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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016



FOR THE REPORT ON THE KNYNSNA TOUR—SEE PAGE 2

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

2016 (Tour dates in blue are confirmed).

- 11th December (Sunday): Mystery Venue Tour (1 day)-See Competition ★
- 30th December '16 -1st January '17: New Years Eve Short Break (3 Days) ★
(Request a tour brochure). Tour fully booked

2017 (Tour dates in blue are confirmed / In black are Provisional)

- 7-10 February: Nuy Valley / Leipzig (4 Days) -Short Break ★
- 7-12 May: Natal Midlands (6 Days) (Including Optional Battlefields) ★
- 6-14 July: Namibia-Classic Kaleidoscope (9 Days). ★
- 17-22 August: Springbok Spring Flowers (6 Days) ★
- 29 Sept—8 Oct: Hogsback & Surrounds (Under revision)

2017 PLANNING STAGE

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

More in next issue...

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To the 19 people who joined us on our tour to Knysna we all certainly experienced HAPPINESS, thanks to you! We all left the city on Tuesday 15th in such high spirits nothing could have spoilt our happiness at all. Leaving the city behind, with the thought of fun ahead, had us all in very high spirits. We somehow ambled along the route giving us a rather late check in on Thesen Island of 18h30! However, **Candice** who was preparing our dinner at the **Amazing and Gracious** house was herself so gracious and let herself in, ensuring that on our arrival all was organised. Early to bed after this with the promise of things to come!



Wednesday started off with a delicious breakfast at the **Turbine Hotel** – seeing 21 people seated at one LONG table made us realise just how many we were on tour! Fun ahead as we drove up to **Hoekwil** – The best kept secret on the Garden Route. We met Jenny at the **Hoekwil Country Café** and headed to her awesome garden. Even though Jenny had recently broken her ankle she was so positive in hosting us in her garden, which is part of the Open Gardens every year. After this we all headed to the **Country Café** where most chose their fabulous cheesecake (winner of The Eat In award for best cheesecake in the country in 2015)! After lunch a short visit to **Hercules Keyser** who does such superb art. Mind you, in that setting he certainly has peace in his heart for sure! We had to dodge rain all day but this didn't dampen our spirits.



At 18h30 we headed up to **Kilzer's kitchen!** Talk about Fun – some of the ladies had come all set with masks / flashing light glasses and the fun began. **Jenny and Albie** entertain you to a Theatre Kitchen dinner (**You Look, We Cook**)– they along with their efficient staff produce 2 appetisers and a 3-course dinner all in a relatively small kitchen – we were very fortunate to get a table overlooking the kitchen which made the evening more special. We only left at 10h15 having consumed far too much food – albeit delicious!



Thursday morning and 4 of the ladies opted to do-their-thing! The rest of us headed to **Plettenberg Bay** and to **Ouland Royale** where **Wilja** is fulfilling her dream of having a restaurant in a barn! Her staff served us very efficiently, a pre-ordered breakfast of fruit/yoghurt and muesli / scrambled eggs with either salmon or bacon (with a group of women guess which was the most popular?) coupled with coffee and a freshly baked muffin! Then the heavens opened and on our drive to **The Craggs** there was much discussion as to whether some could, in fact, go to **Tenikwa and Birds of Eden**. On arrival, there was a brief respite in the rain but the decision was made that the mud factor would have spoilt the visits. The ladies then shopped at a little centre where one lady was SO sorry she'd changed bags and didn't have her credit card with her! (A friend managed to convince her she didn't 'need' the jacket anyway!)



Lunch was at the **Bramon Wine Estate** where tapas was enjoyed – sadly they had become busy and a second order placed by one table never got fulfilled which left a sour taste! A short stop at **Old Nick village**, outside Plett had some more shopping done!

Dinner tonight was at **Freshline (Rib 'n Rump)** – superb fish – fresher than this you won't find! They even accommodated one lady who doesn't eat fish – all around another fun evening!

Friday morning and breakfast was at Knysna Log Inn – before a stop at the **Knysna Waterfront** where guess what a few ladies did? – yes, shopped up a storm! (In hindsight perhaps a trip up to the Heads would have been more FUN – after all how much more can you buy)

Then one of the highlights on tour was our trip on the **paddle steamer** – FUN & extended FRIENDSHIP made for much HAPPINESS – the extended friendship came in the form of 2 ladies who were from Boksburg and became 'instant friends' – and even 2 Germans who joined our circle of friendship.



A brief stop in at our houses on Thesen Island to grab something warm and head down to the local **Montessori school** for their **Friday Market** for an early evening of chilling / listening to music / and trying to decide what to eat from the stalls somehow a great disappointment that Kilzer's Kitchen were not there due to their working on the Veritas awards evening! (Maybe everyone battled to decide as we've all been eating far-too-much as well) – a relatively early evening of packing and sorting and the thought that our tour was almost over made a few sad!



