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PLANNING** 1

### Tour Report:

**Time Out:** 2  
**Stellenbosch**

**UPCOMING:  
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**Going South-  
Simonstown**

### NOTE DATE!

**UPCOMING  
TRAVELTIME:**

**Ceres Rail** 4  
**Steam train:**  
**Elgin Railway  
Market**

**Old Year '22** 5  
**(4 Days)**

**Mystery  
Venue** 6  
**(1 Day)**

**Piekenierskloof  
Resort** 6  
**(4 Days)**

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

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

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

**FLOWER TOURS**  
**(1) West Coast**  
**(2) Northern Cape** 9  
**(5 Days each)**

**PLANNING STAGE** 8/9

ISSUED: 11th Dec '22



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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



*Experience the Friendship & Fun*

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

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## 2023 Tour Planning UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 7th December '22. 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

- **Outing Report: 24th November: Mooiberge Strawberry Farm** Page: 2
- **From My Desk / Christmas Wishes** Page: 3
- **16 February '23: Going South-Simonstown: (1 Day)** Page: 3

### TRAVELTIME

- **Various day trips: Steam Train: Elgin Railway Market** Page: 4
- **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 Lodge (4 Days):** Page: 7
- **16-25 June '23: Canyons & Deserts-Namibia (10 Days):** Page: 8
- **22-26 August '23: West Coast Flowers (5 Days):** Page: 9
- **31 Aug -4 Sept '23: Spring Flowers Northern Cape (5 Days):** Page: 9

### 'PLANNING STAGE'-TOURS:

- **18-21 July '23: Snow & Art -Oudtshoorn (4 Days):** Page 8
- **19 August '23: West Coast National Park Flowers (1 Day):** Page 9
- **7-10 Aug & 21-24 Aug '23: Wild Flower Adventure (4 Days):** Page 9
- **15-17 Sept '23: Darling Flower Festival (3 Days):** TBA

### 'BON VOYAGE'-TOURS:

**30 Dec '22—02 Jan '23: Old Year Tour (4 Days): Tulbagh+**



An overcast, cool day greeted us as the coach left the city at just after 10h00 on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. This hardly dampened the spirits of the people on board the coach headed to Stellenbosch. Our first stop was Mooiberge Strawberry Farm on the R44, where most had coffees/teas/and some even had a pastry and one lady said "The best strawberry milk shake I've ever enjoyed". Shopping was done in their vast shop with ladies buying strawberries with one lady commenting on the vast range of 'kiddies' sweets' – "A paradise for children".

Next stop was the streets of Stellenbosch – our coach did a drop-off near our restaurant – Hussar Grill and many found those fabulous boutiques / candles / flower beds which are an absolute delight at the entrance to the Boland town / and eventually made their way to Hussar Grill. What a fabulous restaurant this is – despite being part of a chain of steak houses in the Western Cape, the individual franchises are operated independently. Elzahn, the owner greeted us warmly and the tables were set and looked so welcoming! They provided olives and delicious home-made sweet potato crisps! Drinks were ordered and starter orders went through to the kitchen.

**STARTERS:** Italian Tomato Soup or Tender fried calamari strips / or Chicken livers / or Greek Salad. Generous portions all served as they should be – table by table – very delicious!

**MAINS:** 200g Rump / Sirloin / or Beer-Battered Hake / or Gourmet Burger / or Deboned Half Chicken

*Heather and Marie took the opportunity to thank Carol (& Brian who was not with us today) for arranging the tours. "We really appreciate everything that you do for us & all your hard work & organization. Thank you for always finding interesting places for us to go to and lovely places where we can enjoy delicious food and, of course, wine!" The monetary gift was much appreciated and will be put to good use!* As we were about to leave, a staff member brought out a tray of decadent and delicious chocolate (vodka?) topped with cream – wow we all enjoyed this – with most expressing the thought that they wished they had long teaspoons to 'get-that-very-last-drop out of the shooter glass'

*Give a gal some wine & a delicious lunch and it is ever so hard to get them to remember that Stellenbosch is 52km away from our first drop-off in Tableview. This coupled with late afternoon traffic had the first drop-off being only 17h15 with Constantia getting home at near 19h00!*

*For the unique and special friends who travel with us –  
Our warmest wishes for an awesome Christmas  
& every good wish for 2023.*

*Much Love: Carol & Brian*





This year has come to a grinding halt – slipping through months as we have done in 2022, not one of us began this year on a FULL TANK! We had, after all, gone through a vicious onslaught of the previous two years – with Covid; the Ukraine war and all that these major world calamities brought to our lives. This past year of 2022 that we slid into became the fastest hurricane year we could ever imagine. This somehow seems to have been a year of more pressure, more stress, and a race to catch up in all departments.



