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Make Time To Travel

1st April '18



BP COOMBS cc T/A
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DEPART IN 5 WEEKS

SEE PAGE 3

BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

PAGE I

UPCOMING TOURS 2018



ELGIN COOL WINE



ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET



MOUNT CAMDEBOO



SUTHERLAND



NEW

OVERBERG BY TRAIN



NAMIBIA



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



SPRING FLOWERS



WHALE WATCHING



HOGSBACK & BEDFORD

HAND PICKED 3RD PARTY TOURS: *Request a quote from Traveltime*

- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises
- Insight Vacations
- Luxury Gold
- Trafalgar Tours
- MSC Cruises
- Garden Route
- Africa in Focus Portfolio
- Thompsons Holidays

PAGE 2

ELGIN COOL WINE & COUNTRY FOOD FESTIVAL
Saturday 28 April '18 (1 day)
End of harvest festival

 Live Entertainment
& a variety of food

 Program, map &
cost on request

The harvest has come to an end, the vineyards are decked in their autumn finery and just as the first vestiges of winter can be felt in the crisp air, the Elgin Wine valley opens its doors to visitors from far and wide for the annual Elgin Cool Wine and Country Food Festival which is to be held over the weekend of 28-29 April 2018 from 10h00 until 17h00 daily.



Each of the participating wineries will offer a unique programme, allowing patrons to tailor-make their experience according to their own personal preferences, whilst enjoying a welcome alternative to the hustle and bustle of city life.

Award winning wines, a delectable culinary experience, a plethora of outdoor activities, live entertainment and natural scenic wonders will ensure that visitors, young and old, enjoy a memorable time in this hospitable valley.



Come Hungry *Please request a priced Information brochure*

Rumbling tummies and salivating taste buds will all be satisfied by the plethora of delicious foods to be served by the various wine farms. From pop-up kitchens to food trucks, pull pork rolls, tapas, sushi to delicious cheese platters, a la carte menu's and fillet on the grill – all appetites will be satisfied.

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/cool-wine-country-food>

ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET
Sunday 29 April '18 (1 day)
Travel by steam train
16 PAX Booked !

 Tantalising food &
beverage stalls

 Depart Royal Cape
Yacht Club

During the annual Elgin Cool Wine & Country Food Festival, Ceres Rail Company will be offering a day trip to the Elgin Railway Market on both the 28th & 29th of April 2018, with a double header of steam.



Departing at 08h00 from the Royal Cape Yacht Club in Cape Town, you will enjoy a 3 hour train journey to Elgin where you will leisurely spend 3.5 hours at the newly established, Art Deco & Art Nouveau inspired, Elgin Railway Market.

While enjoying live music, you can pander through the selection of tantalising food and beverage stalls as well as a wide selection of home grown wines for your enjoyment.

Departing from Elgin at 14:30 you will embark on your relaxing train journey back to Cape Town with your estimated arrival time being 17h30.

Please request a priced Information brochure <https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/elgin-railway-market>

Coming up on page 3:

MOUNT CAMDEBOO PRIVATE GAME RESERVE
5-10 May '18 (6 days)
This will be our 4th visit
SPECIAL PRICING

 Accommodation
has been reserved

 Limited to 12 Pax.
We have 7 bookings

SUTHERLAND SHORT BREAK TOUR
14th—16th May (3 days)
Winter is the best time to go star gazing

 Accommodation
has been booked

MOUNT CAMDEBOO PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

5-10 May '18 (6 days)

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SPECIAL PRICING



Accommodation has been reserved



Limited to 12 Pax. We have 7 bookings



Join us on a road trip through **Oudtshoorn 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).

Read the 2015 tour report, with photos, on our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mount-camdeboo-2015>. **Please request a priced Information brochure**



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

KAMBROKIND GUESTHOUSE

PREVIOUS TOUR PHOTOS



THE OVERBERG BY RAIL

21-24 June '18 (4 days)

Elephant Whisper Encounter included



Join us in a unique way in experiencing a steam locomotive whilst being immersed in its 100 year old history.

This year, Ceres Rail Company, is planning a 4 day / 3 night trip from Cape Town to the beautiful Overberg valley. All meals, transfers and accommodation at the Houwhoek & Arniston hotels during this trip will be included.

Once on your way you will get to enjoy comfortable lounge cars with hot beverages and savoury snacks in the Selati Dining Car – which dates back to 1932 and was originally part of the blue train.

We also have a fully licensed Bar Car where you can purchase beer, bubbly, wine and soft drinks.

Tour Price: On application

Duration: 4 days / 3 nights

Inclusions: Train Trip, Accommodation, transfers and all meals

Exclusions: All drinks, and other luxuries

Departure: Opposite the Royal Cape Yacht Club, Duncan Road, Cape Town Harbour



Please request a priced Information brochure

NAMIBIA-CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE

5-13 July '18 (9 days)

Beauty of the desert, Damaraland and Etosha National Park



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, 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).



CHRISTMAS IN JULY
20-22nd July 2018 (3 days)

A true Christmas experience



Montagu in Winter



The weather in Montagu is impeccable, far enough south to escape the heat of the **Klein Karoo** and far enough north to get away from the long wet winters of the Cape. In winter the days are warm and sunny with the occasional hint of rainfall. Autumn brings on a display of colours. In October, Montagu becomes a picture perfect haven with the abundance of roses for which it is famous.

