

Published: 10th Sept

Inside this issue:

THE 2019 SPRING FLOWER SEASON AUGUST REPORTS 2

ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET BY STEAM TRAIN OR BY ROAD 3

DESERT EXPRESS NAMIBIA 2019 /2020 3

BEDFORD & HOGSBACK GARDEN FESTIVALS 4

MYSTERY VENUE TOUR 4

OLD YEAR 2019 @ HOUW HOEK HOTEL GRABOUW 5

NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS in 2020 5

MSC ORCHESTRA IN SA WATERS '19 6

2020 TOURS

MSC ORCHESTRA IN SA WATERS '20 6

GARDEN ROUTE SCHEDULED TOURS 6



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BP COOMBS cc T/A

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

PAGE 1

UPCOMING TOURS 2019



ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET- by train



ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET- by road



HOGSBACK & BEDFORD



MYSTERY VENUE



MSC ORCHESTRA CRUISES IN SA



OLD YEAR 2019 HOUW HOEK INN

UPCOMING TOURS 2020



MSC ORCHESTRA CRUISES IN SA



NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS



DESERT EXPRESS NAMIBIA



GARDEN ROUTE SCHEDULED



SPRING FLOWER SEASON



2020 TOUR PLANNING

**WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK-POSTBERG**
**24th August 2019**
*Day trip to see the spring flowers*

**Annual flower  
spectacular**

First pickup was in Constantia at 08h00 followed by Tableview at 08h45. An early start was necessary based on history of long queues at the park entrance in previous years. We had a wait of 30 minutes and we entered with much anticipation, heading past Kraalbaai and the houseboats, destination Tsaarbank for a comfort break and coffee stop before entering Postberg which is only open during the flower season each year, August and September. Best flower viewing times are between 10h00 & 15h00, so we were on point, with good weather, low traffic, sunshine and a happy bunch of people. So, all was positive. Entry into Postberg was easy (some years you can wait here as well) and we started our meander, direction Uitkyk picnic area on top of the local highest point, overlooking the lagoon, Schaapen Island and Saldanha Bay. There were a few stops along the way to get a better view of the flowers behind us – facing the sun and to get close-up photos of special finds. The road up to the look out point was a bit disappointing as previous years there were myriads of blue flowers as well as multi-coloured displays overlooking the lagoon. Perhaps we were too early? Carol should be able to confirm this as she is heading back with 2 groups in the coming weeks. The traffic had increased dramatically by 12h30 and when we reached the lookout point and we were

concerned about finding a suitable place to have lunch. We selected a few areas had an hour to enjoy the picnic goodies we had brought along. The sun was hot, but there was a cold breeze to make us comfortable. Our decision to “bring your own picnic” was taken after the past few years of bad service in the local Geelbek restaurant and having to cut the viewing short to get back in time for the booked lunch. Much more relaxed. Leaving the lookout point we headed for Plankiesbaai picnic area and were rewarded en-route with a display of expert hunting provided by a Blue crane who caught two mice while we watched. We came to see the flowers but were side-tracked by this once in a lifetime happening. We were at the right place at the right time! Plankiesbaai is the most popular area for the public wanting to relax and enjoy the day. Leaving this area we wound our way back towards Tsaarbank for another comfort break before heading for the exit and the road back to Cape Town with the first stop in Cape Town and then Constantia.

For a full report with photos visit our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/west-coast-park-2019>

**SPRING FLOWER TOUR FOR AMERICAN GROUP**
**26th—30th August 2019**
*5 Day trip to see the spring flow-*

**Clanwilliam, Nieuwoudtville,  
Darling, Postberg**


In mid 2018 Carol was approached by an American, operating a travel business out of Chicago, concentrating on Africa. He had visited our website and read a few of our past flower tour reports, saying he liked what he saw and asked Carol to put together a 6 day flower tour for 12 passengers as a pre-cursor to his extended tour of the Cape & Botswana.

After a few changes to the itinerary, reducing the tour to 5 days and losing 2 passengers, it was decided that the focus area would be Clanwilliam, Nieuwoudtville, encompassing the Hantam Botanical Garden and Papkuisfontein Farm. The final two days would be spent in Darling, with a visit to the Postberg Flower Reserve in the Westcoast National Park. The tour included a visit to a working Rooibos tea farm and lunch with Rooibos / wine pairing and a dinner with a local winemaker.

A specialist botanist was hired to take the group through the Darling flower fields and Postberg Flower Reserve.

The group was very easy going and enjoyed the interaction with local business owners and being able to view the beauty of the spring flowers in the area.

