



9th International Penguin Congress
Avenue, Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
5-9 September 2016

Dear IPC9 Delegates

CIRCULAR 9: Congress tours

We are planning to organise a few pre- and post congress tours and it will be most helpful if delegates can indicate interest. This will guide us as to whether to make the final arrangements and which potential tours are most popular.

Pre-Congress tour to Stony Point penguin colony at Betty's Bay.

This tour will be offered on Saturday 3 September and it will take most of the day. A coach will depart from the V&A Waterfront around 9:00am and it will take delegates to the colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. The journey will take about 90 minutes depending on traffic.

Once at the colony there will be time for observation and enjoyment of the penguins and the environment. CapeNature staff at the colony will provide background and insights. There are also places to purchase lunch and refreshments at your own expense.

The coach will depart around 2:30pm (14:30) for the return trip to Cape Town. This will get you back to the Waterfront by about 4:00pm.

The cost of the tour will be R320- per person. We do need enough delegates to do justice to the hire of a coach so the costs are spread between many.

Post-Congress tour to Boulders Beach.

This tour will be offered on Saturday 10 September, the coach will leave the V&A Waterfront around 9:00am and it will take delegates to the Boulders Colony just south of Simon's Town. The journey will take about an hour depending on traffic.

Once at the colony, the SANParks staff will provide background and insights and there will be plenty of opportunity for photos from the boardwalks and beaches. There are places nearby to either purchase take-away food or to sit down for a light meal. This is for your own account. There are also shops to explore if you are so inclined.

The coach will depart around 3.30pm to have you back in Cape Town before dark.

The cost of the tour will also be R320- per person . We need enough delegates to do justice to the hire of a coach so the costs are spread between many.

Post-Congress tour to Robben Island.

In consultation with Robben Island Museum we have arranged that we can take a group of a maximum of 60 people on a slightly modified version of the Robben Island regular tour. This modified tour will be offered on Saturday 10 September and it will be part of the first tour of the day. Thus it will leave the Nelson Mandela Gateway at the V&A Waterfront at 9:00am and will return to the Waterfront by 1:00pm. The tour includes the boat ride each way and then two segments of approximately 45 minutes each on the island. One segment is a tour of the prison precinct and includes a talk by an ex-political prisoner. The regular tour has a bus tour of the island and very little chance to see the penguins so instead we are arranging a tour of a part of the penguin colony.

Groups of no more than 5 people will be led around separate areas of the penguin colony by local researchers so that there will be no more than 30 people in the colony at any one time. Delegates will be divided into 2 main groups, one group will do the prison tour first while the other does the penguins and then the 2 groups will swap over.

We will need to reserve regular tour tickets before these are all bought by other tourists to Cape Town so for this tour particularly we need to have firm commitments. Once bought, there is no chance of cancellation or change without incurring costs. In the event that the weather is bad so that the ferry cannot run and the tour is cancelled by Robben Island Museum, a full refund will be offered.

The price of this tour will be the same as the regular Robben Island tour price which is R320.

Delegates do of course also have the option to do the regular tour independently on another day but we will not be in a position to offer the penguin colony tour at such times.

Sunset cruise with the Royal Cape Yacht Club

We are considering whether to organise a sunset cruise on the evening of Wednesday 7th September in conjunction with the Royal Cape Yacht Club. The cost is likely to be around R320. Space is limited to approximately 100 people, so will be on a very much first come first served basis and weather dependent. Delegates will participate in small groups on different yachts.

How to register for the tours

For all of the above tours it is really important for us to get a clear idea of the numbers of delegates who wish to participate, so that we can finalise the arrangements. If insufficient people register an interest for any of the tours then we will have to cancel those tours. You will not be required to pay immediately, but once you have registered your interest, we will expect you to have made the commitment to come. Payment options will become available on the IPC9 website later on when we have finalised the arrangements.

To register your interest for the tours, please send an email to enquiries@penguincongress.org indicating which of the above 4 tours you want to join. **The deadline for registering your interest is Friday 3rd June.**

Sponsorship

We would like to acknowledge the Global Penguin Society (GPS) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for their Platinum level sponsorship of IPC9. We are still actively sourcing additional sponsorship, so please contact us at the email address below should you be interested in sponsoring IPC9. Additional sponsorship details are on the IPC9 website.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can assist you as much as we are able. Please direct your queries to enquiries@penguincongress.org

