



Passenger Information Booklet for Reefsteamers New Year Holiday Train 2011

The Train Trip:

Departure:

The train will depart from our Depot in Germiston at around 19:00 on Monday evening, 26 December 2011. Please be there at least two (2) hours before the time so we can check you in and get you settled.

The passenger train will be shunted out to the main line with a real live steam locomotive for the electric locomotives to be able to hook-up to the train. So, if you are early ☺, you can watch the steam locomotive at work and talk to the crews. We will be hauled by electric locomotives through to Port Shepstone.

The actual departure time depends up the arrival of the electric locomotives provided by Transnet.

Arrival:

We should arrive around 11:00 at Port Shepstone on Tuesday, 27 December 2011. The train of coaches will stay at Port Shepstone Station the entire time until we return.

Because the train has to abide by pre-allocated timings as set by Transnet, we cannot and will not delay the train to wait for late passengers. Please ensure that you are well in time!

Reefsteamers will not reimburse passengers who miss the train due to being late or absent.

Coming Home:

The train will leave for its return journey Sunday night on 1 January 2012 around 23:00 from Port Shepstone. We will arrive back at our depot in Germiston around 16:00 on Monday, 2 January 2012.

Please note that Reefsteamers cannot be held responsible for delays caused by signal stops and speed restrictions.

Security - Your vehicles:

We will have secure parking for your vehicles in our depot, accompanied with 24/7 security, guard dogs and an electrified fence. Or, you can have somebody drop you off at our Depot. We can supply a route map and/or a photographic step-by-step set of directions to get there.

To prevent damage to your car and unnecessary 'boxing-in' of vehicles, please abide by the instructions issued by the Parking Marshalls.

It would be advisable to use windscreen sun-shields to protect your vehicle's dashboard in the hot summer sun. Regardless of our security, it is best that you do not leave valuables in your parked vehicle while you are away.

Security – At Port Shepstone:

We will also have security on the platform on Port Shepstone station when the train is staged there while you go out in the day to the beaches or the various destinations. We will also always have some of our staff on the train during the day.

Please ensure that you always close your windows when leaving your compartment.

On board the Train:

Volunteers:

Please understand that the Reefsteamers New Year Holiday Train is operated by unpaid volunteers who will be functioning as the Managers. It is not meant to be a luxury colonial experience, but rather as a fun, holiday train.

Please respect the efforts of the volunteers and their persons. Each one of those people puts an incredible amount of their own time and often their own money into heritage steam preservation and is worthy of your respect.

Safety:

There will be a safety instruction booklet placed in your compartment. Please read it and adhere to the instructions and recommendations within.



Medic:

There is a qualified medic on board and his name is Hennie Mienie. The train carries a comprehensive first aid kit which will be in Hennie's compartment. An auxiliary first aid kit will also be available within the Kitchen Coach.

Out of Bounds:

Our train is your train! However, we do ask that passengers refrain from entering the staff coaches, the kitchen or the power van. (Where the generator and tool store are.)

Passengers are expressly forbidden to interfere with the switchboards, tanks, pumps, running gear and brakes. Passengers are forbidden to switch off communal lighting and train markers, even with the train stationary.

If the train makes an intermediate stop on the journey, passengers are forbidden to disembark from the train – unless given permission to do so by the Train Manager. (Attie de Necker.)

Smoking:

No smoking is permitted anywhere on our train, including within the compartments.

Electricity:

All the coaches are electrically lit. The compartments all have independently-switched lights, but the corridors, communal coaches and the communal toilets/bathrooms will remain safely lit all night. You will find the individual compartment light switches either above or next to the doors.

Electrical power is available on the train. Our train uses 220V-240AC at 50Hz. The mains plugs are the triple round-pin BS 546 type (SABS 164). It is recommended that you bring a two-pin adapter (CEE7/16 Europlug) and a three-pin BS 546 adapter for your devices. Schuko, UL and the new compact South African standard SANS-164-2 is not available on the train. There are communal outlets available in the Bar and the Dining Coach for charging of batteries. However, it is recommended that you take great care in leaving items such as cell phones and cameras on-charge in case of theft. Electrical outlets are available behind locked doors in the generator room, so if you speak to the PRO, we can organize secure charging facilities.

