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AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



Traveltime exclusive tours

BP COOMBS c/o T/A

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



2016 Planning



New Additions



Update

Our planning is ongoing and we will provide full tour details once planning is completed

UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 1st May 2016. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2016 *(Tour dates in blue are confirmed).*

- 9th-11th June: Sutherland Short Break - (3 days).
(Almost on the road again!). ★
- 4th-6th July: Aquila Game Reserve Short Break. *(Request a tour brochure).* ★
- 10th-15th August: Spring Flowers in Namaqualand (6 days)
(Request a tour brochure). ★
- 19th—23rd August: Spring Flowers Nieuwoudtville (5 days)
(Request a tour brochure). ★
- 27th August: West Coast Park Flowers (1 day). ★
- 08, 15, 22, 29 August : Choice of 4 dates– 4 day Flower Tour
(Request a tour brochure) ★
- 9th-11th September: Whale Watching. - (3 days).*(Request a tour brochure).* ★
- 23rd-25th September: Aquila Game Reserve Short Break - (3 days).
(Request a tour brochure). ★
- 7th-17th October: Canyons & Deserts-Namibia—(11 Days)
(Request a tour brochure). ★
- 15th-19th November: Thesen Island - Knysna- (5 days).
(Request a tour brochure). ★
- 11th December (Sunday): Mystery Venue Tour (1 day)-Planning Stage ★

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Tour Report: Addo & Lalibela - 8th-13th May '16

Abridged version. For full report see our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/addo-lalibela-2016>

We left the city on Sunday morning 8th May (Mother's Day) which is always such an easier option – no traffic of any sort. We were able to leave the Airport holding bay at 09h30, with our first stop being **Peregrine Farm stall** and not too much later we were in Swellendam (**Tredici Restaurant**) for lunch. Next stop was the **Aloe shop in Albertinia** – and the final stop was Knysna where we checked in at the **Knysna Log Inn**. Dinner was at the **Sirocco Restaurant** – a real treat! The service was excellent and by 10:30pm everyone was ready to 'hit-the-sack'. Comfortable beds ensured a peaceful night's rest and we all enjoyed an early breakfast on Monday 9th May – full of anticipation of the day ahead.

En route to Addo, we collected Dawn at the Port Elizabeth airport (she had elected to fly in rather than do the long road trip from Cape Town). Port Elizabeth to Addo is a short distance on a narrow, winding road – filled with large vehicles, but we were soon checking in to ultra-luxurious rooms at **Africanos Country Estate**, our home for the next 2 nights. What a treat, exceptionally comfortable rooms with king size beds / air conditioning / an indoor (plus an outdoor shower) / large bath and double vanities made sure everyone was happy. Dinner was in the Africanos restaurant – All in all everyone was starting to feel laid-back after our second day on tour.

Next morning we needed to leave Africanos by 08:00 for our first game drive at **Addo Elephant National Park**. After the monotonous paper work (signatures were needed by everyone) / indemnity forms – we were then shown our very own private 'game drive vehicle' in which we spent 2 hours driving through the Addo Park! First stop was an elephant right next to our vehicle – a tortoise ambling over the road – then a slight detour onto a side road (only park vehicles are allowed on this road) to discover 2 male lions!

By 11:00 we headed back to Africanos where we all freshened up / showered / some swam in the Africanos pool and then headed to **Lenmore Restaurant** for a light lunch!

At 16:00 we were back in Addo for our sunset game drive (with snacks and drinks). Before sun set we managed to find 2 lions (think they were the same two we had seen earlier in the morning) but to the tourists traveling with us – these lions were pure magic. I have never ever seen so many lenses appear at once.. Eventually we headed back to Africanos where we discovered a conference on the go hosted by Coca Cola! The bar was packed with conference delegates, but it didn't alter the exceptional service at Africanos! Dinner was served in record time and soon everyone was in their rooms and fast asleep.

We started off the next morning with a very busy Africanos – they had laid out a buffet breakfast! We were only leaving at 9:45 but by 9:00 the buffet was cleared which meant that 3 of our group had to order off an a-la-carte menu. Very soon we had checked out and were on the road heading out of Addo. First stop was a junk shop filled with all sorts of interesting and collectible items. No-one of our party bought anything at all – interesting things to look at – but that's about it!!

Next stop was the **Nanaga Farm Stall** where some bought pies / some browsed the shop and 'collected'; but pretty soon it was 11:45 and time to head to **Lalibela Private Game Reserve**

At Lalibela we were met at the reception where everyone was transferred to another vehicle. Lalibela do not allow private vehicles on their roads at all, which is terrific! First excitement were 2 hippos seen out of the water! We were transferred down to **Marks Camp** where a delicious lunch awaited us all.



