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ONCE A YEAR GO SOME-PLACE...

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Traveltime exclusive tours

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[New Additions](#)



[Update](#)

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



The following schedule is current as at 30th May 2015.. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

(Tour dates in blue are confirmed).

- [18th-20th June: Sutherland in Winter \(Request a brochure\)](#).
- [7th-17th July: Namibia, including Etosha National Park \(Request a brochure\)](#)
- [25th July: Soetes en Sop \(Request a brochure\)](#) ★
- [9th August: Sunday Outing \(Planning stage\)](#),
- [12th-16th August: Flower Tour: Nieuwoudville \(Request a brochure\)](#)
- [29th August \(Saturday\): West Coast Park Flowers \(Planning stage\)](#),
- [11th-13th September: Whale Watching – Hermanus \(Request a brochure\)](#),
- [11th October: Sunday Outing \(Planning stage\)](#),
- [17th—21st November: Exploring the Overberg \(Planning stage\)](#),
- [6th December \(Sunday\): Mystery Venue \(Planning stage\)](#),
- [25th—29th April 2016: MSC Sinfonia—Cruise: Cape Town—Walvis Bay. \(Request details\)](#)
- On the horizon planning: Train trip / Victoria Falls & Chobe / Lalibela Game Reserve



Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity – Khalil Gibran

Some tours start with some passengers unknown to you ; [the sweet responsibility](#) ; but at the end of sharing 6 days in the bush one realizes what [an opportunity](#) you've had to meet them and to share time with them – differing personalities, but each with unique qualities!

We left Cape Town on Sunday 10th May (Mother's Day) with a surprise gift hidden in each passengers tour presentation package—a slab of Lindt Chocolate to celebrate the day. First stop was the [Lord Milner Hotel in Matjiesfontein](#) where we settled in for lunch in the pub, with the pianist playing his honky-tonk tones in the background. We arrived in the small town of Prince Albert just after 16h00 and settled into two pre-booked guest houses— [Saxe Coburg and the Karoo View Cottages](#). Dinner was at a new restaurant, [Simply Saffron](#).

Next morning we had an early breakfast at [Lah-di-dah](#), with Yvette at the helm it is just the nicest place in town. A lunch stop in [Aberdeen at Pagel House](#) was also very enjoyable.

“Mount Camdeboo here we come” – everyone was so excited. We arrived at about 15h00 and were then taken to our pre-assigned rooms in [Camdeboo Manor and Courtyard Manor](#). At Mount Camdeboo you are woken up just after 06h00 and after a cup of coffee and a rusk you join the morning game drive just as the sun rises.

Les took us up to the Battlefield site where the [Battle of Paardeberg](#) was fought during the second boer war in February 1900. Both British and Boers had many casualties. Sitting in the vehicle with Les relating both sides of the story had us all thoroughly engrossed! Les is constantly on the lookout for the cheetah – they have acquired a new male cheetah on the reserve and have inserted a micro-chip in his neck to allow rangers to track his whereabouts.

Brunch is always enjoyed after the game drive and then it's 'free-time' ; you can go for a massage with the [African Angels](#) or [just relax](#). At 15h30 it is once again time for high tea, prior to the afternoon game drive.

Drinks up on the Escarpment is always a highlight of your time at Mount Camdeboo and amazingly they time it perfectly, as the sun is setting—what a spectacle! Eight of us skipped our game drive the next morning and headed into [Nieu Bethesda](#)

On our game drive on Wednesday there was a very good signal on the tracking device and Les had left us all in vehicle for about 15 minutes whilst he tracked the male cheetah down. No luck this time. Five of our group tracked the cheetah in the bush with Les but it was evasive!

An early breakfast and, unfortunately, no game drive today as we are heading home! We travelled through Graaff Reinet to the Valley of Desolation and took a short walk up to the vantage point where many photos were taken.

A stop over at [Hlanganga Lodge](#) in Oudtshoorn with a beautiful drive the next day over the Robyns Pass had us all back in Cape Town by late Friday afternoon—all feeling the '[peace of where we'd come from](#)'!!

For a full report with photos please visit our website www.traveltime.co.za



SUTHERLAND

18th—20th June 2015

We have 9 confirmed bookings.



Accommodation
has been booked

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We have visited Sutherland 4 times over the past 8 years and have spent various periods from 1 to 3 nights in the coldest town in South Africa. Our planned tour this year will see us staying two nights, with the tour duration being 3 days. The main purpose of our visit is of course to see Matjiesfontein, the SALT telescope and to experience star gazing in the Karoo with Jurg Wagener and his computerized telescopes. [Read previous tour reports on our old website: \(1\) http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/sutherland_09.htm](http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/sutherland_09.htm) and (2) http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/Sutherland131.htm.

The period chosen to do this tour falls into the **NEW MOON** period and is an excellent time to view the stars. Winter is also the very best time to be in Sutherland as the winter skies are at their clearest and offer the best time for viewing! You will certainly enjoy your evening with Jurg, the local Astronomy expert. A number of **computerized telescopes** allow you to get first hand information (and viewings) of some stars and planets!

