



The Free State Explorer

Trip Information

The Free State Explorer steam hauled passenger train will run from Johannesburg to Ficksburg and return, from the 9th to the 13th April 2008.

Passengers will embark the train at Boksburg East Station at 17h00 on the 9th of April for an early morning departure on the 10th April. There is adequate parking at Boksburg East Station with 24 hour security for the duration of the trip.

Arrival at Ficksburg will be at 18h00 on the 10th April where the train will be staged for the duration of the tour.

The train will depart for Boksburg East at 04h00 on Sunday 13th April, arriving at 18h00.

An optional trip from Ficksburg to Bethlehem will be offered on Friday 11th April when the two locomotives journey to Bethlehem to pick up two Class 25NC locomotives which will be brought to the Sandstone facility at Ficksburg for preservation and safe keeping. As passengers are not allowed when locomotives are dead hauled in a train, all participants will be returned to Ficksburg by vintage bus. For logistic reasons only 40 passengers can be accommodated on this trip.



'Avril'

Class 15F No: 3052 Departing Kommandonek
Photograph Courtesy of Dave Richardson

Pricing

Adults	R2800.00 per person. Children under 12 will be charged R1200.00 and must be accompanied by an adult.
SIA Members	R2200.00 per person. Children under 12 will be charged R950.00 and must be accompanied by an adult.

**REVISED
PRICES**

The tour price includes entry to the Sandstone Steam and Cosmos Festival and transport to and from Sandstone Estates by vintage bus.

An additional cost of R200 per person will be charged for the Bethlehem option on Friday 11th April payable on the day.

Bookings

South Africa.

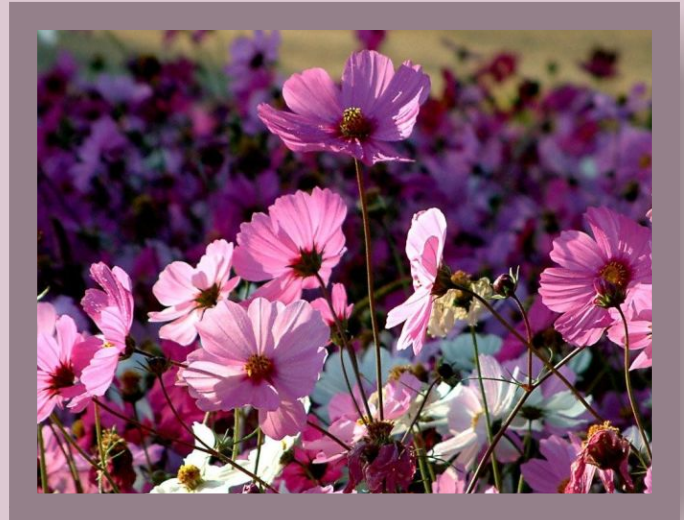
Bookings will be taken through Reefsteamers, Mr. Les Smith on e-mail, bookings@reefsteamers.co.za

Overseas.

E-mail Joanne West on joannewest@btinternet.com



STEAM & COSMOS festival 09 TO 13 APRIL 2008



'Cosmos'
Photograph Courtesy of Tessa Joughin

Information

A full programme of narrow gauge action will be offered from the 9th to the 13th April on the Sandstone Steam Railway. Up to 15 different locomotives will be operating during the Festival including three recently restored examples, Kerr Stuart no: 4063 built in 1924, originally Illovo Sugar Estates No:3: O&K no 2510, built 1907 which originally operated at Hulett's Sugar in Kwa Zulu Natal but will be remembered by many as being plinthed outside the old Train Restaurant in Midrand. The third locomotive is ex Beira Railway "Lawley" No: BR25 which is reunited with its sister loco BR7 for the first time in over 50 years. These two historic locomotives will be doubleheaded during the weekend.

For modern traction enthusiasts Sandstone will unveil its recently restored 230hp Bagnall Diesel locomotive originally supplied to Rustenburg Platinum Mines in 1961.

The Steam and Cosmos Festival will not just confine visitors to trains and flowers. The Sandstone Classic Military Vehicle collection will be on display and giving demonstrations. A highlight of the weekend will be the launch of the restored Sherman tank of World War 2 vintage which will be on display and demonstrated throughout the weekend. To add more excitement the Sandstone transport and agricultural collection will be open to visitors so everyone is promised a weekend of heritage excitement and nostalgia. Catering and refreshments will be available throughout the Festival.

Pricing

Wednesday 9th April R25 per person
Thursday 10th April R25 per person
Friday 11th April R50 per person
Saturday 12th April R100 per person
Sunday 13th April R25 per person

**AN ALL INCLUSIVE TICKET FOR THE FULL EVENT
WILL BE OFFERED AT R175 PER PERSON**

Bookings

Contact Hester Papenfus on e-mail hesterp@sandstone.co.za