



## JANUARY/IE 2012 - NEWSLETTER / NUUSBRIEF

**Comfortable, Affordable, Safe, Secure & Enjoyable Train Tours – in Southern Africa**

Enjoy reading this Monthly Newsletter & if you don't want to receive it in future anymore (after reading it) you may **unsubscribe** at the bottom.

**FRESH NEWS // NUUS vars uit die OOND**

## WELCOME in 2012

When I was still in primary school we had to write an essay after returning from the holiday **about** the holiday. It would normally share some details about the whereabouts and the places visited en route. The last paragraph always ended with "We arrived home tired but happy!"

Ons vertrou dat elkeen van u 'n vreugdevolle en ontspanne tyd gedurende Desember beleef het en weer uitsien na 'n opwindende en lekker 2012.

## AFFORDABLE HOLIDAYS

When one looks at Holiday Brochures, ads on TV and radio, e-mail offers and internet prices, all about promoting holiday destinations and experiences, one wonders where these service providers will get their clients from? The reason why we ask this question is because the majority of holiday packages, weekend breaks, overnight facilities and excursions are **very expensive**. For the normal 'man-on-the-street' it is just not possible to afford or participate in it.

One of our aims or goals at JB Train Tours is to host **Affordable** tours in order to enable **anybody and everybody to go on holiday or explore new destinations**. This has been the practice for many years and will remain in place for years to come. Our Budget tours address the needs of the individual and family or groups alike, making life easy and simple to be enjoyed.

Our market is primarily South Africans. We do have people from abroad traveling with us, especially on the **Premier Classe** train, and they are very welcome to do so. However, with the weakening of the Rand against the US Dollar, Pound Sterling and Euro, we expect more foreigners to travel with us PLUS more South Africans as well, because it is becoming more expensive to travel abroad.

Many of our passengers are regulars, traveling with us annually – sometimes more than once a year. Thanks for doing so and we are always looking forward in welcoming you on board.

## KKNK BINNEKORT

Die jaarlikse en waarskynlik mees gewilde kunstefees in Suid Afrika, die **Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK)** in Oudtshoorn, vind weer binnekort plaas – die eerste week van April 2012. JB Train Tours bied vanjaar weer twee treintoere vanaf JHB soontoe aan en dit sluit akkommodasie in Oudtshoorn in. [Meer inligting](#)

## CAPE TOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL

The annual **Cape Town Jazz Festival** will be hosted again over the last weekend of March 2012. JB Train Tours will be hosting again a train tour from Jo'burg to CPT to attend this event. Annually passengers from all over Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga provinces join our tour to this event. We've even had passengers from Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe traveling along! Accommodation in CPT is close to the Festival venue. [More info](#)

## TRAIN vs FLIGHT or BUS

When someone considers traveling from Jo'burg to Cape Town (or Durban or PE or any other place) a variety of factors is considered before making a choice. I.e.: Whether you want to get to your destination quickly, whether you are on holiday or business, whether you get air sickness, whether you want to have a longer experience and see the country, how much your budget can afford, etc.



Hence, one should **not** compare a 27 hour train trip from Jo'burg to CPT with a 2 hour flight between the two cities. On a flight you'll board, read the in-flight magazine, get off and travel to your destination by taxi or bus. On the train trip you'll board, read your magazine, enjoy a couple of meals en route, sleep, stare out of the window, see different places and the sun setting, chat to other people on board, take an afternoon nap, enjoy a cup of tea or cold beer, have a hot shower, etc.

The one is a trip the other a journey.

## BUFF in MOSSEL BAY for NEXT 3 YEARS

The Mossel Bay Town Council in the Southern Cape gave permission on December 1st, 2011 that the **Buffalo Rally** (the 'Buff') can be held in the town for the next 3 years. This very popular motorbike rally is one of the oldest and biggest rallies in the country and annually thousands of bikers from all over the country gather there to rally in style.

The agreed dates are: 15 to 18 March 2012, 21 to 24 March 2013 and 20 to 23 March 2014.

It will be held again at the Santos Caravan Park in town. The chalets at De Bakke will be available to bikers at a discounted rate.

**Note:** JB Train Tours annually hosts a Motorbike-on-Train train trip from Jo'burg to this event. [More info](#)

## LINK to PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to read any of the previously published JB Train Tours' monthly Newsletters, just [click here](#) It goes back for many years.

## HONEYMOON SPECIAL in 2012

Are you (or your child or friend) **getting married** in 2012? Can you **NOT** afford a holiday to an exotic island or destination abroad? Would you like to go on a **honeymoon** tour package at only **R4999 per person**? If you answered 'Yes' on all 3 questions we can help you to fulfill your dream.

