

Kei River Trail, South Africa

Itinerary

Discover the rugged and unspoilt natural beauty of the Wild Coast. Explore rocky headlands, rolling hills and vast tracks of superb golden beaches.

On this holiday you are based at Kei Mouth and during the week have a mini trail where you ride through to Wavecrest for two nights. It is perfect for riders who want a bit more flexibility to perhaps sit out a morning or afternoon ride and who don't want to be moving on every day. It is also possible to ride different horses on the days you are staying at Kei River.

You generally ride for 2-3 hours in the morning and 1.5-2 hours in the afternoon, depending on the weather, sea tides and the wishes of the group.

Day 1

Arrive at Johannesburg airport in the early morning, before taking an internal flight to East London to arrive mid-morning. The transfer to Kei Mouth is a journey of approximately one hour.

Meet your fellow riders at the Kei Mouth for a light lunch and to change into your riding clothes.

Enjoy a short introductory ride. You will go down to the river mouth and have the opportunity for your first canter along the beautiful beaches.



Overnight and dinner at Kei Mouth.

Day 2

After a continental breakfast at the guesthouse you set off for your first ride along the Wild Coast.

Please note that the following is the planned itinerary but local conditions, such as weather or high waters, can sometimes necessitate a change to the order of the rides. When beach riding, the time of your departure each day is influenced by the tides.

During the morning, your trail will take you through a kaleidoscope of rural Xhosa villages, mysterious waterfalls, rolling hillsides and of course the mandatory beach canter.



After a picnic lunch by the waterfall (and maybe a swim!), long canters over endless hillsides ensure that you have had an exhilarating first day's ride!

Overnight and dinner at Kei Mouth.

Day 3

Today you head off in the opposite direction and explore the magnificent Morgan Bay cliff tops.



Then it is off to discover Yellowwood Forest – a favourite place for a wood fired pizza – and a place

that inspires us to be eco-friendly, off the grid and recycle everything.

Finish the day with a canter down the Morgan Bay beach before heading back to the paddocks.

Overnight and dinner at Kei Mouth.

Day 4

Today is another full day of riding up the coast to enjoy a pub lunch.



Alternatively you could take a break from riding and either chill out in the Kei Mouth village or take an excursion to a nearby Big Five game reserve (extra cost payable locally).

Overnight at Kei Mouth.

Day 5

After having had the opportunity to relax yesterday, you should be fresh and ready for a full day in the saddle.

It is a full day's riding along the coast and the scenery is simply stunning. There is a good chance of spotting dolphins in the surf as you canter along the beaches and along the headlands.



During the ride, your guide will select a beautiful, sheltered spot for you to enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing onto arrive at Wavecrest in the afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Wavecrest.

Day 6

The departure time this morning is dictated by the tide. It is a fantastic three hour ride either up the beach and back across country through rolling hills and traditional villages or the other way around, depending on the tides. Either way you get to ride on the hard, wet beach at low tide – the gallops are exhilarating. You are back at the hotel in time for lunch.



The afternoon has a choice of activities. You may choose to indulge in a little pampering at the Wavecrest spa (treatments are payable locally), or perhaps you prefer to explore the rare mangrove forests by either boat or canoe, maybe challenge one of your fellow riders or guides to a game of tennis.



Dinner and overnight at Wavecrest.

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997 Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com

Day 7

Depart from Wavecrest and continue your journey back to your starting point. Meander through villages, dune forests and rolling hills, with a smattering of beach work to keep the adrenalin pumping!



With no time pressures or tides to consider, this is a relaxing day of riding as you eventually cross over Kei Mouth and the trail draws to an end.

Depending on tides and the weather, lunch is either at Trennery's or back at Kei Mouth.



Overnight at Kei Mouth with its views over the river and to the ocean and enjoy a farewell 'braai' (barbecue).

Day 8

If time permits have a final morning ride.



Later transfer to East London.

Accommodation

You stay the first four nights and the last night at Kei Mouth and two nights at Wavecrest.

There are tea/coffee making facilities in all of the rooms.

Kei Mouth

Situated in the seaside village of Kei Mouth, and just a short walk from the beach, Kei Mouth overlooks the Kei River with views of the sea from the decked area.



The Kei River and ferry crossing are within walking distance, as are restaurants, pubs and the supermarket.



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There are five private twin/double ensuite rooms and a bunk room. The ground floor rooms each have a private entrance and patio area.

Wavecrest



Wavecrest has a stunning setting on the banks of the Nxaxo River estuary. The sand dune forests, beaches, mangrove trees and ecology of the area is breathtaking. The rooms are all en suite and overlook the river, beach and sea. They have recently been re decorated and have a comfortable African feel to them.



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