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UNDERWAY**



3rd September



Traveltime
exclusive tours

BP COOMBS et T/A
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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

UPCOMING TOURS 2018

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ELGIN RAILWAY
MARKET



SIMON'S TOWN
VINTAGE TRAIN



WEST COAST
FLOWERS



RED DEVIL
STEAM TRAIN



HOGSBACK &
BEDFORD



MYSTERY VENUE
TOUR



CELEBRATE THE
NEW YEAR



ZUURBERG
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE-ADDO



ZYFERFONTEIN
SHORT BREAK



NAMIBIA



2019 TOUR
PLANNING



2019 MSC
CRUISES

TOURS IN PLANNING STAGE

PAGE 2

Abridged version. For full report see our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/west-coast-park-flowers-2018>



What do you do if you're a tour operator and every weather report read a few days before your tour, say's **"100% rain"** for the day you have arranged to go into the West Coast National Park to view Spring Flowers?

Well, best to do is to send out an early email suggesting a change-of-day! Thankfully we only 'lost' 4 bookings and everyone else were able to swap the day – and thank-goodness! My goodness, we could not have chosen a better day. NO waiting in line to get into the Park & a totally clear day. The outlook was excellent for a wonderful day of flower viewing.

We started off at **Tsaarbank** where we enjoyed coffee/tea and biscuits at what must be the best place in the Park. With the waves crashing over the large rocks, it was interesting to hear comments like **"Wow paradise on earth"** / **"Look at the size of the waves!"** – a wonderful prelude of what was to come.

We entered **Postberg Flower Reserve** (which is only open for 2 months of the year), by about 11h30 and what waited for us was even more exciting. What seemed to be a 'new' thing in the Park is that they are allowing people to leave the road and take to the paths and walk amongst the flowers! This is an exciting addition and most people observe "not leaving the paths" and walking directly on, or near, the flowers.

It is quite amazing how different areas of the Park have predominance of colours. White dominates all over the Park, but you do get sections with loads of pink flowers / or areas that are predominately yellow / and up the hill you always get a few blue flowers – sadly these were not fully open, but one still gets stunning views of Langebaan & Saldanha going up the hill.

We all counted ourselves so very privileged to have witnessed what we did – at times the patches of colour actually **'hurt your eyes'** – of course, by midday there were many more people in the park, but, what a privilege to see so many people out enjoying nature!

The stop at the top of the hill overlooking Langebaan was like "Eloff Street in JHB" on a busy Saturday morning, but once again, so very nice to witness people who come prepared and have their tables and chairs and make the most of their time in the Park!

A decision was made there and then, that in future, everyone should bring along a packed lunch. It is stressful to try to still fit in a lunch at the only place in the Park – Geelbek, and get back to the city in good time. Then, of course, the restaurant is busy with folk seeking a meal, so one has to wait a while!

All told it was a day 'par excellence' in the Park – such a treat for nature lovers – I felt very privileged to have 10 ladies with me on tour and be able to share this natural beauty with them!

HAPPINESS RADIATES LIKE THE FRAGRANCE FROM A FLOWER

Please read the full report and see all the photos: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/west-coast-park-flowers>



ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET – on Saturdays

Departs twice per month Sept 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 then re-scheduled to open on **16th June** with the arrival of another **'fully booked steam train'**. Additional dates are now scheduled **through to 23rd February 2019**, 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 / STELLENBOSCH

Departs: twice monthly—request dates

Travel by steam train – Atlantic Rail



Operated by Atlantic rail

THE RED DEVIL STEAM TRAIN TO ROBERTSON

Possible September departure—TBA

4 Options on this trip



Operated by Ceres Rail

REPEAT



Train departs 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 (Dates TBA.).

B: A day trip around Robertson (Date TBA) , **including** lunch and 2 wine tastings

C: **The full trip which includes** the return trip from Cape Town to Robertson, & the day trip around Robertson, **including** lunch and 2 wine tastings.

D: Sleeper trip which includes the return trip from Cape Town to Robertson with **2 nights accommodation on the train included.**



WEST COAST FLOWERS BY TRAIN

7-9 September 2018

A trip not to be missed

Departs in a few days!



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>



MYSTERY VENUE TOUR

09th December (1 day).

Our annual "must attend" celebration



1st clue being released
in October

Planning is underway for this popular year end function.



This is the 8th tour in the series! We recently put on our thinking caps to consider something different from the past; to find another unique venue. There has been a lot of fun and laughter, with good food, good attendance and generally good venues (80%+). Planning is underway for 2018 and we have few options to consider, which will be finalised before the release of the normal competition on 1st October. **At the end of November all correct answers will be put into a random draw and we will offer a complimentary tour to the first name**

drawn from those who have responded correctly to our competition questions. Persons who have previously attended this day will confirm that this has become a very popular event with the number of attendees approaching 50. **Make an early booking to avoid disappointment**



HOGSBACK & BEDFORD FLOWER FESTIVALS

16-21 October 2018 (6 days).

