

Harvest  
Festivals  
UpdateEarth Hour in  
StanfordSutherland  
&  
Prince AlbertThe Year  
Ahead :Planning for  
2013Spring Flower  
Tour

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

Would you believe that January is already behind us? They say time flies when you are having fun. I certainly don't know where the time goes to; Days flow into weeks, then months and before you know it you are another year older! Let's not talk about ageing and concentrate on crossing items off our "Bucket List." The January newsletter provided a list of interesting tours we were considering, with prospective dates for each. Some tours and dates have already changed, so we will keep you updated until details are finally confirmed.

### SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

#### Nederberg / Tulbagh Harvest Day: **UPDATE**

We have investigated all festivals happening in February and March and have come to the conclusion that the asking prices are too high. Most estates are now advertising an entrance fee ranging from R100 pp (no lunch) in Durbanville—Feast of the Grape, to R250+ pp (lunch & wine included) at Nederberg, Grand Provence & Darling Cellars. Essentially this means that they are looking to retain visitors for the day, since if you went to a number of estates it would end up being an expensive day out. Then we would of course have to add the cost of transport, which would be an additional R320pp for a 21-seater coach. Definitely too expensive for a day out.

### 22nd to 24th MARCH: **UPDATE**

#### STANFORD EARTH HOUR

Enjoy a magical experience in the country in the historical town of Stanford.

Spend two nights in a 4 star Country Estate, savoring exceptional cuisine and experiencing true country hospitality.

Head into the heart of the town to the Village Green for the Great Earth Hour switch-off at 20h00 on Saturday 23 March 2013. The old stone church will begin the count down by ringing it's bells. When the lights go off, the Green is suddenly plunged into magnificent galaxies, starlight and milky ways.

Come and enjoy nature in all of it's glory in a safe and peaceful environment.

► [Please refer to the separate brochure attached, which provides full details](#)

(This tour is being done in preference to  
 Mediterranean Festival in Riebeeck Kasteel, which is on 23rd March)

### 2nd to 6th MAY: **UPDATE**

#### SUTHERLAND & PRINCE ALBERT

Having researched this in depth we have now decided to exclude the annual olive festival (due to negative comments from residents) and include Sutherland (Salt Telescope).

We will spend one night in Sutherland and three nights in Prince Albert, which will include a trip up the [Swartberg Pass](#) and a visit to [Gamkaskloof](#) or "Die Hel" as it has become known. Die Hel is a hidden valley, deep in the heart of the formidable Swartberg Mountain Range. The fertile valley runs in an east-west direction and is approximately 20 km long and 600 metres wide. We will be visiting the area mid February and will have a brochure and pricing by the end of February.



## TRAVELTIME

## ON THIS PAGE:



*In association  
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## Planning for 2013

Carol & I have "penciled in" an interesting list of tours for the coming months and will publish full details once venues, dates and accommodation are confirmed. We can tell you that we will be doing a trip to Namibia as well as our annual Spring Flower tour, for which we already have bookings.



**4th MAY**

**Riebeeck Valley Olive Festival**

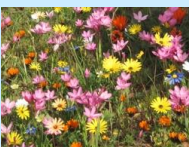


**14th to 19th JULY**

**NATAL MIDLANDS**

**27th—31st AUGUST**

**SPRING FLOWER TOUR**



Our tour always starts in the West Coast National Park 100 kms north of Cape Town.

**Postberg** within the Park has an excellent viewing of Spring Flowers.

This year we overnight in Paternoster, staying at the **ahGuesthouse** or the **Baywatch villa Collection!** (Both establishments graded 4\*).

Early next day we head to **Nieuwoudtville**, the bulb capital of the world.

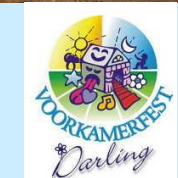
**The Swiss Villa** graded 4\* will be our base for 3 nights which will enable us to visit the farm **Papkuilsfontein** (guided 4x4 tour); **Hantam Botanical Gardens** (tour in their Bedford bus) where you will see the highest number of bulbs per square meter, in the world!; We also visit the **Quiver tree forest**.

► **A tour brochure is included with this newsletter**



**AUGUST—SEPTEMBER**

**SOUTHERN NAMIBIA**



**7th SEPTEMBER**

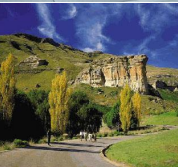
**VOORKAMERFEEST**

**Darling**



**OCTOBER**

**Lalibela Game Reserve**



**NOVEMBER**

**CLARENS (FREE STATE)**

We will also be looking at doing a few Saturday / Sunday lunches out of Cape Town to take in places of interest which could also include a progressive type lunch.

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!"*