Silver and Gold Class compartments have their own mains outlets.

Bathrooms:

All the coaches have toilets and showers with hot and cold running water – the Silver and Gold Class coaches having ensuite facilities. The water is supplied via pressure-switched pumps which make a distinct whirring sound outside the coach. The sound may continue for a short time after you switch off the taps – this is normal.

Note that the hydrant-sourced water from the bathroom taps and the showers is not necessarily pure drinking water and may affect those with very sensitive stomachs.

Please report any plumbing problems to the PRO, who can arrange to have them seen to. Also, please report any lack of toilet paper, air freshener and soap so that they may be topped up. They will be checked daily regardless.

We ask passengers in the Economy Class coaches using the communal showers and toilets to please be considerate of their fellow passengers and leave them in a clean condition. We ask that ALL passengers try to not use the toilets while the train is standing still at a station.

Bunks (Economy Class):

The middle-height sleeping bunks in the Economy Class compartments can be folded down and made into a three-seat 'sofa' for the day. Please ask for a demonstration on how to safely collapse and set up a bunk, which is a two-person job for the inexperienced. The bunks are heavy and are differently latched at both ends – one with a latch and the other with a heavy leather strap-and-pin arrangement.

Bar and Lounge:

The licensed cash bar will generally be open all day from around 9-10am and will close late at night when there is no further demand. Ask at the bar for souvenirs and photographs for sale.

Passengers are welcome to sit in the air-conditioned lounge or the dining car (out of meal times) as desired.

Housekeeping:

We will provide the mattresses and bedding. You need to bring your own towels and toiletries.

There is a linen change after every 3 nights, whereupon your beds will be remade.

On the other days, you will need to make up your own bed. (If you feel up to it of course!)



The Staff:

Public Relations Officer:

Our Simon Bennett will be handling this role. He will be the 'go-to man' for problems and queries concerning the train and the various tours. He will also be organizing the numbers and timing of the mini-busses that will take you to the day trips or the beach. Simon will be tending to any minor repairs on the train as necessary.



To avoid duplication of communication and confusion, please ONLY make requests of the PRO and not the other staff members. Simon's contact number is **083 256-3708**.

Other Staff :

Other Staff and Managers include :

Coen Pretorius - Safety.

Hennie Mienie – Medic.

Lena van Dyk – House Keeping.

Johan van Vuuren – Bar Keep.

Paul Guthe – Chef. (From the Shongololo Express.)

Diana 'Dysie' Sanderson – Reefsteamers Photographer.

Attie de Necker - Train Manager. (Conductor)

Meals and Meal Times:

Seatings:

As the number of passengers exceeds the number of seats in the dining car, we will serve the meals in a number of 'seatings' so we can cater your meals in an orderly fashion. To ease things along and to make sure no-one has to wait in a queue, or possibly miss a meal, every meal time has been divided into four sittings of 30 minutes each (Breakfast) and 45 minutes each. (Lunch and Supper)

The food will be served buffet style and we will offer a traditional South African menu.

On New Year's Eve, we will have a braai (BBQ), with traditional side dishes, right on the station platform.

Please check your meal ticket(s) for the specific day allocated to you for your meal times. (See below.)

Please be on time for your meals! If you are early you may be asked to wait at the bar coach.

Also, be considerate to your fellow passengers and do not linger past your allocated time.