An early start saw us leaving the Island by 08h15 as we wanted to make the most of the market in Sedgefield – **The Wild Oats Market**. What a lovely vibe there is – Minstrels welcoming you in song to the market where local 'farmers' sell their produce! Anything from fresh oysters; to vegetables (I was amazed to see their stock on a bakkie behind the stall); to fresh fish; to cakes and rusks; fabulous fresh juices ; OM Goodness the list goes on and on! Let's not forget the range of breakfast goodies as well. Unfortunately, we had to set a deadline of 10h30 to leave as we still had over 460km to go to reach the city.



Summary of Clues 1-4

- Clue No.1: Photos A & B** were taken at the venue. Photo 'A' provides a northern view from the venue and is the least flattering of all the clues. Photo 'B' shows the southern entrance.
- Clue No. 2:** Our December 2016 trip will take us North, North West. / The general description of the area is: The West Coast / If you add 100 to the route number you will get the distance we will be travelling. / **Photo 'C'** was taken from the venue.
- Clue No. 3** provided 7 possible towns where our Mystery venue could be situated in the **West Coast Peninsula:** **Hopefield; Jacobsbaai; Langebaan; Paternoster; Saldanha; St Helena Bay; Vredenburg.** Photos 'D' & 'E' were taken from the venue.
- Clue No. 4:** "Our town" has a safe natural harbour and has the deepest, safest harbour in SA. The town is also famous for being the end point of the Sishen Iron ore railway. Train sets normally have 340 wagons with a total mass of 41,400 tonnes and an overall length of 3,7kM. The train travels 861Km to the end point. **Photo 'F'** is of the venue & **Photo 'G'** is of the Iron Ore terminal

**From the above clues you should now have the name of the town in which the venue can be found.
 Clue 5, below will reveal the venue name.**

Clue No. 5:

The name of the venue comprises 3 words, having 4, 3 and 5 letters respectively, from a total of 12 letters.

Solve the following anagram and you will have the name:

□ □ □ □	□ □ □	□ □ □ □ □
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Competition closing date: 5th December.



Entries by email: brian@traveltime.co.za or by phone: 082 901 9165



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



13 confirmed
Bookings



Tour now fully
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.



Hotel now fully booked

NUY VALLEY
7-10 February 2017 (4 days).
Grape Picking in De Doorns, Plus



Accommodation
booked



Join us and enjoy three nights in this wonderful valley. Make lasting memories with good people, good food in a GREAT setting at **Leipzig Country House** in the Nuy Valley.— visiting **Willowcreek Olives** (they have won countless awards for their olives and olive oil) ; come and meet **Dihanna Kloppers** who makes wonderful preserves from her farm within walking distance of Leipzig – she will serve us morning tea ; and enjoy lunch at a stunning new restaurant called **Nuy on the Hill** with great views of the surrounding area. We also have to explore the area around the Nuy Valley – close to the Nuy Valley are several **wine estates** and wonderful **pad-stalletjies**; Dinner at **Leipzig** is always an 'affaire of note'!

Please request a priced tour brochure

NATAL—Midlands Meander
7-12 May (6 days)
Including a Battlefields tour Option



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 five star rated **Fourdoun Hotel** in the heart of the **Kwa Zulu Natal Midlands**. You will 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, including Skye Bistro,

Fourdoun's own fine dining restaurant.

Visit the Mandela Capture Site!

Plus a few surprises

Please request a priced tour brochure

Midlands
Meander
a good place.



PREVIOUS TOUR

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

Tours currently in the planning stage:



Details to follow as
planning progresses



NAMIBIA—Classic Kaleidoscope Tour

6th—14th July 2017 (9 Days).

Experience the Skeleton Coast & Namibian Wildlife



Now open for
Bookings

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Highlights:

Fly in to Windhoek & overnight / Tour will visit Swakopmund (optional local activities, Dolphin Cruises, Desert Excursions) / Damaraland, Brandberg Mountains, Twyfelfontein Heritage Site, Living Museum of the Damara, the Petrified Forest, encounter the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant, the oldest living desert plant on earth.

Travel towards the **Etosha National Park**, famous for its vast amount and variety of wildlife. Spend one night outside of the Park at the Etosha Safari Camp. (Leisure activities).

Spend two days game viewing in the Park whilst staying at the **Mokuti Etosha Lodge**.

Return to Windhoek and visit the local craft markets before checking in to your hotel. Tour length 7 days plus 1 night pre tour and one night post tour in Windhoek = 9 days.

Flights from Cape Town and other major Cities.

Please request a priced tour brochure



SPRING FLOWERS—NAMAQUALAND

17-22 August 2017 (6 days).

Springbok Floral Splendour



Accommodation
has been booked



“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 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 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



Following our earlier investigation into travelling to Hogsback by road, we are now investigating a tour which will see us flying into Port Elizabeth and travelling from there by road.

We will be doing a recce early in the new year and will finalise this tour shortly after our visit.

Accommodation has already been **provisionally booked** in Hogsback at **The Armine! Hotel**.

Tours currently under consideration:



Will be updated in
the next newsletter.

END