Though not intentionally aware, we might have thought that the busier we are, the more readily we might forget – the easier we would undo the emotional tangle – the more permanently we might wipe away the wounds of the past two years.

So, before you begin questioning the absolutely depleted and wrung-dry state you are in – **PAUSE, BREATHE, and REMIND** yourself who you are and what others have gone through! Despite everything we are all going – and right now most of the world needs TLC – remind yourself of this daily – so find small pockets of silence, find compassion, and be kind!



*Brian and I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2023*

*Many thanks for the lovely card and monetary gift you gave us on our last Time Out trip.*

**TIME OUT** will start up again on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.

**PLEASE NOTE, because of a Traveltime tour in February, needing to co-incide with the February Bo-Piketberg monthly market, we have changed the TIME OUT outing date to 16<sup>th</sup> February. (See below):**



### SCHEDULED OUTING: TIME OUT

Thursday 16th February 2023

*Going South - Simonstown*

I have been asked: “Why do we never go South of the City?”, so here is my answer: Our first outing will be in February, on 16th, a bit earlier in the month than normal and we will be heading into Simonstown.

Cilla Maud, who recently, along with Allan, opened an art gallery opposite Jubilee Square and has helped me SO much with ‘where-to-eat’ ‘where-to-shop’ ‘where-the-best-ice-creams’ are; I feel you will have a great time exploring.. Need more than a morning!



**Some suggestions from Cilla's list:**

* <b>Pearl Alley</b> (Pearls are our passion).	* <b>CraftArt</b> (Home Wares).
* <b>Kalidas</b> -Wearing apparel—for 50 Years!	* <b>Maximalist</b> (Antiques / Collectibles)
* <b>Hunter &amp; Collector</b> (Quirky Collectibles).	* <b>Just Nuisance Art Gallery</b> (Cilla & Allan)

A detailed map will be provided in the January newsletter as well as on the “bus hand-out”.

Lunch venue will also be confirmed-presently planning!



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, 12 passengers now confirmed.**

**If you want to join this tour, it is now too late!**





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. (Clues from 7th to 21st January. Competition closes 23rd January).

**Cost for the day is R675 per person, including transport and lunch in spectacular surroundings.**

**Booking & payment deadline is 6th January '23.**



The Venue wanted full payment by 18th December '22, but have agreed on us providing a holding deposit and final payment by 15th January 2023).



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.**

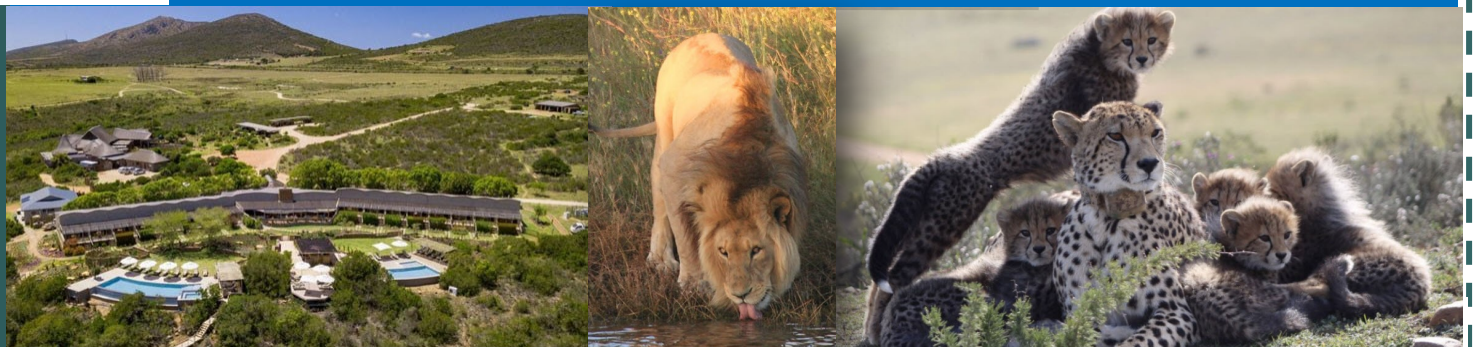




Our 4 day tour will allow us to take in the “New” and “Old” areas, attractions and restaurants.: After much thought and discussion, we have produced a list of “Places to visit” & “things to do” for consideration in our final Itinerary.

