

SOUTH AFRICA - WILD COAST - WILD COAST ADVENTURE 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.

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.



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

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.



Ride over rocky headlands and along stretches of beach. After a picnic lunch, the afternoon's ride will continue to take you along the beautiful coastline. 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 3

It's time to move on today with a distance of 40 km 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 breakfast or lunchtime picnic on the beach.



Continue riding along breath-taking and 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.



Overnight Mazeppa Bay Hotel. 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.



View from Mazeppa Bay Hotel

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.



One of the bedrooms at Mazeppa Bay Hotel

Day 4

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 riverbed, the ride heads back to the sea through valleys and along winding cattle tracks before reaching your next destination – Kob Inn. Please note that riding through the gorge is weather dependent and if the footing in the gorge is unsafe an alternative route will be taken.



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’.

Overnight Kob Inn Hotel.



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.



A typical bedroom at Kob Inn Hotel

Day 5

After having had the opportunity to relax a little 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.

Overnight Kob Inn Hotel.

Day 6

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 around 30 km, 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.

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 7

If the tide is right, depart from Wavecrest and journey along beautiful beaches back to your starting point. If conditions allow, there will be plenty of chances for faster riding.



Leave your horses with their grooms and head off for a late lunch in Kei Mouth. Alternatively, you may start inland, stop for a picnic lunch and hit the beaches at low tide for some faster riding. Arrive in Kei Mouth in the late afternoon.

Finish your unforgettable week with a farewell 'braai' (barbecue).

Overnight Kei Mouth Guest Lodge.

Day 8

If time permits you may have the chance for a final morning ride.