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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST



Experience the Friendship & Fun

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

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2023 Tour Planning UPCOMING TOURS

The following schedule is current as at 14th April'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:** Yzerfontein & THAT GREEK PLACE Page: 2
- **25th May '23** - We head to Franschhoek Page: 3
- **27th April'23** - PUBLIC HOLIDAY—FREEDOM DAY—NO OUTING

TRAVELTIME

- **18-21 April '23:** Montagu & Surrounds (4 Days): **BON VOYAGE** 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 (1 Day): Page: 9

'PLANNING STAGE'-TOURS:

- **29 June '23:** Time Out forward planning TBA
- **15-17 Sept '23:** Darling Wild Flower Festival (3 Days): TBA
- **30 Dec -02 Jan'24:** Old Year tour (4 Days): TBA

Experience the Friendship & Fun

Issued 14th Apr'23

OUTING REPORT:

PAGE 2



As the seasons change, it is time to explore Yzerfontein again. Their newly formed **YZER ART ROUTE** was the inspiration for this trip at the end of March.

Our first stop was the **WESKUS PADSTAL** – a much improved stop along the R27 – they have a selection of birds; animals etc to while away a bit of time and their shop is filled with delicacies which are very enticing. They make a mean take-away coffee as well!

Ami Smuts, a local artist in Yzerfontein is so very accommodating – she arranged for Ester Blake, Marietjie Hanekom, Dr Adri van Aswegen Jase van Vuuren & Marie Schoeman to exhibit at her home – 16 Dassen Island drive, as well as Saki & Wilna van der Wal at their home at 37 Roosmaryn Street.

What a feast of art – from West Coast scenes; to portraits; to mosaics; to the friendly, happy folk in Yzerfontein we were welcomed so warmly! Thank you – believe it's the first of many visits to Yzerfontein to explore your art.

After this we headed to **THAT GREEK PLACE** which is just outside Yzerfontein. 'OPA' to this little gem on the West Coast which is fast becoming very popular! You could easily be in Greece, eating outside in an area that also has a nursery. Lovely, relaxed atmosphere – instantly makes you feel relaxed and ready to enjoy lunch. This was started by Calli (ex the island of Limnos) and Leoni – Bravo to them!

We were served their Pita Breads with Tzatziki which went down a treat – this was followed with Meze Platters which had Spanakopita; Haloumi; Dolmades; Pork Souvlaki Stick; and a divine Greek Salad. This was rounded off by ice cream with chocolate sauce – all in all - A lovely way to enjoy company and relax!

Another great advantage is that WRIGHTS GIN is situated on the same premises – so in advance we ordered gin tasting; mocktails or cocktails – served by Lovemore who is a real asset to this business. We were thrilled to get the following comments about the day out ☐

Fabulous time out / Loved every minute / Time to be in your own space and time to chat have fun / Delicious lunch / Lovely company -s uch special ladies. Thanks Carol and Brian. It was a great outing! Joan.....

A memorable day indeed.....couldn't have asked for better. Xxxxx Hilda.....

Wonderful experience! What absolute fabulous ladies! Thank you Carol. Had an absolute blast! Judith

.....We all enjoyed a fabulous day out up the West Coast –

A day that memories are made of!



Everyone **LOVES Franschhoek** - always an excitement to visit especially in May when the seasons change. As it is 95kms from Constantia I am not planning anything for you to do en route. We will arrive at about 11h00 and lunch will be served from 12h45 - giving you sufficient time to 'shop and gather' - I will have a full list of what is available along Huguenot Street for you to enjoy.

Today we have reserved your lunch at **Café du Vin** at **No 46 Huguenot Street** (in the true hub of Franschhoek) - Café du Vin is a unpretentious, homely venue with the emphasis on guest satisfaction, great food, great wine, and friendly, efficient service. We will enjoy lunch in their upstairs room with stunning views of the mountains.



Cost for the day is R625 per person

Including transport and lunch.

Booking and payment deadline—Friday 19th May, 2023

**COACH WILL LEAVE: TABLEVIEW LIBRARY @ 08H45
& CONSTANTIA VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE @ 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.

BON VOYAGE!
We have 12 on tour

On the road again!



For full details, request a priced Information brochure.



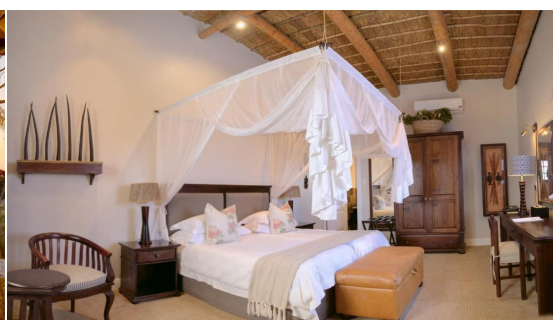
We have often passed this Game Lodge situated off the N2, near Albertinia whilst on various tours and have made mental notes to plan a tour here. This is now a reality.

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.

14 April: 8 pax booked -2 Rooms available!



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 have confirmed seats on a mid morning Airlink flight to Windhoek, 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. Request the full Itinerary.

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

2 March: Currently 6 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



AVANHI HOTEL WINDHOEK

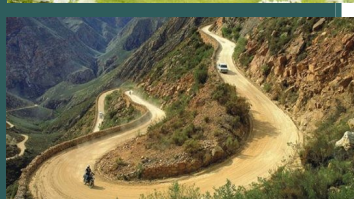
Bookings: 6 confirmed, Flights booked: If you want to join this tour please confirm asap.

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.

A local artist has been commissioned to spend a full day with us...

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.**

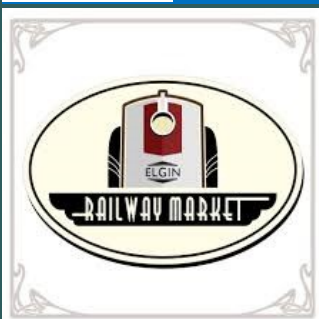
For full details and pricing, [please request a tour brochure](#)

OR Visit our website: www.traveltime.co.za

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SCHEDULED TOURS: STEAM TRAIN TRIPS

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



BOOK NOW FOR BOTH:

<https://ceresrail.activitar.com/products?ref=036bf48f2187d743c52e>

(2) 'Mystery' Train Trip -27th April '23-Freedom Day