- ◆ 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.**

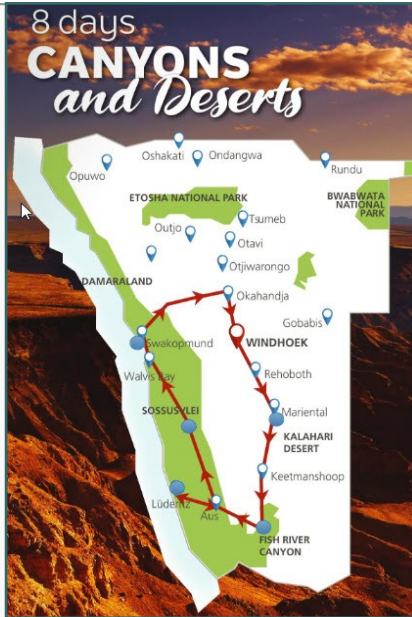
**Our 4 day tour offers:**

- # 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**



**AVANI HOTEL WINDHOEK**

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

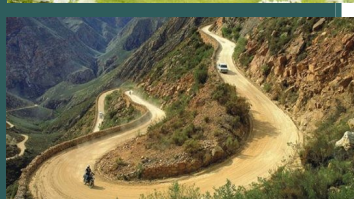
**Request a tour brochure or visit: [www.traveltime.co.za](http://www.traveltime.co.za)**



## SCHEDULED TOUR: SNOW & ART-OUTSHOORN

18th-21st July '23 (4 Days)

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We have secured the 4-star, 8 roomed Manor House on the Swartberg Country Manor property, for our 3 night stay.

Our 4-day tour offers the following:

- Think log fires and snow on the mountains
- Evenings enjoying fabulous cuisine with local ingredients
- **Art** (for those who wish to let-themselves-indulge)-we are working with local residents to provide an art course. Details to follow.
- Or for those who are not budding artists -a good book; & relaxation galore!
- En-Route to the Swartberg Country Manor we will travel over the spectacular Tradouw pass, spending time in Barrydale, enjoying the town & the quirky Diesel and Crème restaurant.
- Being close to the Swartberg Pass our tour can include a day where we go over this fabulous Mountain Pass and spend a full day exploring Prince Albert, or spend a day exploring De Rust which is a quaint village close to Oudtshoorn – get to meet the locals! (Visit an ostrich farm and do some gath-ering!).

A detailed itinerary will be provided before departure.

**For full details, request a priced Information brochure.**

## SCHEDULED TOUR: WILD FLOWER ADVENTURE

7-10 & 21-24 August '23 (4 days)



### **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.

## SCHEDULED TOUR: WEST COAST PARK FLOWERS

Saturday 19th 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: WEST COAST FLOWERS

**22nd-26th August '23 (5 Days)**



Traditionally the **West Coast flower season is at its best from mid-August to mid-September**. Our tour is in the middle of this period! Join us to celebrate **SPRING, up and along the WEST COAST** - we will visit many places and make sure you go home with memories galore!

### Highlights:

- Accommodation: 2 nights each: **Darling Lodge & The Saldanha Protea Hotel**.
- We will spend a full day in the **West Coast National Park**, (Including the **Postberg Flower Reserve** which is only open in August & September each year.
- Visit **Darling Orchids** on a guided tour
- See how Darling has grown - including visits to **Evita se Perron; Darling Brew; Tienie Versveld flower reserve; Darling Sweets**
- Go on a guided tour to the **West Coast Fossil Park**
- Explore **Hopefield & Bokkom Laan**
- Visit **Paternoster**

***For full details, request a priced Information brochure.***

## SCHEDULED TOUR: SPRING FLOWERS-NORTHERN CAPE

**31st Aug-4th Sept '23 (5 Days)**



The Crème-de-la-crème of flower areas is **NIEUWOUDVILLE** in the Northern Cape. Known as the **"Bulb Capital of the World"**

Traveltime is **extremely fortunate to have secured 3 nights on the DE LANDE FARM** - part of the **PAPKUILSFONTEIN farm**. We have **7 rooms secured for 3 nights** on this farm - all meals will be enjoyed on the Papkuilsfontein farm. En Route to De Lande farm we will have one night at the **PIEKENIERSKLOOF MOUNTAIN LODGE**.

### Highlights of this 5 day tour are :

- **West Coast National Park / Postberg Flower Reserve.**
- **Rooibos and gin tasting at De Tol** - very close to Piekenierskloof Mountain Lodge
- The annual **Clanwilliam flower show** (dates to still be released but usually end of August!).
- Visit the succulent nurse in vanrhynsdorp.
- **Hantam Botanical Gardens** walk-about in their flower fields
- Guided afternoon tour with **Willem on the Papkuilsfontein farm** (definitely one for the bucket-list)
- Visit to the **waterfall** (usually fabulous after good rains); **Quiver (Kokerboom) Forest**;
- An afternoon spent in **Loeriesfontein** (visit their Windmill Museum)
- Pannekoek at the NGK Church who have a church bazaar during flower season!
- Visit the annual **NGK Bazaar for pannekoek!.....more on our pre-tour itinerary.**

***For full details, request a priced Information brochure.***