The full tour report was not available at the time of completing this newsletter. Please check our website in the coming week



**ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET**

Departure dates—Aug '19 –Jan '20

**1. Travel by Ceres Rail steam train**

By

**Train**

 New departure point: **Waterfront**


Departing at 08h00 from **Harbour Bridge Hotel & Suites, Dockrail Road, Foreshore, Cape Town**, you will enjoy a 3 hour train journey to Elgin where you will leisurely spend 3.5 hours at the now fully 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 estimated arrival time being 17h30. See: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/elgin-railway-market-again>

**ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET – Saturdays / Sundays**

Departure dates—May through July

**2. Travel by bus / kombi**

By

**Road**

 Pick up points in **Cape Town**


Departing at 09h00 from Central Cape Town you will travel along the N2 through Somerset West and over Sir Lowry's Pass to Grabouw, the home of the Elgin Railway Market, which is the brainchild of businessman Roger Orpen, who converted an old apple warehouse into a bustling steampunk station market boasting local vendors, live music and a gateway to the beautiful Overberg town.

Traveling by bus gives you the flexibility of a cheaper, shorter trip both ways, more time at the market and the opportunity to visit selected Wine Estates in the area, time permitting.

 See: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/elgin-railway-market-road>
**DESERT EXPRESS TRAIN–NAMIBIA**

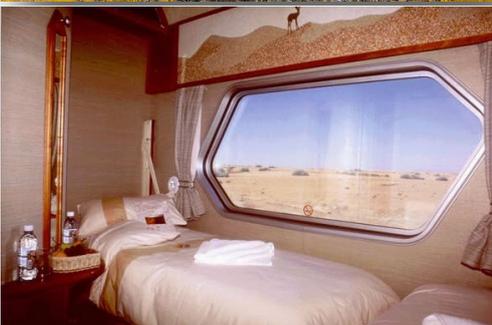
 Trip Schedule: **Departs Windhoek twice monthly**

Request Departure dates &amp; an Itinerary

New

**Addition**

Windhoek-Swakopmund &amp; return



The refurbished Desert Express train has commenced operation on the Windhoek–Swakopmund route, offering 3 day return trips. One way trips are also available.

A typical Itinerary comprises:

**Day 1: Friday**

11:00 Check in at the Windhoek Railway Station  
 Visit the historical Railway Museum at the Station  
 12:30 Boarding and guests served with welcoming drinks and light lunch  
 14:00 Game drive at Okapuka Ranch  
 16:30 Biltong and droe wors stop at Okahandja  
 19:00 Dinner on board – A la Carte menu.  
 Train Overnight at secure siding

**Day 3: Sunday**

07:00 Breakfast en route to Okahandja  
 09:00 Visit Okahandja craft market  
 11:00 Cheetah feeding and Buffet lunch at Okapuka  
 15:00 Arrive at Windhoek Railway station.  
 Guests disembark.

**Day 2 – Saturday**

07:00 Breakfast en route to Swakopmund.  
 08:00 Dune excursion  
 10:30 Arrive at Swakopmund railway station.  
 Guests disembark  
 13:30 Check in, depart and guests served with light lunch.  
 18:00 Late afternoon Sundowner at Stingbank.  
 19:00 Dinner: Braai or Potjie at secure siding (open space).  
 Night entertainment & Ohungi around the fire.

**TRIP HIGHLIGHTS**

Windhoek / Swakopmund / Train Travel  
 Namib Dunes / Barbeque (Braai) / Cheetah Feeding & lots more

**WHAT TO WEAR**

Casual to Semi Formal for Dinners

**Please request a priced Information brochure or contact us for additional details, departure dates etc**

Visit our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za> (021 554 5796 / brian @ traveltime.co.za)

**HOGSBACK & BEDFORD FLOWER FESTIVALS**

15-19 October 2019 (5 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 has visited Hogsback in 2017 & 2018!

Spring, of course, is **'the'** time when Hogsback puts on its prettiest clothes and it will astound you with flowers and beauty. Lilies, azaleas and rhodendrums grow everywhere and all their gardens are a paradise of colours.



Once again, in 2019 **Traveltime will be going to Hogsback** and will be returning to the Arminel Hotel. This time again 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!** (**18th, 19th and 20th October**). **We will visit Bedford on 18th.**



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 will spend one day in Bedford, before heading to Grahamstown.



**"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 amongst others.

**[For full details & pricing please request a tour brochure or visit our website:](#)**

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/hogsback-bedford-2019>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Festival accommodation is at a premium and **we need commitment without delay, if you wish to join this tour!**

*We already have four people interested*

**Experience  
the Beauty  
of the  
Eastern Cape**

**Mystery Venue 2019**

08 Dec '19 (1 day).

*"Planning has started for this popular event"*



**Watch this space  
for details**

Join us for the eighth tour in the series. We don't divulge where we are going until you get there! A pre-tour competition allows you to stand the chance of winning a free day by guessing the venue beforehand! Read the tour reports and photos of the past 3 tours on our website: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mystery-venue-2018>

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mystery-venue-2017> & <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mystery-venue-2016>