**The 4-day tour package includes:** One way trip on the luxurious **Premier Classe** train (JHB to CPT or vice versa); all meals on board; two nights' B&B in a 4-star hotel in Cape Town or Jo'burg; a dinner in a restaurant; one day ticket on the Topless sight seeing bus in CPT; transfer to the airport and flight back to departure city! PLUS some extras. [More info](#)

**For only R1000 per person more (R5999 per person) you can extend your holiday with 3 extra nights.** I.e.: **Depart on the Sunday from JHB on the Premier Classe train;** all meals on board; **stay five nights** B&B in a 4-star hotel in Cape Town, transfer to the airport and fly back to Jo'burg on the **Saturday**. (We believe that this new **7-day** tour package will be **VERY** popular with newly weds). [More info](#)

**The only pre-conditions for this special offer:** The trip must take place within 2 months after your wedding date and you have to submit a copy of your marriage certificate to us. This offer is valid for the **whole of 2012** (until further notice).



## OVERNIGHT in a 'JAIL'

When traveling by car on the N1 road from Gauteng to Cape Town or the Eastern Cape, a good overnight stop en route makes the trip so much more enjoyable. One such a place is the **old jail** in Philippolis in the Southern Free State that has been converted into a guest house.

One sleeps in a prison cell with steel doors and thick walls. The facilities are basic but most enjoyable and it is a very good experience – especially for the young.

Contact **Mr. Harry During** at [stayinjail@mweb.co.za](mailto:stayinjail@mweb.co.za) or 082 550 4421 or [www.wheretostay.co.za/oldjail](http://www.wheretostay.co.za/oldjail)



*Proof that she was there!*



*Safe sleeping at night!*

## OLDER NEWS

### NEW TOURS – to MOZAMBIQUE

During 2012 we'll be hosting two new tours on various dates by luxury coach to Mozambique.

The 4-day package departs of a Thursday afternoon from Pretoria's **GauTrain** station and arrives back on Sunday early evening. [More info](#)

The 8-day package departs of a Saturday morning from Pretoria's **GauTrain** station and arrives back the next Saturday afternoon. [More info](#)

This neighbouring country is still recovering from a long civil war, but the growth is visible. Old buildings are being re-painted, re-constructed and re-vamped. The Portuguese influence is still visible – either in the architect and buildings, wide open boulevards in Maputo, food in restaurant and obviously the language spoken.

During the 4-day tour passengers will spend most of their time in Maputo with the opportunity to visit Catembe and Inhaca Island. This is an ideal opportunity to be introduced to our Eastern neighbouring country.

On the 8-day tour passengers will spend time in Maputo and then travel north towards Maracuenne, Manhica, Bilene and Xai-Xai to overnight in local lodges. En route time will be spent in Swaziland (one day) and the Kruger National Park (one day). This tour is also suitable for people from the Western & Eastern Cape – fly in and join the tour in Jo'burg.



*Kobus Barnard, tour guide, with Execution Hill in Swaziland in the background*



*Colorful street market*



*Maputo Railway Station*

### 2012 ARGUS TRAIN – MORE SPACE

Our annual train tour from Gauteng to the **Argus Cycle Race** in Cape Town is as popular as ever. The 2012 train tour will be taking place from 8th to 13th March 2012 from JHB to CPT. Both cyclist and bicycle travel on this train and accommodation in Cape Town is provided in a top hotel very close to the starting line. At only R3690 per person sharing this tour is always a 'winner'. [More info](#)

Many of our passengers are regulars on this tour, traveling every year with us.

### SUPER 15 RUGBY – 2012

Who will be the top team in 2012? Will the **Lions** improve their position on the log after a successful 2011 Currie Cup season? Will the **Stormers** win a cup or trophy after being on the brink of doing so? Have the **Bulls** enough depth to replace the veteran players who have left or



retired? Can the **Cheetahs** re-build (again) their team after some of their star players were purchased by the richer unions? What can the **Sharks** deliver in 2012 after their spectacular failure in the 2011 Currie Cup final?

JB Train Tours will again be hosting a number of rugby **train tours** from Jo'burg to Durban and Cape Town respectively to attend Super 15 rugby games where the **Sharks** and **Stormers** are involved in. The first train tour already departs in February whilst the last one is hosted in July 2012. These trips are very popular with the rugby public.

[Stormers games](#)

[Sharks games](#)

## SPRINGBOK TEST RUGBY - 2012

Have you ever been on a rugby train tour? Supporting the Springboks? Dressed in green & gold? Do it this year.

