

Inside this issue:

2018 PLANNING	1
OLD YEAR 2017 TOUR REPORT	2
KARROO THEATRICAL HOTEL	3
MOUNT CAMDEBOO PRIVATE GAME	4
SUTHERLAND	4
KRUGER PARK / MPUMALANGA	5
NAMIBIA CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE	5
SPRING FLOWERS	6
HAND PICKED 3RD PARTY TOURS:	7
• Highlights of Scandinavia	
• Highlights of Vietnam / Cambodia	
• Uniworld Boutique River Cruises	8
• MSC Musica	
• OTHER	

10th January '18

More in next issue...



Traveltime
exclusive tours

BP COOMBS cc T/A
TRAVELTIME
P.O.Box 50371, West Beach, 7449
Phone: 021 554 5796 / Fax: 0866 855562
email: carol@traveltime.co.za
Internet: www.traveltime.co.za
Cell Phone: 084 580 1469



BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

PAGE 1

Read Report on Page 2



LAST TOUR OF 2017

2018 Planning

★ New Addition ★ Update ★ Change

UPCOMING TOURS ★ Fully Booked

The following schedule is current as at 1st January 2018. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2018 Tours organized & run by Traveltime November—December 2017

- 15-19 February: Karroo Theatrical Hotel (5 Days) ★
- 5-10 May: Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve (6 Days) ★
- 14-16 May: Sutherland (3 Days-with stargazing & SALT visit) ★
- 17-22 June: Kruger National Park-Mpumalanga (6 Days) ★
- ??? July: Christmas in July (Montagu) (? Days). *Planning Stage* ★
- 5-13 July: Namibia: Classic Kaleidoscope (9 Days). *Includes Etosha* ★
- 25 August: West Coast Park (Postberg) Spring Flowers (1 Day) ★
- 24-29 August: Spring Flowers—Springbok. (6 Days) ★
- 1-5 September: Spring Flowers—Nieuwoudtville. (5 Days) ★



KARROO THEATRICAL HOTEL

PAGE 2

2017 Tour Report: Seeing in the New Year / Saldanha Bay

Nineteen of us were eager to board the coach on **Saturday 30th December** headed to Saldanha, and the **Blue Bay Lodge** which was to be our home for two nights! Two short stops and we were there – we were shown into the Lapa upon arrival, for our first lunch on the property. It was a hot day but at least in the lapa there was a cool breeze blowing! After consuming mussels and farm baked bread – cooked before us in huge potjies – (some of us even had an extra slice of the bread with the sauce in which the mussels had been cooked – yummy!!) – a few had burgers. We were all then shown to our rooms. Time to unpack and chill and enjoy being away. A few took a stroll on the beach in front of the hotel; some sat at the bar and had a cool drink (many commented on the ‘double gin’ special! – Should we really have decided on this??). The Blue Bay Lodge has a 3 star rating and we believe the accommodation and service exceeds this. Unfortunately (maybe fortunately) we do not all have the same opinions.

There were a few complaints that the rooms were too small, limited sea view, no air conditioning, no bar fridges to house their own refreshments, limited head room, uncomfortable beds etc.

By 6.00pm we were all back on the coach headed to **Alegria restaurant** in **St Helena Bay** which is about ½ hour away. Of course, in the Western Cape the sun at this time of the year is still quite high in the sky and we were looking forward to watching the sun set over the sea at the restaurant. However, we worked out that the sun actually set ‘behind-the-Restaurant’ – disappointment yet the almost full-moon on the water made up for this!

Our food orders went into the kitchen of a very busy restaurant. A few complaints that the food took over an hour to be served but, there was much conversation and laughter at the tables which made the time fly by! Nearly half of the group enjoyed the seafood pasta which proved to be a good choice; whilst others enjoyed calamari or steaks. The Dom Pedro’s were also popular as a dessert and by 10.00pm we were on the coach headed back to Saldanha.

Next morning, with a late start for the last day of the year and a good breakfast – we all headed to Paternoster by 10.00am! Nearing the little coastal town, it was quite overcast, and it was decided to visit the **Tietiesbaai Reserve** just outside town! Only 4 of the group decided to stay in town and ‘shop’ or browse the little shops. The Tietiesbaai reserve has such a wonderful natural feel about it! What a treat to drive through this beautiful area and see how many people had made this place their home for the long weekend! (Camping and caravanning along the coastline – what a beautiful country we all live in for sure!)

