

Harold Nixon Porter Botanical Gardens – 5 June 2021 – Betty's Bay, South Africa

After watching the penguins for an hour or more we drove five minutes to the Harold Nixon Porter Botanical Gardens. As noted before our timing was off. It is the middle of winter not the spring flower blooming season. However, this botanical garden was still a great visit.



The garden area begins with a large area of flat ground with multiple planting beds. We spent a half hour or more roaming the various plant beds.

We then decided to walk or at least for us it was more of a hike up into the higher reaches of the gardens. We spent about three hours hiking up and then back down to the formal gardens. We slept well and long that night and the next morning.



The views above the formal gardens like so much of South Africa were incredible.



OK, I cheated on the last two photograph and used a telephone lens to bring the views in close.



Most the trees were more like large bushes but several times we came across different tree species.



It's winter in the Southern Hemisphere but there are flowers blooming.



Looking down and back at the more formal parts of the botanical gardens. The hiking trail was well laid out but uphill.



The world has been divided into six distinct Floristic Regions or Floral Kingdoms. The smallest of these Floral Kingdoms is the Cape Floral Region – found only in South Africa - that occupies only 0.08% of the world's land surface but contains +/- 3% of the world's plants.

Each Floral Kingdom is made up of different Biomes. Biomes are based on dominant forms of plants life and prevailing climatic factors. The Porter gardens is in the heart of the coastal fynbos biome.



The grasses were as interesting as the flowering plants.







Sort of reminded me of a magnolia flower. During our drives and walks we came across multiple types of cone like flowers.

When you travel with us, you do stop to smell the flowers.