The Springboks will be playing a number of rugby tests during the period June to October 2012. Some of them will be hosted in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. JB Train Tours will again be hosting these very popular **Bok -train** tours from Jo'burg to the coastal cities.

[More info](#) - Durban Test

[More info](#) - PE Test Sorry, no train tour to be hosted to CPT for the Puma (Argentina) test.

## SEND US YOUR PICTURES



The article below has appeared in our previous Newsletters and we've received some interesting pictures already. Please forward more.

Many of our passengers take splendid pictures when on our train tours. Please **forward some of it to us** with the name of the venue of where it was taken, which tour you were on and names of people appearing in it. We'd love to place it in our monthly Newsletters.

We'd like to change the Header photo of our Newsletter (see above) from time-to-time. If you have a striking picture of railway lines and/or trains, please forward it to us with details. Your name would be acknowledged if used.

This month's picture was taken by Mr. Piet Smal of Worcester in the Western Cape. It was taken at Groot Brakrivier, near Mossel Bay...

## 4-in-1 TOUR PACKAGE: CRUISE, FLIGHT, BLUE TRAIN & COACH VERY HOT & EXCLUSIVE!

The ocean cruising season is now rapidly nearing its end in South Africa,

JB Train Tours has put together **26** different tour packages whereby clients can enjoy an **affordable trip** on the world famous **Blue Train** (or upmarket **Premier Classe** train), experience a 2- or 3- or 4-day cruise on the **Melody** or **Sinfonia** ship from Cape Town, sleep a night or more in the Mother City, be transported by coach to the harbour or airport and **fly back** to Johannesburg. The duration of the tours vary between 5 and 8 days.

We have negotiated these **exclusive** and **unique** tour packages with all the service providers, starting in November 2011 and continuing until March 2012. Unfortunately we could only secure limited space per trip. Hence, contact us **NOW** at [upmarket@jbtours.co.za](mailto:upmarket@jbtours.co.za) or click on **4-in-1 tour package** for full details. [More info](#)

**Note:** The tour prices on all these packages are in certain cases **less than** the price of the **normal** Blue Train ticket price between Pretoria and Cape Town! It is ideal for holidays, honeymoons, incentives, anniversaries, engagements and much more. Spoil yourself and use your December bonus on this **'never to be repeated'** special offers. Tick this off your **'Bucket List'** of things you 'still have to do'!



Further **good news** is that we have put together a **Budget 4-in-1 Tour** package as well. This package would suit families very well. [More info](#)

Tour prices start at R4500 per person sharing.

## FEEDBACK on TOURS – December 2011

## Feedback on Budget Tours:

### **Cape Town Budget Luxury Coach tours: Jo'burg to Cape Town**

These coach tours were introduced on short notice after Shosholozza Meyl reduced the available space on the overnight trains, resulting in JB Train Tours to cut our number of passengers per tour substantially. The bus tours went well with overnight spent in Beaufort West & Kimberley respectively, whilst visiting all the popular tourist destinations in Cape Town.

### **Cape Town 11-day Holiday train tour: Jo'burg to Cape Town**

Only one of these 11-day tours was hosted. The passengers had more time to enjoy the Cape and its activities.

### **Durban 4-Day Holiday train & bus tour: Jo'burg to Durban**

The train-and-bus combination tour was a new venture and went well. Passengers enjoyed the beach and amenities Durban had to offer.

### **Cape Town Budget Holiday train tour: Jo'burg to Cape Town**

This train tour remains our most popular one and was again enjoyed by all.

### **Durban Budget Holiday train tour: Jo'burg to Durban**

The 4-day tour was enjoyed by all and if there was space available on a next train the group would have stayed longer!

### **4-in-1 Budget tours**

Many passengers had the opportunity to travel by train to Cape Town, be transported to the CPT harbour, board the ship and after the cruise flew back to Jo'burg. These new 4-in-1 tours became very popular in a short space of time.

## Feedback on Upmarket Tours:

### **Durban Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB - DBN**

The passengers had a good time in Durban this December. They enjoyed the stylish train trip, sunny weather & new friends they made.

### **Cape Town Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB - CPT**

Cape Town is still a beautiful and very popular destination to visit, especially now that Table Mountain has become one of the wonders of the world.

### **Cape Town Stylish 4-day Honeymoon & Anniversary: JHB - CPT**

Our honeymoon couple were spoiled in the upmarket Premier Classe train, the 4-star hotel they stayed at and the bottle of wine they received.

