

Join South African Roadrunners on this unique motorcycling adventure of a lifetime !

South Africa

Highlands and Winelands of the Western Cape

With appearances little changed from the days when the Boers plied their trade between the hinterland and the seaports with their ox wagons ; these are the mountain passes (poorts) steeped in legend and folklore that we will explore as we wend our way between Knysna and Cape Town. Along the way we will pass through the Winelands and encounter such famous names as Paarl, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch, and will taste the flavours of a country that over the centuries has endured migration, oppression and wars on an epic scale but which is today emerging full of vitality and hope; which so justly deserves its name - The Rainbow Nation !

Day 1

Arrival George, South Africa

Upon arrival at George Airport in the Western Cape Province, you will be met and driven by minibus to your accommodation in Knysna where South African Roadrunners staff will be waiting to greet you. A short afternoon ride will take place for familiarisation with your motorcycle. Dinner this evening will be taken aboard the Featherbed Paddle Cruiser as you enjoy the sunset over the Knysna lagoon.

Day 2

Knysna - Uniondale

After a full English breakfast we will head out of Knysna on the mainroad before shortly turning off onto a secondary dirt road that winds up into the Kammanassie mountains. This leads us over the Prince Alfred's pass to our destination The Mountain Pastures Game Reserve. An early arrival here will allow time for a short game drive with our knowledgeable host and viewing of the local San (bushmen) rock art before a dinner of traditional South African fare.

Day 3

Uniondale - Oudtshoorn

A longer ride today sees us crossing the Groot Swart Mountains. First in a Northerly direction, before we turn back upon



ourselves and climb up and over the dramatic and spectacular Swartberg Pass, which we descend to our rest place for tonight in Oudtshoorn; the self-styled ostrich capital of the world!

Day 4

Oudtshoorn - Tulbagh

One of the Garden Routes' scenic wonders this morning as we pass through the beautiful Seven Weeks pass that cuts through the Witte Mountains and leads us to our truly remarkable lunch stop in the historical Victorian village of Matjiesfontein. The history and raison d'etre of this place will be explained over lunch in the 'Lairds Arms'. After luncheon we will skirt along the edge of the Karoo desert before turning off to Ceres, the Switzerland of South Africa and reaching our final destination, the Secluded Valley, in which is nestled the architectural masterpiece of Tulbagh, surrounded on all approaches by towering mountain passes.

Day 5

Tulbagh - Stellenbosch

Entering the heart of South Africa's Wineland today we still have many mountain passes to cross as we explore the vignoble valleys. Leaving Tulbagh we soon arrive at the Bainskloof pass, possibly South Africa's greatest, developed by the master road engineer Andrew Bain in the mid 19th century. Descending from the highlands we pass through the towns of Paarl, Worcester and Franschhoek before arriving in Stellenbosch where we will overnight.

Day 6

Stellenbosch - Cape Town

After a tour of one of the wineries we will join the coastal route that circles False Bay and head for Boulders Beach; home to a colony of African penguins. Our ride into Cape Town in the afternoon must be one of the most spectacular stretches of coastal road in the world as we drive along the Atlantic coast over Chapman's Peak and around Hout Bay.

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The first part of the evening will be spent in the company of a local guide who will introduce us to some of the more historic watering holes

Day 7

Cape Town

There is too much to do in one day so we give the bikes a rest and the day is to be spent at your discretion. Whether you want to visit the infamous Robben Island, take a cable car up Table Mountain or browse the shops and restaurants of the Waterfront we will assist you with planning your day to make maximum use of your time. In the evening you will be free to dine at a restaurant of your own choice.

Day 8

Cape Town - Arniston Bay

Leaving Cape Town we will join the coastal road for another spectacular seafront drive between Gordons Bay and Hermanus, where we will stop for lunch. Continuing along the coast in the afternoon will bring us to Arniston Bay; a charming undeveloped fishing village, named after the shipwreck that lies off its windswept coast.

Day 9

Arniston Bay - Swellendam

Traveling along dirt roads this morning we will cross the Breede River aboard South Africa's last manually operated pontoon before entering another important wine growing region centered around the villages of Monatgu and Robertson amidst the Lange Mountains. Our accommodation tonight will be in Swellendam; South Africa's third oldest town dating from the mid 18th century.

Day 10

Swellendam - Knysna

Sticking to the back roads, many of which are dirt, we must cross at least seven passes today as we wend our way through the Outeniqua mountains before finally reaching our base back in Knysna. A farewell group dinner tonight in one of Knysna's fine eateries overlooking the Waterfront.

What's Included

Airport transfers, hotel accommodation on a twin share basis, all breakfasts, midday and evening meals (except day 7), BMW 1970 - 73, 750cc or 600cc 'Slash - 5' motorcycle, petrol, spare parts, tour guide, back-up staff including mechanics, support vehicle with space for seating / luggage, game drive fees, park entrance fees and road tolls where applicable.

What's Not Included

International airfare to South Africa and domestic connection to George, visa fees (if required), optional activity fees not listed in the itinerary, cold drinks, alcoholic beverages, bottled water, laundry service, airport taxes and gratuities.

Visa and Passport Requirements

For most Nationals, no visas are required for visits up to 90 days. If in doubt contact your local South African Embassy at time of booking the tour. A full passport valid for 30 days after the end of your intended stay and a minimum of two clean (unstamped) pages is required together with your return or onward airticket.

Immunisations

Unless planning on a visit to the small malarial risk area (North East of Johannesburg) there is no requirement. If you are entering South Africa from a yellow fever zone you will need a valid international yellow fever inoculation certificate. If in doubt we suggest you contact your GP / MD or local travel clinic.

Motorcycle Damage Deposit

A safety deposit of USD 750 / GBP 500 is required prior to motorcycle assignment (and will be included in the tour balance invoice). This is refunded at the end of the tour upon return of the undamaged motorcycle. Repairs of small accidental damage from bikes falling over and light spills are normally covered in the tour cost but South African Roadrunners reserves the right to appraise all damage / repair costs and bill accordingly.

A Word of Caution

Motorcycling the mountainous areas of South Africa is surely one of the best ways to experience the regions rich cultural history, friendly people and unrivalled scenery. At the same time motorcycling does have its dangers, especially on narrow mountain dirt roads. Whilst you do not need off road riding skills there are certain stretches of dirt road (generally good hard packed surface) which you will need confidence and experience to ride. This tour should be undertaken by fit, experienced riders with an open mind for travel in this part of the world, changing conditions and different rules of the road.

*Sawubona ! **

* (traditional Zulu greeting)