

South Africa - Along the Garden Route to Cape Town Road Bike Tour (2025) Guided Tour 12 days/11 nights



Cycle along the white beaches of the Indian Ocean, through evergreen forests and the desolate Karoo, through the wild solitude of the Swartberg Mountains, through the Cape Winelands and then to Cape Town, one of the most beautiful metropoles in the world. Experience a breathtaking coastline, mountain passes and solitary gorges while cycling on very well constructed roads, which are on a par with European standards. The South African summer is between November and March. This means that you will cycle in warm temperatures in plenty of sunshine in the Cape Province. Our accompanying backup vehicle will be used to transport your luggage and a sufficient supply of water and bananas, thereby ensuring that you will enjoy a relaxing cycle tour. We overnight in selected guest houses, lodges and small hotels, where you will be pampered in a personal and relaxed atmosphere. This is an ideal bike tour for the more ambitious cyclist. The well-known Cape Town Cycle Tour around the Cape Peninsula attracts more than 35,000 participants annually and takes place on the second weekend in March. This cycle race is the jewel in the crown and the major highlight of this tour.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival and transfer to your hotel Distance by bus 10 km, duration 0.25 h

After being welcomed by your tour guide/driver in Port Elizabeth, you will be transferred to your hotel in Port Elizabeth. You are at leisure to relax, swim in the pool and/or check the bikes.

Day 2: Game Drive in the ADDO Elephant National Park – Cycle via Humansdorp to the Tsitsikamma National Park 70 km + 500 m

Distance by bus 250 km, duration 3.5 h

In the morning, undertake a game drive in the open top jeep in the ADDO Elephant National Park. Apart from the elephants, there are also, amongst others, zebra, lions, buffalo, ostrich, tortoise, warthogs and bontebok. Transfer to Humansdorp on the Garden Route. Your first afternoon ride takes you along the Old Cape Road and along the boundary of the Tsitsikamma Mountain Range. Overnight accommodation is at charming Tsitsikamma Village Inn 3* having its own brewery.



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Day 3: Cycle Tsitsikamma National Park – Plettenberg Bay 90 km + 1040 m Distance by bus 90 km, duration 1.5 h

Our second ride takes us into the Tsitsikamma National Park. Visit the Storms River Bridge. Once on the coastal plateau again, we soon descend into the deeply cut Bloukrans River Valley and later through Nature's Valley. Enjoy a break on one of South Africa's most beautiful beaches. Cycle back up to the plateau and then towards Keurboomstrand, a seaside resort. Transfer to George to the comfortable Acorn Guest House 4*.

Day 4: Cycle George to Oudtshoorn 121 km + 1570 m

Start riding from the guest house on the old Cape road to Hartenbos. The route ascends gently towards the top of the Robinson Pass (860m) were one is afforded lovely views back towards the coastline. The landscape changes within a few kilometres from the evergreen coast to the dry expanse of the Little Karoo. Stay at a lovely historic guesthouse. The host invites us to a traditional South African barbecue evening, called a braai. Of course, ostrich steak cannot be missing!



Day 5: Cycle from Oudtshoorn to Calitzdorp and Ladismith 114 km + 1250 m

After visiting an ostrich farm in the morning, we will cycle on level ground to Calitzdorp, which is well-known for its port wine. Thereafter, we cycle up the Huis River Pass (655m) and along the Swartberg Mountains to Ladismith in the shadow of the towering Towerkop (2000m) mountain, where we will stay overnight in the simple Mountain View Guest House 2*.



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Day 6: Cycle Ladismith via Barrydale to Montagu 139 km + 1285 m

Through the grand expanse of the Little Karoo, we will reach Barrydale and thereafter the pretty wine producing town of Montagu. If you wish, one can shorten the cycling distance to 76 km. The famous Montagu Thermal Springs, also beneficial to our tired cyclists' muscles, lie in close proximity to the comfortable Montagu Country Hotel 4*.

Day 7: Day at Leisure

Diverse leisure excursions are available, which include, among others, hiking onto the Bloupont (1200m), taking a tractor and trailer drive up the 1400m high Papageikop, playing golf in Robertson or Montagu, tasting wine on a wine estate in the Breede River Valley, visiting the Montagu Museum or even the southern-most point of Africa, Cape Agulhas. Alternatively, simply relax at the poolside.

