

Inside this  
issue:

Tour report : Meerkat Adventures	1 & 2
Meerkat Adventures Photos	4
Future Program	2
Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve	2
Woodstock Markets (Saturday)	2
National Arts Festival Grahamstown	3
Spring Flower Tours	3
Full details and reports are available on our website: <a href="http://www.traveltime.co.za">www.traveltime.co.za</a>	



TRAVELTIME

TOURS

*Offers*

FRIENDSHIP;

FUN;

GOOD COMPANY

&

EXCITING TIMES



BP COOMBS cc T/A

TRAVELTIME

P.O.Box 50371, West Beach, 7449  
Phone: 021 557 0794 / Fax: 0866 855 562  
email: [carol@traveltime.co.za](mailto:carol@traveltime.co.za)  
Internet: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)  
Cell Phone: 084 580 1469

BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

*Tour Report*

MEERKAT ADVENTURES

9th—13th March

**Meerkat Magic** was a DSTV program which sparked our interest in visiting Oudtshoorn. Our pre-tour research revealed that there were two persons involved in Meerkat conservation. Further study showed that only one of the two was reliable.

The Meerkat Adventures tour lasts 3 hours, starting before sunrise, so we built our tour around this.

**Day one** saw us heading for Mossel Bay where we checked into The Eight Bells Mountain Inn, for 2 nights. We had heard many glowing reports and read a few complaints about this hotel, but were pleasantly surprised on arrival.

Once settled in we explored our surroundings and at 4pm were summoned to the lounge by a bell being rung, announcing tea time.

Pre dinner drinks in the lounge at 6.30 pm was followed by a sumptuous 3 course meal.



SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL

**Day two** dawned with heavy mist enshrouding the hotel and breakfast provided the fuel to get our bodies moving again, this time direction George for a visit to the Railway Museum, home of the Outeniqua Power Van. The stunning beauty of the Outeniqua Mountains unfolds as you travel one of South Africa's most scenic routes, experiencing the forest, four passes, water falls, seven tunnels, fynbos, proteas, bird, animal life and the panoramic picnic site.

We managed to view the many vehicles on display in the museum prior to the trip and had a light lunch in a railway carriage on site, and took in the sights of Mossel Bay before returning to Eight Bells.

**Day three** saw us checking out of Eight Bells after breakfast and on the road to Oudtshoorn and Oue Werf Country House, our home for the next two nights.

A visit to Oudtshoorn is not complete without a visit to an ostrich farm. We chose to visit Safari Ostrich Farm for a guided tour, followed by a light lunch at the George Hotel in central Oudtshoorn.

Oue Werf is situated in the countryside, a short drive north of Oudtshoorn. We were warmly welcomed on our arrival and shown to our rooms to settle in prior to a walk to a local winery for wine tasting.

Pre dinner drinks were served on the patio followed by dinner in the dining room.

**Day four** started at 4.15am. We needed to meet the Meerkat Adventures guide along the road by 5.45 am. We drove in misty rain and by the time we reached the site 17km away, it was raining.

*Continued on Page 2...*

TRAVELTIME

ON THIS PAGE:



MEERKAT ADVENTURES

Details and pricing will be updated as they are confirmed and new items of interest will be added as they become available.

We will soon be *"On the Road Again!"*



FUTURE PROGRAM



MOUNT CAMDEBOO

This tour is now fully booked

MOUNT CAMDEBOO *Private Game Reserve*



Graaff Reine

11th—16th May

*Woodstock* MARKETS

Saturday 12th April



Today we will be heading for Woodstock ostensibly to take a walk around the Old Biscuit Mill as well as two other outlets: the Woodstock Co-op & the Neighbourhood Market, which are all within walking distance from each other.

COST for the day is R300 per person. We are only charging coach hire today and will hire an 11-seater coach. If we don't have at least 10 passengers we will have to go smaller and hire a 7-seater, combi, which means the price per person will unfortunately increase.

**So, make sure you invite a friend along today.....and come along and enjoy the Woodstock area. Parking is at a premium, so why go alone in your car when you can travel in style and get dropped off and collected at the entrance to the market.**

Our coach will leave TABLEVIEW Pick 'n Pay at 8h00 and CONSTANTIA VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE at 8h45.....this will have us at the market by about 09h15.....good timing before it gets too busy!!

Continued from page 1: Meerkat Adventures Tour report

We sat in the cars waiting for 30 minutes for the rain to stop . Eventually coffee was served and we made our way down to the Meerkat burrows. We waited for some time before one little male popped up to check the weather and headed back down into his burrow again! After nearly 2 hours we decided to leave the site and Devey the guide said the weather looked promising for the following day, and we need only pay if we see Meerkats.

After a hearty breakfast (cold weather increases the appetite!) Brian and Molly headed to the Cango Caves and the rest of us headed into Oudtshoorn for retail therapy. (Don't you have shops in Cape Town, Girls??!!). On our return to our guest house Molly sat watching a film crew who had chosen Oue Werf for a photo shoot. The Australian Master Chef was visiting the area and cooked a fritata at our guest house. Dinner was, once again, at Oue Werf.

