

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

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POST 11

Southern Cape Geology: Evolution of a rifted margin

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The Southern Cape Geology excursion combines the scenic beauty of South Africa's South Cape with the geological evolution of a Gondwanian rifted margin and break-up coastline. The tectono-sedimentary history of the on-land equivalents of the offshore hydrocarbon producing Bredasdorp Basin will be the key focus along the route from Cape Town eastwards past Africa's southernmost point Cape Agulhas, Mossel Bay to Wilderness, returning via the interior Cape Fold Belt (CFB) mountains and valleys.

The excursion traverses several of the Mesozoic Uitenhage Group basins along the Worcester/Pletmos basin line, which forms a discontinuous east/west line of half grabens for over 400km. The syn-rift basin fill consists of continental to transitional sediments, equivalent to the offshore pre-1At1 synrift sequence containing the shallow marine gas reservoirs of the F-A, E-M and F-O gas fields.

The sedimentary geology and the basin and tectonic setting of the Uitenhage Group formations will be viewed and deliberated. Stops and discussions will also be on the "basement rocks" of the Palaeozoic Cape Supergroup and the "cover rocks" of the Cenozoic Bredasdorp Group.

ITINERARY

DATE	ROUTING
3 – 4 September 2016	Arniston Spa Hotel or Similar
4 – 5 September 2016	Gondwana Game Reserve or Similar
5 – 6 September 2016	The Thorntree County House or Similar
6 – 7 September 2016	Small Plettenberg Chalet at Montagu Spring Resort or Similar

Meal Key

- RO Room Only
- BB Bed and Breakfast
- FB++ Full Board (includes 3 meals per day) plus two additional services

<p>In : 03-Sep-16 Saturday</p>	<p>The excursion route follows the Southern Cape coastline from Cape Town past Cape Hangklip, a visit to Stony Point and its colony of African Penguins, through the town of Hermanus for whale spotting, a stop at Die Kelder’s cave, fitting in wine tasting in the Strandveld area and an opportunity to propose a toast to local sea god Adamastor at the southernmost tip of the African continent, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. From here the route verges north to the coastal village of Arniston the overnight stop.</p> <p>Most of the day will be spent travelling through Ordovician, Silurian Table Mountain Group rocks and briefly passing Uitenhage Group outcrops, an onshore (Haasvlakte Basin) extension of the offshore hydrocarbon bearing Bredasdorp basin. The overlying Cenozoic cover as well as coastal outcrops of Cape Supergroup basement rocks will be examined</p> <p>Includes: Lunch and Dinner</p> <p>Excludes: Beverages and Gratuities</p>
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<p>In : 03-Sep-16 Out: 04-Sep-16</p>	<p>Overnight at Arniston Spa Hotel – BB Standard Room or Similar</p>
	<p>The pool-facing rooms of the Arniston Spa Hotel offer fantastic views over the crystal clear hotel pool from private balconies, and all of the beautifully decorated rooms have en-suite bathrooms with both bath and shower. In-room facilities include satellite TV, a tea/coffee station and mini-bar (stocked on request). Wireless internet access is available on request.</p>

<p>In : 04-Sep-16 Sunday</p>	<p>The day focuses on Cenozoic coastal outcrops and the proximal facies of the offshore oil and gas Cretaceous sediments. These will be viewed in gorge and river cuts during a visit to the De Hoop Nature Reserve, as backdrop to Southern Right Whales, herds of Eland, Bontebok and Cape Zebra grazing on Cape Fynbos vegetation. The route continues inland and eastwards along the wave planed Southern Cape coastal plain, crossing the Breede River by human powered pontoon, past Heidelberg, Riversdale and Herbertsdale, with opportunities to examine the Mesozoic Uitenhage Group outcrops (Heidelberg and Mossel Bay Basins), on to our overnight stop at a game reserve near Mossel Bay.</p> <p>Includes: Lunch and Dinner</p> <p>Excludes: Beverages and Gratuities</p>
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<p>In : 04-Sep-16 Out: 05-Sep-16</p>	<p>Overnight at Gondwana Game Reserve – FB++ Kwena Lodge Rooms or Similar</p>
	<p>The upmarket Gondwana Game Reserve is located just outside of Mossel Bay, a four-hour drive from Cape Town. Offering suite and villa accommodation, the reserve is home to the Big 5, several endangered species and a myriad of bird species. On-site facilities include swimming pools, a spa and a restaurant. Activities include game drives, nature walks and horseback safaris.</p>

