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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



Experience the Friendship & Fun

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

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## 2022 Tour Planning UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 6th August. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2022 (Tour dates in blue are confirmed / In black are Provisional)

### TIME OUT

- 16th September: Darling Wildflower Show (1 Day): **Page: 2**

### TRAVELTIME

- 13th August: West Coast Park Spring Flowers (1 Day): **Page: 3**
- 15th-18th August: Wild Flower Adventure (4 Days): **Page: 3**
- 18th-22nd August: Spring Flower Tour (5 Days): **FULLY BOOKED** **Page: 3**
- 16th (&/or 17th) September: Darling Wildflower Show (1 Day): **Page: 4**
- 28th Aug-2nd Sept: Americans Flower Tour - (6 Days): **Private**
- 21st-23rd September: Sutherland-Star Gazing (3 Days): **Page: 4**
- 4th-7th October: Whale Watching: (4 Days): **Page: 5**
- 29th October OR 6th November: Elgin Open Gardens (1 Day): **Page: 5**
- 4th-6th November: Karoo Art Hotel-Barrydale (3 Days): **Page: 5**
- Steam Train trips to Elgin Railway Market: **Page: 5**

- 30th Dec-2nd Jan '23: Old Year Tour (4 Days): **70% BOOKED** **Page: 6**

### PLANNING STAGE TOURS:

- 24th November: Time out is 22 : **Page: 6**
- 26th January '23: Mystery Venue Tour (1 Day): **Page: 6**
- June '23: Namibia Highlights & Canyons & Deserts **Page: 7**

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What a beautiful day we had for our trip – **the calm before the storm** – Weather seems to be like this in Cape Town when we are having rains predicted, day before & we seem to have a stunning day!

After our two pickups we headed to our first stop which is the Hazendal Wine Estate along Bottellary Road. Changes on this prestigious estate have been vast over the years – and now offers so many interesting things to do.

One can enjoy coffee at Babushka Deli (which 7 of us did) out in the early morning sun; or you can stroll through their Manor House which is now hired out as a Guest House; or you can enjoy a Russian High Tea (**Next time! Said many**); or you can enjoy wine tasting in their wine lounge (many of our group chose – because of the perfect weather – to enjoy the wine tasting outside under a huge, big 'old oak tree).

It was Bridget's birthday, and she was spoilt, as after they had enjoyed wine tasting she was offered a glass of their best champagne! A fabulous gesture and the group spent a full hour and a half just enjoying each other's company.

Our next stop was the Devonvale Golf and Wine Estate also along Bottellary Road. Wonderful to see the golfers out in their short sleeve shirts and shorts enjoying this stunning day. We were welcomed by the staff and very quickly drinks were ordered and enjoyed prior to our lunch. Please read our [Full report & photos on our website. www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)

## SCHEDULED OUTING: DARLING WILDFLOWER SHOW



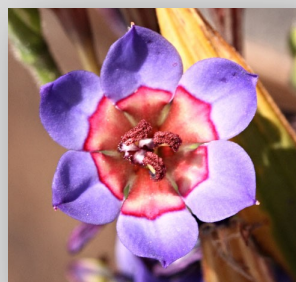
### Friday 16th September

#### Highlights of the day in Darling, celebrating Spring will be:

- **Duckitt Orchids** – they have an open house of their magnificent orchids – we will probably spend at least an hour here where you can walk amongst the orchids and enjoy their beauty.
- We will then head to the **Darling Museum** and spend another hour here – absorbing the beauty of the exhibits and displays. Perhaps have something to eat and drink.
- There are **outside market stalls** as well as a **Plant Fair**, which will keep you busy
- There is also an exhibition of vintage cars at the Presbyterian Church
- At about 14h00 we will start our journey back to Cape Town and stop the coach at the **Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve** which, no doubt, will be blooming at its very best!

**All in all, a day to celebrate SPRING up the West Coast in all its glory!**

We will have you back in Tableview by about 16h30 and Constantia by 17h15.



**Cost for the day is R550 per person.**

**Includes transport, entrance fees into the Show and Duckitt Orchids..**

**Excludes lunch (for your own account)**

**Booking and payment deadline: Friday 9th September, 2022**

**COACH WILL LEAVE CONSTANTIA VILLAGE @ 08H45**

**& TABLEVIEW Virgin Active / Tableview Library @ 09H30**



### 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, in August, a brilliant array of diverse wild flowers transform this evocative semi-arid landscape into an unforgettable portrait of extraordinary colour and beauty.

### Highlights •

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 .

Experience the legendary West Coast hospitality at [Melkboomsdrift](#), a delightful guest house set on the banks of the Olifants River on a working wine farm. The historic farmstead has been lovingly restored and offers en-suite accommodation in individually-styled rooms with all modern amenities. There is a tranquil garden with a swimming pool and views of the river and vineyards.

