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Old Year '22 5
(4 Days)

**Mystery
Venue** 6
(1 Day)

**Piekenierskloof
Resort** 6
(4 Days)

**Montagu
& Surrounds** 7
(4 Days)

**Garden Route
Game Reserve** 7
(4 Days)

**NAMIBIA 22
Canyons &
Deserts** 8
(10 Days)

NAMIBIA



JUNE 2023

ISSUED: 2nd Nov '22

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



Experience the Friendship & Fun

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

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2022 Tour Planning UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 2nd November. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2022 / '23 Tour dates: in blue are confirmed / In black are Provisional

TIME OUT

- **Tour Report: 27th October: Up the N7: Desert Rose / Org De Rac** Page: 2
- **24th November: Time out is 22 / TT is 15 : (1 Day) :** **NOTICE** Page: 3

TRAVELTIME

- **Various day trips: Steam Train: Elgin Market / Ceres Cherry Time** Page: 4
- **30 Dec '22—02 Jan '23: Old Year Tour (4 Days): Tulbagh+** Page: 5
- **29th January (Sunday) : Mystery Venue Tour (1 Day):** Page: 6
- **23-26 February '23: Piekenierskloof / Piketberg (4 Days)** Page: 6
- **18-21 April '23: Montagu & Surrounds (4 Days)** Page: 7
- **18-21 May '23: Garden Route Game Reserve (4 Days)** Page: 7
- **16-25 June '23: Canyons & Deserts-Namibia (10 Days)** Page: 8

'PLANNING STAGE'-TOURS:

- **22-26 August '23: West Coast Flowers (5 Days)**
- **31 Aug -4 Sept '23: Spring Flowers Northern Cape (5 Days)**
- **15-17 Sept '23: Darling Flower Festival (3 Days)**

**TAKE
NOTE
OF THESE
DATES!**



**COUNTDOWN
FOR OUR OLD
YEAR CARRIAGE
RIDE IN 'OP DIE
BERG' IN THE
KOU
BOKKEVELD :
1 JANUARY '23**



**We have 11 guests,
and 1 available room**

TOUR REPORTS:

PAGE 2



Twenty-six of us headed off up the N7 motorway on our day out. First stop was DESERT ROSE – a 'pad-stalletjie' which was recently voted into the **'kFm Top of the Road Stall'** category. Brian and I can vouch for their carrot cake – delicious. We saw many ladies stocking up from their well-stocked shelves.

The negative of the journey was that they are doing extensive road works on the N7 – so just past Malmesbury the road for about 30km is de-restricted to 60km an hour. Amazingly not everyone sticks to the speed limit, and when there was a gap, it was quickly filled by a car whizzing by! One lady did say she never minded the reduced speed as it gave her time to admire the fields of wine, brilliant blue dams interspersed with vineyards!

Eleven km from Desert Rose is ORG DE RAC an organic wine estate, just outside Piketberg.

Org de Rac was one of the first wine farms in South Africa committed to 100% certified organic wine-farming. Today it is one of only 18 local wine producers certified for the making of wines from organically farmed grapes.

From the outset, Org de Rac's motive for organic farming was their conviction that the best, healthiest grapes make the finest wines. And if you want healthy grapes expressing the characteristics of each variety, creating as natural an environment as possible for the cultivation of vineyard, is the best way to ensure quality grapes for the making of premium wines.

Nico Bacon – the Founder of Org de Rac, was an entrepreneur who has worked in the fishing industry for most of his life. After years working for various commercial companies, he founded Viking Fishing in 1980 and built it into a leading South African fishing company.

Outside of commercial fishing, Nico had a love of farming, soils, and natural agriculture – as well as rugby! In 2001 he established Org de Rac on the ethos of organic farming, aiming to make wines from grapes farmed as close to nature as possible. He was still very much involved in the day-to-day operations of his beloved wine farm on the slopes of the Piketberg, until he sadly passed away in June 2020.

On arrival a few selected to do wine pairing – white wines with chocolates was Heather's favourite – wish they sold the hand-made chocolates said a few ladies!