Tour Report: Addo & Lalibela – Continued

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Our first game drive was at 16:00 with Wayne an exceptionally friendly young man. He had been told the rhinos were in the area and what a delight to see them. After this, many blesbok / kudu / springbok / hippos in the dam / coupled with sun downers in a remote corner of the reserve and we were all ready to head back to camp for a delicious dinner – kudu steaks / lamb ribs / pork rashers coupled with fresh vegetables – dessert was malva pudding served with fresh cream!



We were then summoned to the outside area where 3 staff members had a roaring fire going and drums ready for each of us to partake in a 30 minute drumming lesson. It had us all believing we were 'expert' drummers – but when the staff did their finale we very soon realised we were total novices!



An early wake-up call at 6:00 / followed by a light breakfast we headed out to 'hunt-for game. There was a strong wind which Wayne told us would force the game into the bush! We never saw very much at all despite efforts on Wayne's part to find them! On our return to camp we were treated to a full breakfast prior to having to check out of Lalibela, much to everyone's disgust! We headed back on the road Port Elizabeth airport where we checked Dawn in for her flight back to CT, then continued down the N2 to Plettenberg Bay, with a stop at **Marilyn's Diner** in Storms River. This was a great interlude to the day's travelling! Oh my goodness this is a great stop – An Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe emporium with 60's & 70's music playing / old pink Cadillac's and a good trip down memory lane.



Our overnight stop was at the ultra-luxurious **Christiana Lodge**. Staff were on hand to check us into our rooms and at 19:00 a delicious dinner was awaiting us which was lovingly prepared by Lincoln and served by the efficient Christiana Lodge staff. Christa the owner is very hands-on in this guest house and this is very evident. What a wonderful place to stay! A very comfortable night's stop followed by an early breakfast! We planned to leave by 09:00 as we'd been told that the N2 might be blocked by protesters near Grabouw! Fortunately, as we travelled we heard it had been re-opened, so all was well.

WE TRAVEL NOT TO ESCAPE LIFE, BUT FOR LIFE NOT TO ESCAPE US!!

SUTHERLAND-Short Break Tour

9th—11th June (3 days) - Almost on the road again!

Winter is the best time to go star gazing



Bon Voyage
Travellers

AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE-Short Break Tour

TWO DATES: 4th—6th July & 22nd-24th September 2016 (Both 3 days)

A 4 Star, Big 5 Reserve within 2 1/2 hours of Cape Town



Accommodation &
Pricing Confirmed



Aquila Safari Lodge is a 4 star establishment in the Southern Karoo. The reserve is a 10,000 hectare conservancy and home to the big 5 legends of the wilderness - elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard and rhino

The Aquila overnight safari doesn't spare on spoiling our guests. Welcome cocktails are served on arrival, either outside, around the pools, or in front of a log fire in the cigar bar. Before the safari departs a sizzling lunch is served at the African character restaurant. The overnight safari boasts a 2 – 3 hour game drive with an Aquila Game Reserve specialist. Awaiting your return is a traditional African meal, sparkling wine over swapping-safari-stories, and luxury accommodation.



There is an early morning game drive and visit to ARC (Aquila Rehabilitation & Conservation Centre). Accommodation options at Aquila Private Game Reserve include premier, family or luxury chalets. There are also options of Horseback safaris, Quadbike safaris, or combinations. Combo safari combines a 3 hour game drive and a 1.5 hour horseback or quad bike outide.

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure

Experience the Friendship & Fun



SPRING FLOWERS-Northern Cape (Nieuwoudtville)

19th—23rd August 2016 (5 Days)

Our base will be in Nieuwoudtville



The first day will be spent in the West Coast National Park (Postberg Reserve) with an over-night stop in Paternoster or Langebaan. We then head up to Clanwilliam before checking into our guest house in Nieuwoudtville where we will stay for the next 3 nights.

Visits to Matjiesfontein, Papkuilfontein and the Hantam Botanical Garden are planned.

Read the 2015 tour report, with photos, on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/spring-flowers-2015>

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure



Only ONE room available

SPRING FLOWERS IN NAMAQUALAND

10th—15th August 2016 (6 days)

Our base will be in Springbok



“Every year nature plays a magic part in transforming the normally arid dry area in the Northern Cape into a glorious tapestry of colour and beauty”

Each turn you take in the road will yield a different picture which you will treasure for days and months to come. These tours are very popular and it is most important that you secure your place on this tour ASAP.

