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PETRUS-OUR DRIVER



BP COOMBES cc T/A
TRAVELTIME
P.O.Box 50371, West Beach, 7449
Phone: 021 557 0794 / Fax: 0866 855 562
email: carol @traveltime.co.za
Internet: www.traveltime.co.za
Cell Phone: 084 580 1469

BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

*We had fun
&
We laughed*



*5th-12th July
Grahamstown*

Tour Report



2014 Group

Where do we begin?

The day before we left for the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, we had warnings of freak weather. This left us in a quandary with our passenger pick ups – however it rained early morning and we managed to get everyone on board our 44-seater coach at the Holding Bay at Cape Town International Airport, without a problem.

Driving out of Cape Town we saw snow capped mountains in the distance, but at Rivieronderend and Swellendam the local mountains were covered in snow. This added to the atmosphere and whilst we had lunch at Tredici, many photographs were taken.

We arrived at our overnight stop (**Knysna Hollow Hotel**) and within the hour everyone had gathered in the bar looking forward to pre-dinner drinks. Following dinner it was then early to bed as we had arranged for breakfast to be available from 07h00 to enable us to get our first 9 people to a show in Grahamstown, by 15h00.

Arrival at the **Mountain View Manor Guest House** was just after 13h30 so we had time to orientate ourselves with our rooms before heading down the hill again to the Settlers Monument and the Guy Butler Theatre, for the Gala Concert. This became the first of the 44 shows and 202 tickets booked for 17 people on this tour. 'Let-the-shows-begin'!

Then we were all caught up in the roller coaster of emotions of the National Arts Festival. Some shows were not what people had expected but on the whole, wow, what an absolutely incredible experience the 40th National Arts Festival turned out to be..

We came, saw and conquered. At every breakfast the buzz about the upcoming shows of the day was incredible – what to do with that spare hour or two that was available – and then finally having dinner and grabbing a few hours of shut-eye, before once again, rolling down the hill from Mountain View Manor Guest House into Town.

Our accommodation at the Mountain View Manor Guest House was very comfortable and their dual sided fireplace was a great meeting place in the cold of Grahamstown (There was a cold wind on the mountain top!). Their chef and staff were extremely obliging and came up with innovative lunches for our group at the drop of a hat!

Some Tour
Photos
Tour Report—continued

They are to be complimented for looking after our 'family' of 18 and providing 2-3 meals a day for 4 ½ days. This was not an easy task and they always performed everything with smiles on their faces – hat's off to you guys!!

We were incredibly lucky that we had no rain at festival this year – yes, it was cold but it just makes getting around the city easier without rain!! **The Village Green Market** did incredibly well out of the ladies – warm scarves & mohair knitwear were purchased. Just getting absorbed in festival with other festival goers was a great experience at the market. It's quite amazing how everyone at Festival is so happy to share what shows are good and you never find yourself in a line waiting for a show that you don't come away with a head full of 'shows-that-you-shouldn't-miss'.

The one show that everyone seemed to enjoy was **Designer Jeans XXL by Tim Plewman** and we all felt very privileged to have seen this at festival – we were at the first performance of his show which no doubt will now go country-wide.

Not forgetting **Big Boys** and this year added to our schedule was **Big Girls** – these shows were fabulous and 3 of us were thrilled to actually chat to the 2 Big Boys having coffee at The Highlander one morning, just being at-the-right-place- at the right time.

Divalicious was incredible with such amazing talent as Gloria Bosman; Zanne Stapleberg; Melanie Scholtz and not forgetting the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra so very capably led by the inimitable **Richard Cock**.

Of course a few of us went to the **Mzansi Sunshine** concert on our last night and who can forget the vibe and awesome feeling of happiness as we left the Kingswood Chapel.

NAF 2014 will have us all 'talking and telling' for many weeks ahead! Brian was an absolute star with his daily planning and together with Petrus they ferried us around and not once did they forget any of the festival - goers – a feat of note as daily shows meant that there was not much time in between shows for them sincere thanks to both of them!

Five of us found the time to go to the **Observatory Museum** where they have a '**Camera Obscura**' – what a treat to see Grahamstown so very clearly from this vantage point.

On Wednesday evening we booked for dinner at the **Rat and Parrott pub** . This was a fun time but was interrupted by a few of us leaving for a 19h00 show – but when the group collected us at the Monument it was obvious that everyone had enjoyed the dinner in the pub (for the drinks/cocktails/laughs) – but the coach rolled up the hill with very happy Festival goers that night.

Sadly on Friday morning we all left Grahamstown – but headed to Marilyn's 60's Diner in the Storms River Village where 'instantly' our mood was lifted with music being played on their juke box and some of us did a dress-up parade for a photo session.

We arrived at **Christiana Lodge in Plettenberg Bay** by 16h30 to settle into their very comfortable accommodation. The ladies enjoyed meeting **Rich Rorich, our private chef for the night**. It was indeed very special that he made a large Kitke type bread for our Jewish ladies for Shabbat. Estelle, Alison and Joan shared their way of traditionally spending a Friday night with us all and it was a special way to start our evening. This was followed by an absolutely delicious dinner of Boca Dolce coffee crusted Cape Salmon with fruit salsa / Macadamia & red peppercorn encrusted Kudu fillet / divine fresh vegetables followed by a mini wheat free carrot cake supreme - watch this space – early in 2015 there will be a cookery course in Plettenberg Bay with Rich Rorich.

On Saturday we spent an hour 'gathering' at **Wonki Ware** in George followed by a lunch at **LaBella Deli**, a very new lunch venue outside Riversdale, bringing us to the Cape Town airport by just near 18h30 – all tired but exhilarated.