*For full details, [please request a priced tour brochure](#)*

*Or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)*

# SCHEDULED TOUR: WEST COAST PARK FLOWERS

## 13th August (1 Day)



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. Enjoy a few hours of visual splendour!

*For full details, [please request a priced tour brochure](#)*

*Or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)*

# SCHEDULED TOUR: SPRING FLOWERS

## 18th-22nd August (5 Days)



### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS TOUR

West Coast National Park full day  
Duckitt Orchids & Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve  
2 Nights Stay at Darling Lodge  
Hopefield on a Saturday, including their Market  
2 Nights Stay at the Protea Hotel Saldanha  
Velddrif and Bokkom Laan  
Day in Paternoster

We are excited to say that [this tour is now fully booked; 17 passengers on board, with guests coming from: Natal \(2\); George \(2\); Tarkastad \(1\); Gauteng \(6\); Somerset West\(1\), and Cape Town \(5\). \[Happy flower viewing everyone.\]\(#\)](#)

*For full details, [please request a priced tour brochure](#)*

*Or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)*

This Tour is  
Fully Booked







After TWO YEARS, Darling is once again, having their Wildflower Show - plenty to do in Darling with the Museum becoming the venue for the flower show; Darling Brew; new restaurant at Evita se Perron for light meals; and fields and fields of flowers.



The final programme

is now available on our website

Traveltime will visit on 16th (& or) 17th September (On demand)

For full details, please request a priced tour brochure

Or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)



We visited the surface of Mars!



We have visited Sutherland 9 times over the past 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-2021](https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/sutherland-2021)

The period chosen to do this tour falls into the **NEW MOON** period and is an excellent time to view the stars. Spring 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

OR Visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)

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## SCHEDULED TOUR: WHALE WATCHING

4th-7th October (4 Days)

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Hermanus, plays host to thousands of visitors who flock to the seaside resort to exhilarate in the unique natural environment and watch the whales. Whale Festival dates are: 30th September to 2nd October 2022. not yet available.

Having previously visited Hermanus during this time, we were 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 and experience the sheer beauty of the area.

As in previous years, our base will be in Walker Bay, at selective Lodges / apartments on the sea-shore in De Kelders, which is situated between Hermanus and Gansbaai, 160km from Cape Town.

### **Tour Highlights:**

Boat based whale watching-optional extra / Dinners at Rosemary's and Blue Goose restaurants / African penguin & seabird sanctuary / Strandveld museum.

**For full details & pricing, please request a tour brochure or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**

## SCHEDULED TOUR: KAROO ART HOTEL

4th-6th November (3 Days)



The hotel has recently opened after a major renovation and redecoration. In the words of owners Rick & Sue Melvill: **"One never really owns places like these, you're really just the custodians for another generation"**.

Here's to a wonderful new chapter for the Karoo Art in the post Covid era

### **Tour Highlights:**

A private cinema to enjoy, one evening. / Time spent in the kitchen with David learning the secrets of slow, delicious cooking. / Walking the Doris Day walk in town & also the Labyrinth. / Saturday morning market in town.

**For full details & pricing, please request a tour brochure or visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**

## SCHEDULED TOURS: ELGIN OPEN GARDENS

Day Trips: 29 October OR 6 November



When planning this tour our first option was to visit the area for two days, spending a night away for one of the two above periods (29-30 October or 5-6 November). Regrettably we found that accommodation is at a premium over these dates and we have now decided to only do a day trip into the area, with a set selection of gardens to view on either 29th October or 6th November. We will take a final decision nearer the time as to the selected date depending on your preference.

**(Please send us an email confirming your interest and which date you prefer).**

## SCHEDULED TOURS: STEAM TRAIN TRIPS

Day Trips per Schedule



**ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET**

Join us on a 160 km round-trip **departing on Saturdays & some Sundays** at 07h45 from Cape Town. Our destination is the Art Deco "Elgin Railway Market". Journey departs from Harbour Bridge Platform (close to the Cape Town International Convention Centre), and meanders through Cape Town and its surrounds until reaching the majestic Sir Lowrys Pass. Arriving at the foot of the pass, the train embarks on an epic climb up one of the steepest railway lines in South Africa. Cresting the peak, the train snakes its way into the lush Elgin Valley before arriving at the Elgin Railway Market. Details / bookings: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/ceres-rail-elgin-railway-market>





On a recent 'educational' trip in the Cederberg we travelled along route 303 from Citrusdal to Ceres and came across a 'Little gem' in a small town, **Op-Die-Berg** in the Koue Bokkeveld area, 49km from Ceres. Experience a breath of fresh air!

