

## Guided tour Cycling

### Tour description and distances

Day 1 Arrival	
JNB Airport Pick up at 11:00	
Day 2 Private Game Reserve Bandelierkop	20-40 km
Day 3 Mapungubwe Nat'l Park	hike
Day 4 Wolkberg Mountains	15-30 km
Day 5 Letsitele Orange Groves	20 km
Day 6 Blyde Dam & Kruger Park	27 km
Day 7 Kruger Park	Full day safari
Day 8 Blyde River Canyon	16-40 km
Day 9 Echo caves	27 km
Day 10 Departure	

## South Africa



## *South Africa: Kruger & Beyond by Bike*

A trip from Johannesburg to the Kruger National Park through the Mpumalanga Drakensberg region reveals to you the scenic beauty of South Africa at a handlebar level.

When you're exploring this country, there are few things better than stopping at a viewpoint and being rewarded with the kind of scenery that brightens your day and broadens your horizons. On the Panorama Route in Mpumalanga, every viewpoint gives you that opportunity.

Breathtaking views, plunging waterfalls, eagles flying above you and a rich history, are the kinds of things that will inspire you when you ride along the Panorama Route.

'Guarded' by the small town of Graskop, this famous route is home to mountains, forests and canyons, most notably, the Blyde River Canyon which is also the world's largest 'green canyon'. You'll find more than 1 000 species of flora in the reserve, including several species of endangered cycads, and, in spring, carpets of wild flowers. Bird and animal life is certainly abundant in this region. The awe-inspiring falls are just a ride away as are scenic landmarks such as the Three Rondavels and God's Window, where you can walk in the thick, indigenous mist forest that stands amongst the clouds above Blyde River Canyon.

### *Fast Facts*

#### **INCLUDED:**

- All accommodations & meals
- Mountain bike rental
- Entrance to Kruger Park
- Transfer from Hoedspruit Airport
- Van support and guide

#### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- E-Bike rental \$425
- Spa treatments, where available
- Private transfers to/from Johannesburg or extensions, drinks and gratuities

## Tour Details 2019

Dates: March 10

April 7    May 5, 19

June 2    August 18

September 1    October 6

Cost: \$3895 per person

Single Supplement: \$650

Bike Rental: Included

Length: 10 days / 9 nights

Grade: Moderate / Intermediate

Starts: OR Tambo Int'l Johannesburg

Ends: Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport

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## Day 1 Sunday – Arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport

Welcome to South Africa! A guide will meet you at O.R. Tambo International Airport and accompany you to your overnight accommodation. The transfer will depart at 11:00 am from the Airport. Travel time from the Airport to the Overnight accommodation is approximately 4 hours. The first 3 nights will be spent at a Private Game Lodge. After settling in, we will end our first day in South Africa with a game drive and a cozy dinner in an African boma. *Includes: Game Drive*

## Day 2 Safari cycling (Pedal 20 km – 40 km, 150 m – 300 m)

After breakfast, our first bike ride is an easy ride through the bushveld. Our aim with this safari cycle is to have personal encounters with some of the animals of the African Bush. The Lodge has a wide variety of non-dangerous animals including Giraffe, Impala, Zebra, Kudu and many bird species. Learn more about the lifestyle and habits of the different species as well as the tracking of animals. An optional afternoon activity includes a bushwalk or alternatively enjoy a relaxed afternoon next to the swimming pool. Dinner will be a unique South African experience served in the boma.

## Day 3 Mapungubwe National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site (Hike)

We have an early morning start, but certainly well worth the effort. It consists of a visit to Mapungubwe National Park and is without a doubt one of the highlights of the tour. Apart from the incredible history, Mapungubwe is also home to some of the iconic wildlife of Southern Africa and it is a member of SANParks, like the Kruger National Park. A special moment in this tour is taking in the breathtaking view of the confluence of the Limpopo and Sashe rivers, separating South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

*Explore 3 countries with one view.*

## Day 4 Wolkberg Mountains (Pedal 15 km - 30 km, 420 m – 650 m)

After breakfast, we will depart to our next location which is the majestic Wolkberg Mountain range of Limpopo. It contains some of the most intensive and well established Avocado and Macadamia Nut farms in South Africa. Our bike route for the day is a circular one that passes through Pine and Eucalyptus plantations with splendid views of the surrounding mountains and farms. A relaxing afternoon awaits our guests at the Coach House Hotel. The Hotel has a Spa that offers optional massage and Spa treatments. Drinks can be enjoyed in the historical bar and lounge and guests can enjoy the breathtaking views of the Wolkberg mountains from the comfort of their balconies or next to the pool.

## Day 5 Letsitele and Kaross Workshop (Pedal 20 km, 150 m)

Our next location is the Letsitele Valley and the small subtropical farming town of Letsitele. And well-known for its citrus fruits production. The morning's ride will take us through orange tree groves with a stop along the way to visit a citrus packhouse to learn about the workings of a citrus farm, from the planting and farming phase. We then continue along the canal to the Kaross embroidery. Kaross was started by Irma van Rooyen to create opportunities for rural women to make a living through their embroidery skills. Indulge yourself in the beauty of the embroidery followed by a typical South African lunch. The evening will be spent in the African bushveld.