Day 8: Cycle from Montagu via Bonnivale and McGregor to Robertson 120 km + 905 m

We will continue cycling through the charming Kogmanns Gorge today, after which the landscape broadens as we ride through the Bree River Valley with its vineyards on either side of us en route to Bonnivale and McGregor. En route, we might stop at a winery and enjoy another wine tasting. Accommodation will be in the wine producing town of Robertson at the beautiful Gubas De Hoek Guest House 4*. The cycling distance can be shortened to 82 km.

Day 9 Cycle Worcester – Wellington 73 km

Short transfer to Worcester. The cycle route leads past many wineries via Rawsonville into the quiet Slangkoptal. From there we continue to the entrance to the Bainskloof Gorge. This listed street was built 170 years ago and has not been changed except for the road surface. The varied route leads slowly uphill through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Capensis with a gradient of no more than 7%. In addition to fascinating proteans and heathers, you can also see klipspringers and baboons. From the 600 m high pass you can see Table Mountain 70 km away. A long descent leads to the wine town of Wellington. By car, we continue past many well-known wineries to Stellenbosch. The country's second oldest city has a variety of well-preserved historic buildings built in the Cape Dutch architectural style. Street cafes, galleries and handicraft shops invite you to stroll. Short transfer to the seaside resort of Gordons Bay Distance by bike 73 km, 730 am Distance by bus 120 km, duration 1.5 h





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Day 10: Cycle from Gordons Bay to Rooi Els return 42 km + 600 m *Distance by bus 50 km, duration 1 h*

Start riding this beautiful route from the guest house along the coastline of False Bay of the Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes whilst riding, one can spot whales and seals. Enjoy the great views across the bay onto the Cape Peninsula some 40 km away. After returning to Gordon's Bay a short transfer brings us to Cape Town, one of the most beautifully situated cities in the world, where we will stay in a quiet 4* city hotel in the suburb of Sea Point. On a short sightseeing walk, visit the Parade, the Castle and the City Hall, Greenmarket Square, Government Gardens and the Malay Quarter. The seafood cuisine in Cape Town is outstanding and lobster is an affordable specialty. Accommodation will be at the Bantry Bay Suite Hotel 4*.

Day 11: Cycle around the Cape of Good Hope 99 km + 800 m Distance by bus 50 km, duration 1 h

After a short transfer to Simonstown, you cycle to the penguin colony at Boulders at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, and then continue to the Cape of Good Hope National Park. After a break you continue to cycle along the far side of the Cape Peninsula and the Atlantic seaboard back to Cape Town. The coastal route via Chapman's Peak Drive and Hout Bay is truly one of the most breathtaking routes in South Africa. It is not a coincidence that the popular annual Cape Town Cycle Tour Race, with over 35,000 participants, takes place here in March

Day 12 Transfer to Cape Town International Airport

Prior to departing to the airport, and depending on your flight departure time, you may have time to either go up Table Mountain to enjoy the amazing views of Cape Town City (optional), or visit Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island, this icon was held captive for most of his prison sentence (optional). This varied tour ends with your transfer to Cape Town Airport. (B)

Distance by bus 20 km, duration 0.5 h



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<u>Route</u>



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Difficult. A good basic level of fitness is necessary for this tour. The roads are all tar roads. We will cycle many mountain passes with up to 650m difference in altitude. A vehicle accompanies us at all times. The climate is just as varying as the tour is: in Little Karoo summer afternoons can reach 32C, along the coast it is a comfortable 20-25C. **Total Distance:** 892 km

Travel Dates: 03.02. – 14.02.2025 27.02. – 10.03.2025 03.11. – 14.11.2025



Prices per person:

Double occupancy B&B	\$2695 USD
Single Supplement	\$370 USD
Road Bike Rental	\$380 USD

Participation fee for the Cape Town Cycle Tour 109 km in March has additional fee

Accommodation:

Good, tastefully furnished rooms sometimes with air conditioning and TV

Included:

- English speaking tour guide
- 11 nights in mid-range hotels and guesthouses with private bathroom
- 11 x breakfast, 1 x barbecue evening with traditional 'Braai'
- Constant vehicle backup as well as transport for bikes
- Water, bananas, isotonic drinking powder
- All entrance fees for sightseeing program

Not Included:

- Tips for guides, porters and waiters
- Meals not mentioned in this itinerary
- Beverages and mineral water on non-cycling days
- Personal expenses e.g. laundry at accommodation facilities, telephone and internet services etc.



Bikes



Trek Emonda S5 Carbon 11-28 compact, Shimano 105 frame sizes 50-58

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