

South Africa Road Cycling – 12 Days Port Elizabeth to Cape Town



Join us on a trip along the white beaches of the Indian indigenous forests into the barren Little Karoo. The wild solitude of the Swartberg Mountains stretches to the Cape Winelands and then on to one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Cape Town. Spectacular Mountain passes, isolated gorges, breathtaking coastlines - on excellent tar roads equaling European standards. From November until March it's summer in South Africa and that means cycling in sunny and warm weather, particularly in the Cape. Our back-up vehicle transports your luggage and ensures relaxed cycling. We sleep in selected guesthouses, lodges, and hotels with a personal and homely atmosphere. The world-famous Argus Cycle Tour around the Cape Peninsula takes place in the second weekend of March with more than 35,000 eager participants. This serves as an excellent highlight at the end of our cycle tour.

Visit beautiful Cape Town - Home to many popular sporting events such as the annual Cape Argus and Cape Epic cycle tours, gateway to winelands offering award-winning wines from many world-renowned estates, has an abundance of beautiful beaches, parks, fine restaurants and hotels. Of course no description of Cape Town would be complete without mention of its most spectacular landmark, the flat-topped Table Mountain!

Cycling at your pace - An ideal bicycle tour for the touring cyclist and the racing cyclist alike, who want to experience the beauty of the Western Cape and keep fit in winter under ideal conditions. If you are keen to experience South Africa, but prefer to do this on four wheels rather than two, please do not hesitate to check our availability on your departure of choice.

Take part in the world-famous Argus Cycle Tour - Complete your tour with the world-famous Argus Cycle Tour around the Cape Peninsula. It takes place in the second weekend of March with more than 35,000 eager participants (March tour departure only). This is a premium highlight at the end of our cycle tour.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to Port Elizabeth and Transfer to Addo Elephant National Park

Arrive at Port Elizabeth airport by noon approximately. After meeting your tour guide/driver we load the bikes on the trailer. The transfer takes you from Port Elizabeth to a cosy lodge near Addo Elephant Park. Here you have time to unwind, relax, have a shower, swim in the pool and assemble/check your bike.

Accommodation: Guest House

Meals: None

No cycling

Day 2: Port Elizabeth to Tsitsikamma Forest

The animals are most active in the morning so we do a game drive in open Land Rovers through the famous Addo Elephant National Park. Besides elephants you can see lions, buffalos, blesboks, tortoises, warthogs, zebras, ostriches and many other animals. After the encounter with Africa's wildlife, we shuttle to Humansdorp the beginning of the Garden Route. On a quiet road we ride to our lodge situated in the foothills of the Tsitsikamma Mountain Range.

Accommodation: Guest House

Meals: None

Cycling: 77km, 370m climbing

Day 3: Tsitsikamma National Park via Plettenberg to Knysna

Our second cycling leg takes us down to Storms River Mouth in Tsitsikamma National Park with its dramatic coastline. Then we climb up onto the wooded plateau of the Tsitsikamma Forest before we descend again into a deep valley comprising of lush indigenous forest. This area is known as Nature's Valley and boasts one of the most beautiful beaches in South Africa. After another climb back onto the plateau, we finish cycling for today in the seaside resort of Plettenberg Bay. We transfer in our support van to the nearby town of Knysna. The town is known for its 'Knysna Heads', two massive rocks guarding the entrance to the Knysna lagoon. We stay in a charming guest house within walking distance to the lagoon!

Accommodation: Guest House

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 105km, 690m climbing

Day 4: Knysna to Oudtshoorn

A short morning transfer takes us to the village of Gorge. The gentle sloped Outeniqua Pass (800m) takes us from the evergreen coast into the semi-arid Klein Karoo. We arrive in Oudtshoorn which is known as the 'Ostrich Capital'. After visiting an ostrich farm we cycle on through the Schoemans Gorge to the famous Cango Caves. Back in Oudtshoorn we check into our historic and comfortable guest house. This evening, the owner invites us to a traditional South African 'braai' (BBQ). The tender ostrich steaks should not be missed.

