

Inside this issue:

2016 / 17 PLANNING

TOUR SUMMARY:
AQUILA
PRIVATE GAME
RESERVE - Short Break Tour

KNYSNA 2016

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR

NEW YEARS EVE Short Break Tour

PLANNING STAGE TOURS: 2017

NUY VALLEY

NATAL

Including Midlands Meander

SPRINGBOK FLOWERS

NORTHERN CAPE FLOWERS

HOGSBACK

SUTHERLAND

KRUGER PARK

NAMIBIA Including Etosha National Park



HOGSBACK AZALEAS



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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016



AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE—Short Break Tour

2016 / 17 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).

- 15th-19th November: Thesen Island - Knysna- (5 days).
- 2 Rooms Available—(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 (Tour dates in blue are confirmed / In black are Provisional)

- 7-10 February: Nuy Valley / Leipzig - Short Break
- 7-12 May: Natal Midlands (6 Days) (Including Battlefields ?)
- 17-22 August: Springbok Spring Flowers (6 Days)
- 29 Sept—8 Oct: Hogsback & Surrounds (10 Days)

2017 PLANNING STAGE

- June: Sutherland (3 Days)
- April: Kruger National Park Plus (6 Days)
- August: Spring Flowers Nieuwoudville (5 Days)
- Sutherland / Namibia

More in next issue...

Tour Report

AQUILA SAFARI

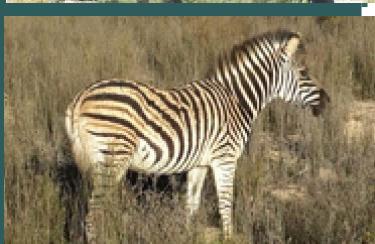


AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

22nd-24th September 2016 (3 days)



PAGE 2



Aquila Safari Lodge is a 4 star establishment in the Southern Karoo near Touwsrivier. The reserve is a 10,000 hectare conservancy and home to the big 5 legends of the wilderness – elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard and rhino. A leisurely 2 hour scenic drive from Cape Town through Worcester, De Doorns and Touws Rivier brings you to the entrance of Aquila Private Game Reserve.

We had arranged a 2 night stay in the new (October 2015) Aquila Lodge, boasting Standard, Mountain View and Luxury Family Suites. Separate cottages are also available on site. Prices, as with many game lodges, are structured to attract overseas visitors, which there were many on the 3 days we spent at Aquila. Having said that we were able to take advantage of the reserve's decision not to charge a single supplement for visitors over 60 years of age.

Our "safari" started on 22nd September once we alighted from our vehicle at 11h45 and were offered a welcome drink before checking in. Our baggage was placed in storage until 14h00 when the rooms were available. After a walk around the property to "see where everything was" we entered the lodge for lunch. All meals are offered on a buffet basis and the choice and quality of the food is excellent. At 2 pm we collected our room keys and luggage and were shown to our rooms which whilst facing the rear of the property were comfortable and well appointed.

Our first game drive started at 16h00 and we were transported into the reserve on a large game viewing vehicle which holds about 20 passengers. The reserve is relatively small so the possibility of viewing game is always good. We saw Hippo, Rhino, Elephant, lots of Springbok, Zebra, a few Ostrich, Giraffe and Eland. About halfway through the viewing we stopped for refreshments and were able to stretch our legs before going into the lion enclosure. The enclosure is 750 Hectares. There are 7 lions in the reserve and whilst they have access to a limited number of small buck, they are fed regularly and tend to stay in the area where they are fed. Today they were all lying in the grass with visibly fat stomachs. (Recently fed).

We returned to the Lodge just before sunset and were able to have dinner from 7pm. A large spread of salads, meats (lamb chops, lamb stew, chicken) fish and vegetables were available. Desserts, cheese and biscuits with tea & coffee were also available. The bed was comfortable and we awoke at 6 am to have coffee and a rusk in the vehicle park prior to our 7 am game drive. The area covered was much the same as the previous day but we did see other animals in the 1 hour drive. The lions were a bit more frisky this morning and were found relatively near the position viewed yesterday. Our return to the lodge took us via ARC (Aquila Rehabilitation & Conservation Centre) where lion, cheetah, leopard were housed. The leopard was not seen during our visit.

We returned to the lodge by 10 am for breakfast. The rest of the day is at leisure and follows the same pattern as the previous day, ie lunch at 12 noon, game drive at 4 pm, with dinner at 7 pm.

During the day a group, of 87, mainly men, arrived for a day visit and the lodge cleared them through reception smartly and directed them to an area above the lounge for lunch. It didn't affect our stay in any way. Optional horseback and quad bike safaris are also available, as is use of the SPA.

Our final game drive was at 7 am and the leopard was visible on the return visit to ARC. Another group of day visitors arrived and were shuttled through the restaurant for breakfast and then on to a 10h15 game drive.

We checked out after breakfast and awaited our return transport to Cape Town. A great 2 nights "short break" with pleasant company and good food.

