

South Africa – Garden Route

This South African motorcycle tour with GlobeBusters features the verdant Garden Route, which includes some of the best coastal riding in the world and is simply stunning. The coast is dotted with excellent beaches and beautiful roads and when we head inland, lagoons, lakes, rolling hills and the mountains of the Outeniqua and Tsitsikamma await.

Beyond the mountain ranges is the arid region of Klein Karoo (paved options available), where we stay overnight on an olive farm, can try our skills at riding ostriches and can take of the challenge of the “Road to Hell” – optional riding for dirt lovers!



Not only that, we include two game drives to spot rhino, cheetah, water buffalo, warthog and giraffe, and you get to enjoy classic sundowners, whilst enjoying high quality game lodges and boutique hotels, full of colonial character. This tour includes visiting Cape Agulhas, the very southern tip of Africa, and the Cape of Good Hope, so it is a must-do ride, delivering an unforgettable experience!

At a glance

Duration (days): 14
Miles Covered: 1745
Riding difficulty: Moderate
Unpaved Roads: 20%
Culture Shock: Small

Highlights

This tour starts and ends in Cape Town, South Africa.

- Cape of Good Hope and riding along the spectacular coastal road of Chapman’s Peak Drive.
- Get up close to ostriches at the Ostrich Farms in Oudtshoorn – you can try them for dinner too!
- Perfect mountain dirt roads crossing the Swartberg Pass and spectacular views on the ride “De Hell” to Gamkaskloof Valley (De Hell is an optional ride)
- Look out for the elephants, cheetah, buffalo and kudu on your game drive in Addo Elephant National Park
- Stroll along the pristine white beaches at Wilderness and spot whales
- Relax on our sunset game drive at our Private Game Reserve, near Graaff-Reinet and enjoy a famous sundowner! If you’re lucky, you may spot rhino!
- Ride to the southernmost point of the African Continent – Cape L’Algulhas, then relax at our spa hotel, overlooking the ocean.
- More breath-taking coastal riding between Betty’s Bay and Gordon’s Bay

ROUTE MAP

Itinerary

This is a 14 day, 13 nights tour, with 12 days motorcycle rental, covering around 1,750 miles. The start and end point is Cape Town, South Africa.

Day 1: Cape Town

Arrival in Cape Town and collection to the hotel. Tour Briefing and bike collection. Enjoy a Welcome Evening Meal on the Waterfront.

Day 2: Robertson (240 miles)

North to picturesque Paarl. Bain's Kloof Pass. Michel's Pass to Ceres and on to Touws River. Gravel roads to Montagu or the paved road via the beautiful Koo Valley.

Day 3: Prince Albert (200 miles)

Prince Albert via the Swartberg Pass (1,568m) with some gravel roads as part of our route. Prince Albert has beautifully preserved Cape Dutch, Karoo and Victorian buildings, many of which are National Monuments.

Day 4: Ride Out to "De Hell" (100 miles)

Optional ride out. Return to the Swartberg Pass then turn down to the Gamkaskloof valley, on a road known as The Hell by residents of the Great Karoo. This hidden-away valley was declared a World Heritage Site in 1997.

Day 5: Oudtshoorn (100 miles)

Oudtshoorn is South Africa's ostrich farming capital. We'll arrive for lunch and then highly recommend a visit to an ostrich farm (optional at extra cost).

Day 6: Addo Elephant National Park (250 miles)

Coming over the Outeniqua Mountains, we pass through George and Knysna. Nature's Valley and the Bloukrans Pass to Kareedouw before reaching our final destination near the Addo Elephant National Park.

Day 7: Addo Elephant National Park

This morning, we take a 4x4 Jeep Morning Tour today to the Park, which is home to more than 600 elephants, cheetah, rhinoceros and Cape buffalo (included in your price).

Day 8: Private Game Reserve near Graaff-Reinet (160 miles)

We ride north back into the Karoo to spend the night in a luxury lodge on a Private Game Reserve, approximately 60km from Graaff Reinet. After high tea, we take a safari to see giraffes, antelope, rhinos and cheetah (included in your price).

Day 9: Wilderness (280 miles)

South-west along the N9, discovering forgotten towns like Aberdeen and Willowmore. From Uniondale, we ride via Prince Alfred's Pass to the Indian Ocean and to lively, beach side town of Wilderness.

Day 10: Rest day in Wilderness

Enjoy the beach or the estuary, perfect for walking or water sports.

Day 11: Cape Agulhas (220 miles)

West along N2 through Riversdale, before taking the country roads to the coast and the most southern tip of the African Continent.

