

I am sure you all recall the cyclone bombs, torrential rains, high speed winds and devastation we have all lived through in the Bay Area recently. I am sure you all remember how frustrating no electricity and Wi-Fi was for the few hours or days that you maybe didn't have it.... And then slowly it all came back together and the Bay Area was functioning at its usual high pace and efficiency. With all the load shedding here in Johannesburg, (electricity gets turned off for hours everyday in some form of sequence through one Neighbour hood to the next) the traffic lights (robots) get turned off too and traffic has to go back to the old school lessons of give way right, pass on the left etc..... ha! Well that in itself is a whole new lesson in navigation but along with this comes the reality that these traffic lights don't come back on as their technology is too archaic to deal with the on - off- on and stay off forever situation...so they don't turn on ...the result is survival of the most aggressive, creation of new rules as you drive, growl and swear and hope you get through each intersection unscathed. I am not sure i am ready for international driving and i am pretty sure my car insurance wouldn't cover the nonsense that happens here in South Africa!

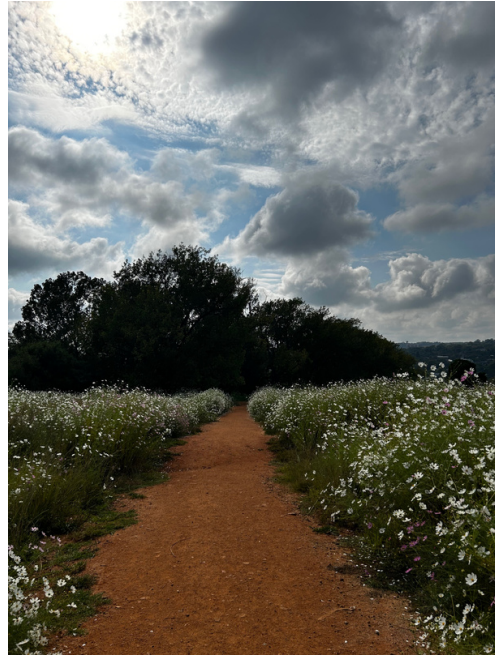
Let's talk about public transportation... well there is NO legitimate form of government controlled transportation... buses? Trains? Ha Right... no! So what we have is a variety of privately owned (usually unregulated) companies running what we call " pirate taxis" which is basically a fleet of glorified mommy vans designed to hold 6-8 people but here in Africa you stuff as many people, groceries, chickens, furniture and whatever else into each van , slam the door , slap the side and we are good to go! Whether you arrive at your destination or not is a 50-50 chance.

In the neighborhoods huge speed bumps have been erected in some attempt to stop the taxis from screaming through the suburban roads. The first thing: they are zero effective and the second thing: these speed bumps are knee high so if you speed over the first bump and get a bit of an airborne you can pretty much ramp the next one without too much damage and screech on. I am definitely not ready for international driving!

Let's talk about the fabulous hike i did today in the Delta.... A wonderful green belt reserve that has been bought and maintained by a private company for public use. Mountain biking, hiking, wading and even horse riding happens here. The spectacular show of cosmos is at its height of beauty in April

It is like walking in a fairy land of flowers.





Five miles later I found myself enjoying yet another great cappuccino at a local cafe.



It's interesting the wonderful places you can find in a mass of concrete and mortar.
This was a wonderful start to Sunday.