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More in next issue...



Traveltime
exclusive tours

BP COOMBS cc T/A

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017



Past Tours



We visited Pluto!

NATAL MIDLANDS

SUTHERLAND

2017 Planning



New Additions



Update

UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 1st June 2017. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2017 Tours organized & run by Traveltime

- 24 June: Market Day (1 Day) ★
- 17-22 August: Springbok Spring Flowers (6 Days) ★
- 26 August: West Coast Park Flowers (Postberg) (1 Day) ★
- 28 Aug-1 Sept: Spring Flowers (5 Days) ★
- 15-17 September: Whale Watching (3 Days) - *Short Break* ★
- 30 September—5 October: Hogsback & Surrounds (6 Days) ★
- 12-16 November: Arniston & Surrounds (5 Days). ★
- 10 December: Mystery Venue Tour (1 Day). ★
- 29 December-2 January: Old Year 2017 (5 Days) ★

Experience Friendship & Fun with Traveltime

2017 New Venture— Hand Picked 3rd Party Tours ★

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Garden Route (4 or 5 Day) | • Namibia Scheduled & Self Drive |
| • MSC Cruises | • European River Cruises |
| • Cunard / P&O Cruises | • Trafalgar Tours |
| • Bushmans Kloof Resort | • Select Game Reserves |

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Sunday 7th saw 12 passengers eagerly gathering at CTIA for their 11:15 flight to King Shaka International in Durban. On arrival at 13:10, we were joined by Derick and Jackie (Durban residents) who were keen to explore the area with us. The drive to **Nottingham Road** is about 160km through lovely countryside; arriving at **Fordoun Hotel & Spa**, just before 16:00. Breakfast on **Monday** was at 07:00 for Alan and Lyn who had booked a **battlefields** tour. The rest of the group visited **Ardmore Ceramics** in Lidgetton, **Culamoya Chimes** and **Piggly Wiggly** for lunch, and some gathering. On returning to Fordoun, a few ladies headed off to the Spa for treatments and one had a consultation with **Dr Elliot Ndlovu**, the traditional healer. Others showed interest in the **Black Wattle Crane** project run by Jon Bates (owner of Fordoun). Dinner was at **Granny Mouse Hotel & Spa** in Balgowan. **Tuesday** morning saw us at **Howick Falls**, followed by a visit to **Wedgewood Nougat**, then down to the **Nelson Mandela Capture site**, where we had a pre tour light lunch. Dinner was at **Brahman Hills** in their wine cellar restaurant “89 on Copper”.

On **Wednesday** we visited the **Drakensberg Boys choir school**, for an afternoon concert. En-route visiting the **Lilac Crane**, the **Biltong Bar** alongside the N3, and a quick stop at the **Dragon Peaks** Caravan park and restaurant area for a view of the Berg. The performance of the legendary Drakensberg Boys choir was an afternoon to remember. En route back to Fordoun we experienced a problem with the vehicle, causing us to travel at 20km/hr up hill, due to a faulty “turbo connection”. This delay resulted in us changing our dinner reservation from Bierfassl to Fourdoun. **Thursday**, and we did a guided tour of **Michaelhouse Private Boys School** and by 11:30 we were back on the road (58km) to **Cleopatra Mountain Farmhouse** (near **Giants Castle**), for lunch. By 15:30 we were on the way back to Fordoun! Jon Bates the owner of Fordoun had encouraged us all to come and meet “his hens” who lay 130 eggs each day.— and what an experience this was! From an organisational part of a tour, we cannot praise Fordoun enough. The attention to detail is something we’ve not yet experienced in our years of organising tours. **Fordoun we enjoyed our time with you and we will return!** **Friday** morning dawned with the news that a truck had jack-knifed on the highway leaving the N3 totally blocked. We were advised of an alternate route to Durban and said our “goodbyes”, vowing to return, soon. Please visit our website for a full tour report. <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/natal-midlands-2017>

**ABRIDGED TOUR REPORT: SUTHERLAND—Short Break 27-29 May (3days)**For a full report & photos see: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/sutherland-2017>**5 Passengers**

Saturday 27th: Sutherland lies just 350km from Cape Town – it is the coldest town in the Western Cape. En route, our group had a delicious lunch at **Die Veldskoen Padstal** just outside **De Doorns**, then headed straight to Sutherland, arriving at about 15h30 & checked in at **Kambrokind**. At 17h30 we all headed to **Die Ou Meul** for an early dinner. After this we headed to **Sterland** farm for **star gazing with Jurg**. My goodness, the cold seems to bite-at-you! By just after 21h00 we were all back in town and ready to settle into our warm beds. **Sunday** morning after breakfast we returned to Sterland where Rita showed us slides of all the veld spring flowers and then did a walk along “Lovers Lane” to view the many succulents. Lunch was at the **Blue Moon Guest House** which proved to be a **big disappointment** (after the many excellent reviews on Trip Adviser). At 15h00 we met **Trienie** in the beautiful **Dutch Reformed church** for a guided tour and **Tannie Marie** (organist) who played 3 pieces for us, after which we all had a little “ME” time. At 18h30 we all met at the **Whitehouse Inn** where there was a lovely big fire burning and we could relax and enjoy another meal together!