Meal Times:

Breakfast	Lunch	Supper
06:00 – 06:30	12:00 – 12:45	17:30 – 18:15
06:30 – 07:00	12:45 – 13:30	18:15 – 19:00
07:00 – 07:30	13:30 – 14:15	19:00 – 19:45
07:30 – 08:00	14:15 – 15:00	19:45 – 20:30

Meal Schedule			
Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Supper
26 Dec. 2011	No	No	Yes
27 Dec. 2011	Yes	No	Yes
28 Dec. 2011	Yes	No	Yes
29 Dec. 2011	Yes	No	Yes
30 Dec. 2011	Yes	No	Yes
31 Dec. 2011	Yes	No	Yes
01 Jan. 2012	Yes	No	Yes
02 Jan. 2012	Yes	Yes	No



The Holiday Program:

Upon Arrival:

Get ready to arrive in Style!

- The Port Shepstone Station was cleaned up especially for your arrival, sponsored by Coca Cola.
- The Margate Pipes and Drums will pipe the train in with a traditional Scottish welcome.
- More contemporary music will be provided by a DJ, also kindly sponsored by Coca Cola.
- A nearby church will be running a platform-side pancake stand. (Those pancakes will be to your cost.)
- There will be a 'flea-market' at the station with about 54 stands.
- There should be pony rides available at the local beach.
- This holiday train has caused some excitement amongst the local communities and it is hoped that it will become a more regular tourist attraction. Some dignitaries will be on the train (Boarding at Park Rynie), including:
 - The mayoress of the Hibiscus Coast Municipality.
 - The Group Editor of the 'South Coast Herald' newspaper.
 - The Branch Manager of the 'South Coast Herald' newspaper.
 - The Plant Manager of NPC-Cimpor who will be handing over an unused heritage coach to Reefsteamers for rehabilitation and preservation.
 - Bernadette Nichol - an experienced and connected international Tour Operator who is very keen to promote this train overseas.
 - A reporter and photographer from the 'South Coast Herald' newspaper.
 - The editor and a reporter of the 'Mid-South Coast Mail' newspaper.

Tours:

We have four (4) tours to various places on different days. In addition, there will be a once-daily drop-off and pick-up service at the various local beaches. Please register your planned trips two (2) days in advance to the PRO of the train or else you will not be able to go. (He needs to make arrangements for the mini-busses.)

The transport on the tours or the beach is a maximum R100 pp per day, but will usually be less.

Map of the South Coast:

For your convenience, there is a scaled map of the South Coast on the last page of this booklet.


Hit the Beach!

The Beach Buses. (Every day from 28 - 31 Dec. 2011 & 1 Jan. 2012)

There will be a number of mini-busses that will leave the station at about 09:00 every morning to go to various beaches and they return again to Port Shepstone at about 16:00.
NB : To justify the mini-bus running, there must at least be 10 or more passengers per bus.

Ramsgate	Margate	Southport	Shelly Beach	St Michaels	Port Edward
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Tour - Oribi Flats:

Oribi Gorge Hotel. (Wednesday, 28 Dec.)		www.wild5adventures.co.za	
	Gorge Swing	R380 pp	
	Zip Line	R220 pp	For the best experience, suggest the one at Lake Eland.
	Abseiling	R300 pp	
	River Rafting	R495 pp	9km, takes 3 hours.
	Horse Riding	R200 pp	1 ½ hours.

See also overleaf for the Lake Eland Tour, also on 28 December.



Lake Eland. (Wednesday, 28 Dec.)	www.lakeeland.co.za		
At Lake Eland, you will discover a wide variety of facilities and activities catering for the whole family. Game drives/viewing, suspension bridge, Oribi Gorge view sites, horse rides, paintball, hiking, caves & bushman display, volleyball, etc.			
	Entrance Fee	R40 pp	
	Zip Line	R500 pp	3.6 km over Oribi Gorge/Lake Eland

Outing - uShaka Marine World (Durban):

uShaka Marine World. (Thursday, 29 Dec.)	www.ushakamarineworld.co.za		
There are 9 new attractions for this year :		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dragons. • Animal Encounters. • Pop-Up Tank. • Splish-Splash Sprinkler Island. • New Mascot Show. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Seal Show. • Penguin Extreme Home Makeover. • Anaconda Photo Op. • New Dolphin Show. 			
Refer to the map on the last page to see where Durban (eThekweni) is in relation to Port Shepstone.		Entrance Fee – R149 / Adult and R110 / Child.	

