

Inside this issue:

TOUR REPORT  
XMAS IN JULY 2

STEAM TRAIN TO  
ELGIN RAILWAY  
MARKET 3

VINTAGE TRAIN  
TO SIMONSTOWN 3

RED DEVIL STEAM  
TRAIN TO  
ROBERTSON 3

WEST COAST  
FLOWER TRIP  
BY TRAIN 4

WILD FLOWER  
ADVENTURE 4

WEST COAST  
PARK FLOWERS 5  
(POSTBERG)

NAMIBIA  
SCHEDULED  
TOURS 5

HOGSBACK &  
BEDFORD  
FLOWERS 6

YZERFONTEIN  
16 MILE BEACH 6  
20-23 Nov '18

MYSTERY VENUE  
TOUR  
09 Dec

CELEBRATE THE  
NEW YEAR  
30 Dec- 01 Jan

my next  
Senior  
Moment  
will be along  
any minute...



BP COOMBS cc T/A  
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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

# UPCOMING TOURS 2018

PAGE 1



ELGIN RAILWAY  
MARKET



SIMONSTOWN  
VINTAGE TRAIN



RED DEVIL  
STEAM TRAIN



WEST COAST  
FLOWERS



WILD FLOWER  
ADVENTURE



WEST COAST  
PARK FLOWERS



NAMIBIA



HOGSBACK &  
BEDFORD



YZERFONTEIN  
WEST COAST



CELEBRATE THE  
NEW YEAR



TOURS IN PLANNING STAGE

PAGE 2



We left the city on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July** and headed through the **Du Toitskloof tunnel** to Worcester and onto the Nuy Valley. Our first stop was Nuy on the Hill. Of course, we were offered tasting of 5 of their wines, and who could resist – a lovely way to start our weekend away! After this a lovely lunch getting to know the new ladies on tour. Great excitement in the air – next stop is a ‘compulsory’ stop whenever in Robertson is a stop at the **ON Route 62 wine deli**, owned by Tommy Foulkes. Tommy always offers free wine tasting but believe it or not, this time it was turned down by the group (after Nuy tasting)! We chatted a while and left the shop with a bag of oranges – always something Tommy does – you never leave his shop empty-handed. Next stop was **Springfield** where Linda left with two cases of her favourite wine and we headed on to **Ashton** and to **Zandvliet**. Carol had recently visited this estate and considered it worthy of a second visit!

The ladies all explored the basement with the unusual art exhibition before enjoying a Gin and Tonic served with orange slices – WOW – what a fabulous combination! Their **Clemengold Gin** is fabulous! They have large citrus orchards on the property all under cover and export much of their crop. This is a fabulous exciting estate with much more to come. They will be finished their accommodation and new restaurant in 2019 and certainly worthy of another visit! Our final stop was the Montagu Country Hotel where it’s always SO good to see familiar faces! Fabulous welcome with a sherry on the table waiting for the group. We all met in the bar at 18h30 and enjoyed ‘another’ drink before a delicious dinner! After all this, we certainly needed to JOG around the block, except we all crawled into bed quite early. A very full, happy day!!!

**Saturday dawned** and six of the ladies were heading to the **Protea Farm** for their fabulous tractor ride. We arrived at just after 09h30 and waited until 10h00 until the tractor starts up and gets on its journey. The whole **Burger family** is involved in this business and it was great to see Old Man Burger who previously used to drive the tractor, standing waving us Good-Bye! Little did we know that it was his magic trick – as the tractor passes him, he turns on sprays which give you a ‘wet’ good-bye. This tractor ride is a ‘must-do’ in the Montagu area – my goodness you climb to a distance higher than Table Mountain and at one stage you are literally above the clouds covering Montagu and Robertson below. (1500m above sea level) – these tractor trips started in 1985 and are legendary – producing little surprises along the way! One stop which was great was overlooking the Koo valley when 4 of our group decided with others to walk up the hill! We collected them later – Yvonne was the bravest of all sitting up front on the tractor with some new friends she’d made! Fabulous views from there BUT cold. The coldest part was on top of the mountain where the views are magnificent – it’s here that we all started singing “I’m on the Top of the Hill looking out over creation” – WHAT A VIEW!!