We travel up the west coast through Clanwilliam and Vanrhynsdorp into Springbok, where we spend 3 nights. Visits are planned into Hester Malan Garden in the Goegap Nature Reserve, Namaqua National Park, Skilpad Wildflower Reserve near Kamieskroon.

We will also visit the Kokerboom Nursery in Vanrhynsdorp and the Ramskop Wildflower Reserve in Clanwilliam on our return to Cape Town.

You will also be able to stock up on some Rooibos tea in the area in which it is grown.

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure



Only THREE rooms available

SPRING FLOWERS IN THE WEST COAST PARK

27th August 2016 (1 day)

The annual flower show in the Postberg Reserve



POSTBERG FLOWER RESERVE



The Annual Flower “Spectacular”

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.

Read the 2015 tour report, on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/west-coast-park-flowers-2015>

We will have lunch at the Geelbek Restaurant in the West Coast Park.

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure or see our website



WHALE WATCHING (With optional Boat Based excursion)

9th—11th September (3 days).

Our annual whale watching excursion



**OPEN FOR
BOOKINGS**

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Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2015 they welcomed 120 000 visitors) who flock to the seaside resort to exhilarate in the unique natural environment and watch the whales. Whale Festival dates: 30th September – 2nd October 2016.

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 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.

View the whales from the balcony of our accommodation or if you are adventurous join the boat based whale watching for an unforgettable journey amongst the whales in the Bay. See the shark cage divers in operation.

See one of our previous tour reports / photos and video on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/whale-watching-2014>

Experience the Friendship & Fun

For full details and pricing, ***please request a tour brochure,***
or visit our website: www.traveltime.co.za

SHARK CAGE DIVING



WHALE WATCHING OFF THE ROCKS



CANYONS & DESERTS—NAMIBIA

7th-17th October (11 days).

Spectacular tour to this magic country



Accommodation
has been booked



Leaving Windhoek, we travel into the largest sand mass on Earth, the Kalahari Desert. The Bushman refer to it as the “Soul of the World”, an emotive description for this area! With its deep red sand dunes and endless grass plains interspersed with acacia’s and shrubs, it is the only form of survival for a vast amount of specially adapted wildlife. Enjoy the opportunity to experience the fauna and flora that has survived this desert environment.

We travel south through expansive rocky plains, visiting the unique quiver tree forest. Nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders, stacked in a mysterious way, the area is also aptly referred to as “Giant’s Playground”. We continue to our lodge, situated in close vicinity to the Fish River Canyon, and can optionally explore the area on foot or on a guided nature drive in the later afternoon.

Other highlights: World’s highest dunes at Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei; Fish River Canyon; Kolmanskupe Ghost Town; Wild Horses; Luderitz, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, plus local attractions such as dolphin cruises, desert animal tours, oyster tasting etc.

For full details and pricing, ***please request a tour brochure***

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Accommodation
has been booked



We have completed our recce into the Knysna area and have selected a few superior properties on Thesen Island for our November tour.

There is plenty to see and do in the area and we have put together a provisional itinerary to occupy our time whilst there. Some of the items will only be confirmed on arrival in Knysna, dependent on your choice of what you want to do, so please read the available information and let us have your thoughts.

Please request a tour brochure.



Plans include: (a selection of)

**The Craggs Plettenberg Bay, including lunch in the Vineyards (Bramon Estate),
Friday Night Market—Waldorf School / Sedgefield Market (Wild Oats Farmers Community)**

Featherbed Nature Reserve / Ferry / Knysna heads / Boat rides / **'You Look, We Cook' evening.**

Elephant World / Birds of Eden and Monkeyland / Paddle Cruiser

Rheenendal Ramble / Tour into the Knysna Forest (in search of the illusive Knysna Elephant /

Knysna waterfront / Dinner at Sirocco (Waterfront)

Items in blue are being pre-booked and will form the basis of our tour.

All other items can be discussed and 'fitted in' by arrangement.

We need to secure the accommodation on Thesen Island with a deposit and need your confirmation that you want to join the tour. We will amend the itinerary to reflect a 20% payment on booking (instead of 40%) and mail our invoice to confirm your booking.

We look forward to sharing this tour with you.



Tours currently in the planning stage: Details to follow

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR
11th December 2016 (1 day)-Sunday

Enjoy a day out in the Country



Planning is
underway!



THESEN ISLAND REFLECTIONS



Travel in style with Traveltime

For full details and pricing, **please request a tour brochure,**
or visit our website: www.traveltime.co.za

END