Sincere thanks from the Traveltime team – we enjoyed your company and both look forward to sharing the next NAF with you!!

ON THIS PAGE:



TRAVELTIME

TOURS

Offers

FRIENDSHIP;

FUN;

GOOD COMPANY
&
EXCITING TIMES

Tour Report

Cape Town has experienced a winter-of-note this year. We've had a lot of rain and when the coach left the city on Saturday, 19th July this was no exception. We had light rain all the way to the Breedekloof area. This is a wonderful area with many wine cellars just the other side of the Du Toits Kloof tunnel.

Our first stop was the [Opstal estate](#) and when I walked in and ordered 23 packs the young fellow at the 'passes' desk looked a bit bewildered!

We also made stops at [Jason's Hill](#), [Badsberg](#) & finally [Botha Kelders](#). Here the group of Fish Hoek Rotarians gathered in the tent outside to wish Kirti a Happy Birthday even providing a red velvet cupcake with candle which he could blow out as they sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

The Soetes en Sop is a lovely way to while away a few hours on a cold wintery day and proof of this is that Traveltime has arranged SIX tours to this area.

THE WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK

Day Trip
Saturday
30th August

Every year in August and September the West Coast National Park opens the [Postberg Flower Reserve](#). Here the colors of Spring burst forth and you are assured of seeing an awesome display of spring flowers. In addition to the Spring Flowers the Park borders on the Langebaan Lagoon and it is a photographer's delight. The views of the waves crashing on the rocks coupled with fields of beautiful yellow/blue and white flowers can paint an awesome canvas for you! On arrival in the Park the coach will go directly to the Postberg Flower Reserve.

We are allowing you the freedom of choice on this coach trip. You may bring along your own picnic lunch OR you can book and pre-pay for a lunch at the Geelbek Restaurant

**COST of the coach trip which includes your entrance into the park
(Locals pay R56—Internationals pay R120 entrance into the WCNP)**

WITH LUNCH R410 per person (With SA ID cost)

WITHOUT LUNCH R300 per person (With SA ID cost)

(Add R64 to each of the above if you will be using an International Passport)

[Request a Brochure](#)

12th to 14th
September

WHALE WATCHING

[10 already booked](#)

Request a
Brochure

Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2013 they welcomed 130 000 visitors) who flock to the seaside resort to exhilarate in the unique natural environment and watch the whales. Whale Festival dates for 2014: 3rd – 6th October. Having personally visited Hermanus during this time, we have been faced with long queues of traffic and people wanting to either get sight of the whales or find a place to have a meal. With this in mind we have decided to visit the area "out of festival time", to see the whales in peace and quiet. Our base will be in Walker Bay, at selective Lodges / apartments on the seashore in De Kelders which is situated between Hermanus and Gansbaai, 160km from Cape Town.

De Kelders is known as the best land-based whale watching destination in the world.

[Price for this 3 day tour](#) on a 15seater coach with a minimum of 9 passengers in 4 star accommodation is [R4585 per person sharing](#). There is no additional charge for single occupancy (there will be a few 'single' rooms available) Book ASAP to secure a place on this exciting tour.

ON THIS PAGE:

West Coast & It's People!



Price for the West Coast Tour is R7420 per person (No single supplement)

BOOK ASAP as there are **only a few spaces available!**



NAMIBIA 2015 TOUR

Our next 9 day tour to Namibia is scheduled for June / July 2015

Please confirm your interest so that we can add your name to our list.

18th—21st November

EXPLORE THE WEST COAST

Request a Brochure

15 already booked

The West Coast always conjures up images of people living the laid-back life of this area. I have always wanted to do a tour of this area, in depth. November is a great time in the Western Cape in that the winter storms are a thing of the past, and the day temperatures are starting to warm with the promise of summer coming. We will base ourselves in Paternoster at good 4* B&B or self catering accommodation.

!Khwa Ttu We have often driven right past this new area on the R27. Today you will learn more about the San during the tour of a replica cultural village. You will see the intricacies of making beads from ostrich egg shells, witness San pipe smoking and the art of making a fire using a rotating stick. Lunch will be enjoyed in their restaurant.

Muisbosskerm - Voted one of the "Top Ten Sea Views to Dine For" by National Geographic. Also "Getaway's Top Ten" by Readers Digest. What started off as a hobby to entertain family and friends in Lamberts Bay soon turned into a business. I strongly believe this to still be the **'best' outdoor seafood lunch along the West Coast.**

Velddrif and its crafty people - Spend some time in Velddrif meeting the crafts people of this unique area. What about meeting Dan Ahlers who refuses to buy wood and only uses recycled wood for his work; Judy Smit who works at Britannia Bay with recycled wine bottles and makes platters which are stunningly beautiful. Lunch on this day will be "what this area is famous for" its Fish and Chips!

Abalone House – A dinner reservation here is a must. Reuben, who needs no introduction, has now taken over management of this restaurant!

Reserve your place as soon as possible – our November tour is always a favourite tour before the Christmas break!



PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Our new on line accounting package allows you to pay for your tour with your credit card. This facility removes the burden of having to go into the bank to make your deposit. For those already paying by bank transfer, you now have a second payment option.

As with anything in life, there is a cost involved and we need to see how this compares with the existing cash / cheque deposit method.

Please let us know whether you would like to pay by credit card. We can then take a final decision.



NAMIBIA SHORT BREAKS

& Scheduled Tours

Below is a selection of available tours. For full details on any item, please send us an email requesting a **Tour Itinerary** and pricing, to suit your dates.

- CANYONS & DESERTS 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS
- CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS
- FOUR DESERTS TOUR 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS
- NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS
- SOSSUSVLEI SHUTTLE 3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS
- ETOSHA SHUTTLE 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



END