Cowie Valley Route

The Long Garden

A wide variety of vegetables take centre stage in this hillside garden behind a restored ancestral home. "We use heirloom seeds which germinate fantastically and the produce has better flavour" says Barbara. Visitors can visit the farmyard where a cow, hens and turkeys help with compost recycling. The garden hosts the household and the staff, with whom the Church's a symbol of the relationship. Barbara's cream and jam are legendary.

Barbara & Mike Church 082354841 082684508 076177633
Entry: R10

Donkerhoek Farm Garden

A l-o-n-g stretch of demo veg beds (with a special focus on the banana feature) - flowers and annuals - feature prominently throughout the garden. One of the main attractions is the "how-to" info on evergreen gardening topics include in-bed composting, green manure, raised beds, upping that earthworm count, beating the pests, saving seeds, encouraging friendly birds and bugs. Cathy Knox 082 952 8864
Entry: R5.00

Caltex Bio Garden

This historical Maasstrom Farm is embraced by the Caltex Bio Garden, mountains, giving a glimpse of the beauty ahead. A majestic Atlas Cedar summarises a riot of colour and forms. One of the special features is a generous circular rose bed made from heritage rose bushes. Many varieties of roses are visited here. The colour and beauty of this garden complemented by glimpses into pastures where sheep are firing the Canon! Francois is a creative spirit; he is also a keen photographer and brings the beauty that nature offers to life through his lens. Hilda & Francois 046 685 0635
Entry: R20

Caltex Bio Garden

The Upcycled Garden at Eagle Houte

This inspiring child-friendly garden has a quirky sense of fun along with commitment to sustainability. Rambles up the 180m long rose walk, count the 8000 eco-bricks that make up the circular free garden. Only roses that need very little care are planted in this garden: these perennials and excluded annuals. The choice of plant material was made easier as this is a frost-free garden. Only roses that need very little attention were planted in this garden: these include Icebergs, My Granny, Johannesburg Garden Club and Mutabilis. Trees that were planted many years ago landscape the view. Wendy has planted more to create beautifully shaded areas.
Wendy & Brett Wierand 082 579 5084
Entry: R20

Alberivale Home of Thrive

This homestead and working sheep farm of lan and Kim van Niekerk is only 12 minutes from Bedford village. It was once the Old Tavern on the ox wagon route. This organic, natural style garden sports an abundance of old fashioned perennials, heritage roses, established trees, edible plants and flowers in an informal style mixed with a touch of 'prairie'. The garden has followed all year. Kim has concentrated on natural gardening practices including worm farming, compost making and biodiversity. The garden proliferates by self-seeding. Kim uses much of her seasonal produce when hosting her cooking workshops and health educational.
Kim & Ian van Niekerk 082 775 5178
Entry: R20

The Rosarium

This tranquil, fragrant garden was established by a trust for the conservation and perpetuation of South Africa's old roses! Throzimie lovingly tends them and has a gift to propagate new plants from the mother stock. This sanctuary space relies on nature's cycle and the secret whim of the roses to the abundance of the blooms. Nothing is forced to be on show. The underplanting focuses on companion & indigenous plants as these are organic with no use of sprays or poisons. The dell area is unique and purposely wild.
Kim van Niekerk 082 775 5178
Entry: R20

Cows Garden

Approached down a curving avenue of ancient oaks, this peaceful oasis with huge trees, sweeping lawns and a rose of frames roams a blue-chip guesthouse and family home. Windows in the walled garden "rooms" invite the eye outwards towards the mountain and sky. There is space to unwind and dream; grand scale is part of the lingering impression.
Rosanne & Ken Rock 046 685 0619
GPS: 32.642481 26.156258
Entry: R20

Town Gardens

Stretching down a long e, this new garden was designed by Francesca Watson. A lawned path meanders down the length of the space through plantings that are initially formal and mat progressively into a "natural" garden with an increasing number of indigenous plants. The flows in a lawn surrounded by grasses against a wall of reads. Access the kitchen garden with its raised beds from a moon gate. Tara, an experienced and extremely knowledgeable gardener, will be happy to chat about the development of this unique and special garden.
Tara Forster 084 665 0472
GPS: 32.678397 26.084342
Entry: R20

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