"The most beautiful Mountain Village in South Africa"

 **Still time to secure the last two rooms**



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 **Angler & Antelope**, situated in **Somerset East**.

"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 / Eco Shrine / Magnificent Gardens / 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 so **please contact us without delay, if you wish to join this tour!**

We already have eight confirmed bookings!

Experience the Beauty of the Eastern Cape

YZERFONTEIN & 16 MILE BEACH

Will be part of 2019 offerings:

"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 IN 2019

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.

SEE IN THE NEW YEAR

30 December '18 —2nd January '19 (4 days).

Last year in Saldanha was a great success



6 Confirmed Bookings



Accommodation has been reserved



For our New Year break away we have reserved 6 rooms at **Gubas De Hoek** in central **Robertson**. In addition we have secured another 3 bedrooms in a fabulous house on the Robertson golf course called **Hook Shot Lodge!** (& if necessary a further 3 bedroom house right next door—**Lavender Cottage**). This we believe, will give us the best option of making you all happy with accommodation! **Right now we do need commitment by 10th September.** If a few of are prepared to share, this will make our lives a whole lot easier (to sort out the accommodation).

Special Points of Interest:

Dinner at Bourbon Street Restaurant / Owl's Rest Oil and Lavender farm / River Cruise at Viljoensdrift / Old Year Dinner & Brass Band / Exquisite garden in which to relax / Zandvliet Estate & Gin tasting (makers of Clemengold Gin) / The Montagne Deli.

*Please request a priced Information brochure or
Visit our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/old-year-2018>*

ZUURBERG MOUNTAIN VILLAGE & ADDO

March '19 (4 days) - Provisional

Stay in a cottage up in the Mountains



Accommodation has been reserved



Zuurberg Mountain Village is a 150 year old haven of historical delight situated high up on the Zuurberg Pass in malaria-free Addo. It is an exclusive mountain top Hotel, set in 160 hectares of indigenous vegetation with breath-taking views of the famous **Addo Elephant National Park**. A mere one hour's drive from Port Elizabeth they offer guests nature, wildlife and tranquillity in the most majestic African setting.

Guests can treat themselves to one of the Edwardian Village Cottages. The cottages are arranged so that guests can enjoy both the spectacular mountain and valley views. Each cottage boasts 2 private patios on the east and west side, ideal for magical sunrises and sunsets. Other features include, black-wood floors, climate control, under-floor heating in the bathroom, a freestanding bath and an indoor and outdoor hot and cold shower. The 145 000 hectare Greater Addo National Park surrounds the hotel. As the third largest National Park in Southern Africa, the variety of wildlife found in the Park is astounding. With 417 species of birds, 95 kinds of mammals, including the Big 5 and of course our 600 elephants that roam there, it's an absolute treat for nature lovers. We will fly into Port Elizabeth airport and be transported by road to Zuurberg where we will stay for 3 nights. There will be regular visits into Addo & Amakhala Reserve.

*Please request a priced Information brochure or
Visit our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za>*

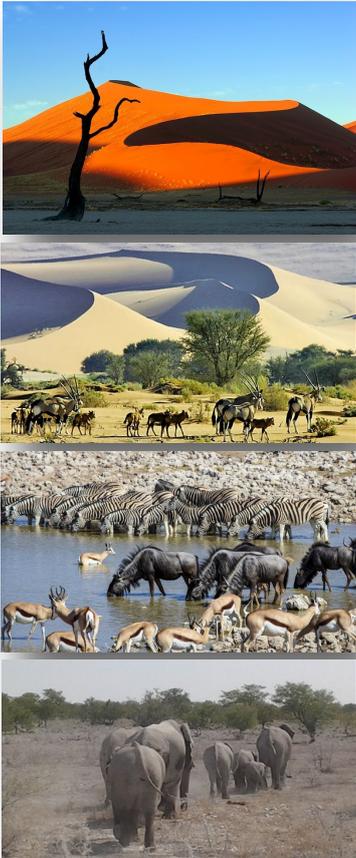
Please contact carol@traveltime.co.za with your "bucket list" requirements

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).



MUSICA DUE IN SA IN NOV'18



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**
- **UNIWORLD RIVER CRUISES**
- **INSIGHT VACATIONS**
- **CULLINAN GUIDED JOURNEYS**



Please contact carol@traveltime.co.za with your “bucket list” requirements