After this lunch was served buffet style – amazing salads with just about everything you could think of – pomegranates; chick-peas; corn off the cob; pickled cucumber; tomatoes; and delicious olives. Sadly, the chicken pies were cold – but this was quickly remedied, and they were a favourite indeed! Pies, **full of** tasty chicken and then a dessert of little apple pies with whipped cream.

We left the estate at just after 15h00 – and somehow the journey home went far quicker – most not even noticing the road works and speed restrictions!

"A LITTLE BIT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IS SO GOOD FOR YOUR SOUL"



Tradition has it that we have celebrated our anniversary luncheons during July. For the first 19 years we did so – and then along came Covid in 2020 – and we could not get out-and-about on our normal coach tours. We arranged a Zoom presentation and one evening we all sat and caught up ‘virtually’ with a glass of wine on hand – nowhere as good as doing it live in the flesh. Many of the ladies battled to connect but at the end of the day we were so impressed how or family were roped in to teach us how to connect and we were ‘A-for-Away’. Along came July 2021 and we were still in the **Mask Era**, and it was decided to hold the anniversary luncheon in November. We had a very special luncheon at the Utopia Restaurant, and it was such an enjoyable experience! A large group enjoyed the lunch, **the views** and the company!

So it was, that I started at the end of August this year planning for our 22nd bash for Thursday 24th November! Countless emails: quotes received; emails re-sent; frustration after frustration ensued! I might at this point add **I approached TWENTY restaurants, wine estates and function venues to host our lunch.**

After a long “Pow-Pow” in our office we concluded that perhaps November was a bad time to host a function! Main reasoning behind this is that end of November is ‘traditionally’ the time when companies celebrate the end of another year. Countless venues that we wanted to use were either FULL or they had such OUTRAGEOUS pricing and we were sadly disappointed!

We ‘lost out’ at one venue, as by the time I decided that perhaps this was our best option – I was told that a corporate had meantime booked 216 people for lunch! (How can we ever compete against this)!

Cape Town is very quickly becoming an ‘international’ city – attracting so many internationals and this is also impacting on locals being able to ‘enjoy’ lunch venues at reasonable prices. Many of you do know that in the last year we have had a 25% increase in our vehicle prices as well as having to contend with fuel and food price increases.

Prices are, no doubt, not going to be any cheaper in July 2023 but at least we won’t be in competition with the big corporates who can afford to lay on lavish lunches for their staff! **We feel we ought to apologise but we also feel sure that we will have the backing of you all, when we say that pricing is beyond our control!**

To appease my disappointment, we will still arrange a coach for the 24th November and celebrate our end-of-2022 with a luncheon in nearby Stellenbosch. We will start our morning off at **Jamestown flower farm**, where you have the chance to pick your own bunch to take home OR buy a fabulous bunch of ready-picked flowers. Lunch will be enjoyed in a restaurant in Stellenbosch.



**Cost for the day is R625 per person
(including transport and lunch).**

Booking and payment deadline: Friday 18th November '22
COACH WILL LEAVE CONSTANTIA VILLAGE @ 08H45
& TABLEVIEW @ 09H30

ELGIN RAILWAY MARKET



DEPARTURES

CAPE TOWN TO ELGIN

Operated by:



UPDATED
11 AUGUST
2022

MONTH	CODES:	TRAIN TRIP	FULL / COMPLETE	NO TRAIN
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER	SAT 5	SAT 12	SAT 26	
DECEMBER	SAT 3	SUN 4	SAT 10	SUN 11
DECEMBER	SAT 17	SUN 18		
JANUARY	SAT 7	SUN 8	SAT 14	SAT 21 SAT 28
FEBRUARY	SAT 4	SAT 18	SAT 25	

TICKET



SALES

brian@traveltime.co.za / 082 901 9165 / 084 580 1469

<https://www.traveltime.co.za/ceres-rail-elgin-railway-market>

TRAVELTIME IS AN AUTHORISED TICKET VENDOR
FOR CERES RAIL TRAIN BOOKINGS

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>



SCHEDULED TOURS: STEAM TRAIN TRIP (2 Days)

CHERRY-TIME- CERES -19th & 20th November '22



19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2022

www.ceresrail.co.za

OPTIONS

STAY ON THE TRAIN (72 BEDS).