### **Blue Train 4-Day packages: Pretoria to Cape Town**

The Blue Train last-minute special is indeed a special. These tours were booked out for December 2011. The special has been extended to March '12 - **BOOK NOW!**

### **4-in-1 Upmarket tours**

Wow - what a great response we had for the 4-in-1 tours! Our passengers really enjoyed the fact that JB Train Tours organised everything on their behalf: the train trip (either the Premier Classe train or the Blue train), the transfers, the cruise ship and the flight back home.

## UPCOMING TRAIN TOURS in 2012

### January 2012 TRAIN TOURS

#### Budget Tours:

#### **4-in-1 Budget tours**

From January until March 2012, JB Train Tours will host various 4-in-1 Tour packages from Pretoria and Jo'burg to Cape Town. Tour package varies from 5 to 8 days. Travel on a **Tourist Class Train**, enjoy a cruise on a luxury **Ship**, be transported by luxury **Bus** to the airport and **Fly** back to Jo'burg.. Prices from **R4500** pp sharing. [More info](#)

#### Upmarket Tours:

ALL the tours below are hosted every weekend of every month - **subject to availability**.

#### **Durban Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB - DBN**

Travel from Egoi to the Holiday City on a 3 night break-away weekend. Enjoy the luxury on the **Premier Classe** train for two nights (return trip) and sleep one night in a hotel in Durban. [More info](#)

#### **Cape Town Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB - CPT**

Travel on the **Premier Classe** train from Jo'burg to the Mother City on a Thursday afternoon, sleep two nights in an upmarket hotel in Cape Town and fly back on a Sunday afternoon. It is value for money, good food is served, fun in CPT and a different way of spending a 3-night weekend break. [More info](#)

#### **Cape Town Stylish 4-day Honeymoon & Anniversary: JHB – CPT**

This special offer is available to anybody celebrating something in 2012! Travel on the Premier Classe train from Jo'burg to CPT, celebrate en route, stay two nights in CPT in a top hotel and fly back on the Sunday. [More info](#)

#### **Blue Train 4-Day packages: Pretoria to Cape Town**

For many South Africans a trip on the luxurious Blue Train is a life-long dream. We make it happen with a **very special** tour package offer to people living in Africa. I.e.: **Africa citizens only**. Board the train travel in luxury (all meals included), stay two nights in an upmarket hotel and fly back. All transfers included. All this at a price **less than** the normal train ticket.

Since introduction of this tour package in April 2011, many South Africans went on this tour to fulfill a dream.

[From Jo'burg](#)

[From CPT](#)

#### **4-in-1 Upmarket tours**

During January 2012 and onwards until March 2012, JB Train Tours will host various 4-in-1 Tour packages from Pretoria and Jo'burg to Cape Town. Travel on a **luxury Train**, enjoy a cruise on a luxury **Ship**, be transported by luxury **Bus** to the airport and **Fly** back. [More info](#)

## **February 2012 TRAIN TOURS**

### **Budget Tours:**

#### **4-in-1 Budget tours**

From January until March 2012, JB Train Tours will host various 4-in-1 Tour packages from Pretoria and Jo'burg to Cape Town. Tour package varies from 5 to 8 days. Travel on a **Tourist Class Train**, enjoy a cruise on a luxury **Ship**, be transported by luxury **Bus** to the airport and **Fly** back to Jo'burg.. Prices from **R4500** pp sharing. [More info](#)

#### **Garden Route: Jo'burg to PE to Knysna**

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to Port Elizabeth by train. Continue by luxury bus to Plet, Knysna, Wildernis, Tsitsikama, George, Oudtshoorn and Meiringspoort before joining the train again in Beaufort West. 19 – 25 Feb 2012. From **R5300** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### **Maputo weekend: Gauteng to Maputo in Mozambique**

Depart from Pretoria's Gauteng station and travel by luxury coach the capital of our neighbouring country. Go enjoy the Portuguese food, night life, 2M Beer and experience a country rebuilding. This is a new tour and suitable for anyone. 9 – 12 Feb 2012.

From **R2999** pp sharing. [More info](#)

### **Upmarket Tours:**

ALL the tours below are hosted every weekend of every month – **subject to availability**.

#### **Durban Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB – DBN**

Travel from Egoli to the Holiday City on a 3 night break-away weekend. Enjoy the luxury on the **Premier Classe** train for two nights (return trip) and sleep one night in a hotel in Durban.

[More info](#)

#### **Cape Town Stylish weekend Train Tour: JHB – CPT**

Travel on the **Premier Classe** train from Jo'burg to the Mother City on a Thursday afternoon, sleep two nights in an upmarket hotel in Cape Town and fly back on a Sunday afternoon. It is value for money, good food is served, fun in CPT and a different way of spending a 3-night weekend break. [More info](#)

#### **Cape Town Stylish 4-day Honeymoon & Anniversary: JHB – CPT**

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#### **Blue Train 4-Day packages: Pretoria to Cape Town**

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Since introduction of this tour package in April 2011, many South Africans went on this tour to fulfill a dream.

