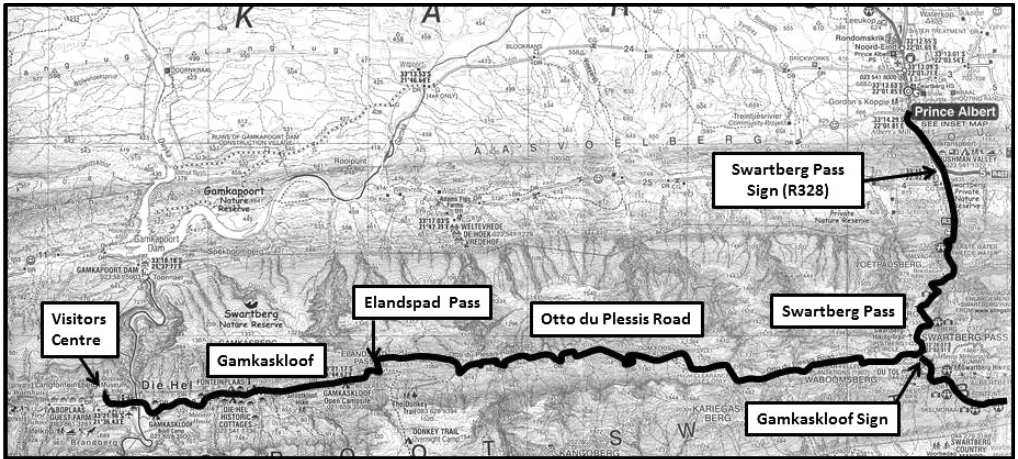
Returning to Prince Albert completes the Swartberg Pass/Meiringspoort circular route. In only about 160 km we have been able to marvel at the immense tectonic forces which have given rise to the Swartberg mountains and we have also touched on the history of the settlements and stories about the people that give this area such a rich cultural heritage.

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902) Rudyard Kipling was stationed at a British blockhouse, guarding a railway bridge near Antjieskraal station, close to the present N1. In 1901 he wrote a poem which he called 'Bridge-guard in the Karoo' in which he describes the darkness and sounds of a Karoo night, broken by the passage of a train. However, in the first three verses of the poem he describes the sunset on the distant Swartberg Mountains near Prince Albert.

*"Sudden the desert changes,
The raw glare softens and clings,
Till the aching Oudtshoorn ranges
Stand up like the thrones of kings.
Ramparts of slaughter and peril,
Blazing, amazing, aglow,
Twixt the sky-line's belting beryl
And the wine-dark flats below.
Royal the pageant closes,
Lit by the last of the sun,
Opal and ash-of-roses,
Cinnamon, umber and dun.*

Let's hope that during our congress in Prince Albert we can capture photographically some of these colours in the sunset on the magnificent Swartberg Mountains.

Gamkaskloof (Die Hell)



The distance from Prince Albert to the visitors centre in Gamkaskloof is about 70 km one way, but because of the nature of the spectacular sand road this journey should be considered as a full day trip, or even better, spend a night or two in one of the beautifully restored cottages run by Cape Nature or private owners. Although four wheel drive is not essential a fairly strong vehicle with good ground clearance is recommended.

Leaving Prince Albert in a southerly direction the Swartberg Pass road (R328) is a right hand turn at (33°15.69'S, 22°02.88'E). A description of the first part of this route is given in the 'SwartbergPass/Meringspoort Circular Route' guide in another part of this programme. About 16 km from Prince Albert the sign 'Gamkaskloof 37 km – travelling time 2 hours' is seen on the right (33°20.37'S, 22°02.31'E). For about 33 km the road continues in a westerly direction as it climbs and descends through a valley cut in the Swartberg crossing many streams which drain north through the mountains. Till finally, after a long climb, you come to the top of the Elandspad Pass and below, via a steep descent and many hairpin bends, lies Gamkaskloof forming a giant cleft stretching from east to west for about 20 km, its centre a green ribbon winding into the distance and intersecting the Gamka river further to the west. (Gamka means lion in San)

The area used to be home of the San and Koi as numerous rock paintings and artefacts have been found in the caves and overhangs of the valley. Legend has it that Gamkaskloof was 'discovered' in the early 19th century by farmers, who were looking for lost cattle and found this hidden valley by accident and stayed and cultivated various crops in the fertile environment. The first permanent settler was Peter Swanepoel, who settled in the valley in the 1830s. Later, the Marais, Cordier, Joubert, Nel and Mostert families settled in the valley, growing ultimately to a community of around 160 individuals.