Accommodation: Guest House

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 137km, 830m climbing

Day 5: Oudtshoorn to Ladismith

This morning we leave Oudtshoorn and cycle along the magnificent Swartberg Mountains to Calizdorp, the port wine capital of South Africa before climbing the Huisrivier Pass (655m). We reach our guest house in Ladismith, which is set against the dramatic backdrop of the 2000m peak of the Towerkop.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 99km, 600m climbing

Day 6: Ladismith to Montagu

Today we cycle right through the deserted scenery of the Little Karoo, first to Barrydale and then on to the picturesque little village of Montagu known for its beautiful Cape Dutch houses. The famous hot springs are situated close to our comfortable hotel. What a pleasure for weary cycling muscles!

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 131km, 830m climbing

Day 7: Rest Day at Montagu

There is a lot to do around this beautiful village. You could go hiking in the Bloupunt Area, do some wine tasting, visit the local museum, experience a 'Neil Burger tractor ride' up Papageikop (980m), play Golf in Robertson or see the Southernmost tip of Africa at Cape Agulhas.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Meals: Breakfast

No cycling

Day 8: Montagu to Robertson

Today we cross the beautiful Kogmanskloof Gorge with its impressively folded sandstone layers before cycling through the vineyards en-route to Bonnievale and the historic village of McGregor. This evening's accommodation is a cozy guesthouse in Robertson and we are invited to a nearby wine estate for wine tasting.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 125km, 550m climbing

Day 9: Robertson to Ceres

Following the impressive Hex River Mountains we cycle through the Breede River Valley on the way to Worcester – home to the famous KWV Brandy Distillery. We pass wine estates and cycle on via Michell's Pass (490m) before reaching our guesthouse in Ceres.

Accommodation: Guest House

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 115km, 360m climbing

Day 10: Ceres to Cape Town

Today we begin riding with an ascent (climbing to 600m) through the picturesque Bainskloof Gorge. The natural hot pools in the river make ideal 'cool-off' spots. From the top of the pass we enjoy spectacular views across the Cape wine lands before a long descent down into Wellington. We load the bikes and travel by shuttle bus to Cape Town. For many, Cape Town is the most beautiful city in the world. Our hotel accommodation this evening is close to the city and waterfront. We explore the city centre by foot: The Cape Castle, Parade, Flower Market, Company's Gardens with the National Gallery, Green Market Square and the historical Malay Quarter.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 54km, 460m climbing

Day 11: Cape Town to Cape of Good Hope (or Cape Argus Cycle Race)

This morning we travel a short distance by shuttle and start cycling along the Indian Ocean to the renowned Cape of Good Hope. We stop to look at a penguin colony in Boulders along the way. Our return journey to Cape Town takes us along the Atlantic Coast by way of the famous Chapman's Peak Drive. This is one of the most breathtaking routes in South Africa and every March it attracts over 35,000 cyclists from all over the world who take part in the extremely popular Argus Cycle Tour.

If you are participating in the Cape Argus Cycle Race you can cycle from your hotel about 3.2km to the start and about 6.4km from the finish back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: 108km. 650m climbing

Day 12: Sightseeing and Transfer to Airport

This morning is at your own disposal. Depending on your return flight, you can visit Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robin Island or take a cable car ride up Table Mountain, Cape Town's famous landmark. After lunch, sadly it's time to pack up your bike before being transferred to the airport.

Should you decide to stay on for a few more days, Cape Town has a lot to offer by way of sightseeing and shopping opportunities! A cable car ride up Table Mountain, Cape Town's famous landmark is highly recommended (not included) as is spending time on the Cape Town Waterfront. Additional to this tour we recommend the very popular 3-day excursion into the Kruger National Park. Should you choose a March departure for this tour, you can take part in the world-famous Argus Cycle Tour around the Cape Peninsula. We will gladly assist you with your registration.

Meals: Breakfast

No Cycling.

Tour Information**Included in 12 day tour:**

- 11 nights in 3-4 star hotels, guest houses and lodges (based on twin share)
- Meals as indicated on the day to day itinerary
- Backup vehicle & luggage trailer
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure days
- English speaking driver/guide
- Entrance fees to Addo Elephant Park, Tsitsikamma National Park, Chapmans Peak (when open) and Cape Point

Not Included:

- Drinks & snack bars
- Travel insurance
- Laundry
- Passport or travel visa requirements
- Bike rental is **not** available for this tour
- Entry fee for Cape Argus Bike Race

Tour Grade

This tour is graded 7/8 challenging to hard (on a scale of 1-10 with 9/10 being extreme).

2011 Departure Dates

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