



35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

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

PRE 6 Diamonds

TOUR LEADER: Mike de Wit



On the 150th anniversary of the discovery of diamonds near Kimberley, this excursion covers the alluvial deposits of Lichtenburg and Bloemhof to the Big Hole in Kimberley. The diamond trail begins on the Limpopo/Vaal River watershed west of Johannesburg where unique secondary diamond deposits have been preserved on the karstified terrain of the Transvaal Dolomites. These can be traced southwards to the Vaal River where diamond bearing palaeo-channels and terraces are still mined today. Mining of these diamonds, from unknown source(s), has been particularly intense around Windsorton, just north of Kimberley.

Input of large quantities of diamonds derived from the local Cretaceous kimberlites are added to the Vaal River mix at Barkley West and these different diamond populations are taken further downstream to the confluence of the Vaal and Orange Rivers. Here these are joined by the Lesotho diamonds brought down by the Orange River. On the way to the West Coast some of these diamonds have been trapped in a series of river terraces that have been mined along the middle Orange River between Douglas and Prieska and have provided some of the largest, high quality alluvial diamonds in recent times.

Field Trip Leader: Mike de Wit

Start: Johannesburg

End: Bloemfontein

Dates: 6 days, Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th August 2016

ITINERARY

DATE	ROUTING
22-Aug-16 Monday	Johannesburg – Ventersdorp
	Lunch en route Dinner
In : 22-Aug-16 Out : 23-Aug-16	Overnight at Doc Villa Guesthouse BB basis (or similar)
23-Aug-16 Tuesday	Ventersdorp - Lichtenburg - Schweizer Reneke
	Lunch en route Dinner
In : 23-Aug-16 Out : 24-Aug-16	Overnight at Scott's Manor on BB basis (or similar)
24-Aug-16 Wednesday	Schweizer Reineke – Windsorton - Kimberley
	2 x 15 Luxury Sprinter by Springbok Atlas Charter Lunch en route Dinner
In : 24-Aug-16 Out : 25-Aug-16	Overnight at Protea Hotel Kimberley on BB Standard Room basis (or similar)

25-Aug-16	Thursday	Kimberley – Middle Orange River Deposits – Douglas
		Visit to The Big Hole in Kimberley – including entrance fees Lunch en route Dinner
In : 25-Aug-16	Out : 26-Aug-16	Overnight at Broadwater River Resort on BB Standard Room basis (or similar)
26-Aug-16	Friday	Douglas – Nooitgedacht pavements – Canteen Koppie – Barkley West - Bloemfontein
		Lunch en route Dinner
In : 26-Aug-16	Out : 27-Aug-16	Overnight at Protea Hotel Bloemfontein Central on BB Standard Room basis (or similar)
27-Aug-16	Saturday	Departure – Airport Transfer Bloemfontein Airport
		Flight SA1084 departing at 10h30 to Cape Town – Flights costs excluded

NOTES:

Vehicles:

(20 – 25 Passengers)

This costing is based on 2 x 15-seater coaches (or similar) depending on availability at the time of confirmation.

COST INCLUDES:

- 1 Nights accommodation at Doc Villa Guesthouse on a BB basis
- 1 Nights accommodation at Scott's Manor
- 1 Nights accommodation at Broadwater River Resort on a BB basis
- 1 Nights accommodation at Protea Hotel Kimberley on a BB basis
- 1 Nights accommodation at Protea Hotel Kimberley on a BB basis
- 5 x lunches
- 5 x dinners
- Transport in two private 15 Seater touring vehicles
- Local English speaking driver on all transfers x 2
- Driver meals & accommodation where necessary x 2
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues as stated in the itinerary above
- Management Fee

COST EXCLUDES:

- All airfares, air reservations and airport taxes
- All other accommodation
- All other meals
- All other transport
- All other sightseeing
- Personal expenses such as tips for meals, gratuities for guides & drivers, all alcoholic and other beverages, telephone calls and laundry
- Any other services not mentioned above

