



## Tours SAAO Sutherland

### BOOK A TOUR

Office Hours  
Mon – Fri  
08:00 – 16:00

Telephone: (023) 571-2436  
Fax: (023) 571-1413  
Email: [suthbookings@sao.ac.za](mailto:suthbookings@sao.ac.za)  
Emergency: 076 900-0308

### DAY AND NIGHT TOURS

A maximum of 20 people are allowed per tour. **Booking is essential!**

**DAY TOURS:** *Day tours can be done as fully guided tours or basic tours.*

**FULLY GUIDED TOURS** (Guided walk through the Visitor Centre as well as a guided tour of selected research telescopes including SALT)

Monday to Friday: 10:30 and 14:30

Saturday: 11:30 and 14:30

**BASIC TOURS** (Self-guided tour of Visitor Centre and basic guided tour of SALT)

Weekends and Public Holidays: 08h00 to 16h00

**NIGHT TOURS:** *Night tours entail the viewing of interesting objects in the sky through two dedicated visitor telescopes, 16" Meade and 14" Celestron. Note that visitors **cannot** visit any of the research telescopes at night, not even SALT.*

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: When booking tours, visitors will be notified of their tour starting time. In mid-winter it could be near 18:00 and later in mid-summer 20:00.

**NOTE:** The tour can last from 90 minutes plus, but can be aborted due to cloud, mist or strong wind. In the case of bad weather the guide will take you to the Visitor Centre for a movie in case it clears up later. **DO NOT DRIVE UP THE ROAD LEADING TO THE DOMES**, this is a "NO LIGHTS" research area, International and Local Astronomers are at work! The visitors' dome is very near the Visitor Centre and not up on the hill.

**IMPORTANT:** Please be punctual. Tour guides will meet you at the Visitor Centre at the booked times. If you arrive early please wait at the Visitor Centre for your guide. This is a secure site and all other buildings are off limits to the public. In an emergency you may call 076 900 0308.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Sutherland is situated 360km from Cape Town along the N1 and R354. The Sutherland road (R354) is opposite the Matjiesfontein turnoff (about 235km from Cape Town). This road is long and winding, and takes you right into the town of Sutherland.

*Visitors are encouraged to check out the tourism office on the main road of the town for information about the area such as the Tuinplaas Church, Verlatenkloof Pass, Ouberg Pass, Old English and Jewish Cemetery, Louw Museum, Dutch Reformed Church, Salpeterkop and much much MORE. Informal tour guides are also available to take you through the area (ask at the tourism office).*

The turnoff to the SAAO is halfway into the town on the right (Fraserburg Road). About 14kms from Sutherland you will find our main gate. Pass through the gates and follow the road to the Visitor Centre where you can park and meet the tour guide.

Note that in the town of Sutherland petrol is not available on Sundays (though special arrangements can be made). In winter the Sutherland road (R354) can have a layer of snow or ice on the surface, so be careful on this narrow, but good tarred road. Lots of Tortoises about, please look out for the little ones crossing the road. There are also Baboons, Buck, Black Eagles and lots of flowers in spring.

#### SUTHERLAND WEBSITES

[www.karoohoogland.co.za](http://www.karoohoogland.co.za)

[www.sao.ac.za/~pah/](http://www.sao.ac.za/~pah/)

### TOUR FEES

*All fees collected go towards the SAAO's education, public outreach and socio-economic development programmes.*

**DAY TOURS (Guided): R30.00 p/p**  
**DAY TOURS (Self-guided): R20.00 p/p**  
**NIGHT TOURS: R50.00 p/p**

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

The fees can be paid directly into the SAAO's account:

South African Astronomical Observatory  
ABSA Heerengracht, Cheque account  
Branch: 506009  
Account: 0550144514  
Ref your tour date (e.g. day or night 21/9)

**OR**

Post cheque to P O Box 9 Observatory 7935,

**OR**

Hand a cheque in a sealed envelope to the guide.

Please fax proof of payment to **Claudine Vernooi at (023) 571-1413**. If you require a receipt, email [surayda@sao.ac.za](mailto:surayda@sao.ac.za) with all your details and a receipt will be posted to you. Please note, that this is a non-refundable donation and the staff in Sutherland will not be able to help you with your payment confirmation.

*We hope you have an enjoyable experience in Sutherland!*

June 2009

