

From Ore to Shore

The West Coast Discovery Trip

Date: 23-25 October 2026

Field trip

Explore the wonders of South Africa's West Coast on this immersive field trip. This excursion includes visits to the Kropz Elandsfontein Phosphate Mine and Plant, the world renowned West Coast National Park, and the fascinating West Coast Fossil Park, all situated within 125km from Cape Town.

Throughout the trip, you'll gain an appreciation for the region's rich geological history - from the natural processes that led to the formation of the Elandsfontein ore deposit to the diverse geological features within the national park. You'll also enjoy the unique local fauna and flora, explore a preserved fossil excavation site, and encounter the remarkable fossils of bears, sabre toothed cats, short necked giraffes, and many other extraordinary animals that lived along the West Coast approximately five million years ago.

The field trip will be led by André Van der Westhuizen (Centre for Minerals Research, University of Cape Town), and Emeritus Professor John Compton (Department of Geological Sciences, University of Cape Town).



Friday, 23 October 2026

- 07:00 Bus departs Cape Town International Convention Centre, CTICC (Conference Venue).
- 09:00 Bus arrives at Elandsfontein Phosphate mine (Hopefield). Delegates report to the Elandsfontein Lodge for Induction and Introductions.
- 11:30 Delegates split into two groups; one to visit the plant, the other the mine, then the groups swap around. PPE will be provided by Elandsfontein mine.
- 14:30 Delegates to return to the Lodge for lunch, followed by close out discussion.
- 17:00 Travel to **Langebaan Hotel & Spa (5-star Hotel)** for overnight stay.

Saturday, 24 October 2026

- 08:30 Bus leaves accommodation.
- 09:00 Arrive at West Coast National Park. Spend the day at the park visiting various sites of geological and natural interest. Picnic lunch at Kraalbaai (can include swimming in the Langebaan lagoon).
- 17:00 Travel to Langebaan for overnight accommodation.

Sunday, 25 October 2026

- 08:30 Bus leaves accommodation.
- 09:00 Arrive at West Coast Fossil Park. Spend the morning at the park. Visit the dig site, exhibition hall, Discussion on old phosphate mine rehabilitation.
- 12:00 Return to Cape Town.
- 14:00 Arrival at Cape Town International Convention Centre, CTICC (Conference venue).

Registration fee: R10 000 p.p.

Includes accommodation, meals, travel and park entrance fees as well as an autographed copy of 'West Coast: A Natural History' by John. S. Compton.

The trip is limited to 20 people.

REGISTER HERE

For further information contact:

Gugu Charlie, Conferences and Events Co-ordinator
E-mail: gugu@saimm.co.za | Tel: +27 11 538-0238 | Web: www.saimm.co.za

Upon registration you will receive an acknowledgment. Payment can be made online via PayPal or through EFT and an invoice will be issued.