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YZERFONTEIN 16 MILE BEACH 20-23 Nov '18 

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR 09 Dec 

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR 30 Dec- 01 Jan 

Planning Stage Tours Details in June Newsletter. 



Traveltime
exclusive tours

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IT'S THE FRIENDS WE MEET along THE WAY THAT HELP US APPRECIATE THE journey

BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

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UPCOMING TOURS 2018



SUTHERLAND



OVERBERG BY TRAIN



NAMIBIA



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



WILD FLOWER ADVENTURE



SPRING FLOWERS



WEST COAST PARK FLOWERS



SPRING FLOWERS NIEUWOUDEVILLE



WHALE WATCHING



HOGSBACK & BEDFORD



YZERFONTEIN WEST COAST



CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR



Ceres Rail had their inaugural trip into Elgin to the brand-new Elgin Railway market on Saturday 28th April, with a second trip on Sunday 29th. Traveltime chose to visit on Sunday. It meant a very early start for everyone who was booked on the train – scheduled time to get down to the Unity Station near the Royal Cape Yacht club was 07:30. Taxis rolled in and the train manager eventually took his place at the wooden steps to start checking everyone in! Such huge anticipation when at a few minutes past 08:00 the train whistle sounded and you could feel the train starting to move – and hear the steam; see the black smoke billowing out of the funnel; **OH, the JOYS OF TRAVEL of DAYS GONE BY!!**

Most people had not had time to have breakfast so there was a ‘rush’ to get to the dining car to have a sandwich / muffin etc and cup of coffee. Train staff had walkie-talkies on hand, and from coach to coach they give instructions of how many seats were available in the dining car – it seemed to work well, except that it was a lengthy process! Standing waiting to board, we were amazed to meet a couple who had travelled in from la Agulhas and left home at 03:30 to get to Cape Town in time for the trip. The lady is a steam train enthusiast; amazing what people will do to follow their passion – because when they got back to Cape Town they were returning home by road and would probably only arrive there by 22:00!

Our group of 24 were so fortunate that we had our own coach – made for such a fun time with very comfortable chairs in little circles – and just “Oh so gesellig” – meaning it gave everyone time to move around and chat to each other. It takes a full 3 hours 20 minutes to get to Elgin – a distance (by road) of 70km! Steam train travel is obviously a more laid-back way of traveling – a few tunnels to go through, where the norm became that everyone in our coach started chanting “OOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHH” until the light was visible again – Oh what fun it was! Like a bunch of school kids for sure.

Going up Sir Lowry’s Pass we had quite a long stop near the summit – “Why so long” – “What are they doing” “Are the rails wet?” – eventually we were told they had to replenish the water for the steam and take on additional sand bags. (Sand is dropped on the rails to provide additional traction). what views we all had – travel in the old-fashioned way – such a treat! No rush to get to your destination when it is such a comfortable & relaxing way to get there!

Amazingly how many people come out to watch the engine go past their homes and level crossings – all with cameras taking photos – makes you feel like a celebrity gliding clickety-clickety along the rails. The engineers in our group recognised the different sounds of the engine especially on the ascent up Sir Lowry’s – interesting indeed! Yes it lost a bit of traction near the top! The views one has from the train gives you a new slant on the areas we normally whizz past in our cars – “Gee look how BIG the informal area near Elgin is” – “How beautiful these mountains really are”.

Our arrival at the Elgin Railway Market at 11:20 was very exciting – to see the Market completed. We had gone through a week beforehand and they were nowhere ready (at that stage) to host such a large function – but now the stage had been set! The bandstand had a musician singing; and the food stands offered anything from pizzas; burgers (including a Rovos burger); to Spanish Platters; to Indian curries; to Tapas; with wine stands and beer on tap, and even a gin bar which was very popular with the ladies in our group! Plenty of seating made this a special place to choose a meal and sit and catch up with friends!

You could get coffee beans ground to your liking and even take a bunch of glorious fresh flowers from Oak Valley, home. Buy a new jewelry piece; take home some new décor; even buy a bottle of new Gin! A lot of planning had gone into this market and we feel sure it will be a fantastic addition to the Elgin scene – we look forward to returning in months to come to see how this magical space gets transformed into a permanent marketing venue with several restaurants / shops being added to the mix.

We all had to board the train by 14:15 – everyone except 2 of our party and time was marching on – a bit of a panic situation – as the train must roll out of Elgin station at its allotted time of 14:30!! With a few minutes to spare the two ladies in question arrived! A HUGE sigh of relief for the organisers of this train trip! (and for Brian who would have had to remain behind to ensure the safety of the two!). No names, no pack drill”, but “Hilda” you know, we know, where you went!