The first written account of the valley comes from Deneys Reitz in his book 'Commando' where he writes about his experiences in the 1899-1902 Anglo Boer War. He describes how his small commando were trying to cross the Swartberg to join General Smuts in the Great Karoo to the north when they came across this hidden valley cultivated by white farmers that wore buckskin clothes and spoke a strange outlandish Dutch. They were hospitably received by the Cordier family and were fed goat's meat and wild honey before being shown the way out of the kloof.

The residents farmed grain, vegetables, fruits, tea and tobacco, along with distilling witblits and brewing beer made from wild honey and they walked or used horses to cross the Swartberg

mountains to reach Prince Albert or Calitzdorp to sell their produce or for medical treatment. Later a school was established, with the teacher also leading the Sunday church.

Nobody is sure where the name 'Die Hel' came from. One popular story is that a Piet Botha (an animal inspector) visited the valley in the 1940s and used a particularly difficult route known as 'die leer' (the ladder) into the western end of the valley. He described the experience as "hell". The residents never liked the name and preferred to refer to themselves as 'Kloovers'.

The residents had petitioned the government for many years to build a road and in the 1950s Mr. Otto du Plessis (Cape Provincial Administrator at the time) promised them an access road. In 1960 the provincial government gave Koos van Zyl a bulldozer and eight labourers and instructed him to force a road from the Swartberg Pass into Gamkaskloof which he amazingly completed by 1962. However, not long after the road was built it led to the depopulation of the community. The children attended high schools in the nearby villages and most of them did not return to the subsistence life in the valley. The elderly retired to retirement villages outside the valley and the number of residents diminished. By the 1980s most of the original inhabitants had left and only one, Annetjie Joubert (née Mostert), and her family, would later return to Fonteinplaas.

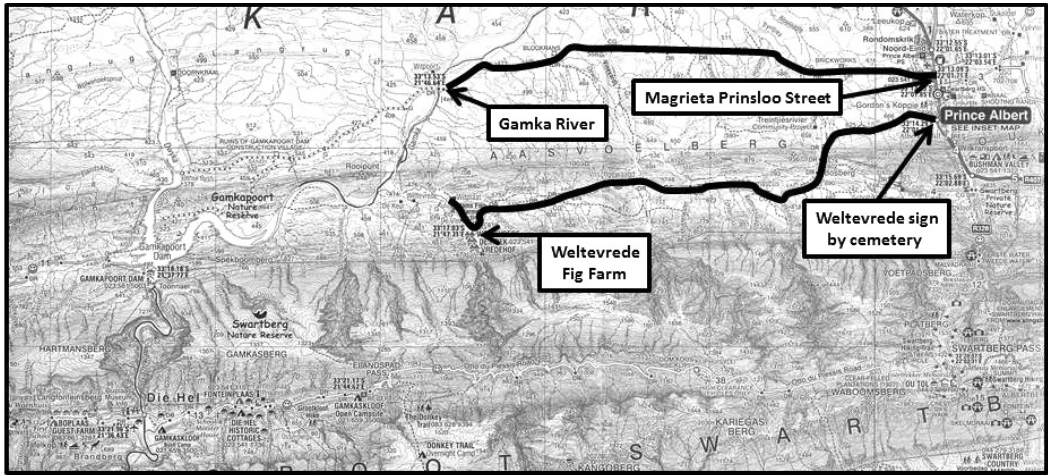
In 1997 the entire Gamkaskloof valley was declared a World Heritage Site and was included in the Swartberg Nature Reserve. Since this declaration most of the cottages in the kloof have been restored to their original design as part of a combined effort mainly by Cape Nature, private individuals, and other interested parties such as the Monument Commission, local museums and authorities. The only concession was to slightly modernise the cottages with the addition of solar power (for electric room lights only) and gas for the fridges and hot water systems. Most still have the old "Dover" type wood stoves that were originally carried in on donkey back down into the valley.

As you descend to the bottom of Elandspad Pass, you come to the Cape Nature gate and office (33°21.17'S, 21°44.21'E) and pass through the camp site. You are now driving along the valley floor, crossing the stream many times and passing Annetjie Joubert's Fonteinplaas where refreshment and accommodation are available. Apart from Fonteinplaas all the restored cottages that are visible along the road belong to Cape Nature and are available for hire on a self-catering basis. A pictorial history of the families that used to live in the buildings is displayed both outside and inside the cottages. Further down the road you pass the school house and later the cottage of Lenie Marais who built the house herself and was also the local midwife. You finally cross the Gamka River that cuts through the Swartberg flowing to the south and a little way beyond that is Ou Plaas which is the Cape Nature ranger's home and visitors centre which is well worth a visit to understand the natural and human history of the valley. A short distance beyond this is the gate to Boplaas where further restored privately owned cottages are for hire.

