

South Africa Bike

Bike five days along The Garden Route of South Africa



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Bike South Africa

560km from George to Cape Town

South Africa is an exhilarating, spectacular and complex country. With its post-apartheid identity still in the process of definition, there is undoubtedly an abundance of energy and sense of progress about the place.

This stunning bike challenge takes us to a remarkable land in the Western Cape for an unforgettable journey by bike through the scenic 'Garden Route'. Our cycle route follows the Cape Route 62, which meanders between Cape Town and George.

The whole area will offer us incredible landscapes and towering cliffs, crystal clear streams and the abundance of trees and indigenous flora – which all contribute to the Cape's Winelands, which include the Breede River Valley and the Klein Karoo, some of the Western Cape's most diverse regions.

The ever changing colours of the majestic mountains, scenic passes, rivers, vineyards and orchards will offer us a stunning ride to our finish line, in Cape Town - a place where old and new harmoniously converge - in history, architecture, cultural pursuits and the essence of its people.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Overnight flight to Cape Town

Day 2: George

Arrive early morning and transfer overland 5hrs to George. George is the sixth oldest town in South Africa, situated in the beautiful Western Cape Province and is the Capital of the Southern Cape. The town is very centrally situated: halfway between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and centre of the Garden Route – the ideal place for us to start our bike challenge to Cape Town!

Upon arrival at our guest house we will be met by our guides. Early evening we will spend some time fitting our bikes and preparing for the ride of our lives. After dinner we will have a full bike briefing

Day 3: George to Oudtshoorn - 63km

We begin our ride towards Oudtshoorn and immediately begin our ascent of Montagu Pass. The tough climb is rewarded with excellent views from the Outeniqua Mountains to the sea. . We then enjoy a fast downhill past vineyards, hops farms and then towards the ostrich farms of Oudtshoorn. Overnight camp.

Day 4: Oudtshoorn to Ladysmith - 110km

A long ride today to Ladysmith "The Jewel of the Klein Karoo", which is situated in the at the foot of the Klein Swartberg mountain range. We leave Oudtshoorn on a mixture of tarmac and dirt roads. The road runs past small farms that breed ostriches and Merino sheep. Along the way there are also excellent old karoo houses..

We stop for lunch in Calitzdorp and then continue up the Huis Rivier Pass which looks daunting, at first, but with plenty of laybys and breathtaking scenery there is plenty of opportunity to rest. Coming down the pass we see the historic mission stations of Amalienstein and Zoar. We stop briefly at Amalienstein to look at the mission station. From here it is a climb towards Ladysmith, where today's ride finishes at our camp at Warmwaterberg Spa. (A great place for us to relax and soak those weary muscles in the spas pool!).

Day 5: Ladysmith to Montagu - 105km

We spend the day on quiet dirt roads within the Klein Karoo. Our guides will take time to show us some of the 500 species of plants. We ride the northern section of the Sanbona Reserve with a Game Ranger .This section contains various species of antelope such as kudu, buffalo and springbok as well as rhino and lions.

Exiting the reserve we follow the game fence past old farm houses with the unending, isolated and empty karoo for company. A long gradual uphill, peaking at 1011m rewards us with a long fast downhill to our overnight camp at Montagu.

Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Montagu to Villiersdorp - 112km

After a fuelling breakfast, we continue biking towards the Cogmans River. The road passes through a rock arch called the Cogmanskloof tunnel, before continuing downhill to the town of Ashton. At this point the road becomes busier, but there is a large hard shoulder. We start to wind our way through the vineyards on this relatively flat section until we reach Robertson. From Robertson the road immediately starts to climb. After reaching the apex we pass the Amathunzi Reserve, we start a long gradual descent between the mountains on a relatively undulating section past vineyards, with broken tarmac and dirt tracks to our camp at Villiersdorp.

Day 7: Villiersdorp – Stellenbosch – 63km

A pleasant, undulating ride to Stellenbosch, the capital of the Cape Winelands. We pass the Theeriver Reserve, where we stand the chance of seeing various antelope. Stellenbosch has a wonderful mixture of architectural styles from a bygone era – beautiful Cape Dutch thatched cottages, Gregorian style double-storey houses and ornate Victorian homes. Overnight guest house.

Day 8: Stellenbosch-Cape Town – 90km

Our final goal insight, the roads become a little busier, but the terrain is relatively flat with the only major climbs being Chapmans Peak and Suikerbossie. We head towards the sea and follow the coast, past Muizenberg and Fish Hoek. After a brief stop in Hout Bay we continue our cycle up the infamous Suikerbossie. Its sharp uphill turns into a sweeping downhill toward Seapoint. We enter Cape Town at Green Point, home of Cape Town's new 2010 soccer stadium. From there it is a short cycle to the V&A Waterfront in the harbour and our fantastic finish line!

Tonight we will celebrate our achievements with a special gala dinner under the watchful eye of Table Mountain. Overnight hotel.

Day 9: Cape Town

Free day in Cape Town and chance to enjoy this incredible city, warmed by the African sun. Overnight flight back to London.

Day 10: Arrive London

Challenge grade

Moderate to Tough

Best time of year

September to April

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