We rolled back into the city feeling ever so satisfied when we saw the cars in a solid line going down Sir Lowry’s pass – My goodness, the end of the long weekend is only on Tuesday – why are there so many cars on the road! We had a 30-minute wait near Somerset West to wait for the Main Line train (which was 30 minutes behind schedule), to pass by so we could carry on with our journey. Eventually familiar places on our route meant we were close to Unity Station and a very happy, satisfied group of people disembarked the train and headed back to their homes!

“Rail travel for me is the most relaxing, most scenic way to see the country” . John Paul De Joria



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


We visited the surface of Mars!



visited The Moon!


THE OVERBERG BY RAIL
21-24 June '18 (4 days)
Houwhoek, Elgin & Arniston

 Operated by
Ceres Rail


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.

Travel in comfort in the train and sleep at night in the two hotels en route.

- ◆ **Travelling from Cape Town to Houwhoek and Arniston, passengers will enjoy beautiful scenery with exciting stops at Elgin and Klipdale. {With a few surprises along the way}**

Awaiting Full Itinerary from Ceres Rail



Tour Price: R7,500 pp sharing / R8,500 Single

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

 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, 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 experi-
REVISED PRICING

Sharing: R 6,340 pp / Single R6,660

Luxury accommodation


 Montagu in
Winter

MONTAGU
COUNTRY HOTEL
★★★★


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>

WILD FLOWER ADVENTURE—Choice of 2 tour dates

6 & 20 August 2018 (Each tour is 4 days).

Cape West Coast

 **Now Open for Bookings**



Witness a unique spectacle of nature

This is an amazing adventure from Cape Town into the intriguing West Coast region of the Western Cape to witness an extraordinary spectacle of nature. In the South African spring, over August and September, a brilliant array of diverse wild flowers transform this evocative semi-arid landscape into an unforgettable portrait of extraordinary colour and beauty.

- Unique beauty of vast fields of spectacular wild flowers
- Extraordinary floral diversity including endemic succulents
- Warm West Coast hospitality and wine tasting along the Olifantsriver Wine Route

For full details & pricing, please request a tour brochure

MARCH LILLIES ARE FLOWERING IN NIEUWOUDTVILLE AGAIN



Good News:

The Clanwilliam Wild Flower Show has been re-instated and Nieuwoudville has posted photos of their March Lillies flowering after a hefty rainfall recently. So, the outlook for a good flower season is promising!

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 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 or visit our website:

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/spring-flowers-namaqualand-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](#)



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 or visit our website:](#)

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



WHALE WATCHING (With optional Boat Based excursion)

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



REQUEST A
BROCHURE



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:

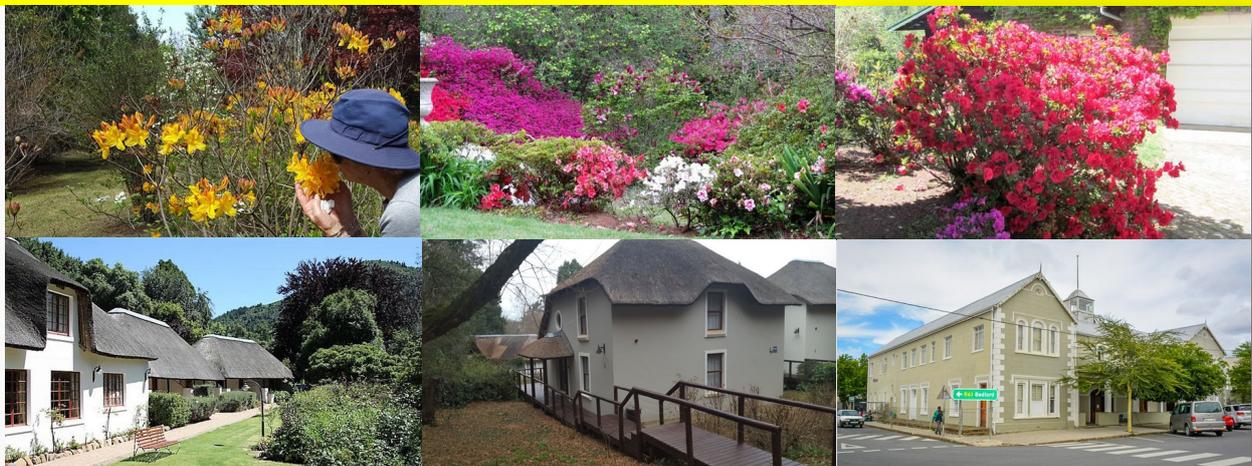
<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/hogsback-bedford-2018>

IMPORTANT NOTE :

Festival accommodation is at a premium and **we need commitment before the end of May 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

HAND PICKED 3RD PARTY TOURS: *Request information from Traveltime*

END