On Friday 20th we will enjoy a superb buffet, or set dinner (Dependent on numbers in the hotel).

Christmas in July will be spent on Saturday 21st July

- ◆ Complete with gift swapping (bring along a gift and swap under the mistletoe)
Christmas Tree decorated with pizzazz
Special Acapella choir to sing Christmas Carols,
In addition, you'll get to enjoy a superb 5 course Dinner at the hotel and coupled with this, a local DJ will play divine music between courses to get-you-moving!

Planning is complete and a priced information brochure is available. Please indicate your interest to allow us to gauge tour popularity. (Or if you want to join us, please book for the tour!).

For full details and pricing, please request a tour brochure or visit our website:
<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/christmas-july-2018>

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: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/west-coast-park-flowers-2017>

We will have lunch at the Geelbek Restaurant in the West Coast Park. (or bring your own picnic).

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



POSTBERG FLOWER RESERVE



More Flower Tours, next page

SPRING FLOWERS—SPRINGBOK (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 or visit our website:

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/spring-flowers-namaqualand-2018>

SPRING FLOWERS—NIEUWOUDTVILLE AREA

1-5 September 2018 (5 days). *Flower and bull 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 or visit our website:

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/spring-flowers-nieuwoudtville-2018>

WHALE WATCHING (With optional Boat Based excursion)

14—16 September (3 days). *Our annual whale watching excursion*

 OPEN FOR BOOKINGS



Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors (in 2017 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: 28th—30th September 2018. 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. Also, see the shark cage divers in operation.

See one of our previous tour reports / photos and video on our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/whale-watching-2014>

HOGSBACK & BEDFORD FLOWER FESTIVALS

16-21 October 2018 (6 days).

"The most beautiful Mountain Village in South Africa"

 **Accommodation has been booked**



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. Traveltime visited Hogsback in 2017.

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.

Once again, in 2018 **Traveltime will be going to Hogsback** and will be returning to the Arminel Hotel, but this time we have booked the more modern on site self catering cottages. We will also be combining our tour to **Hogsback** with the annual **Bedford Garden Festival!**

We fly into Port Elizabeth where we will collect our coach and then travel by road to Hogsback, a more acceptable 260km. (Rather than the **LONG road trip Cape Town to Hogsback 958km**).

Of course, the **Bedford Garden Festival** is equally well-known for the natural beauty of the gardens (predominately large farm gardens). We have reserved accommodation at **Midgley's Hotel**, dating back to 1858 and situated in **Adelaide**, which is 20km from Bedford.

"Come to Bedford for more open gardens, plant nurseries, two market hubs, lots of shopping, live music, warm hospitality and the scrumptious food for which we are known"

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 Arminel Hotel / Camelot & Fairy Realm, beautiful waterfalls, the nationally renowned butterfly collection at the Huntley Glen Farm, amongst others.

For full details & pricing please request a tour brochure or visit our website:

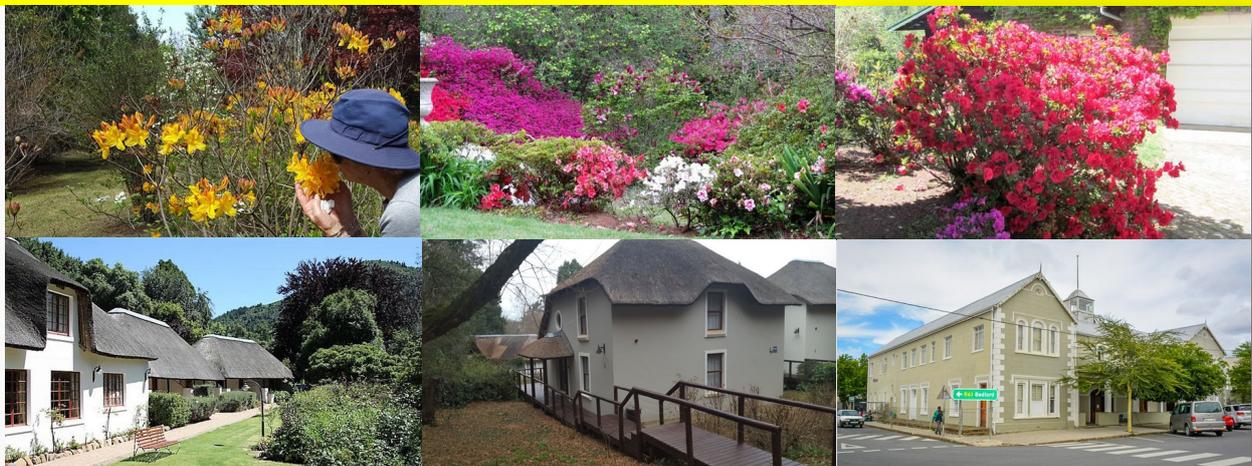
<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/hogsback-bedford-2018>

IMPORTANT NOTE :

Festival accommodation is at a premium and **we need commitment before the beginning of April if you wish to join this tour!**

We already have a few bookings!

Some photos to whet your travel appetite:



Experience the Beauty of the Eastern Cape

END