Be pre-warned that the temperatures can plummet in Sutherland at night, so make sure you **bring along warm jackets, beanies, scarves and gloves.**

For full details and pricing on the current tour, please request a tour brochure

NAMIBIA

7th—17th July 2015

We have 10 confirmed bookings



Accommodation &
Flights are booked



We fly into Windhoek and spend 1 night pre and post tour, 2 nights in Sossusvlei (highest dunes in the world), 2 nights in Swakopmund / Walvis Bay before driving through Damaraland (1 night) into Etosha National Park (3 nights). We then return to Windhoek. Total 11 days 10 nights. [Read previous tour reports on our old website: \(1\) http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/Namibia09.htm](http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/Namibia09.htm) and (2) http://travelttime.co.za/old_site/travelttime/previous/Namibia09.htm

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

SOETES EN SOP

25th July 2015



The Annual
Breedekloof Festival



Come **WARM UP THIS WINTER AT SOETES & SOUP: [Saturday 25 July 2015](#)**

Lose yourself this winter on the most scenic wine route in the Cape Winelands and beat away the wintry blues at the annual Breedekloof Soetes & Soup 2015 festival, taking place on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 July. (We will visit the Festival on Saturday 25th July).

This fun-filled event hosted by wineries in the Rawsonville, Slanghoek, Goudini, and Breede River areas, combats the chills by serving complimentary cups of steaming homemade country soup accompanied by a glass of multiple award-winning soetes (dessert wines) including Hanepoot, Muscadel, Noble Late Harvest, Red Jerepigo and Port.

Your festival pass only costs R100 per person and this year there are limited tickets available. (Ticket purchases via [Webtickets](#)). (Total tour cost R400 pp)

We will organize the transport and pre purchase the tickets, so please request a tour brochure and confirm your participation.

Please note: no tickets available on the day.

Your pass includes your enamel mug, wine glass and coupon booklet for the soup tasting.



SPRING FLOWERS**12th—16th August 2015***We have 6 confirmed bookings*Accommodation
has been booked!

The first day will be spent in the West Coast National Park (Postberg Reserve) with an overnight stop in Paternoster. 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, Papkuilsfontein and Hantam Botanical Garden are planned. [Read the 2014 tour report, with photos, on our website: http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/spring-flowers-2014](http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/spring-flowers-2014)

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure**WHALE WATCHING in Walker Bay****11th-13th September 2015***We have 7 confirmed bookings*Accommodation
has been booked

Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2014 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: 2nd – 4th October 2015.

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.

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 our previous tour report / photos and video on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/package/whale-watching-2015>

Experience the Friendship & Fun***For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure, or visit our website*****EXPLORING THE OVERBERG****17th—21st November 2015***We have 8 provisional bookings*Planning is
underway

Within driving distance of one of South Africa's busiest cities, lies a region of contrasts and wonder. The Overberg has rugged mountain ranges, fynbos, rolling wheat and canola fields, and splendid coastal vistas. It is for you to reflect, discover and maybe even have the adventure of a lifetime.

The Overberg has always fascinated me.....as the years have gone by, more and more establishments are springing up and I feel it's time to 'get-going' again into this delightful area!

We working on accommodation establishments (probably in Hermanus! Or surrounding area) and as soon as this is finalized you will be the-first-to-hear!

Request a provisional brochure to whet your appetite & to let you know where we intend planning our 3 full days in the area.

CRUISING WITH MSC & TRAVELTIME

25th—29th April 2016

We have 19 confirmed bookings.



Cabins have
been booked!

Updated details

31st May 2015

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CHANGE IN CRUISE DATES:

By majority consensus the originally selected cruise date (17th-22nd January 2016 Cape Town to Walvis Bay & Luderitz) has been changed to (25th—29th April 2016 Cape Town to Walvis Bay), due to cost implications.

The **MSC SINFONIA** will reveal itself as a **revamped, extended liner** including stunning NEW additions which include **new entertainment options, technological advancements, shops and up to nearly 200 new cabins!**

This vessel arrives in South African waters in November and starts cruises from Durban on the 19th November 2015 and the vessel will be in Cape Town on 8th January 2016.

This is a change from our initial Jazz Cruise leaving Cape Town. It was a 5 day cruise stopping in Walvis Bay & Luderitz.

**4 night cruise: Cape Town to Walvis Bay / Cape Town
leaving Cape Town Harbour on 25th April, 2016.**

Consensus was that the vast difference in the two prices was worth the wait until April.

MSC Cruises work on a very different system of booking - (called a dynamic booking system - several of our larger hotel groups also use this system). Prices are based on demand.

MSC bookings are done on-line and we need commitments BEFORE we can finalise the booking. At present MSC are offering up to 50% discount for early-bird bookings and the nett final price is only available once we do the booking. We have already done bookings for 5 single cabins & 4 double cabins.

For the April 2016 cruise they are offering the following prices for Seniors:

- Double (2 pax sharing) R8260— Single accommodation R6722 in an outside cabin
- Double (2 pax sharing) R7980— Single accommodation R6350 in an inside cabin
- To this we need to add standard port insurance/service charge of R950 per person & shuttle costs (transport to & from the ship).

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure, or visit our website where the MSC Tour Brochure is also available

OTHER PLANS (ON THE HORIZON) FOR 2015 /16



Planning is
underway



- We have previously put together a tour to **Victoria Falls (Zambia), including Chobe National Park** in Botswana, but this was cancelled due to low passenger numbers. It is time to re-look at this again. ***We will be suggesting proposed dates shortly. (Need to check the rainy season!)***
- In October 2010 Carol took a group to **Lalibella Game Reserve** near Grahamstown. Passengers still talk about the special time they had on this tour. Brian never had the chance to travel with them, so perhaps it is time to visit Lalibella again.
- We will also be doing the annual day trip into the **West Coast Park** to see the **spring flowers** (Saturday 29th August)

Experience the Friendship & Fun

Make a provisional booking to allow us to gauge potential interest.

END