



WARM YOURSELF THIS WINTER AT THE THIRD ANNUAL CHRISSIESMEER CRANE FESTIVAL!

2nd July 2014

Start

Be sure to join us from the 11th to the 12th of July for the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Chrissiesmeer Crane Festival.

Nestled in the heart of South Africa's Lakes District, the little village of Chrissiesmeer in Mpumalanga derives its name from the adjacent Lake Chrissie, the largest natural freshwater lake in South Africa. Located within a radius of 20 kilometres around Lake Chrissie there are about 300 lakes and pans. The area was declared as a Protected Environment earlier this year and is home to all three of our threatened crane species, including a magnificent flock of Grey Crowned Cranes. The area is also known to hold more than 20 000 water birds on a regular basis.

"The objective of the festival is to increase environmental awareness among visitors and the public, as well as local communities, of the importance of Chrissiesmeer's biodiversity and the conservation of this crucial crane habitat. The festival also seeks to boost the tourism potential of the area by highlighting the fact that Chrissiesmeer is a great destination for birders and nature lovers, photographers, anglers and cyclists, to name a few," commented Ursula Franke, Senior Field Officer for the EWT's African Crane Conservation Programme.

The festival will cater for all with a variety of activities from field trips, a beer fest, educational talks, and local traditional dancing. In celebration of the area's Scottish ancestry, the festival will conclude with whiskey tasting and a colourful Scottish fireplace concert accompanied by delicious cuisine.

The event is hosted by Chrissiesmeer's Eco-tourism Association, in partnership with the EWT and local farmers. For more information on the Chrissiesmeer Crane Festival or to book your place for the trips and the Saturday dinner please contact Ursula Franke on ursulaf@ewt.org.za

End

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

NPO Number: 015-502, **PBO number:** 930 001 777, **Member of IUCN** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is US 501(c)(3) compliant under **US IRS Registration number:** EMP98-0586801.



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