You then head to the little hikers’ hut where a glass of sherry quickly warms your soul and some of the famous dried fruit of the valley is served. The tractor then slowly meanders back down the mountain and 2 ½ hours later you’re back at the start! This tractor ride is definitely something you can do over-and-over – testament to the fact, that it’s my 5<sup>th</sup> time and I’ll never tire of it. Back down in Montagu, we collected the ladies who had been doing other things whilst we were up the mountain. Caroline and Christine who had ‘done’ the museums of Montagu ; Linda who had a massage at the Spa ; and Lindy and Sylvia who ‘did’ the Saturday morning market and browsed Montagu finding the dried fruit shop to stock up on produce to take home.

We all enjoyed **lunch at The Orchard**. All we ever seem to do on these trips is EAT, DRINK and ENJOY the company of others. What could be better. **A compulsory ‘ironing-of-sheets’ was suggested and no-one declined! After all we had the Christmas in July party at 18h30 to ‘get-ready-for’**

We all met in the second lounge with its baby grand piano and there was much laughter and frivolity. The ladies were ALL so grand in their **Great Gatsby gear**. So much so that in the few days after our tour on the Montagu Country Hotel facebook page – Gert Lubbe their owner, had this to say about us all! **“Ag dit was net ‘n plesier om julle “darlings” so beautifully dressed up te hê!” You all looked fabulous!**

The dining room was already full when we made our Grand Entrance! A German lady at the table next to ours was so taken by us all that she insisted on taking photos of us all, she is used to Christmas with snow and couldn’t quite fathom this Christmas in what she called HOT weather! Top marks to the chef and his team. To Gert, for arranging some light-hearted entertainment in the form of a mime artist, who made us all laugh and even gave Sylvia his false eye lashes after his performance. Then the music started, and it was fun to dance a few numbers to work the food off! After 11h00 we all decided enough-is-enough, and our beds called.

**ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET – on Saturdays**  
**Departs twice per month July 18 through February 19**  
*Travel by steam train-Ceres Rail*

 Tantalising food & beverage stalls

 Depart Royal Cape Yacht Club



On Sunday 29th April Traveltime hosted 24 passengers on the inaugural visit to the Elgin Railway Market. This was a spectacular day of fun on the train and at the Market. The market closed after this opening week end to complete some unfinished items and to install additional vendors. The Market is re-scheduled to open on **16th June** with the arrival of another **'fully booked steam train'**. Additional steam train dates are **30 June / 7 & 21 July**, with future visits planned for twice a month. The market is also scheduled to open every week end.



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.

**THE ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET**

***Please request a priced Information brochure***

***Read our 29th April tour report with photos:***

***<https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/elgin-railway-market>***

***Traveltime accepts bookings for Ceres Rail & Atlantic Rail and can assist with your bookings on their scheduled departure dates, even if Traveltime doesn't have a group tour scheduled. (We have booked many passengers on the upcoming dates).***

**VINTAGE TRAIN TO SIMON'S TOWN – on Sundays**  
**Departs: twice monthly—request dates**  
*Travel by steam train – Atlantic Rail*



 Operated by Atlantic rail

**THE RED DEVIL STEAM TRAIN TO ROBERTSON**  
**17-19 August 2018**  
*4 Options on this trip*



 Operated by Ceres Rail **NEW**



Train will depart from opposite the Royal Cape Yacht Club in the Cape Town Harbour on Friday afternoon at 12:00. Train will arrive in Robertson at 18:00. There will be a photographic Run Past at Mowers before sunset.

On Saturday morning the train will depart from Robertson Station with various photographic run pasts. Lunch and a wine tasting will take place at 12:00 at Rooiberg Winery (included in your ticket price). Train will depart again at 14:00 after which another wine tasting will take place at Zandvliet in the afternoon.

On the Sunday the train will depart from Robertson station at 08:00 with various photographic run pasts and a stop for brunch at Overhex (for your own account). Train will be back in Cape Town at 17:00.



