

SOETES EN SOP
REPORTAUGUST:
SPRING
FLOWER TOUR
(Fully Booked)SEPTEMBER:
DARLING
VOORKAMER-
FEST:SEPTEMBER:
NAMIBIA 2012
TOUR:
SOSSUSVLEI,
SWAKOPMUND,
ERINDIOCTOBER:
KNYSNAGENERAL:
TOUR COSTS

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BANKING DETAILS ON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

REPORT BACK*July tour to the Breedekloof***SOETES EN SOP**

Our annual pilgrimage into the Breedekloof took place on Saturday 21st July. As seems to be the norm at this time of the year, the day started off overcast and progressed into a day of rain and flooded rivers. The photo on the left was taken through the kombi window (no, not from a boat) whilst crossing a low level bridge between estates. We were able to visit 5 estates: **Botha, Bersig, Opstal, Slanghoek & Deetlefs.**

Overall the atmosphere at Botha (plus their Chicken Curry soup) and Deetlefs proved the best places to be. Slanghoek produced their renowned Biltong & Blue cheese soup and Opstal had to move their Farmers Market into their wine cellar due to the rain. All in all a great day out with good company.

**SPRING FLOWER TOUR****MONDAY 27TH TO FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST**

We have **12 people booked for our 2012 Spring Flower Tour.**

The tour group includes two ladies from Johannesburg, two from Durban, a couple from Pringle Bay & the rest from the Cape Town area. We are now fully booked.

The tour is different from our 2011 tour in that we are spending our first night on the **Kersefontein Farm** outside Hopefield (remember Julian Melck who hosted Time Out those years ago??)we will also spend some time in Clanwilliam before we travel up to Nieuwoudtville which will be our home for the next 3 nights. Whilst in Nieuwoudtville we will visit the **Hantam Botanical Gardens,**

Papkuilsfontein and this year we will have lunch at **Feathers Inn** in Piketberg on the way home. So, with all the rain & cold weather we have experienced lately, we are set for a great time away.

VOORKAMERFEST-DARLING**SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER**

Please read the accompanying sheet relative to this tour before reading further.

In determining the tour price we have based our calculations on an 11-seater coach, including 3 shows (the minimum possible) and lunch.

Hiring coaches where there are less than 21 passengers proves expensive, as is the case here; add the coach cost, 3 shows (R225) and lunch (R150) and with less than 10 passengers, the tour is run at a loss!

A number of people have expressed interest in going to Darling for the day in their own vehicles. If we can share transport then this becomes more attractive. (Shows + lunch =R375.00). Even if everyone contributes towards each drivers fuel, it is still manageable.



Please let us know by Monday 13th August whether you are interested in this option so that we can go ahead and reserve tickets before they are sold out!

TRAVELTIME

ON THIS PAGE:

NAMIBIA 2012 TOUR:
SOSSUSVLEI,
SWAKOPMUND, ERINDI:
SEPTEMBER

KNYSNA:
OCTOBER

GENERAL:
TOUR COSTS
TRANSPORT

For Your Information

NAMIBIASUNDAY 9TH TO SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

We have had to move this tour to September due to accommodation being at a premium during August.



There are two options available:

(1) A 5 day "Desert Symphony" tour which includes the highlights of **Sossusvlei and Swakopmund** (two nights in each area), with the option to either return to Cape Town or (2) to continue to the north of Windhoek to **Erindi Private Game Reserve** for another 3 days.

Overall tour package 8 days. Refer brochure on our [website](http://www.traveltime.co.za):

www.traveltime.co.za or ask us to mail a brochure.

KNYSNAMONDAY 15TH TO SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Traveltime first visited Knysna in September 2009 when 20 of us shared 5 houses on Thesen Island (Fairmile Point). The tour was designed to allow attendees to decide what they would like to do and where and when they would have meals. There were of course some fixed "group" activities arranged to ensure that we did spend some time together. (Kilzers Kitchen, Gastronomica Exhibition, 34 Degrees South Restaurant, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden, Knysna Night Market, Wild Oats Market, Dinner at Simola). Others visited the elephants (and went for a ride!), went on the

Featherbed Ferry and into the Nature Reserve, visited the Heads.

