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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



Experience the Friendship & Fun

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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2023 Tour Planning UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 4th March '23. We will continue to provide updates & additional information in future newsletters, as planning progresses:

2023 Tour dates: In blue are confirmed / In black are Provisional

TIME OUT

- TOUR REPORT : Go South-Simons Town Page: 2
- 30th March '23 - Let's Go West: Yzerfontein (1 Day) Page: 3
- 27h April '23 - PUBLIC HOLIDAY—FREEDOM DAY—~~NO TOUR~~

TRAVELTIME

- To be confirmed: Piekensklouf Lodge **TOUR POSTPONED** Page: 4
- 18-21 April '23: Montagu & Surrounds (4 Days): Page: 4
- 18-21 May '23: Garden Route Game Lodge (4 Days): Page: 5
- 16-25 June '23: Canyons & Deserts-Namibia (10 Days): Page: 6
- 18-21 July '23: Snow & Art-Oudtshoorn (4 Days): Page: 7
- 07-10 & 21-24 August '23: Wild Flower Adventure (4 Days): Page: 7
- 19 Aug '23: Postberg Flower Reserve (1 Day): Page: 7
- 22-26 August '23: West Coast Spring Flowers (5 Days): Page: 8
- 31 Aug -4 Sept '23: Spring Flowers Northern Cape (5 Days): Page: 8
- 14-16 October '23: Sutherland & SALT telescope (3 Days): Page: 9
- Various day trips: Steam Train: Elgin Market & Ceres (1 Day): Page: 9

'PLANNING STAGE'-TOURS:

- 25th May '23: Time Out heads to Franschhoek TBA
- 15-17 Sept '23: Darling Flower Festival (3 Days): TBA

Experience the Friendship & Fun



The dreaded Black South Easter reared it's ugly head today and Simon's Town 'shone' for us. Fabulous to see the Bay with the choppy sea – gives you a whole new perspective on the sea and its dangers!

We had a small group of only 12 people but, nevertheless, a fabulous day and a comment we received after the day was – “A small intimate way of getting to know the group better”

Some enjoyed coffee; some browsed; some bought candles (no guessing who this is!); and eventually at 12h00 we made our way to **Celebration Café** for lunch. Prior to choosing a lunch venue we scoured the web and often come up with the-good-and-the-bad in restaurants.

Celebration Café is such an intimate place to 'lunch' – Olivia is very welcoming and even though she is the chef & chief organiser; **she does a Stirling job**. Because of the bad wind they seated the group inside at one table, which was great!

[The Getaway Magazine has this to say about Celebration Café](#) 

The interior walls of Celebration Café are covered in postage stamps that were stuck up by the postmaster who once lived in the building hundreds of years ago. Bay View House is the name of this three-story building, and it was built in the early 1800s. A lot of history runs through its walls and I was told that this very building was once a jail, a hospital, and even a horse stable. The first floor of the building is a vintage shop; the middle story is home to Celebration Café where they serve breakfast and lunch; the top story of the building is a guest house that sleeps six. Celebration Café's concept is 'create your own plate' with all of the food they have on the menu. Their guests can simply mix and match the foods and create their own dish.

We had pre-chosen a set lunch, always suitable for a group:

Hummus; Sun-dried tomatoes; Olives served with Ciabatta bread to start,
Followed by a choice of Roast Chicken; Fresh line fish; or a vegetarian option of a Spinach, Sweet Potato & Feta Phyllo Pie,
served with tasty roast vegetables and salad.

The meal was rounded off with a selection of her decadent cakes – Lemon baked cheesecake; Chocolate Ganache; Lemon Meringue; or Carrot cake.

“A very tasty meal / Almost like eating at a friend's house / Need to come back for more” were a few of the comments we received – thank you Olivia.



Last time we visited Yzerfontein was in 2019 - **TIME FOR A RE-VISIT**, to a rapidly growing area.. They now have their own Art Route - So far I have secured a visit to the home of one of the artists which will add interest to our day.

On arrival we will have time to enjoy a coffee at **Rosmead Bakery** (even take home a few of their pastries!) After our little exploration of Yzerfontein we will head to a **new restaurant** that is '**making waves**' in Yzerfontein—



Cost for the day is R625 per person

Including transport and lunch.

Booking and payment deadline—Friday 24th March, 2023

COACH WILL LEAVE: CONSTANTIA VILLAGE CENTRE @ 08H45

& TABLEVIEW LIBRARY @ 09H30



Regrettably this tour has been postponed, due to lack of interest. Perhaps it was scheduled too soon after the Christmas holidays and our Old Year tour. It really is a fantastic area to visit, so we will put this on the back burner for later in the year.

SCHEDULED TOUR: MONTAGU & SURROUNDS

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

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 an evening meal at another venue in Montagu.
- ◆ Lunches will be booked for our road trips to Robertson & Ashton.
- ◆ 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.

BOOK ASAP:

We now have 12 on tour



For full details, request a priced Information brochure.



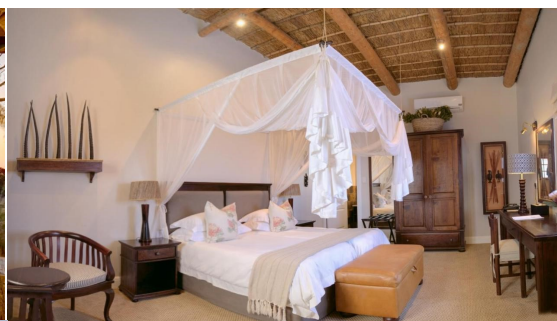
We have often passed this Game Lodge situated off the N2, near Albertinia whilst on various tours and have made mental notes to plan a tour here. This is now a reality.

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 wilde-beest / 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.

2 March: 6 pax booked—Can take a few more!



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



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>**

2 March: Currently 7 pax booked; would like to have 10 total!



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

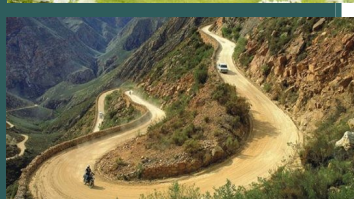
Bookings: 7 confirmed: If you want to join this tour please confirm asap.

Request a tour brochure or visit: 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: POSTBERG FLOWER RESERVE

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

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.



We visited the surface of Mars!



We have visited Sutherland 11 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

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SCHEDULED TOURS: STEAM TRAIN TRIPS

(1) Elgin Railway Market (Day trips-Departures)



(2) Ceres Day trip-Tuesday 21st March '23