Day 12: Stellenbosch (140 miles)

Riding along the coast on one of the most beautiful roads in South Africa, through Hermanus (if you're lucky you might spot whales!), past Betty's Bay and Gordons Bay, before turning north to probably one of the most famous wine regions in South Africa.

Day 13: Cape Town (100 miles)

Head south back to the coast to Boulders Beach and its free ranging colony of Africa Penguins, before reaching the Cape of Good Hope. Then its our final run along the spectacular Chapman's Peak into Cape Town. Farewell

Dinner.

Day 14: Fly Home from Cape Town

This is the earliest date to book a flight back home. Should you wish to have any extra days in Cape Town just ask and we can book them for you (at your cost).

Accommodation

We use a high standard of 4* boutique hotels, luxury guest houses and game lodges. Many are characterful of the colonial past and tastefully decorated with antiques, have swimming pools and are set in stunning locations. Some of our favourite places to stay on the tour are:

- The Small Hotel, Robertson
- Mount Camdebo Private Game Reserve
- De Bergkant Lodge, Prince Albert
- Arniston Spa Resort, Arniston

Whats Included

You have the benefit of booking with a UK tour operator who has in place Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Stevens & Chapman, so that your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with The Package Travel Regulations 1992.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a UK tour operator and knowing that your money paid in advance is protected.
- Access to GlobeBusters Team pre-departure to request individual meeting or Skype session about preparing for the trip
- Departure Handbook, with preparation action plan / check lists, maps, daily route notes and GPS information (where available).

En Route

- Airport transfers, provided you arrive on the official start date and leave on the official end date.
- Transfer from the hotel to/from the bike collection/delivery point.
- 13 nights bed and breakfast accommodation on shared basis (unless you book a Single Room)
- Local overnight hotel parking charges
- 5 evening dinners (three course menus)
- Addo Elephant National Park morning game drive in open vehicle, including National Park Fees & Local Guide
- Sundowner Game Drive at Private Game Reserve near Graaf Reinet
- Daily route notes, maps, with GPS information to enable you to self-navigate if you prefer not to travel in a group.

Support Crew

- GlobeBusters Motorcycle Tour Leader to accompany the group.
- Support driver / mechanic, with a Support Vehicle. You can place one piece of luggage of up to 60 litres in the Support Vehicle.

Motorcycle Hire

We show you a separate charge for local motorcycle rental and the amount varies depending on which motorcycle you hire.

- All motorcycles are hired locally through our Travel Partner for South Africa. We act as agents for the local rental company and we reserve motorcycles with them in accordance with your booking.
- 12 days motorcycle rental, including side panniers at no extra charge.
- Should you require a top box or tank bag, please request this on booking. There is an extra charge and it must be specifically requested
- Should you require a GPS unit, please request this on booking. There is an extra charge and it must be specifically requested. All BMW R1200 GS rental bikes are fitted with a Garmin/BMW Nav cradle, so you can bring your own unit if you wish.
- On arrival at the start of the tour, you will be required to sign the local motorcycle rental agreement and provide your credit details as a guarantee against damage.

Not Included

- Return passenger airline flights to get to the start and from the finish point for the tour.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance.
- Entrance fees to sights and parks, optional excursions, meals (all except where stated).
- Lunches, alcohol, evening dinners (except where stated).
- Personal spending money, tips, souvenirs or other extras.
- Personal documentation (eg visas, passport), vaccinations, personal taxes, border crossing fees.
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables, toll road fees, traffic fines.
- Costs for any damage to the rental motorcycle.
- Any other item not specifically included in the price.

Useful Info

When you book a motorcycle tour with us, we provide you with Tour Specific Guidance Notes that give you detailed information about what you need to know to prepare and plan your tour, and what to expect when on our motorcycle tour. Here are some of the questions that we often get asked before a rider makes a booking. If you wish to meet with us prior to booking to ask more questions, do not hesitate to contact us and we can set up a one-to-one meeting.

What riding experience do I need?

This tour is mainly on-road. There are around 20% of good gravel roads in Klein Karoo and an optional gravel road ride "De Hell" to Gamkaskloof Valley. If you do not want to ride on this type of road surface, we have delightful paved road options. Traffic conditions are generally light once away from Cape Town. It is common to see baboons and other wildlife on or near the roads on some parts of the tour. We consider the riding conditions to be straight forward for a good, competent road rider.

If you want to try the gravel roads, you'll enjoy them more, if you have had some off road skills training such as Adventure Bike Training (www.adventurebiketraining.co.uk) or Off Road Skills (www.offroadskills.com).

