



Newsletter 2 - 2025

Guided hiking and walking tours with Wide Open Spaces

When planning a multi-day hiking adventure, it's essential to consider your goals and preferences to ensure a fulfilling experience. Here's a breakdown of key factors to contemplate:

1. **Booking Timeline:** Determine how far in advance you'll need to book your trail. Some popular trails may require reservations months in advance, especially during peak seasons.
2. **Guided vs Unguided:** Decide if you want a guided experience with an trained guide leading the way, sharing knowledge about the environment, ensuring safety on the trail and making the experience that much more relaxing than if you have to cook your food, wash dishes clean up every evening and morning, or whether you would prefer the independence of an unguided trail where you can set your own pace and schedule and not be able to relax that much.
3. **Daily Distance:** Consider how far you want to hike each day. Some trails offer shorter distances with opportunities for sightseeing, while others challenge you with longer treks requiring stamina and physical fitness.



4. **Backpacking vs Slackpacking:** Reflect on your preference for carrying a heavy backpack and cooking for yourself in the wilderness versus more comfortable

accommodation. Some packages may offer meals and lodging, while others require you to be fully self-sufficient.

5. Accommodation Style: Think about your sleeping arrangements. Are you comfortable camping in a tent, or would you prefer sleeping in a guesthouse or lodge? This can greatly affect your overall experience.



6. Essential Gear: Make a list of the gear you'll need. Comfortable footwear, appropriate clothing for various weather conditions, and necessary camping equipment should be thoroughly considered. Wide Open Spaces provides all its client's a Gear Checklist that is a guideline as to what gear is recommended.

7. Experience Level: Assess your hiking experience. Are you a beginner, or do you have years of trekking under your belt? Choose a trail that matches your skill level.



8. Goals for the hike: Identify what you want to achieve during the hike—whether it's physical fitness, connection with nature, challenge and adventure, or bonding with friends and family.

News Updates and Up-coming Events:

1. The Stone Folk Slackpacking Trail:

Some places in September and November 2025 are still available.



2. The Karoo Food Experience @ Herold Wines.

Wide Open Spaces is excited to announce a collaboratory event with Herold Wines and Barbara Weitz of the Ibis Lounge in Nieu Bethesda. Barbara has gained wide acclaim with her culinary Karoo Food Experience. Barbara is one of those rare chefs, who can create something with the simplest and most basic ingredients.

Barbara forages her ingredients from in and around the village of Nieu Bethesda and she has the amazing ability to extract magical flavours from these ingredients.

The event is planned for July 2025 and will be a Karoo Food Experience and wine-pairing lunch.

Barbara will be at the Knysna Fringe Festival on 21 and 22 March 2025.

WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED REGARDING THE DATE AND WHEN BOOKINGS OPEN.

3. Moonlight Meander.

This is a new collaboration with Mark Dixon of Garden Route Trails. It is beach walk at Swartvlei Beach (Gericke's Point) Sedgefield which is held twice a month (weather dependent) on a full moon and spring low tide and is already proving to be a popular outing. With a full moon and the low tide, the rock pools come alive and providing an amazing glimpse of what one does not normally see along the beach during the day.



4. The Herold Wine Trail.

For anyone who has not yet done the Herold Wine Trail, based upon client reviews and the increasing number of people booking, it is definitely worth doing.

Starting off at the Outeniqua Railway Museum in George, you ride up to the top of the Montagu Pass in the George Power Van, which is itself a wonderful experience. From there, a 9km trail to Herold Wines on the northern side of Cradock Peak offers breathtaking views and exquisite flora, that make for great photography. The lunch and

wine tasting at Herold Wines after the hike, rounds off the day. After lunch a shuttle returns everyone back to the Outeniqua Railway Museum.



5. The recent good rainfall in the Karoo.

Over the past few weeks the Karoo has experienced some very good rain transforming the Karoo veld into a spectacular array of colours and contrasts. The condition of the veld bodes well for the Stone Folk Slackpacking Trail that commences in April 2025.



I look forward to the next few months and the adventures that lie ahead.

Until the next Newsletter, I wish you well and keep up the training for your next adventure with Wide Open Spaces.

Regards. Anthony.

WO Spaces

George, Garden Route, Western Cape
South Africa



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