OPTION A - COMPARTMENT (SLEEPS 4)
 • 4 PAX - R11 600, 3 PAX - R10 400,
 2 PAX - R8 200
 • MEALS INCLUDED
 • LUNCH & DINNER DAY 1,
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH DAY 2

OPTION B- COUPE (SLEEPS 2)
 • 2 PAX - R5 800, 1 PAX - R4 600
 • MEALS INCLUDED
 • LUNCH & DINNER DAY 1,
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH DAY 2
 19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2022



www.ceresrail.co.za

OPTIONS

STAY IN TOWN (80 SEATS ON THE TRAIN).

OPTION C - MONTAGU ACCOMMODATION
 • +-R3 900 PER PERSON
 • MEALS INCLUDED:
 • LUNCH & DINNER DAY 1,
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH DAY 2



19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2022

www.ceresrail.co.za

ITINERARY

19 NOVEMBER 2022

- CAPE TOWN TO ASHTON
- OWN BREAKFAST / BUY ONBOARD
- TRAIN JOURNEY
- LUNCH AT A WINE FARM
- BRANDY / GIN / WINE TASTING AT PLATFORM 62
- DINNER

20 NOVEMBER 2022

- ASHTON TO CAPE TOWN VIA CERES
- BREAKFAST
- TRAIN JOURNEY
- CHERRY PICKING EXPERIENCE (INCLUDING LUNCH & A COCKTAIL)

19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2022

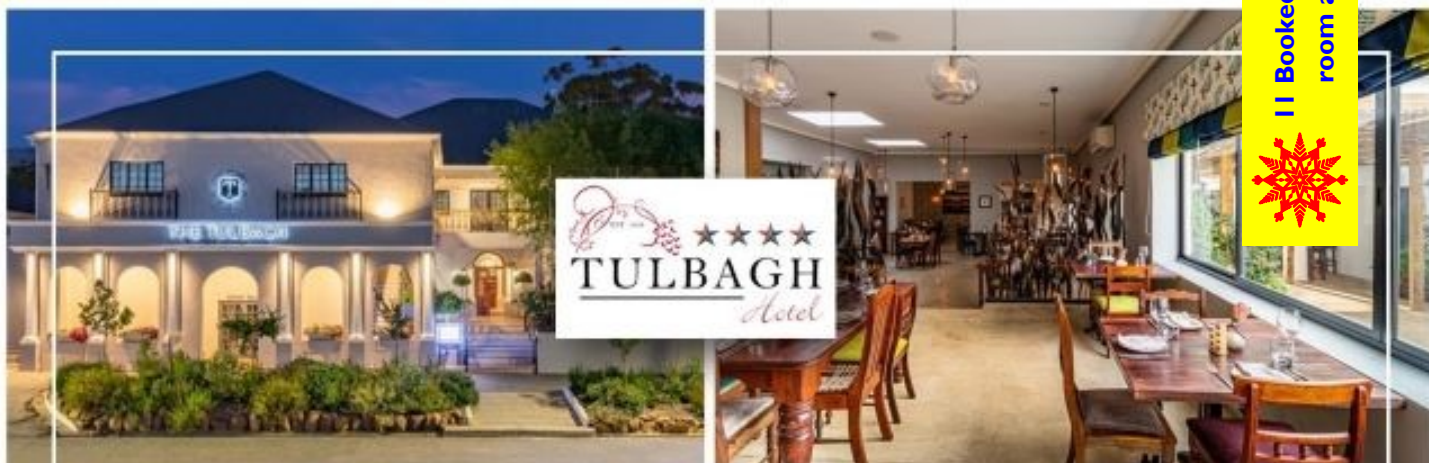
www.ceresrail.co.za



Please indicate your interest and preferences in this 2 day trip by email to: carol@traveltime.co.za / cell phone or WhatsApp to 084 580 1469.