Do I have to ride in a group?

No! We do not make you ride in convoy. We offer you the freedom to decide how you would like to ride. We give you a road book, GPS co-ordinates and hotel information. You can use this to self-navigate. If you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Leader, then you can do this. Simply let the Motorcycle Leader know and be ready to ride at the given leave time in the morning.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally between 8 – 10 riders (some riders will have passengers), up to a maximum of 16 riders. 8 riders is the minimum number to confirm the guaranteed departure of the tour.

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

Absolutely. This is a popular trip for couples and we always have couples riding two-up on this tour. You are able to place luggage (see below) in the Support Vehicle and the standard of accommodation is also very good.

Is there a Support Vehicle?

Yes, this tour operates with a local support vehicle and driver. The support vehicle will carry one piece of luggage per person (maximum 60 litres). You must ensure that your bags are suitable to be packed into a 4x4, and that they are dustproof and waterproof. Hard suitcases or bags with wheels are not suitable for en route, but you can store these at the hotel in Cape Town.

Tell me about motorcycle rental

- We show you a separate charge for local motorcycle rental and the amount varies depending on which motorcycle you hire.
- All motorcycles are hired locally through the approved BMW Travel Partner for South Africa. We act as agents for the local rental company and we reserve motorcycles with them in accordance with your booking.
- All motorcycle rentals include side panniers and tank bag at no extra charge.
- They are also fitted with new dual purpose tyres for the start of your tour.
- Should you require a top box, please request this on booking. There is an extra charge and it must be specifically requested.
- All BMW R1200 GS rental bikes are fitted with a Garmin/BMW Nav cradle.
- All motorcycles have third party and CDW insurance subject to an excess of up to £1500, depending on the motorcycle rented.
- On arrival at the start of the tour, you will be required to sign the local motorcycle rental agreement and provide your credit details as a guarantee against damage. You must ensure you have sufficient credit limit for the damage deposit.

What documents do I need?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport, Driving Licence, International Driving Permit. Please ensure that your passport has at least two blank pages when you arrive and that the expiry date is at least 6 months after the date you fly home. In addition, you must have travel and medical insurance.

Do I need visas for travel?

At time of writing, UK, USA and most EU Citizens do not require a visa in advance of travel. This information is provided in good faith. However, as visa requirements are dependent on your nationality and can be complex, with constantly changing requirements, we would direct you to our appointed visa agency for advice.

<http://www.thevisamachine.com/>

It is your responsibility to have the correct visas in place prior to travel. Please check what requirements are necessary for your nationality.

What about flights?

For clarity, we do not include your passenger flights. Once we have confirmed that this tour is a guaranteed departure, it is your responsibility to organise your own flights to and from the start and end point. We do not refund flight costs if you have booked flights for a tour that has not been notified as a guaranteed departure.

You need to book an outward flight to our start point, Cape Town to arrive no later than around midday on the

official start date. The earliest leave date is any time on the official end date from Cape Town.

We will pick you up from the airport, provided you arrive on the official start date. We drop you off at the airport provided you leave on the official end day. Airport transfer may be done by bus, minibus or taxi. If you arrive on any other day, you are responsible for your own journey between the airport and the group hotel.

Should you wish to arrive before the official date or stay after the official end date, please simply request extra nights at the time of booking and we can make the reservation at our group hotel.

What will the weather be like?

It is spring time in South Africa. In Cape Town, temperatures are normally warm and pleasant during the day at around 20-21C, but can be chilly in the evening or early mornings. There can be light showers on the coastal areas. Inland in the Klein Karoo, temperatures are normally higher at around an average high of 26C during the day.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>
<http://www.worldclimate.com/>

What about my health when I am abroad?

It is a condition of your travel with us that you have in place travel / medical insurance to cover you for medical treatment and repatriation if you suffer any illness or injury when on the expedition, including any injury sustained from riding or being a passenger on a motorcycle. Before you travel, we strongly recommend that you visit your GP or a specialised travel clinic to get advice on the recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures needed for the countries on this trip. As background, the websites listed below may prove useful.

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/>
<http://www.masta-travel-health.com/>

What about local currency?

The base currency for this trip is the South African Rand. The websites below will give you the current rates of exchange.

<http://www.oanda.com/>
<http://www.travelex.co.uk/>

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Oct 10 – 23, 2019	£2,900	£800	£2,400	Triumph Tiger Explorer: £1,995 BMW R 1200 GS: £2,095 Triumph Tiger 800: £1,795 BMW F 800 GS: £1,895 BMW F 700 GS: £1,695