

Wild Coast Adventure 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. This is a trail ride along the coast, staying at a variety of guesthouses along the way.

This trail takes riders along the coast from Kei Mouth into the southern region of the Wild Coast, stopping at coastal guesthouses along the way which provide comfortable stop-overs for horse and rider alike.

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 One

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.

If you arrive in time, meet your fellow riders at Kei Mouth for a light lunch and to change into your riding clothes.

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 and accommodation used. When beach riding, the time of your departure each day is influenced by the tides.

The first ride is approximately two hours over rocky headlands and along endless stretches of beach.



Dinner and overnight at Kei Mouth.

Day Two

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



The morning's ride will be an exploration of the local community lands, touring hidden-away trails, pools and waterfalls along the way.

After a picnic lunch, the afternoon's ride will take you along the beautiful coastline to Trennery's. This quaint, authentic guesthouse remains relatively unchanged since its inception in the 1940s, thus providing a taste of traditional South African holidaying.



Stretch your legs on the beach or unwind with a drink by the pool before dinner and overnight at Trennery's Hotel. (NB: on occasions Seagulls Hotel is used instead).

Day Three

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

It's time to move on today with a distance of 40kms to be covered. The morning ride takes you further up the coast traversing rolling hills and sandy beaches and passing through rural settlements and holiday villages. After crossing a number of rivers via the drifts, the ride turns back to the sea for a lunchtime picnic on the beach.



After a hearty lunch, your afternoon ride is a breath-taking ride along unspoilt beaches. Tides permitting, there will be opportunities for some faster paced riding on these almost deserted beaches eventually making your way to the Mazeppa Bay hotel.

Dinner and overnight at Mazeppa Bay hotel.

Day Four

The next leg of your adventure is "The Gorge". This route takes you through a beautiful river ravine and over some tricky terrain. Once through the rocky river bed, the ride heads back to the sea through valleys and along winding cattle tracks before reaching your next destination – Kob Inn.



On arrival at the Kob Inn you have an opportunity to relax and soak up the laidback hospitality of another coastal treasure. With a pub on the rocks overlooking the wild seas and sheltered private beaches on either

side, this is a place in which to kick back, relax and truly embrace 'Africa time'.

Dinner and overnight at the Kob Inn.

Day Five

After having had the opportunity to relax yesterday, you should be fresh and ready for a full day in the saddle. Today's riding will take you along sheltered beaches, into hidden coves and beautiful lagoons.



Enjoy a picnic lunch in a sheltered spot before heading back to the Kob Inn.

Dinner and overnight at the Kob Inn.

Day Six

Today you head back down the coast again. As on previous days, the timing of the day's riding will be dependent on the tides as you cross rivers, climb hills and speed along beaches on your way to Wavecrest.



After a ride of c.30km, 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 or

challenge one of your fellow riders or guides to a game of tennis.



Dinner and overnight at Wavecrest.

Day Seven

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



Depending on tides and the weather, etc lunch is either at Kei Mouth Country Club or en route.

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

Day Eight

If you have the energy and time permits you may have a final morning ride.

Later transfer to East London.

Accommodation

You stay at a range of interesting hotels and guesthouses. The accommodation is comfortable rather than luxurious but the views more than compensate.

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

Trennery's



This historic hotel has a decidedly "colonial" feel. The hotel is set among lush indigenous gardens and a private beach is a short walk past the tennis courts. It has a swimming pool, bar and recreational facilities.

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The rooms are comfortable twin or double rooms with en suite bathroom. The food is good and wholesome.



Seagulls



Seagulls is sometimes used if Trennery's is unavailable. It is very similar to Trennery's, situated right on the beach with a private swimming pool.

Mazeppa Bay



Mazeppa Bay is characterized by its own Island. Depending on the tide, this is sometimes only accessible by a quaint suspension bridge, which joins the Island to the main beach. The hotel boasts a tennis court, full size snooker table, beach volley ball, table tennis, a trampoline for the children, DSTV in the communal TV lounge, and two bars in which to enjoy sundowners after a long day on the beach and rocks. The rooms range in size from standard rooms to suites and all have an en suite bathroom.



The Kob Inn



Set right on the sea front, this comfortable guesthouse is flanked by sheltered beaches. The spacious rooms have en-suite facilities. Good food is synonymous with Kob Inn, with fresh fish and seafood being a regular feature on the table menu.

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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.



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.



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