### **Day 6 Blyde Dam and the Kruger National Park (Pedal 27 km, 410 m)**

Our bike ride follows the Blyde River through the canyon to a spectacular viewpoint of the Blyde Dam. The Blyde River rises on the western slopes of the Drakensberg and flows northwards past the town of Pilgrim's Rest for more than 100 km. Along the way be on the lookout for kudus and baboons. Lunch will take place on the banks of the Blyde River after which we will depart for the Kruger National Park. In the late afternoon, explore Kruger on a drive. Enjoy your first evening in Kruger with a "braai".



### **Day 7 Kruger National Park (Full day)**

Today is your big Kruger Safari day. Although Kruger is renowned for the Big 5, it has so much more to offer. Get your cameras ready to capture the special moments in one of Africa's largest national parks covering an area of 19,485 sq kms. This wildlife sanctuary is like no other, its atmosphere so unique which will allow you to experience the true heartbeat of Africa. After our day in the Kruger National Park, we will be treated with a delicious dinner. Take time to share stories and photos of your special day in the African bush.



### **Day 8 Blyde River Canyon (16 km - 40 km, 260 m - 620 m)**

Welcome to the Blyde River Canyon, the third largest and greenest canyon in the world. Our bike ride starts at the Pinnacle Rock where we will ready the bikes whilst you savour the magnificent view. The route follows the escarpment to Wonder View, which is said, on a clear day it is possible to see all the way to Mozambique. Our next stop for the day is the Lisbon Falls which is the highest waterfall in Mpumalanga. Extend your bike ride by cycling to our lunch spot or hop into the bus for a relaxed drive to lunch, after which we will visit the Bourke's Luck Potholes. The potholes were formed over centuries of water flowing from the Treur and Blyde River. From here it is a short drive to the famous Three Rondavels lookout point and onto our overnight stay overlooking this escarpment.



### **Day 9 Monday – Echo Caves (Pedal 27 km, 330 m)**

Take in a last look at the striking panorama of the Three Rondavels before we get onto our bicycles. Our route, which is mostly downhill, is surrounded by citrus farms. The Echo Caves marks the end of our cycling. This underground wonderland was stumbled upon by a local farmer in 1923, whilst looking for his lost cow. We will visit the cave before driving along the Abel Erasmus Pass and entering the Lowveld for our last evening. The adventure begins with a late afternoon game drive in an open game viewer with an experienced guide. Dinner will be served in a boma around a fire with sounds of the African night in the background.



### **Day 10 Tuesday – Departure**

Your final day starts with a bushwalk accompanied by an experienced game ranger through Big 5 territory. Experience the bush as never before with the chance of a cheetah encounter on foot. After the bushwalk, enjoy a leisurely breakfast whilst saying farewell to your cycling companions. This will be the end of our time together. Return to your home country via the Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit or a transfer to Johannesburg.



## What to Expect

### What will the weather be like?

South Africa is a large and diverse country with climate that varies from region to region. The Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces experience a summer rainfall with heavy thundershowers from December to February and a dry winter period from May to October. In summer, the African bush is at its greenest and birdlife is abundant. In winter, wildlife is easier to spot because there is less vegetation and animals gather around rivers and waterholes.

Spring - September and October

Summer - November to March

Autumn - April to May

Winter - June to August

### How many hours of cycling a day?

Be prepared to be active between 3-5 hours daily, everything will be at a moderate level. This is a fully supported tour, so you will be able to opt out of an activity if you like. The road surfaces are mixed, combination of good quality dirt roads with some paved roads.

### How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, as you will enjoy the holiday more. This is a moderate to intermediate tour. This trip is not for beginners, unless you are prepared to ride the van more often.

### What are the hotels like?

We use a wide mixture of accommodation. Hotels and guesthouses are of charming and clean and have private facilities and hot water. In the cities, we use comfortable 3 star hotels. We have chosen them for their local flavor and charm, as well as location.

### What about visas?

All participants must ensure proper documentation upon entry. A valid passport is required to enter South Africa. A current Canadian or U.S. passport and the expiry date should be valid for 6 months to enter each country and to re-enter your own country. No visa is required for Canadian and US passport holders.

## More info:

Our tours are accompanied by a guide with support vehicle. Please note if the number of guests are below 4, only one tour guide will accompany the tour. If the number of guests are above 5, a cycling tour guide as well as a tour guide driving the support vehicle will accompany the tour.

Whether by foot or game viewer, when we are exposed to wildlife we are accompanied by trained guides. We are always kept at the right distance from the wild animals in order to enable us to appreciate them but to avoid any danger.

### Extensions available in South Africa

- ◆ 3 day / 2 nights to Soweto
- ◆ 3 day / 2 nights to Phelwana Game Lodge
- ◆ 3 day / 2 nights to Ndzhaka Lodge

## Getting There

Fly into Johannesburg pick up at 11AM . Then return from Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport located just outside of Kruger National Park. We will arrange drop off on the last day at 10AM.



## How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.