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HOGSBACK



HOGSBACK AZALEAS



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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016



SPRING FLOWERS IN WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK

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 September 2016. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

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

- **22nd-24th September: Aquila Game Reserve Short Break - (3 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** ★
- **30th December '16 - 1st January '17: New Years Eve Short Break (3 Days)** *(Request a tour brochure).* ★

2017 Planning *(Tour dates to be finalised)*

- **3 Days: February '17: De Doorns Short Break-Grape Picking - Plus**
- **6 Days: March: Natal *(Including Battlefields ?)***
- **3 Days: June: Sutherland** **6 Days: June: Kruger National Park - Plus**
- **11 Days: July: Namibia, including Etosha National Park**
- **6 Days: Mid August: Springbok** **5 Days: End August: Nieuwoudtville** **Spring Flowers**
- **10 Days: Late September: Hogsback**

More in next issue...

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“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”

The first tour to Springbok was from the 10th to 15th August when we had 13 people on tour. Sadly two people had to return to Cape Town due to ill health after the first day! On our Springbok tour we used Letsatsi Lodge on the N7 outside Vanrhynsdorp for our first and last night on tour. We also spent 3 nights at Mountain View Guest House in Springbok where Maggie and her staff treated us royally! Our time in Springbok was divided between an amazing tour of succulents with Christine of Knersvlakte Spens; Skilpad (wonderful orange flowers); Die Murasie (who will remember her cake table even though we'd just finished our breakfast!); Our tour at the O'Kiep mine where Joseph brought the old copper mining site 'to-life' for us all; Our lunch in Port Nolloth and our stroll along the beachfront in this little town where mist rolls in and out in a matter of minutes; The beauty of Vanrhynsdorp's flowers on our return to Letsatsi & then finally the awesome beauty of the West Coast National Park before we returned to Cape Town!



SPRING FLOWERS - NIEUWOUDTVILLE 19th—23rd August 2016 (5 days)

Our second tour into the beauty of Spring was to Nieuwoudtville with 8 ladies – a few friends - but most had not met beforehand! Immediate gelling was evident from our first tea break on the beach in the West Coast National Park. From there on fun and laughter was the order of the day! We spent a fabulous 5 days exploring Postberg, the wandering road between Velddrif and Clanwilliam, where excitement reigned when we found Die Skooltjie padstal with its produce; Shopping time in Clanwilliam where 'we just had to have' several items; afternoon pannekoek and ice creams at the Baghdad Café; the inimitable hosting on the De Lande Farm; We all experienced roast potatoes supremely made by Amanda every night; Sunday lunch at Die Waenhuis coupled with an afternoon ride through the flowers with Willem (pity about the pending rain that stopped our tour) – but this was quickly forgotten when the cake and coffee was served; Our compulsory hug-a-tree morning at the Quiver Tree forest; Our visit to Willemsrivier farm where Erika shared her love for this family farm; Our drive back along the wandering road which miraculously 4 days later, had turned into a spectacle of wonder; and our last lunch at the Alegria restaurant in St Helena Bay, where seafood platters were shared! All in all a wonderful tour with very happy ladies.



SPRING FLOWERS - POSTBERG RESERVE 27th August 2016 (1 day)

Our third tour was on a Saturday and we had 19 people on board a 52seater coach headed into the West Coast National Park. About 500metres from the Park we were forced to join a line of eager flower seekers who were determined to enjoy the superb weather in the park! Sadly this delayed us by at least 55 minutes – however, this waiting time was soon forgotten when in the splendour of the Park. The WCNP pulled out all the stops with its beauty! There were 100's of flower seekers but the traffic through Postberg is generally in a one-way direction which makes for ease of flow and despite the size of our vehicle, we were all grateful for its height which makes for awesome flower viewing. A late lunch at the Geelbek restaurant, who had experienced serving over 1000 lunchtime meals and had to, at one stage, actually close the restaurant to new-comers so that their kitchen staff could catch-up! Oh how very privileged we all are to live in the Western Cape with the beauty all around us – even if “Spring” actually does not physically mean warmer weather – one can experience the true might of Western Cape weather in just a few days – from totally balmy weather when you think Summer is on-the-way to rain; colder days and nights when you need to turn the electric blanket back on!



For full, individual reports and comprehensive photos, please see our website:

<http://www.traveltime.co.za/past-tours-traveltime>

AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE-Short Break Tour

22nd-24th September 2016 (3 days)

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

Rooms
Available



Accommodation &
Pricing Confirmed

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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 swopping-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 safari's, or combinations. Combo safari combines a 3 hour game drive and a 1.5 hour horseback or quad bike outride.

For full details and pricing, [please request a tour brochure](#)

Experience the Friendship & Fun



KNYSNA (THESEN ISLAND) 2016

15th-19th November

We have 19 confirmed bookings

1 Room
Available



Accommodation
has been booked



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.

Plans include: (a selection of)

The Craggs Plettenberg Bay, including lunch in the Vineyards (Bramon Estate),

Friday Night Market—Waldorf School / Sedgfield 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.

For full details and pricing, [please request a tour brochure](#)



http://traveltime.co.za/old_site/Slider/Natal13/natal101.htm

NEW YEARS EVE SHORT BREAK

30th December '16-1st January '17 (3 days).

See the New Year In with friends.



11 confirmed
Bookings



Accommodation
has been booked



Are you sometimes at a loose end on the last day of the year?

Spend 3 days / 2 nights with friends on this short break tour and enjoy a great dinner (and dance if you wish) on the last night of 2016; explore the surrounding areas and reminisce on years gone by. We have secured accommodation in the Montagu Country Hotel where rooms and décor are a tribute to the Art Deco period. The available restaurants have been "inspected" and we have made our selection for the first nights dinner.

[Please request a priced tour brochure](#)



Tours currently in the planning stage:



Details to follow as planning progresses

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR

11th December 2016 (1 day)-Sunday

Enjoy a day out in the Country

Clues to guess the venue name, will be commence in October



Venue has been booked



Our planning for this tour is already underway. A venue has been selected and we have made a provisional booking.

As usual we will run a competition to allow you to guess where we are going, with a complementary day being offered as the prize. The first clue will be published in the October Newsletter.

This is the fifth year we have run this tour and I believe we have got a "big ask" to beat the 2015 trip to South Hill Estate in Elgin, where Kevin, Sandra and staff pulled out all the stops and presented us with a fabulous meal and exceptional service. A great day was had by all.

Watch this space!

DE DOORNS—Short Break Tour

February 2017 (3 days).

Grape Picking Plus



Dates to be Finalised

NATAL—Midlands Meander

March (6 days).

Perhaps including Battlefields?



Dates to be Finalised

SUTHERLAND—Short Break Tour

June (3 days).

Cold climate is best for clear star gazing



Dates to be Finalised

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

June (6 days).

Fly into Nelspruit



Dates to be Finalised

NAMIBIA

July (11 days).

Including Etosha National Park



Dates to be Finalised

SPRING FLOWERS NAMAQUALAND

Mid August (6 days).

Our base will be in Springbok



Dates to be Finalised

SPRING FLOWERS NIEUWOUDTVILLE

End August (5 days).

Our base will be in Nieuwoudtville



Dates to be Finalised

HOGSBACK

Late September (10 days).

In time for the Flower Festival



Dates to be Finalised