

# 8 Day 'Wild Adventure' Cycle Tour

## Cycle Tour – with Hotel Add-ons - Itinerary

QUOTE / ITINERARY PREPARED FOR:

1

**Key:**

B – Breakfast

L – Lunch

D - Dinner

(Provided / Included)

**Day 1 – Self-drive to Port St Johns OR Kei River** (if PSJ - shuttle to Kei River) **or fly into East London Airport** (airport pick-up & taken down to Kei River)

There are various options i.t.o starting your tour.

### **SELF-DRIVE: Coming from Cape Town**

The driving distance from CT to East London is 1079km. East London down to Kei River is 93km (approx 1-1.5hr drive). Self-driving from CT – would be best to start your tour from Kei River & get shuttle back to your vehicles at the END of the tour.

**SELF-DRIVE From Durban:** Port St Johns is approximately 5 hrs drive from Durban (via N2 and then R61). A shuttle with bike trailer (able to accommodate 8 bikes) will pick-up from meeting / end point in PSJ and take you through to Kei River (approx 3.5 hr -4 transfer). Your vehicles will be left at the finishing point of your tour.

### **FLY-IN PACKAGE:**

Alternatively, one can fly into East London airport and get a shuttle from the airport to Kei Mouth (approx 1.5hr), as well as a return shuttle (back to the airport) from Umngazi or PSJ at the end of the tour.

The first night will be spent at **Morgan Bay Hotel**. Afternoon – Bike Prep, Beach and dinner provided. **D**



## **Day 2 – Cycle: Morgan Bay – Kob Inn Hotel** (Approx 43km / 5 hrs riding)

After an early breakfast, the ferry crossing at Kei Mouth marks the official start of the tour. A rutted 4x4 path leads down to a long, flat beach section, past the Jacaranda shipwreck, with a local ferry across the Nxaxo river.

Cross the Qora river with ferry and you'll finish over the hill at **Kob Inn Hotel** – staying in a beach bungalow with stunning sea views.

**B,L,D**

## **Day 3: Kob Inn – Dwesa Nature Reserve** (approx 26km / 5.5 hr riding when strong headwind)

Cycle mainly along the beach reserve until Shixini, past the shipwreck of the Frontier and then off/on beach to Beecham woods. River crossing at Nqabara, following by contoured cattle paths & some rocky sections onto **Dwesa Nature Reserve** (through main gate).

That night spent in log- cabins, amongst indigenous forest canopy (great birding & forest walks)

**B,L,D**

**Extra Info:** Dwesa is a 3900ha nature reserve comprising lush coastal forest, open grassland & marine protected coastline. It is a birders paradise, with many endemic forest and grassland species and specials such as the Narina Trogon and Mangrove Kingfisher. Explore the forest walking trails or take a stroll to Kobole point where you'll get magnificent views across the ocean - a good spot for sighting whales and dolphins.



#### **Day 4: Dwesa Nature Reserve – Bulungula Lodge (36km/ approx 5-6hr ride)**

A couple of 'mother' hills await your passage out of Dwesa. Keep a look out for the rhinos, which frequent this section of the reserve. The mighty Mbashe river is best negotiated in the refuge of a rowing boat, then continue along the beach past the old lighthouse and onto breezy point - dolphin country. The river crossing at Xora mouth can be fast-flowing and deep, so you may need to catch a ferry or cross further upstream. After this you'll stay on the beach until Bulungula Estuary. Accommodation that night is at **Bulungulu Lodge. B,L,D**

#### **Day 5: Rest Day at Bulungula**

A well scheduled 'lay day' is spent at Bulungula Lodge - a fair trade tourism lodge overlooking the stunningly beautiful Belungwini estuary and golden arch of sandy shoreline. Try out the xhosa sarmies at the local community restaurant, explore the mangrove estuary, walk into the hills and visit a local sangoma, or get some well deserved R&R – sunbathing & swimming accompanied by some very cool chill-house **B, D** (lunch for own account as you may want to visit the local community restaurant)

#### **Day 6: Bulungulu – Coffee Bay (35km – 38km / approx 5- 6hr ride time)**

The ride from Bulungula to Coffee Bay takes in three of the 'big four' climbs. However, your toil is amply rewarded by a gentle free-roll descent along well-worn cattle track to a high-cliff plateau – above Hole-in-the-Wall! A birds-eye view looking down onto this massive, freestanding rock arch with its famous hollowed centre, is one of the trips highlights. Take your lunch under the cool shade of the milkwood forest looking across to Hole-in-the-Wall. The last 10km into Coffee Bay follows gravel road... with a couple of nasty mother-in-laws in store. Treat yourself to a night of luxury at the lovely **Ocean View hotel. B,L,D**

#### **Day 7: Coffee Bay - Mpande (47 km / approx 8 hr ride time)**

This is the *longest* day of the tour. After the ferry crossing at Mtata mouth, the route will alternate between beach & grassy tracks along to Mdumbe (voted one of SA's most beautiful beaches & surfing hot-spots). Hereafter, the trail bears inland over some steep hill sections, with alternating beach sections, past Strachans, Nkweleni and Bananna bay through Hluleka Nature Reserve, descending down into thick estuarine forest and then following 4x4 & fishermen paths until joining-up with a gravel road into Mpande.

Overnight at **Sinangwana Cottage** - perched on a high hillock with panoramic views over the ocean. Good possibility of whale & dolphin sightings.

**B,L,D**

**Day 8: OPTIONAL: Extra 'lay day' at Mpande**

Take an extra day to really soak up the Wild Coast vibe. Go swimming at Mpande beach (voted one of the nicest beaches in the country by 'Go' and 'Getaway' magazine), take a walk up into indigenous forests, or try your hand at a bit of rock n surf fishing. **B,D**

