

Star Gazing @ Wilgepoort – 6 to 7 July:

Please join us for an amazing afternoon and evening of discovering more about astronomy and our celestial bodies. (i.e. Star Gazing)

Expert members of the Astronomy Society of South Africa (ASSA) will be hosting this event for us and general program will proceed as follows:



- Try to arrive at Wilgepoort by 12ish on Saturday so you can put up your tent, etc before we start.
- At 3pm or so we will have a brief introduction into Star Maps and their use. Copies of maps will be handed out during the talk and in the evening we will be asked to find/identify bodies in the night sky. (Finally you will be able to confidently point out Mars).
- We hope to have a physical model of our Solar system showing the movements of planets and moons around our sun. (Did you know that the morning and evening star is not always the same star?)
- We plan to have a telescope with special filters enabling us to look at the sun (hopefully there will be some solar flares). We might even be able to observe cooler spots on the sun.
- The evening we will star gaze using the telescopes supplied by ASSA.

SPECIAL request - white light is no good for our night vision. Please be kind enough to ensure that there are red filters on any and all head or flash lights you use around the camp site. We will try to bring some red cellophane wrapping that we can cut and stick onto lights.

For this reason also we might be stopping cars from driving to the camping area from about 5pm. (Depending on where we set up the telescopes....but it is better if you arrive early anyway)

If you have never been to Wilgepoort REMEMBER, or TAKE NOTE, that there are absolutely no “facilities”. There is only a long drop toilet so you will need to bring everything you will need to make your weekend comfortable. Luckily you can drive to the camping area so feel free to pack the kitchen sink.

Remember to bring enough drinking water and some wood and charcoal for the braai. Also some rubbish bags to take your rubbish away in on Sunday.

Chairs and tables are always a good idea. And Glühwein.

The location is on the Wilgeriver and quite cold in the winter.

The property offers limited hiking, sport climbing, rafting/kayaking, fishing, cycling and lots of trad climbing. Please bring your own gear.

The wildlife is quite healthy and we have breeding Verreaux eagles on the cliff faces.

So do bring the family and come spend the weekend and not just one evening.

For more info contact the meet leader Ivan Van Zyl - pccare@telkomsa.net