We have been in contact with the local agents in Knysna to hire the same accommodation, but it is with regret that we must advise that four of the houses have been sold and are no longer available. There are other options: [Houses on Thesen Island proper as well as apartments \(Dry Mill\)](#) on the southern point of the island, near where we stayed previously.

So, planning is well underway and [we will require confirmation by 15th August](#) that you are interested in joining us on this tour. We can then visit the potential accommodation, do the final costing and produce an itinerary.

To those who attended in 2009 we can assure you that this tour will be as good as it was then, if not better! To all the potential new passengers talk to those who have been before and then make up your mind. (We can give you a list of who attended), or visit our website:

<http://www.traveltime.co.za/traveltime/previous/Knysna09.htm>

TRANSPORT COSTS

There are many things in life where it costs more for smaller quantities. This is also the case when hiring coaches. Let's compare two extremes, a kombi (7-seater) and a 44-seater.

(1) If both vehicles travel with no empty seats, then the cost per passenger is R280 & R102 for each.

(2) If each is only 60% full then the cost per passenger is R466 & R169, **a 66% increase in cost.**

This shows that it is more expensive to hire smaller vehicles, and the price increases dramatically when less people travel in a specific vehicle.

So, when doing the costing of each outing or tour we need to have a good feel for how many people will attend, or we will run the tour at a loss. (which does happen).

A case in point is the annual Soetes En Sop tour, which is normally run at break-even, if a 7 or 11-seater coach is used. In July, based on early indications of attendance we decided to use an 11-seater. On the day we used a kombi (7-seater) and the result is self explanatory.

Incidentally this is also the reason we do not include lunch on the "smaller" tours. If we did, then this one would cost R446 and no one would book!

TRAVELTIME

ON THIS PAGE:

DARLING
VORKAMERFEST

Seven routes of
3 performances:
we will do one route.

Voorkamerfest website:

<http://www.voorkamerfest-darling.co.za/index.php>

First pickup will be at
Constantia Village
Shopping Centre
at 08h00.
followed by Tableview
(Pick 'n Pay Centre)
at 08h30

*Cost for the trip
which includes:
transport,
3 performances
and lunch,
is R720 per person
based on a minimum
of
9 passengers
in an 11-seater coach*

We plan to leave Darling
by 4pm at the latest to
ensure you reach home
before darkness sets in.

VOORKAMERFEST-DARLING1ST SEPTEMBER**What's it all about?**

Voorkamerfest is made up of wheels and cogs turning together to make it work as follows: **visitors buy a ticket for a route** . seven routes in total - **and during this unforgettable journey between three different homes in Darling, three varied performances are show cased** - twenty one performances altogether.

The element of surprise is that the audiences never know who they will see performing until they arrive at each 'voorkamer'. The owners of the houses, which range from small township abodes to some of Darling's grand Cape Dutch homes, play host and a truly South African cultural experience awaits all, with an exciting mix of theatre genres catering to all tastes. To add to the flavour of the fest, local taxi companies are employed for the weekend to transport everyone to the various destinations throughout Darling.

Voorkamerfest 2011 hosted eight solo artists and thirteen group acts consisting of three to five artists per act. Two of these group acts hailed from overseas!

The acts, performed in local Darling resident's living rooms, including a variety of dance acts, guitar and harpsichord instrumentals, comedy, music, storytelling, stand up comedy and magic - once again feeding the curiosity of those audience members who might not get the chance to attend a performance of any of the selected genres being showcased.

We will arrive in Darling in time for the 10am **Darling Spring Parade**, which lasts an hour. The parade starts down the Main Road and ends at Evita se Perron in Arcadia St.. This end point is where we need to be from 11am to await the taxi which transports us to three unknown destinations & performances over a two hour period.