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

<http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/aquila-2016>

PAGE 3



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 Crags 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

Hoekwil area (850 year old yellowwood tree)

Knysna waterfront / Dinner at Freshline Fisheries

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.

http://traveltim.co.za/old_site/traveltim/previous/Knysna09.htm

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR

11th December 2016 (1 day)-Sunday

Enjoy a day out in the Country



Guess the venue Name:

First Clue: the photos below



Venue has been booked

Our planning for this tour is gaining momentum. The venue has been chosen and booked.

As usual we are running a competition which will provide clues as to where we are going, with a complementary day being offered as the prize. The two photos to the left were taken at the venue. The top photo provides a northern view from the venue and is the least flattering of all the clues. The bottom photo shows the southern entrance. [These photos provide the first clue.](#)

Future clues will include photos and cryptic comments which will direct you to the town and ultimately to the venue itself.

There are 5 additional "clues" which will be provided by email / Newsletter on the dates below:

◆ Clue No. 2: 16th October (email)	◆ Clue No. 3: 31st October (Newsletter)
◆ Clue No. 4: 19th November (email)	◆ Summary & Clue No. 5: 30th November Newsletter
◆ Closing Date: 5th December	◆ Winner announced: 6th December

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.

We believe we have selected a great venue for the 2016 Mystery Venue Tour and look forward to sharing this with you.

As of today (2nd October) we already have 30 confirmed bookings for this tour. Previous tours have always travelled with in excess of 40 passengers, (2015 was 45) so please book early to ensure your participation.

Experience the Friendship & Fun with Traveltim



More clues to follow....

NEW YEARS EVE SHORT BREAK
30th December '16-1st January '17 (3 days).
See the New Year In with friends.



13 confirmed
Bookings



Accommodation
has been booked

PAGE 4



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 night's dinner.

[Please request a priced tour brochure](#)



Tours currently in the planning stage:



Details to follow as
planning progresses

NUY VALLEY

7-10 February 2017 (4 days).

Grape Picking in De Doorns, Plus



Accommodation
booked

NATAL—Midlands Meander

7-12 May (6 days) - (Provisional)

Perhaps including Battlefields?



Accommodation
booked



May is an excellent month to visit Natal. It is Autumn—high day temperatures of summer are a thing of the past and day temperatures of high teens and night temperatures that drop down a bit lower! We have already made a provisionally booking at the **Granny Mouse Hotel** in the heart of the **Kwa Zulu Natal Midlands**. This country house & Spa, offers the perfect combination of relaxation and luxury. They offer award-winning cuisine and wine and consider themselves to be a “home away from home!”

You fly from Cape Town and meet a Hylton Ross coach at the King Shaka International Airport.

Visit many places along the **Natal Midlands route** including the **Drakensberg Boys Choir** and attend an afternoon performance.

Have the option to do a **Battlefields Tour**.

Enjoy lunch at **Cleopatra Mountain Farmhouse**.

Dinners at great restaurants.

Visit the **Mandela Capture Site**!

Plus a few surprises

[Please request an Information brochure](#)

PREVIOUS TOUR

[http://traveltime.co.za.old_site/Slider/
Natal13/natal101.htm](http://traveltime.co.za.old_site/Slider/Natal13/natal101.htm)

SPRING FLOWERS—NAMAQUALAND

17-22 August 2017 (6 days).

Springbok Floral Splendour



Accommodation
has been booked

PAGE 5

"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 have to book accommodation 12 months in advance!

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 Ranskop 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 provisional details, [please request an information brochure](#)

NORTHERN CAPE SPRING FLOWERS

End August (5 days).

Our base will be in Nieuwoudtville



Dates to be
Finalised

HOGSBACK & SURROUNDS

29 September—8 October 2017 (10 days).

In time for the Flower Festival



Accommodation
has been booked



Highlights of this tour are :-**Grahamstown** and its well preserved historical buildings.

Hogsback where you will visit superb private gardens, take walks in the hills; enjoy Spring with the exquisite displays of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons; visit local artists in the town. **Graaff Reinet** where you will have the option of doing a guided historical walk through town and you can visit **Nieu-Bethesda** and the **Valley of Desolation**.

Accommodation has already been provisionally booked as follows: **Plettenberg Bay**—**Christiana Lodge** with their in-house chef. **Grahamstown**—**Mountain View Manor Guest-house**. **Hogsback**—**The Arminel Hotel**. **Graaf Reinet**—**Drostdy Hotel**—part of the Newmark Group (recently refurbished). **Oudtshoorn**—**Hlangana Lodge**.

[Please request an Information brochure](#)

Tours currently under consideration:



Details to follow as
planning progresses

SUTHERLAND—Short Break Tour

June (3 days).

Cold climate is best for clear star gazing



Dates to be
Finalised

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

April (6 days).

Fly into Nelspruit



Dates to be
Finalised

NAMIBIA

July (11 days).

Including Etosha National Park



Dates to be
Finalised

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

END