Monday morning and we visited **The Mall in Sutherland** before travelling the 18km to **SAAO (The South African Astronomical Observatory)** for their 10h30 tour. This was followed by a visit to the **SALT telescope**.

After a light lunch at **Whitehouse** we headed off on our meander back to Cape Town, with a stop at the **Verlatenkloof Pass** bush bar. By 15h30 we had only reached **Matjiesfontein** where Coffee/ and Apple-Almond cake were the order of the day. Traveling along the N1 back into Cape Town with all the huge trucks delayed our time of arrival in the city to only 18h30, with the final drop-off a lot later.

“Life is Good and Exciting Shared with Like-Minded Ladies / Such a jolly and happy time – never had so many laughs along the way”



MARKET DAYS
Saturday 24th June

The second of planned visits throughout the Year

Planned for
alternate months



Week end markets are fast becoming “the place” to visit in the Western Cape. There are many markets offering food, craft, entertainment and a mix of other items. There are good, bad and exceptional markets. Some are open on Saturdays, others on Sundays and others fortnightly or monthly. We have visited many of these and have decided to share the better ones with you.

The plan is to have 4 market days in 2017 (alternate months). We will visit two markets today.

1. ORANJEZICHT CITY FARM MARKET—Granger Bay

2. BAY HARBOUR MARKET (Hout Bay)

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

Experience a fabulous day out!

SPRING FLOWERS—NAMAQUALAND
17-22 August 2017 (6 days).

Springbok Floral Splendour

Accommodation
has been booked

**8 Confirmed
Passengers**



“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 full details & pricing, please request a tour brochure](#)

SPRING FLOWERS IN THE WEST COAST PARK
Saturday 26th August 2017 (1 day)

The annual flower show in the Postberg 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 2016 tour report, on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/postberg-flower-reserve-2016>

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](#)

POSTBERG WILD FLOWER RESERVE

SPRING FLOWERS—NIEUWOUDTVILLE AREA

28 August—1st September 2017 (5 days).

Flower and bulb spectacular



Accommodation
has been booked

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August and September is Flower Season in the “Cape”, with fields of flowers appearing each year when Nature waves her magic wand. No two years are ever the same and the spectacle is dependent on the fields receiving sufficient rain beforehand.

We travel up the west coast, stopping at Postberg, world renowned Flower Reserve in the West Coast National Park, for our first viewing of the mass flower displays. Our first night will be spent in Langebaan, before we head up to Vanrhynsdorp, where we will be based for 3 nights .

Highlights of this 5 day tour will include the Clanwilliam Flower Show, Vanrhynsdorp succulents, Quiver Tree forest, Hantam Botanical Gardens, Matjiesfontein Flower Reserve, Papkuilsfontein Farm in Nieuwoudtville, amongst others.

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 & pricing, please request a tour brochure

WHALE WATCHING (With optional Boat Based excursion)

15th—17th September (3 days). Dates may change

Our annual whale watching excursion



Whale Season
has started



Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2016 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: 29th September – 1st October 2017.

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.

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

HOGSBACK

30 September—5 October 2017 (6 days).

Experience the Silence & Tranquility



We now have 7 passengers confirmed and
have space for a few more!
Confirm your interest asap.



Hogsback is a magical world of mountains and forests. It is situated high up on the Amathole mountains of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, and is surrounded by centuries-old indigenous Afro-montane forests.

Spring, of course, is ‘the’ time when Hogsback puts on its prettiest clothes and it will astound you with flowers and beauty. Lilies grow everywhere and all their gardens are a paradise of colours. The annual Spring Festival runs from 23rd September to 14th October so our timing is perfect!

Tour highlights include: Spring Festival / Spectacular Views /The Edge Hotel / The Arboretum / Applegarth Gardens / Eco Shrine / Forest Walks / Magnificent Gardens / Labyrinth / Arts & Crafts Trail / The Arminal Hotel / Camelot & Fairy Realm, beautiful waterfalls, amongst others.

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure

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ARNISTON & SURROUNDS

12th-16th November 2017 (5 days).

Stay in Arniston, visit local attractions

The Overberg Region includes L'Agulhas, Arniston, Struisbaai, De Hoop Nature Reserve & Bontebok National Parks

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For over 200 years the tiny town of **Arniston** on the Western Cape's Indian Ocean seaboard was a fully functioning fishing village. Today, depleted fish stocks have changed its emphasis toward tourism. Arniston is now a national monument but still home to a small yet lively community. The village is named after one of many shipwrecks off the coast: the British ship Arniston, which ran into rocks offshore in 1815. Stroll among the whitewashed thatch cottages that line the shore, have a chat to the cheerful locals and dine out on fresh seafood. It is whale season, so be on the look-out for the Southern Right whales.