[From Jo'burg](#)

[From CPT](#)

#### **4-in-1 Upmarket tours**

During January 2012 and onwards until March 2012, JB Train Tours will host various 4-in-1 Tour packages from Pretoria and Jo'burg to Cape Town. Travel on a **luxury Train**, enjoy a cruise on a luxury **Ship**, be transported by luxury **Bus** to the airport and **Fly** back. [More info](#)

## **March 2012 TRAIN TOURS**

### **Budget Tours:**

#### 4-in-1 Budget tours

From January until March 2012, JB Train Tours will host various 4-in-1 Tour packages from Pretoria and Jo'burg to Cape Town. Tour package varies from 5 to 8 days. Travel on a **Tourist Class Train**, enjoy a cruise on a luxury **Ship**, be transported by luxury **Bus** to the airport and **Fly** back to Jo'burg.. Prices from **R4500** pp sharing. [More info](#)

#### Durban Weekend: Jo'burg to Durban

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to Durban by train. Enjoy the weekend on the beach, at uShaka Marine World, a night club or at the casino. 2 – 5 Mar 2012. From **R1900** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Super 15 Rugby: Jo'burg to Cape Town

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to CPT by train. Watch the rugby at Newlands between the **Stormers** and the **Sharks**, stay one night in a hotel and have fun in the Mother City. Rugby ticket included. 2 – 5 Mar 2012. From **R2700** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Super 15 Rugby: Jo'burg to Durban

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to DBN by train. Watch the rugby at Kingspark between the **Sharks** and the **Lions** and have fun in the Holiday City. 9 – 12 Mar 2012. From **R2050** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Super 15 Rugby: Jo'burg to Durban

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to DBN by train. Watch the rugby at Kingspark between the **Sharks** and the **Reds** and have fun in the Holiday City. 16 – 19 Mar 2012. From **R2050** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Argus Cycle Race: Jo'burg to Cape Town

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to CPT by train. Participate in The Race or support, stay three nights in a hotel and have fun in the Mother City. Bicycle on the train included. 8 – 13 Mar 2012. From **R3690** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Buffalo Rally: Jo'burg to Beaufort West (to Mossel Bay)

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to Beaufort West by train. Continue by bike to Mossel Bay. Own accommodation arrangements at the Rally. Motorbike on the train included in the tour price. 14 – 19 Mar 2012. From **R3700** pp sharing Pillion pays only R1700 pp [More info](#)

#### PE Weekend: Jo'burg to Port Elizabeth

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to PE by train. Enjoy the weekend on the beach, at Bay World, a night club or at the casino. 16 – 19 Mar 2012. From **R2200** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Cape Town Budget Holiday: Jo'burg to Cape Town

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to CPT by train. Enjoy the V&A Waterfront, Table Mountain, Robben Island, Cape Point and much more. Stay four nights in a hotel and have fun in the Mother City. Bus transport in CPT included. 18 – 24 Mar 2012 (7 Days). From **R4350** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### Cape Town Jazz Festival: Jo'burg to Cape Town

Depart from Jo'burg and travel to CPT by train. Enjoy the annual CPT Jazz Festival in the CTICC and pay visits to the V&A Waterfront, Table Mountain, Robben Island and much more. Stay three nights in a hotel and have fun in the Mother City. 28 Mar – 2 Apr 2012 (6 Days). 2-Day entry pass to Jazz festival included. From **R3990** pp sharing [More info](#)

#### KKNK in Oudtshoorn: Jo'burg na Oudtshoorn

Vertrek vanaf Johannesburg en reis per trein tot op Beaufort Wes. Reis dan verder per bus tot in Oudtshoorn. Geniet die KKNK se opvoerings, musiek, stalletjies, heerlike kos en atmosfeer. Oornag 4 nagte in die plaaslike hoërskool se netjiese koshuis. 30 Mar – 5 Apr 2012 (7 Dae). Vanaf **R3300** pp wat deel [Meer inligting](#)

#### Maputo weekend: Gauteng to Maputo in Mozambique

Depart from Pretoria's Gauteng station and travel by luxury coach the capital of our neighbouring country. Go enjoy the Portuguese food, night life, 2M Beer and experience a country rebuilding. This is a new tour and suitable for anyone. 22 – 25 Mar 2012. From **R2999** pp sharing. [More info](#)

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