Full details of "in town" accommodation as well as departure and return information will be provided.

A quick decision & early response is necessary.



OP DIE BERG HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

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!

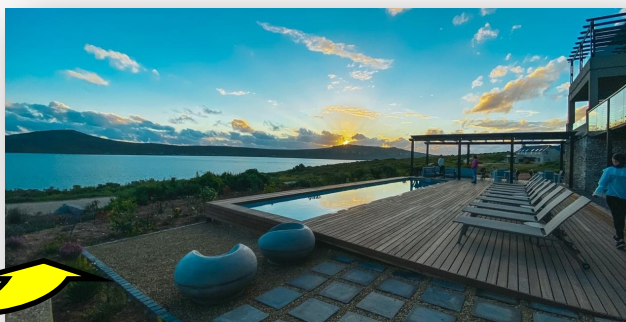
- **Our route** to our base in Tulbagh will pass through the Huguenot tunnel.
- **Gin tasting** in the Breede Valley and then a light lunch at Rietdakkie Padstal (Own account).
- ♦ **Accommodation** (3 nights) reserved at the 4* Tulbagh Boutique Heritage Hotel.
- ♦ **Things to do:** Tuk Tuk tour / Oakhurst 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 lunch.

Bookings have been brisk. 11 confirmed: If you want to join this tour please confirm asap. Request a tour brochure or visit: www.traveltime.co.za



Our 2021 tour was held at Houwhoek Inn in their new function venue. A great day with good food, but sweltering heat spoilt the fun! Read the report:
<https://www.traveltime.co.za/portfolio/mystery-venue-2021>

We have decided that future tours around this time of the year must be near the ocean and our prospective venue fits the bill perfectly.



This new development is situated along the coast between Botrivier and Elands Bay. We will be running a competition which will provide clues to its situation and name. Watch Facebook for future information.



Over the years we have often stayed at Piekenierskloof Lodge or had meals there during flower season. There is actually a lot to experience in the area from Piketberg through to Porterville and Citrusdal.

Our 4 day tour will include:

- # Accommodation at the Lodge.
- # Porterville and its Art Route.
- # Citrusdal and 'By Die Dam' Resort / Salome's Grapevine Restaurant
- # Cederkloof Botanical Retreat (Near The Baths Natural hot springs).
We spent a night here with our American group in August '22
- # A special dinner at Hebron Gusthouse. (Rooibos / Wine Paring experience).



Steve Oldroyd , owner, has provided this unique experience for us on numerous occasions during flower season.

Visit the Farmers Market in 'Bo Piketberg' - on top of the mountain. The farms in this area are renowned for their delicious pears, peaches, apples, plums and citrus fruits.

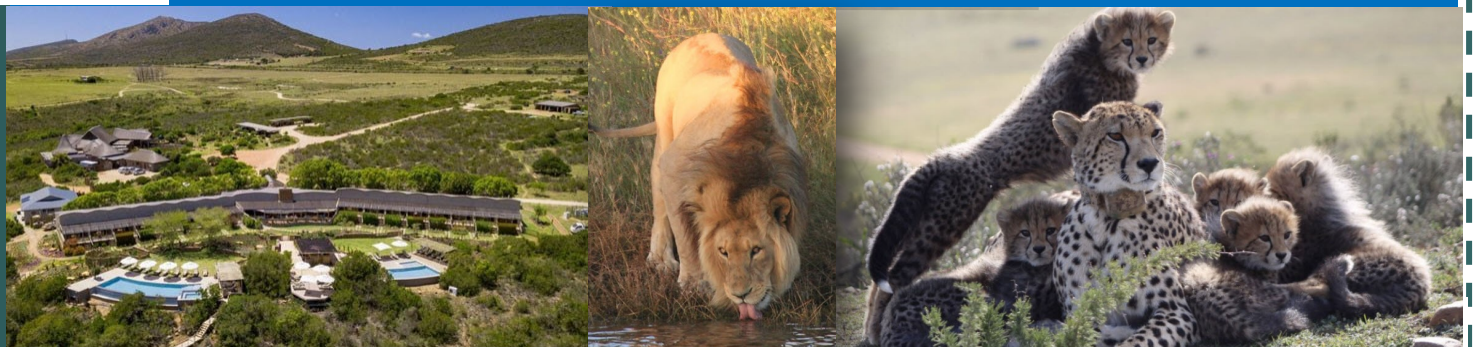
For full details, request a priced Information brochure.



