

SOUTH AFRICA - WILD COAST - QOLORA TRAIL

ITINERARY

Day 1

We arrange airport transfers from East London. All transfers are payable in cash directly to the driver and so the cost is shared between all those travelling. The transfer to the guesthouse takes about 1 hour 15 minutes.

In order to join the introductory ride your flight should arrive into East London by midday on day one.

On the day of departure, a later flight departing East London at around 17:00 will normally allow time for a short final morning ride.

Meet your fellow riders at Kei Mouth for a light lunch followed by an afternoon ride to get to know your allocated horse.

You will go down to the river mouth and have the opportunity for your first canter along the beautiful beaches.



Overnight Kei Mouth Guest Lodge. The guesthouse is in the seaside village of Kei Mouth just a short walk from the beach.

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

There are four twin/double en-suite rooms. The ground floor rooms each have a private entrance and patio area. Please note that if this particular guesthouse

is full, alternative similar accommodation in the Kei Mouth area will be used instead.



One of the bedrooms at Kei Mouth Guest Lodge

Day 2

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.

Today you will 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 Kei Mouth Guest Lodge.

Day 3

After breakfast, you venture across the Great Kei River, loading the horses onto the pontoon and riding onto the beaches of the Wild Coast.

On arriving at your hotel there should be time to stretch your legs on the beach or unwind with a drink by the pool before dinner.



Overnight Seagulls. A family hotel which offers a peaceful stay by the sea. The rooms are clean and uncluttered, with the essentials you need during your stay.



A typical bedroom at Seagulls

Enjoy breakfast and dinner overlooking the grounds and out to sea.



Seagulls

Day 4

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



Overnight Seagulls.

Day 5

It is a stunning morning ride along the coast today. There is a good chance of spotting dolphins in the surf as you canter along the beaches and along the headlands.



Lunch could be a picnic along the way, or at your hotel, depending on the timing of the ride.

Arrive at your hotel in time for a non-riding activity.

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.

Overnight 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 breath-taking. 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.





One of the bedrooms at Wavecrest

Day 6

The departure time this morning is dictated by the tide. It is a fantastic 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.



Arrive back at the hotel in the afternoon, with the chance for a non-riding activity, or simply relax in beautiful surroundings.

Overnight Wavecrest.

Day 7

Depart from Wavecrest and 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!



Cross over to Kei Mouth and the trail draws to an end.

Depending on tides and the weather, lunch may be during the trail or back at Kei Mouth.

This evening, enjoy a farewell 'braai' (barbecue).

Overnight Kei Mouth Guest Lodge.

Day 8

If time permits there may be a last ride in the morning.