We stopped at the **SeeKombuis** restaurant to show everyone this unique area on the beach where the main seating areas are set up in disused boats. ***General consensus was, (and not a decision taken by the organisers, as felt by some who stayed in Paternoster!),*** that we should stay at SeeKombuis for lunch, which proved to be delicious – snoek pate, oysters, toasted sandwiches and something to drink and an hour later we were ready to leave and head back into Paternoster! Some then browsed the little shops; some bought an ice cream (in fact, by now temperatures must have been in the high 20’s); and by 2.30pm we all headed back to Saldanha. We stopped for a group photo at an old windmill along the road – a good place to stop! A good laugh about being “**Moer toe-Gepomp**”! (Totally finished!) or believe what you will in the direct translation from Afrikaans to English.

Time to chill at Blue Bay Lodge when we arrived back in Saldanha at about 3.30pm. After all, we had a long night ahead of us all!

We all met in the bar for a pre-dinner drink before the Arabian Night dinner started. A 3 course dinner with starters being Pita breads with hummus and brinjal dip; Falafel with tzatziki and Bobotie spring rolls with mango chutney; Mains were West coast style braai snoek with garlic butter and apricot jam and sirloin steaks served with roasted potatoes wedges with garlic butter & rosemary; and braai seasonal vegetables skewers with balsamic and olive oil. Dessert was a plated Strawberry panacota with berry coulis.

Generally, the comments about the food were good but there were some “excellent”, “average” and some “not good at all”.

Then the party moved into the courtyard area where the Arabian theme was carried on! Many people were given cushions to sit on around low tables; our group had been given tables and chairs to sit at. Wonder why? But being comfortable, we all started to enjoy the evening and very soon everyone was on the floor dancing – wonderful way to see the New Year in!

At 11.00pm the **belly dancer** arrived – somewhat disappointed that she performed through two very short music slots and disappeared – we could have had more of her performance! However, after the count-down at midnight, the **fire dancer** proved to be excellent, together with the local fireworks around the bay (and many flares); good wishes flowed! After this we all ‘had to have’ our last few dances and the disco finished at 12.30pm.....after a glass of champagne everyone ‘called-it-a-night’ and headed to rooms for our first sleep of 2018!

Breakfast on 1st January was a very leisurely affair – with us waiting for staff to take our luggage to the coach – only to discover the reason that they had not yet done this, was the fact that ladies still had their keys in the breakfast room with them! This after being told the previous night to check out – and hand in your keys at reception! Nothing daunted, however, we still managed to check out of Blue Bay Lodge by 10h00 and headed down to Club Mykonos for our **Catamaran cruise with Elite Charters**. What a bother this proved to be to get into the resort – ZERO communication between Elite Charters and Security about our group arriving and being ‘allowed’ to enter the resort and go down to the dock area! We had 20 minutes of frustration – oh my goodness ‘bureaucracy’!

Eventually we paid Elite Charters for the 10 people and we headed down to the catamaran! What a spoil trip this proved to be. It was fabulous to be on the water at the start of a New Year and we heard snippets from the crew how they had been on board the catamaran the previous night with a group of party revelers until 4.00am on New Years Day! To chat to them about the involvement of NSRI even on the lagoon waters was comforting too! A very delightful hour was spent on the waters of the Langebaan lagoon! Brian tried to stow away on the boat for their next trip which was a 3 hour braai cruise, heading for Kraalbaai in the West Coast National Park, via the lagoon. We then headed to the **Langebaan Country Club** (where after being incorrectly directed by Google Maps and finding we were ‘mislead’, we arrived 30 minutes late – a distance which according to Google which would take us 10 minutes!! Lesson learnt – don’t always trust Google!!) The Langebaan Country Club is in a beautiful position – overlooking the golf course with the lagoon in the background! Orders were taken and over an hour later our food arrived – which was a bit frustrating and, yet another lesson learnt – “Don’t give a group of 19 too many choices!” Had we all enjoyed a choice of only maybe 2 items, the chef in the kitchen would have been able to produce the meals far quicker! All told, however, everyone enjoyed their lunch! Delicious food, beautifully served! Arrived in Bloubergstrand to yet another blistering South Easter, and very soon our guests were all in the correct combis heading for their homes. **For photos see: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/old-year-2017-galley>**