***An option in this package will be overnight accommodation in a compartment on the train (2 nights).***

**Exclusions:** All meals with the exception of the lunch on Saturday at Rooiberg Winery.

**Overnight:** Bedding and towelling will be provided. Vanities not supplied.

***4 Options available:***

- A:** A return trip from Cape Town to Robertson (17th & 19th August),
- B:** A day trip around Robertson on 18th August, **including** lunch and 2 wine tastings
- C:** **The full trip which includes** the return trip from Cape Town to Robertson 17th & 19th August, & the day trip around Robertson.(18th August), **including** lunch and 2 wine tastings.
- D:** Sleeper trip which includes the return trip from Cape Town to Robertson (17th & 19th August) with **2 nights accommodation on the train included**



***Please request a priced Information brochure or visit our website***

**WEST COAST FLOWERS BY TRAIN**

7-9 September 2018

*A trip not to be missed*



Operated by  
Ceres Rail





Sit back in a luxury lounge car with large windows to enjoy the scenic views as the train passes magnificent carpets of wild flowers that the West Coast is famous for. Travel in comfort with plenty of space to relax with family and friends, as you go on a gorgeous inland route up the West Coast. There's a bar car where drinks are served by friendly staff to keep you refreshed throughout the train trip. Embrace the romance of a rail trip on a steam train pulled by twin locomotives.

**Friday, 7 September**

Departure time: 08:00

Departure point: Unity Yard, Royal Cape Yacht Club, Cape Town

Parking: Royal Cape Yacht Club area.



After departing from Unity Yard, Royal Cape Yacht Club (Duncan Rd), Cape Town Harbour we will travel to Kalbaskraal where our locomotive will turn around. Kalbaskraal is a small village with a population of about 2000 people and was established during 1898 when a railway crossing was erected between Malmesbury and Cape Town. From here the train will be traveling to Malmesbury for a scheduled water stop. Malmesbury is the largest town in the Swartland and is well known for its grain and wine cultivation. The first farms were established in 1703 when the town was known as Zwartlands-kerk. The town was renamed in 1829 to Malmesbury. Leaving Malmesbury behind the train will travel through Moorreesburg. This town was laid out in 1879 on the farm Hooikraal.



From Moorreesburg we will travel to Piketberg (estimated time of arrival 13:30), where we will have lunch. The area around Piketberg is conducive to wheat farming and the area on top of the mountains is suited to fruit and Rooibos Tea farming. This area has very well-preserved San Rock art in the mountains. The train will reach Graafwater at around 18:00 from where you will be transferred by bus to your hotel. Dinner will be served at your respective hotel (drinks for your own account).....**More detail & Pricing, please request an information brochure**

Or read full details on our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/west-coast-flower-trip-by-train>



**WILD FLOWER ADVENTURE—Choice of 2 tour dates**  
6 & 20 August 2018 ( Each tour is 4 days).

*Cape West Coast (Operated by Springbok Atlas)*



**Flowers are Blooming!**



**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**

**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



**NAMIBIA-CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE**

Various Itineraries to suit your dates

*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).**



Please contact [carol@traveltime.co.za](mailto:carol@traveltime.co.za) with your "bucket list" requirements

**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 without delay, if you wish to join this tour!**  
*We already have five confirmed bookings!*

**Experience the Beauty of the Eastern Cape**

**YZERFONTEIN & 16 MILE BEACH**

20-23 November 2018 (4 days).

*"The longest, uninterrupted sandy beach on the coastline of South Africa".*

 **Planning Stage Tour**

**FOR CHILLED VIBES, SUN, SEA**

**TIME WITH FRIENDS & MUCH NEEDED REST BEFORE END OF YEAR**

**DETAILS SHORTLY**

**We are planning a visit to YZERFONTEIN** - yes that special place that's so close to Cape Town and has SO much to offer



*Plans include:* (a selection of)

- Self catering houses with one evening meal @ home /
- Braai or BBQ on the patio overlooking the ocean /
- Exploring the New Art Route in Paternoster on one day / Having fun on the Foodie Route exploring and 'gathering' /
- FUN in the SUN / Hiring bicycles in Yzerfontein (if you wish!) / just laze away each day with your friends in this perfect area.

**END**