Tour - Visit Pure Venom, River Bend Crocodile Farm and Pistols Saloon:

Pure Venom. (Friday, 30 Dec.)	www.purevenom.com		
Located at Shelly Beach, just South of Port Shepstone, this is the biggest reptile farm in Africa with various snakes and reptiles on display. The farm is in a beautiful setting on one of Izotsha's oldest estates with Strangler Figs and Grandfather Trees still present that date back to the 1800s.			
There are daily snake demonstrations which are highly educational and lots of fun. These demonstrations are conducted in Afrikaans, English and Zulu.			
There is also an Animal Farm for the kids to visit.			
Fill up at the 'Viper' Family Restaurant – which is fully licensed with an A-La-Carte menu. Visit the 'Creepy Curio Shop' for curios, special souvenirs, unique clothing, reptile sales and accessories.			
Entrance Fee – R60 / Adult		Entrance Fee – R40 / Child	

Riverbend Crocodile Farm. (Friday, 30 Dec.)	www.crocodilecrazy.co.za		
Are you crazy about crocodiles? Why not? They are fascinating creatures, albeit rather toothy! Come visit the crocodile farm at Southbroom and see their crocodiles and snakes, then visit the Art Gallery.			
The beautifully landscaped surroundings are not only home to the crocodiles, but also to numerous bird species as well. There are over 200 adult Nile crocodiles resident and numerous young 'uns. In addition, 19 Species of snakes are kept in top-down viewing enclosures.			
Enjoy an educational talk on the crocodiles, their ecological role and their effect on humans. Hear about the farm's activities with the scaly critters. Approximately 4500 baby crocs are hatched each year and are mostly bred for their meat and their leather.			
Selected breeding groups are re-introduced into the wild at game reserves and conservancies.			



REEFSTEAMERS NEW YEAR HOLIDAY TRAIN 2011 - GERMISTON TO PORT SHEPSTONE -

Tour - Visit Pure Venom, River Bend Crocodile Farm and Pistols Saloon (Cont.):

Pistols Saloon & Wild West Museum. (Friday, 30 Dec.)	http://www.pistolssaloon.co.za
<p>A donkey walks into a bar and orders a coke... It's not a joke At the Pistols Saloon, Huckleberry the Donkey is one of the favourite patrons and a regular (hairy) face at the family bar. He drinks Coke (from the can), eats carrots and is pampered by all the other patrons.</p> <p>There is a Wild West Museum next door to the bar, with lots of cowboy memorabilia and information about Indians and the most-wanted criminals of that era, including Billy the Kid and Frank n' Jesse James. Buy some souvenirs at the 'Old West Trading Company.'</p> <p>For the children, there is an animal farm to explore, with more donkeys, some ponies and even a pig! Indian tepees surround the farm and the children can go on pony rides.</p> <p>For the adults, there are the regular music shows (naturally, including country music) and a real Western bar, complete with an old piano. Enjoy food with a western flavour as well as pizza and grilled favourites.</p>	

Tour - Port Edward Area:

Beaver Creek Coffee Plantation and Roastery. (Saturday, 31 Dec.)	www.beavercreek.co.za
<p>Discover and enjoy 100% locally grown, harvested & roasted Arabica coffee ... Do you know how coffee is made? Come and find out! Our famous 30 minute walk-about coffee tour is fascinating and will have you asking lots of questions.</p> <p>Witness a secret recipe. Free coffee tasting at the Estate - no joke. We also import, roast and deliver some of the world's finest beans.</p>	
Mac Bananas Plantation. (Saturday, 31 Dec.)	www.macbananas.co.za
<p>Come visit the Banana Café & Pancake House and indulge yourself in a wide variety of sweet n' savoury pancakes.</p> <p>They also have an Art Gallery, Wine Cellar and an Animal Farm. Or go on a Banana Plantation tour. (Bookings to be made in advance.)</p>	