Our 4 day tour will allow us to take in the “New” and “Old” areas, attractions and restaurants.: After much thought and discussion, we have produced a list of “Places to visit” & “things to do” for consideration in our final Itinerary.

- ◆ Our home for 3 nights will, of course, be the Montagu Country Hotel where we can relax and experience their new menus in the in-house restaurant “Charlestons”. (Dinner & Breakfast).
- ◆ We will also enjoy evening meals at other venues, ie The Blu Vines Restaurant in Montagu.
- ◆ Lunches will be booked for our road trips to Robertson, Ashton, as well as Greenlands Farm (in the foothills of the majestic Langeberg mountains) on the R60 to Swellendam .
- ◆ We will visit Zandvliet & Van Loveren Wine Estates for wine and gin tasting.
- ◆ Whilst we will consider the popular tractor trip on the Protea Farm (spectacular views), there is also a local farmer named Redbeard who offers vineyard tours by tractor.
- ◆ Let’s not forget the Viljoensdrift River Cruise; we can enjoy a light lunch on the Breede river.
- ◆ There is a local (Montagu) “Ghost Tour” which we will include as well.

For full details, request a priced Information brochure.



We have often passed this Game Lodge situated off the N2, near Albertinia whilst on various tours and have made mental notes to plan a tour here. This is now a reality.

Our 4 day tour offers:

- # Road transport to and from the Lodge (3½ hours from Cape Town).
- # Accommodation in spacious Main Lodge rooms with balcony / Dinner (Serengeti Restaurant) / Bed & Breakfast. (Lunch optional extra) / Complimentary Wi Fi available.
- # 2 x 2hr game drives per day included (Open vehicle) / Guided game walk available (optional extra) / Bird walking trail available.
- # Visit the Bird Hide (150 species on the reserve).
- # This is a Big 5 game lodge and has the following animals: elephant / white rhino / lion / buffalo / Cape Eland / kudu / black wildebeest / zebra / springbok / gemsbok / cape fox / bushbuck / caracal / bat eared fox /duiker / cape mountain leopard / cheetah, giraffe and red hartebeest.
- # The on site Ayana Spa offers massages and treatments (Own Account / booking necessary).
- # Swimming Pools (hot & cold).

For full details, request a priced Information brochure.

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



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. (low numbers).

We have updated the original tour details & costing and have evaluated the route which includes the Kolmanskop Ghost Town and can now confirm this 2nd option.

Day 1: We plan to reserve seats on an Airlink flight to Windhoek (to be confirmed), where a vehicle awaits to transfer us to our overnight accommodation. We drive through mountainous terrain to Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. With inhabitants totaling nearly 350,000, Windhoek constitutes the largest city in the country and is situated in a lush and scenically appealing valley of **Auas Mountains**, Namibia's second highest mountain range. Tonight, we will enjoy a welcome drink before dinner.

For full details and pricing of this tour please refer to our website:
<https://www.traveltime.co.za/package/namibia-2023>



KALAHARI DESERT



SOSSUSVLEI



CATAMARAN CRUISE



FISH RIVER CANYON



DEAD VLEI



QUAD BIKE RIDE OPTION



LUDERITZ-WILD HORSES



SWAKOPMUND



LIVING DESERT TOUR OPTION



KOLMANSKOP



FLAMINGOS



AVANHI HOTEL WINDHOEK

Bookings have been brisk- 6 confirmed: If you want to join this tour please confirm asap.

Request a tour brochure or visit: www.traveltime.co.za