

# 35<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



## MANTLE ROOM

**TRIP LEADER: Prof. John Gurney, Prof. Steve Richardson,  
Dr. Philip Janney and Dr. Rory Moore**



## ITINERARY

08:00 - 08:30	Meet at exhibit in CTICC
08:30 - 09:00	Transportation from CTICC to UCT
09:00 - 10:00	UCT Mantle Room
10:00 - 10:30	Transportation to Mineral Services
10:30 - 12:00	Mineral Services tour
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch at Hog House in Ndabeni with researchers
13:00 - 13:30	Transport back to CTICC

The tour is meant to complement the museum-style exhibit “Messengers from the Mantle: Craton Roots and Diamonds” that will be on display at the Congress. The tour will allow participants to visit the world-famous Mantle Room research collection housed at the University of Cape Town and it is intended to make interested researchers aware of the depth of the collection and its availability for collaborative research purposes. The tour will then visit the offices of the Mineral Services Group in N’dabeni (Pinelands) to view a private collection of diamonds and related mantle rocks. UCT and Mineral Services scientists including Prof. John Gurney, Prof. Steve Richardson, Dr. Philip Janney and Dr. Rory Moore, will guide the daily tours.

It is envisaged that the tour will be run once per day over the five weekdays of the Congress, with each tour beginning at the “Messengers from the Mantle” exhibition at the CTICC. The tour will last approximately five hours in total duration. We will require transportation from the CTICC to UCT, then on to Mineral Services, and finally back to CTICC. On completion of the formal part of the tour, we would like to host a light lunch at the Hoghouse Restaurant located within the Minerals Services Group office complex in order to provide delegates the opportunity to interact with the tour guides.

This tour offers visitors the opportunity to visit a unique collection of mantle rocks brought to the surface in kimberlites, that have allowed researchers to piece together the nearly four billion year history of the Earth’s continents. Complementing the museum-style exhibit *Messengers from the Mantle: Craton Roots and Diamonds* on display at the Congress, the tour will allow participants to visit the world-famous Mantle Room research collection at the University of Cape Town, which is a most extensive collection of deep Earth samples from southern Africa. It contains over 14,000 mantle and deep crustal xenolith specimens from more than a hundred kimberlites from southern Africa and across the globe. The Mantle Room has been and remains a destination for mantle researchers worldwide. They have used these specimens to provide insight about the timing and processes involved in the generation of the earliest continental nuclei, the Earth’s Archaean cratons. The Mantle Room visit is intended to make interested researchers aware of the depth of the collection and its availability for collaborative research purposes.

Also key to the story behind *Messengers from the Mantle* are diamonds brought to the surface in kimberlites. This mineral acts as a time capsule uniquely preserving evidence of ancient processes, as well as providing information on the timing and nature of diamond formation itself. Participants will travel to the Mineral Services Group in Ndabeni, a leading mineral exploration consultancy, to view a private collection of diamond related mantle rocks. UCT scientists and experts in the field including diamond specialist Prof. John Gurney, Prof. Steve Richardson, Dr. Philip Janney and Dr. Rory Moore, will guide daily tours. Each tour will begin at the *Messengers from the Mantle* exhibition in the CTICC. Spectacular rocks and minerals from the world-famous UCT collection of upper mantle and kimberlite samples archive this display.

The tour will last approximately five hours in total duration. Transportation from the CTICC to UCT, Mineral Services and back to CTICC will be provided. A light lunch will be served to give delegates the chance to interact with tour guides. The tour will be run once per day over the five days of the Congress.

**Minimum Persons 4**

**Maximum Persons 15**

**COST INCLUDES:**

- 15 seater vehicle with driver
- Lunch at Hog House
- Transport in private touring vehicle