**Today, being our final day**, was also an early start! Back to the Meerkats - however, this time totally clear skies and a glorious sunrise had us all very happy. We didn't have to wait long before the Meerkats appeared. What fun to sit in the bush watching their early morning antics. It's an experience you won't easily forget. We were fortunate to see the entire family appear, stretching, yawning and foraging! A fabulous treat.

A good breakfast and last minute packing and by 10.00 am we were ready to 'get-on-the-road' again.

Several stops to gather local produce and we were ready to enjoy lunch at Joubert Tradauw. Their setting is perfect in the vineyards, but, unfortunately, their service doesn't match the surroundings. Nearly an hour and a half later we could eventually get back on the road home.

All in all a fabulous time away - shared with very enthusiastic people - we had such fun - Thank You one and all who shared this tour with us!

FUTURE TOUR PROGRAM

Saturday 12th April: Woodstock Markets

11th-16th May: Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve (Tour fully booked),

8th June: Sunday Outing (To be confirmed)

5th-12th July: National Arts Festival (Request a Brochure)

10th August: Sunday Outing (To be confirmed)

13th-17th August: Flower Tour 1: Nieuwoudville (Request a Brochure)

23rd-27th August: Flower Tour 2: Nieuwoudville (Request a Brochure)

To suit your dates: Namibia Short Breaks & Scheduled Tours (Request Details).



FLOWER TOURS



FLOWER TOURS



Exclusive Tours

This accommodation is fully booked

## NATIONAL ARTS *Festival*

5th-12th July  
Grahamstown



Planning for our visit to **Grahamstown for the 40th Anniversary** of The National Arts Festival is ongoing and we can confirm the following:

- **We have just returned from an inspection tour of Mount Camdeboo, Knysna, Grahamstown and Plettenberg Bay properties. An Information Brochure for the National Arts tour is being prepared and will be released shortly.**
- **The good news is that Mountain View Manor is completely independent of the Municipal water supply (own water storage tanks on site) and electricity supply (own generator in case of power failures). Also we have met the chef who will be in attendance for the duration of the festival. He has also agreed to do a braai for us one night!**

This tour is definitely one which should be on your bucket list, *to be done again & again*, not only for the Theatre, Dance, Music (Contemporary / Jazz & Classical), Comedy, Drama, Cabaret, Art, Exhibitions, Cinema but also for the craft, people, food, restaurants and fantastic people you meet along the way. From the fringe Programme through to the Main Programme, you have an un-ending list of items to choose from.

***If you do not enjoy yourself here, only you are to blame.***

***Don't travel alone, travel in a group to experience the full benefit of companionship & fun.***

***We will shortly be providing an updated Information brochure which will give expected dates for release of the Programme, (expected end April), setting a meeting for choosing of our performances and booking our tickets. (Expected mid May).***

**Interested in joining us? Please request a Tour Brochure.**

### SPRING FLOWER TOURS

#### **TOUR 1: 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - De Lande Farm**

We are privileged this year to have obtained accommodation on the De Lande Guesthouse. We have secured ALL their accommodation – i.e. 4 en suite rooms in the Main Guest House with extra accommodation in Jan Voorman's Cottage – an additional 2 en suite rooms on the De Lande property. This means we can take 12 people (all sharing) – which is essential for this unique accommodation. In the evenings after our full days of exploring the area with their magnificent flowers we will be spoilt with home cooked meals in their spacious lounge and dining room. For this tour we will explore the Nieuwoudtville area including the Hantam Botanical Gardens ; the Waterfall outside of town ; and Papkuilsfontein with the guided tour with Willem that has become such a part of our Spring Flower Tours.

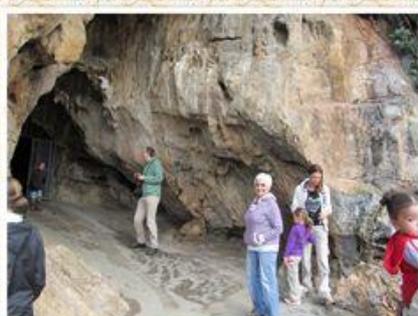
#### **TOUR 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - Swiss Villa Guest House**

Traveltime Tours has used the Swiss Villa Guest House for 4 years of Spring Flower Touring. It is situated in Nieuwoudtville and offers home-from-home comfort. As restaurants are few and far between in the town, Margie offers dinner every evening in her beautiful dining room.

We have secured FIVE rooms in this guest house as well as an additional flat on a neighbouring property which means we can take 12 people on this tour.

For this tour we will explore the Nieuwoudtville area including the Hantam Botanical Gardens ; the Waterfall outside of town ; and Papkuilsfontein with the guided tour with owner Willem that has become such a part of our Spring Flower Tours.

**Fully detailed and priced Tour Brochures are available. Please request one.**



**GALLERY: MEERKAT ADVENTURES**