And now we welcome the new year—Full of things that have never been. Rainer Maria Rilke

MOUNT CAMDEBOO PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

5-10 May '18 (6 days)

This will be our 4th visit



Accommodation has been reserved



Repeated by popular demand



Join us on a road trip through **Prince Albert and Graaff Reinet** to this spectacular **5 star private game reserve** in the mountains. Enjoy an early morning game drive followed by brunch, high tea, afternoon game drive and dinner in the comfortable Camdeboo Manor or in the boma. Experience sunsets & sun-downers in the bush under the guidance of professional guides. Get to see what our 2015 group are talking about!

Guests are accommodated in Cape Dutch houses that lie cupped in the palm of the Sneeu Berg Mountain range. Once homes to generations of settlers, these magnificent homesteads have been sensitively converted into **havens of five star luxury**.

Accommodation has been reserved in **Camdeboo Manor , Courtyard Manor, & Hillside Manor**. Mount Camdeboo provides wholesome traditional meals, a team of friendly and professional hosts and superior hospitality in a relaxed homely environment. Our booking includes all meals, local beverages, house wines & ales plus 2 daily game drives. We will spend three nights here. There will also be visits outside of the Reserve. (Nieu Bethesda / Graaff Reinet / Valley of Desolation).



PREVIOUS TOUR PHOTOS



SUTHERLAND SHORT BREAK TOUR

14th—16th May (3 days)

Winter is the best time to go star gazing



Accommodation has been booked



We have visited Sutherland 7 times over the past 9 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 our previous tour report with photos: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/sutherland-2017>**

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, please request a tour brochure

PREVIOUS TOUR PHOTOS



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK-MPUMALANGA

17-22 June '18 (6 days)

Elephant Whisper Encounter included



Accommodation in Hazyview



Panorama Route PLUS more



“Our Airlink flight leaves the Cape Town International Airport at 10h00 and arrives at 12h35 at Nelspruit (KMIA – Kruger Mpumulanga International Airport). Hylton Ross operates out of Hazyview and will be at the airport to collect us and transport us the 65km to Hazyview, where we will check in to Hippo Hollow Hotel or Perry’s Bridge Boutique Hotel, which is set in beautiful grounds, in a colonial-style Lifestyle Centre – Perry’s Bridge Trading Post. Just minutes from Kruger National Park and close to the Panorama Route, a dramatically scenic region and home to highlights such as Blyde River Canyon, God’s Window and Bourke’s Luck Potholes, makes this a convenient base from which to explore South Africa’s Kruger Lowveld region. Settle in, relax and enjoy dinner at The Pioneer’s Butcher & Grill.

The tour includes a full day, as well as a morning game drive in an open vehicle, a guided tour of the Panorama Route, Blyde River Canyon, Gods Window, Bourkes Luck Potholes, The Three Rondawels, Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, Swadini for a boat cruise and an Elephant Whisper encounter in Hazyview, amongst others.

Please request a priced Information brochure

NAMIBIA-CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE

5-13 July '18 (9 days)

Beauty of the desert, Damaraland and Etosha National Park



Scheduled tour organized by Traveltime



Our mid morning flight from Cape Town will see us arriving in **Windhoek** at midday. After checking into our hotel we are free to relax or embark on a pre-arranged city tour, before joining everyone for dinner in-house.

“Next morning, we travel to **Swakopmund** and upon our arrival in the early afternoon we check into our hotel, after which we have the rest of the day at our own disposal. With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a very popular holiday destination in Namibia. Its pleasant summer climate and long stretched beaches attract anglers and surfers from all over Southern Africa. For the international guest, Swakopmund is a bohemian mix of German correctness and African time, laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. It is colourful, it is vibrant, but most of all, it is fun”.

We travel towards the **Etosha National Park**, famous for its vast amount of wildlife and unique landscape. Once we have reached our camp located just outside of the National Park, we head onto our first safari into the National Park. Together with our guide we explore the various waterholes located close to Okaukuejo and the Andersson gate.

Game viewing in the park is largely focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, in excess of 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx, eland, as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. This 9 day tour includes 1 day each pre and post tour in Windhoek to accommodate flights.