Meet Derick an ex 'local parks board ranger' at the L'Agulhas lighthouse, learn about the Meishu Maru, the fish traps, the kelp and coastal fynbos.



Planning is underway and we have reserved 12 rooms at the **Arniston Spa Hotel**.

Please indicate your interest in this tour by requesting an information brochure and making a provisional booking.

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR

10th December (1 day).

Our annual "must attend" celebration



Planning will commence shortly



This annual event has proved to be very popular and last year we had 46 passengers join us for a day at Blue Bay Lodge in Saldanha Bay. The serenity of this Lodge and it's attentive staff, guided us in choosing this venue for our Old Year 2017 celebration (Read more below).

So, **watch this space** for more information as planning progresses. We will, once again be running a competition and offering a free day to the person who guesses where we are going.

As an afterthought, please email brian@travelttime.co.za with **your thoughts / ideas for a day out** or a suitable venue and if your idea is chosen **we will reward you with a free day**

OLD YEARS EVE—Short Break

29 December '17 —2nd January '18 (5 days).

Last year in Montagu was a great success



OPEN FOR BOOKINGS



Limited Accommodation!



On 11th December 2016 Travelttime spent a day at Blue Bay Lodge. It proved a huge success and we are now organising a 4 night / 5 day stay over Old / New Year!

As the days leading up to Old Year fall over a weekend, no hotel would 'split' the weekend bookings—this is why our tour this year is 5 days, instead of 3. We leave Cape Town on Friday 29th December and return on Tuesday 2nd January. (last year returning on 1st January created problems).

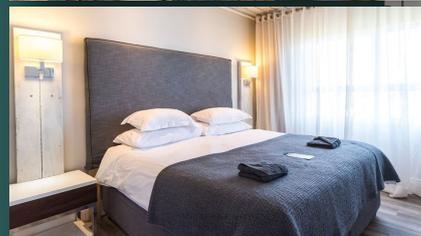
A full program is being put together to give you a relaxing time and (if you wish), time to explore the surrounding areas!



Blue Bay Lodge is planning an Old Year dinner/dance, with local entertainment.

A great way to see in 2018

Experience the Friendship & Fun



Full details and pricing **WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY**,
please request an Information brochure,
or visit our website: www.travelttime.co.za

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Over the past 2 years we have had people visiting our website seeking tours for “over 50’s and seniors”. Whilst many of these people booked on tours planned and run by Traveltime, they also wanted Garden Route Tours, Self Drive Tours into Namibia and other destinations, as well as Game Reserves, Cruises and other specialist tours not available from Traveltime at the time. Through these enquiries we have been able to offer tours and accommodation offered by our various Principals. Many of these enquiries have been recurring and we have decided to add these to our offering as “Hand Picked 3rd Party Tours”. We will add others as and when we have fully investigated them.



GARDEN ROUTE TOURS (Cape Town to Cape Town)

- **4 Day tours leave Cape town every Tuesday**
- **5 Day tours leave Cape Town on Tuesday, twice per month:** 17 January, 31 January, 07 February, 21 February, 07 March, 21 March, 04 April, 18 April, 02 May, 16 May, 30 May, 06 June, 20 June, 04 July, 18 July, 01 August, 15 August, 29 August, 05 September, 19 September, 03 October, 17 October, 31 October, 07 November, 21 November, 05 December



TOURING IN NAMIBIA

- **Self drive Tours:**
Our Principals in Windhoek have got a comprehensive database of B&B’s, Self catering, Lodges and Hotels throughout Namibia and can quote against your proposed itinerary and dates. We have put together a number of these tours for clients from Pretoria and Johannesburg for periods ranging from 7 days to 21 days. No enquiry is too big or too small.
- **Scheduled Tours**
We have a comprehensive range of Itineraries for Scheduled tours leaving on various dates throughout the year and for various destinations throughout Namibia, for varying periods, ranging from 3 Days to 15 Days. A number of these tours are advertised on our website (Namibia Scheduled Tours) with each providing full details and departure dates. Pricing is available on application.



CRUISING:

We are registered with a number of cruise lines, able to provide information and make bookings with:

- **MSC / Cunard & P&O (Whitestar) / European River Cruises**
We would be happy to provide information and availability against your requirements.
- Many will remember our 5 day Sinfonia cruise to Walvis Bay which was cancelled by MSC due to bad weather, on the day before scheduled departure.. We had 23 passengers booked and fortunately MSC refunded in full.



TRAFALGAR TOURS

We recently got a call from Trafalgar asking if we were interested in marketing their range of tours. Their Business development manager provided detailed information of what they have to offer (incredible range) and suggested a few tours which could interest our group. We will be providing details in due course.



BUSHMANS KLOOF RESORT & SELECT GAME RESERVES

We will be providing details shortly about the Bushmanskloof Resort as well as a number of Private Game Reserves we have been dealing with.



Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding any of the above.

END