

Garden Railway Exhibition - George December 2018



In an endeavour to promote the larger scales and gauges of the hobby and raise the profile of the Outeniqua Transport Museum in George, the South African Large Scale Model Railway Group (SALSMRG) in conjunction with the Eden Lions and the Outeniqua Railway Society is hosting a 5 day exhibition in the Museum premises in December. The exhibition is loosely (very) based on the annual Diamondhead Steamup event in the USA – refer: <http://www.diamondhead.org/Main/> Two layouts will be available enabling Gauge 1/G scale and 16mm scale live steam but also electrically powered (DC, DCC and battery) locos to be run on 45mm and 32mm track.

The exhibition will commence on Friday the 14th December and run to Tuesday the 18th. Note the 17th is a public holiday but the Museum will be open that day and also Sunday the 16th.

Normal Museum opening hours are 08h00 until 17h00 but for logistical reasons the layouts will only be operational from 09h00 to 16h30.

The Museum has a superb collection of locos, coaches and railway artifacts well worth a visit in its own right. In addition, the Outeniqua Railway Society's HO SAR layout will be open for viewing. While the accent will be on showing off trains running, it is hoped suppliers of model railway equipment will use the opportunity to market their wares and participants to dispose of their surplus items.

For those unfamiliar with this part of the Western Cape, George is connected by air to the major cities in South Africa and the area is a magnet for the tourist. The Outeniqua Powervan which climbs the Montagu Pass leaves from the Museum. View at:

https://www.gardenroute.com/george-outeniqua-power-van_content_op_view_id_44

Half an hour to the west at Mossel Bay is a Big Five game reserve, Diaz Museum and post office tree. An hour away is Oudtshoorn with ostrich farms, a cheetah/wildlife reserve and the Oudtshoorn Museum.

Beyond Oudtshoorn are the world famous Cango Caves.

Closer by, en route to Wilderness, you pass the iconic Kaaiman's river bridge which was a favourite spot of railway photographers.

At Wilderness itself are beautiful beaches and the SAN Parks reserve at the mouth of the Touws river.

Heading further up the coast there is the Goukamma reserve (canoeing on the river) and the Knysna lagoon, inland of which is magnificent indigenous forest and the old gold mining workings at Millwood.

At Plettenberg Bay there is an elephant park, Robberg reserve and beautiful beaches. Half an hour from Plett is Birds of Eden and Monkeyland.

Consideration was given to organising a programme for wives during the event but reluctantly rejected because of impracticalities. However with the range of "things to do" we can promise wives will not be bored during the exhibition.

December was the best common denominator to provide sufficient time to plan and promote the event, attract the maximum number of local and overseas visitors and so raise some money for charity.

In view of the pressure on accommodation and car hire facilities during what is the area's peak holiday season we recommend that if you are interested in attending, you book accommodation as soon as possible.

This is the downside to holding the event in December but there are numerous campsites in the area as well as hotels and b&b's.

www.booking.com is an excellent source on information with respect to accommodation and car hire. In addition there is Airbnb.

Entrance cost to the Museum and hence the exhibition is a nominal R20.

Communication with respect to the event will be mostly via e-mail. Carel Janse van Rensburg who is bringing his 45mm gauge layout from

Pretoria can be contacted at: carel@angohygiene.com. I will be bringing my 45mm/32mm portable layout from Durban. If you wish to contact me

(David Cairns) please use shares@iafrica.com or

northstarrailway@gmail.com. Any additional information will be loaded onto the website www.northstarrailway.com – events.

We look forward to seeing you in December.