We can arrange flights from other cities as well.

Please request a priced tour brochure (Detailed Itinerary).



SPRING FLOWERS IN THE WEST COAST PARK

Saturday 25 th August 2018 (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 colours 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 previous 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*

SPRING FLOWERS—NAMAQUALAND

24-29 August 2018 (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 you 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—NIEUWOUDTVILLE AREA

1-5 September 2018 (5 days).

Flower and bulb spectacular

 Accommodation
has been booked



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 Saldanha, before we head up to Nieuwoudtville, 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*



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, scheduled & 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 continue to add others as and when we have fully investigated them. This month we again look at **European River Cruises & Trafalgar Tours**

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES - 2018 Cruise Departures —
Up to 30% discount on select cruises!

Cruise the Rhine or Waterways of Russia

2018 SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

PAGE 1/2

UNIWORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION®

Traveltime
exclusive tours

*Itinerary operates in reverse order.
†Itinerary available in both directions.

● Generations family programme available on this itinerary, select dates.
● Connoisseur Collection available on this itinerary, select dates.

● Jewish Heritage programme available on this itinerary.

NOTE: Dates, programmes and itineraries are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit Uniworld.com



Some of the cruises on offer: Tulips & Windmills / Castles along the Rhine / Delightful Danube & Prague / European Jewels / Highlights of Eastern Europe / Splendours of Italy / Paris & Normandy / Burgundy & Provence / Bordeaux Vineyards & Chateaux / Grand France / Jewels of Spain / Portugal & Douro River / Imperial Waterways of Russia / Highlights of China & Yangtze / Timeless Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia & The Mekong / plus other cruises into India & Egypt.

[For a comprehensive schedule of departures, dates and vessels please contact us for details](#)

OR, request specific Itineraries with any of the above cruises in mind.

Selected and Booked by:



Highlights of Scandinavia (12 Days)
May 2018 Departure
Norway / Denmark & Sweden

TRAFALGAR
Simply the best

Highlights of Vietnam with Cambodia (14 Days)
May / June 2018 Departure
Hanoi / Halong Bay / Mekong Delta Plus...

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCANDINAVIA (12 DAYS)

The land of the Vikings, deep fjords and the Northern Lights - Norway, Denmark and Sweden - are explored on this fascinating journey of discovery. Visit Copenhagen's Nyhaven, drive around the Hardangerfjord and spend the night on the shores of Lake Vänern. 11 nights, /16 meals / Sightseeing Highlights : Bergen / Copenhagen / Oslo / Stockholm .

[Request a priced Itinerary](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM WITH CAMBODIA (14 DAYS)

Float on the sparkling emerald waters of Halong Bay on a traditional Vietnamese Junk. Glide past hidden islets, giant limestone karsts and colourful fishing villages, stopping only to gain insight into the lives of the local fishermen at Cua Van and to practice T'ai Chi in exquisite surroundings. Sightseeing Highlights: City Tour of Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City / See Red Beach in Danang / Witness the revival of traditional Khmer craftsmanship at the Artisans D'Angkor training school Visit Ho Chi Minh's house. / 13 nights / 22 meals.

[Request a priced Itinerary](#)

Selected and Booked by:



Hanoi / Halong Bay / Hoi AN / Ho Chi Minh City / Mekong Delta.

Accommodation: Jasmine Cruise / Melia Hanoi / Royal Hoi An / Imperial / Sofitel Saigon Plaza



...Continued...



MUSICA DUE IN SA IN NOV'18



GARDEN ROUTE TOURS (Cape Town to Cape Town)

- 4 Day tours leave Cape Town every Tuesday
 - 5 Day tours leave Cape Town, twice per month on a Tuesday
- For full details & pricing, please request a tour brochure*

Selected and Booked by:



Operated by:



Operated by:



Offering the Best of the Best

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 request.

CRUISING:

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

- **MSC / Cunard & P&O (Whitestar) / Uniworld Boutique River Cruises**
We would be happy to provide information and availability against your requirements.
- **MSC Musica now on sale: November '18—April '19.**
Be one of the first to secure the lower priced cabins.



TRAFALGAR TOURS

We have narrowed down our choice of tours from which we will select our first tour for Spring 2018 in Europe. Details of 2 tours are being released on line and in this (October) newsletter. See page 6.



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