Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in Cape Town has once again invited a small group of Landscape Architects and Garden Designers to work with them as volunteers for a fortnight in August both at the gardens themselves and on several outreach projects around the Cape working with farmers, school children and community groups in the townships and the Millennium seed bank project.

We did the trip for the first time last year. It was both stimulating and exciting, but most of all we got to see Cape Town and the townships from a professional non-tourist perspective. It also gave us a chance to learn about one of the world’s unique floras, many species of which are beginning to appear in our gardens in the UK.

But the fortnight isn’t all about work! As part of the package there’ll be lots of excursions: to the wine estates, Cape Point, Chapman’s Peak, the penguins at Boulders, Franschhoek, guided walks on Table Mountain and the cable car. For those who are interested, the city offers many venues for water sports as well. It’s also the whale season. And of course there’s the wine, good food and an unchanged exchange rate. What more could you ask?

The cost of the trip is £1950 for shared occupancy (plus £300 for single occupancy). This includes airfares on the set dates, bed and breakfast for 14 days, transport, excursions and insurance. Accommodation will be in a 4* boutique hotel in the centre of town. Visitors have always got value for money in South Africa, but with a stable exchange rate it’s one of the few countries where the GBP buys what it did a year ago!

We’re flying overnight non-stop to Cape Town on British Airways on the 11th August and returning on the 25th. Should a group member wish to stay on longer to explore more of the Cape or other parts of South Africa, flight dates can be changed, subject to availability. The cost of any extension to the trip will be at the traveller’s expense.

If you are interested in joining the group or have any questions call Patricia Walby on 020 7209 1659 or email me on pwilliams@casetv.com Partners and family are welcome as well.

There’s a website too: www.capetowngardenvolunteers.co.uk and a flickr page: http://www.flickr.com/photos/capetowngardenvolunteers