### Whet your appetite!

- **Our route** to our base in Tulbagh will pass through the Huguenot tunnel.
- **Gin tasting** in the Breede Valley and then a light lunch at Rietdakkie Padstal (Own account).
- ♦ **Accommodation** (3 nights) reserved at the 4\* Tulbagh Boutique Heritage Hotel.
- ♦ **Things to do:** Tuk Tuk tour / Oakhurst Olives / Saronsberg wines / Kole en Deeg / Fynbos Café / Hillbilly Farmstall / Made in Tulbagh / Adene Flowers
- ♦ **Old Year 31st December '22:** Dinner at Readers Restaurant.
- ♦ **New Year 1st January '23:** Travel through Ceres over Mitchells Pass / Prince Alfred Hamlet / stop at Source Handmade Foods (if open) / over Gydo Pass to **Op die Berg Horse & Carriage Rides**, where we will spend some time enjoying the countryside & partaking in a carriage ride and sharing a locally supplied picnic.

**Bookings have been brisk. 9 confirmed: If you want to join this tour please confirm asap. Request a tour brochure or visit: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**



# TOURS IN THE PLANNING STAGE:



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## FUTURE TOUR: TIME OUT IS 22 24th November '22



TimeOut  
ladies club



Planning is underway for our anniversary celebration (Time Out is 22 / Traveltime is 15). In the past this was always scheduled for July, but since we had to delay this due to Covid in 2020 & 2021, we have decided to hold this in November, as we did in 2021 when we had our special day at **Utopia** in central Cape Town; **a really happy place with spectacular views.**

See the tour report and photos: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/time-out-is-21>

We will provide full details of this function once the venue is confirmed.

**visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**



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## FUTURE TOUR: MYSTERY VENUE 23rd January '23



Our last tour was held at Houwhoek Inn in their new function venue. Great day with good food, but sweltering heat.

See report: <https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mystery-venue-2021>

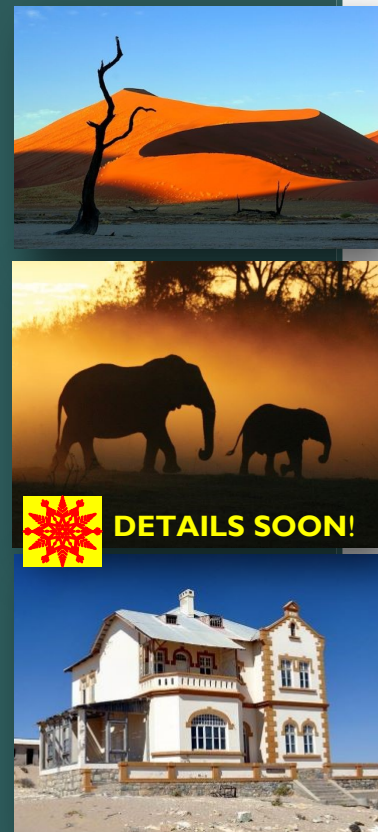
Planning is underway and we will provide details once the venue is confirmed.

**visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**



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## FUTURE TOUR: NAMIBIA 16th-26th June 2023 (11 Days)

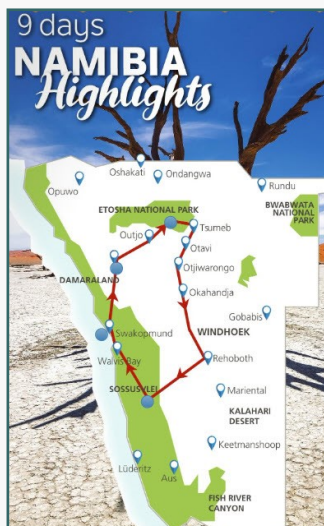


This tour was originally planned to take place in 2020 and was postponed to 2021 & 2022 due to Covid restrictions. In April 2022 it was again postponed, to 2023 due to low numbers.

**We are currently updating the original tour details & costing and are also evaluating the route which includes the Kolmanskop Ghost Town as an option to the original itinerary.**

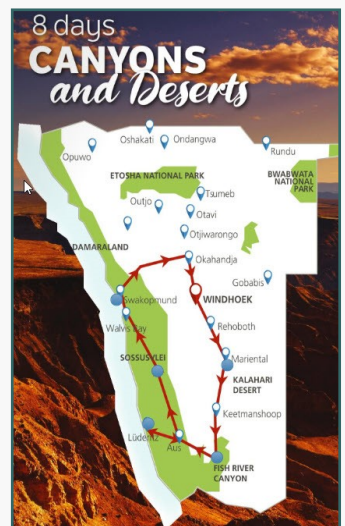
ORIGINAL

Tour = 9 days + 1 day each pre and post tour = 11



OPTION

Tour = 8 days + 1 day each pre and post tour = 10



**visit our website: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**

**END**