**OLD YEAR 2019**

30 Dec '19 —02 Jan '20 (4 days).

*"The Houwhoek Hotel in Grabouw"*

 7 of 10 Rooms booked

 Request a priced tour brochure

We have secured accommodation in this country hotel to **celebrate the coming of the New Year** with friends, dancing and good food. The perfect retreat, peacefully positioned in a nature reserve. Enjoy old-world charm, warm hospitality and exquisite surroundings. Built in 1779, 'The Houwhoek' is the oldest licenced hotel in South Africa. the winner of two Haute Grandeur Global Excellence Awards – [The Best Scenic Environment Hotel in South Africa](#) and [The Best Historical Hotel in South Africa](#)



**If you want to join us, please confirm your place on this tour as soon as possible!**

**NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS**

16th June– 26th June 2020

*Beauty of the deserts, dunes, canyons and historical sites*

**We have 8 passengers confirmed**

11 days including 1 day each pre & post tour

**NEW**

**Tour Highlights (Priced Itinerary available on request)**



**Day 1:** Travel by air to **Windhoek** where we overnight. Tour starts Wednesday 17th June.

**Day 2:** Departing Windhoek, we travel to our lodge in the **Namib Desert**. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon & Sossusvlei, where you will see some of the highest dunes on Earth.

**Day 3:** An early start will see us entering the **Namib Naukluft National Park** at sunrise to view the spectacular desert vistas in **Deadvlei** and **Sossusvlei**. In the afternoon we visit **Sesriem Canyon**.

**Days 4 & 5: Swakopmund.** En route we visit **Solitaire, Kuiseb Valley, Walvis Bay** & wetland areas of a RAMSAR World Heritage site; see the flamingos. Spend the next day experiencing the area, including a **dolphin cruise** ex Walvis Bay. (optional quad bike desert tour also available).

**Day 6:** We head towards Etosha National Park, travelling past the **Brandberg**, Namibia's highest mountain (2.579m), into **Damaraland** visiting local attractions including the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant-the oldest living desert plant on earth.

**Day 7:** Continue our journey to Etosha and check into our camp prior to experiencing our first game drive in the afternoon. (waterholes located close to Okaukuejo and the Anderson gate).

**Day 8:** The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the **Etosha National Park**. Game viewing in the park is primarily 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, more than 340 bird species.

**Day 9:** Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in the **Etosha National Park**, optionally you can book an open game drive park drive with the lodge.

**Days 10 / 11:** Travel back to Windhoek (overnight) & return home by air the following day.



## 3RD PARTY SCHEDULED TOURS

**MSC—6 Months in SA waters**  
**2019-2020 Season**  
**November '19– April '20**



**MSC**  
**Orchestra**

**NEW**



### From: DURBAN

### From: CAPE TOWN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas cruise</b> Durban, Portuguese Island and Pomene on the 23rd December</li> <li><b>An 11 day cruise</b> Durban, Port Louis and La Possession from 28th December</li> </ul>	<p><b>12th January:</b> CT / Walvis Bay &amp; Luderitz;  <b>17th January:</b> CT / Walvis Bay</p> <p><b>21st January:</b> CT to Durban  <b>5th April:</b> CT Walvis Bay &amp; Luderitz</p> <p><b>10th April:</b> <u>Easter cruise:</u> Walvis Bay  <b>14th April:</b> CT / PE / Durban</p>
<p><b>PLUS another 30 local cruises</b> from Durban to Portuguese Island and Pomene,</p>	



### GARDEN ROUTE TOURS

Scheduled Departures  
 2019-2020 Season



**THREE**  
**OPTIONS**

4 DAY STARTING & ENDING IN CAPE TOWN	4 DAY STARTING IN CAPE TOWN / ENDING IN PORT ELIZABETH	6 DAY STARTING IN CAPE TOWN / ENDING IN PORT ELIZABETH
<p><b>Departs Tuesday-Ref HR</b>            Cape Town—Oudtshoorn            Cango Caves / Ostrich Farm            Cango Wildlife Ranch            Knysna Heads            Knysna Featherbed Nature Reserve            Mossel Bay            Bottlierskop Private Game Reserve            Cape Town</p>	<p><b>Departs Monday-Ref CGJ4</b>            Cape Town-Matjiesfontein            Prince Albert            Meiringspoort Pass            De Rust / Oudtshoorn            Cango Caves / Ostrich Farm            Outeniqua Pass            Knysna / Featherbed Reserve            Tsitsikama Forest            Port Elizabeth</p>	<p><b>Departs Monday-Ref CGJ6</b>            Cape Town-Hex River Valley            Matjiesfontein / Prince Albert            Meiringspoort Pass / Oudtshoorn            Oudtshoorn / Cango caves / Ostrich farm            Outeniqua Pass /Knysna            Featherbed Nature Reserve            Garden of Eden / Monkey Land            Knysna Heads / PlettenbergBay            Tsitsikama Forest / Port Elizabeth</p>

**Please request a priced Information itinerary or contact us for additional details, departure dates etc**

Visit our website: <http://www.traveltime.co.za> (021 554 5796 / brian @ traveltime.co.za)