<p>In : 05-Sep-16 Monday</p>	<p>Arise for an early morning big five game drive before travelling to Mossel Bay to walk the coastal outcrops of the Robberg Formation at Cape St Blaize. Continue our route eastwards to Wildernis and panorama of the Quaternary “drowned” coastline, back to George from where it swings inland, over Outeniqua Pass into the Little Karroo along the land-locked, fault-controlled, Cretaceous Oudtshoorn Basin. Overnight stop will be in Oudtshoorn, the Ostrich Capital of the world.</p> <p>Includes: Lunch and Dinner</p> <p>Excludes: Beverages and Gratuities</p>
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In : 05-Sep-16 Out: 06-Sep-16	Overnight at Thorntree Country House – BB Standard Rooms or Similar
	<p>The upmarket Thorntree Country House is set in the beautiful Klein Karoo valley of Schoemanshoek and offers accommodation in elegantly appointed rooms. Guests are spoiled with delectable regional cuisine, use of two swimming pools and beautiful gardens. The establishment offers easy access to regional attractions such as the Cango Caves, Cango Ostrich Farm and the Cango Wildlife Ranch.</p>

In : 06-Sep-16 Tuesday	<p>Opportunities to examine the tectono-sedimentary history of interior basin sediments will be interrupted by a visit to an Ostrich farm and opportunity to mount an ostrich. Winding our way westwards along Route 62 we pass through South Africa’s port producing area of Calitzdorp, do several stops in Seweweekspoort and Kogmanskloof, cuts through the east west arm of the Cape Fold Belt. To arrive not too late the afternoon at Montagu hot spring resort and chance to lie back in the health restoring spring waters.</p> <p>Excludes: Lunch, Dinner, Beverages and Gratuities</p>
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In : 06-Sep-16 Out: 07-Sep-16	Overnight at Montagu Spring Resort – RO Small Plettenberg Rooms or Similar
	<p>The upmarket Thorntree Country House is set in the beautiful Klein Karoo valley of Schoemanshoek and offers accommodation in elegantly appointed rooms. Guests are spoiled with delectable regional cuisine, use of two swimming pools and beautiful gardens. The establishment offers easy access to regional attractions such as the Cango Caves, Cango Ostrich Farm and the Cango Wildlife Ranch.</p> <p>Note: No meals included (Breakfast, lunch or dinner). There is a restaurant on site at Avalon Springs, which is within walking distance from the Small Plettenbergs.</p>

<p>In : 07-Sep-16 Wednesday</p>	<p>After our night at the hot spring resort we take a tractor drive up to a high mountain point overlooking the wine producing area of Robertson situated some 1,000m below us. This vista gives an excellent overview of the dramatic mountain forming Worcester fault, with plus 7km of vertical displacement and last movement in the late 1960's in the form a 6.3 earthquake. From here we continue through semi-arid country, cutting the CFB by tunnel to emerge on the other side with Table Mountain in the distance.</p> <p>Includes: Tractor Drive and Potjiekos Lunch at Protea Farm</p> <p>Excludes: Beverages and Gratuities</p>
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Vehicle Size:

09 - 17 Person Range + 2 Tour Leaders – Based on 2 x 12 Seater Vehicles or Similar

18 – 22 Person Range + 2 Tour Leaders – Based on 2 x 12 Seater Vehicles or Similar

Vehicle costs are based on an average of 400km per day.

All excursions/sightseeing listed are time and weather permitting on the day of travel.

Minimum Persons 9

Maximum Persons 22

COST INCLUDES:

- 1 night accommodation on a BB basis at Arniston Spa Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation on a FB++ basis at Gondwana Game Reserve or similar
- 1 night accommodation on a BB basis at The Thorntree Country House or similar
- 1 night accommodation on a RO (room only) basis at Small Plettenbergs at the Montagu Spring Resort or similar
- 4 x lunch (excluding beverages)
- 3 x dinner (excluding beverages)
- Transport in private touring vehicles (12 Seater Vehicle or Similar)
- Local English speaking driver on all transfers
- Toll fees
- Driver/s meals & accommodation where necessary
- Sightseeing:
 - Entrance fee into Stony Point Penguins
 - Wine Tasting at Strandveld
 - Entrance fee into De Hoop Nature Reserve
 - Safari Ostrich Farm Tour (tour only)
 - Montagu Tractor Trip

COST EXCLUDES

- All airfares, air reservations and airport taxes

- All other accommodation
- All other meals
- All other transport
- All other sightseeing
- Any park entrance fees and conservation fees en-route, etc...
- Personal expenses such as tips for meals, tips for driver/s, gratuities, all alcoholic and other beverages, telephone calls and laundry, etc...
- Any other services not mentioned above