The vegetation is quite diverse: ranging from mountain fynbos and riverine shrubs to renosterveld and Karoo-veld and an abundance of succulents. Wildlife is increasing due to rigid control by Cape Nature and private land owners. Baboons are common, but Grey Rhebuck, Klipspringer and Kudu are becoming more numerous. Small carnivores like Rooikat, Cape wild cat and the river mongoose are occasionally seen and leopards have been confirmed by spoor and camera traps. Birdlife is abundant and at least 150 species have been recorded, including the Black, (or Verreaux's) Eagle.

A trip to this beautiful and remote valley is a journey back in time where, to some extent, you can relive the life and peace experienced by the old 'Kloovers'.

Two Scenic Roads West Of Prince Albert.



There are two scenic sand roads that go in a westerly direction out of Prince Albert.

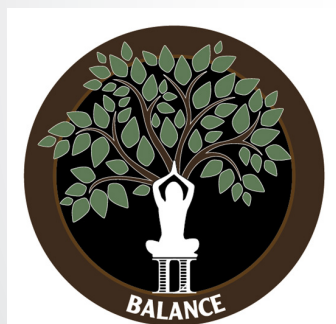
One starts as Magrieta Prinsloo street which turns left as you drive towards the northern end of the main Church Street ($33^{\circ}13.63'S$, $22^{\circ}01.85'E$). This good sand road goes past the lovely Karoo View Guest Cottages to your right and continues for approximately 24 kms in a westerly direction and ultimately arrives (with a section of 4x4) on the banks of the Gamka River ($33^{\circ}13.53'S$, $21^{\circ}46.64'E$). This road originally linked Laingsburg and the northern part of Seweweekspoort, to Prince Albert but was inundated by the construction of the Gamkapoort Dam in the late sixties so you must return on the same road to Prince Albert. The road is recommended for sunset photography and wide Karoo vistas.

The other road is signposted as 'Weltevrede' in the southern approach to Prince Albert, next to the cemetery ($33^{\circ}14.29'S$, $22^{\circ}01.81'E$). This good sand road runs for about 25 kms in a westerly direction through spectacular mountain scenery between the Aasvoelberg to the north and the Swartberg to the south. The rock strata of the Aasvoelberg are nearly vertical and create some amazing shaped mountains. The road passes the farms of 'Damascus', 'Vriscgewaagd' and finally the fig farm 'Weltevrede' ($33^{\circ}17.03'S$, $21^{\circ}47.71'E$). Here figs and other preserves can be purchased in season and the farm also has three beautifully restored guest cottages situated close to a gorge coming out of the Swartberg. A little further down the road is a small labyrinth on the farm 'Witplaaf'.

This road is also good for sunset photography and it is also a dead end so you must return on it to Prince Albert.

Day 1		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Monday 25 April	Timeslot	Tuesday 26 April	Wednesday 27 April	Thursday 28 April	Friday 29 April
Photo opportunity	? - 8:30	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity
	08:30 - 08:50	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments
	08:50 - 09:00	Notices	Notices	Notices	Notices
	09:00 - 10:00	Howard Bagshaw AV Making	Willem Oets	Chris Daly Photos that tell a story	Chris Daly Time lapse
	10:00 - 11:00	Fiona Ayerst Undervater	Louis Botha Creative Seeing	Anne d'Oliveira & Franz Jesche	Howard Bagshaw Video in AV
	11:00 - 11:30	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments
	11:30 - 12:30	PSSA Intl salon (Roel)	PECC AV salon (Adri)	Cape Photographers AGM	PSSA AV Forum
	12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
	14:00 - 15:00	Red Revenge Sound Studio	AV Software compared - Roel	Willem Oets Wings demo	Adri & Roel PTE (O&A) demo
	15:00 - 16:00	workshop on sound quality	Louis Botha portrait workshop	Anne & Franz workshop	Louis Botha landscape workshop
Registrations	16:00 - 18:30	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity
Welcoming finger supper at The Showroom	18:30 - 19:30	Supper	Supper	Supper	Farewell Supper
PSSA AV Honours	19:30 - ?	discussion/socialising	discussion/socialising	discussion/socialising	discussion/socialising

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4pm – 6pm

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4.30 – 6pm

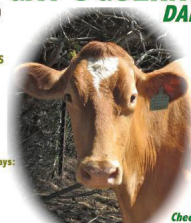
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THANKS FOR JOINING US - TRAVEL SAFE