

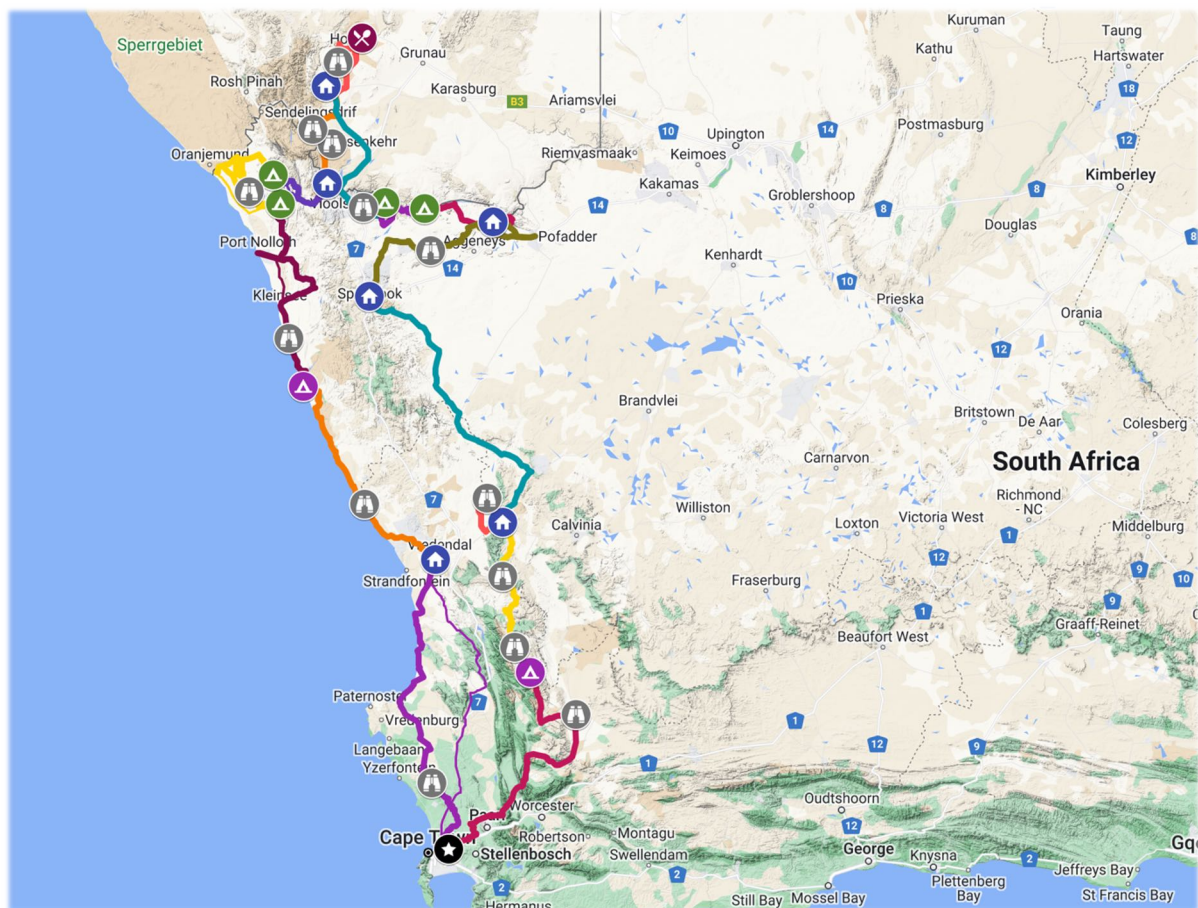
WEST COAST – RICHTERSVELD – FISH RIVER CANYON – NAMAKWA ECO TRAIL – NIEUWOUDTVILLE – CEDERBERG – TANKWA KAROO

15 riding days

This tour is probably one of the ultimate off-road motorcycle adventure of Southern Africa, the kind of once in a lifetime riding and human experience. Expect, out of 3'200km and beside a few tar sections, lots of sandy tracks and rocky off-roading; to name a few: the West Coast, the longest 4x4 trail of South Africa (*Namakwa Eco Trail*), the largest canyon of the continent (*Fish River Canyon*), a UNESCO World Heritage site (*Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape*), the long and sandy R355 from Springbok to Nieuwoudtville, the spectacular Road to Hel, the Rooibos Heritage Route and a finish through the Cederberg Mountains and the Tankwa Karoo. This tour, or better said this expedition, requires a solid portion of adventurous mind, and participants should expect to cross the line and enter the world of real adventure riding, experiencing long stages, technical challenges, remoteness, wild camping, bush repairs and last but not least team spirit.

Overview map

[Click the icon to view the itinerary in Google Maps:](#)
















The Spirit of the Tour

This trip is not a commercial tour as usual, it is a special event organised for special people. Anyway, and because of the above, everybody will be expected to give a hand, tasks will be numerous and might include, among other things, building up the camp, getting water, cooking, checking/fixing the bikes, dealing with punctures, etc... The days won't stop when the engines are switched off, and all available hands will be needed to sort out all kind of planned tasks, in addition to the unexpected daily surprise(s)...

Stages

Abbreviations: **G** Gravel roads **S** Sandy trails **R** Rocky trails **C** Challenging trails **T** Tar road

Day	Stage	Hours	km	Terrain				
				G	S	R	C	T
1	Bellville – Darling 	2.5	96	G				T
	Darling – Vredendal 	5	238	G				T
2	Vredendal – Groenrivier	4.5	147	G				T
	Groenrivier – Hondeklip Bay	2.5	79	G	S		C	T
3	Hondeklip Bay – Kleinsee	2.5	89	G	S			
	Kleinsee – Port Nolloth 	2.5	62	G	S			
	Port Nolloth – Bakkrans Caves	3	83	G	S	R		
4	Bakkrans Caves – Alexander Bay 	3	88	G	S			
	Alexander Bay – Tierhoek	3.5	110	G	S			
5	Tierhoek – Smith's Pass – Eksteensfontein	3	52		S	R	C	
	Eksteensfontein – Helskloof Pass – Vioolsdrift 	3	55	G		R		
6	Vioolsdrift (RSA/NAM border) – Aussenkehr	1.5 *	77					T
	Quiver Tree Forest Trail	3	47	G		R	C	
	Aussenkehr – Ai Ais 	2	76	G	S			
7	Ai Ais – Hobas	1.5	68	G				
	Hobas – Fish River Canyon – Hobas	4	90	G		R	C	
	Hobas – Ai Ais	2.5	88	G				
8	Ai Ais – Noordoewer (NAM/RSA border) 	2 *	121	G				T
	Noordoewer – Namaqua Eco Trail turn-off	0.5	25					T
	Namaqua Eco Trail turn-off – Kamgab	4	56		S	R	C	
9	Kamgab – View Point	2	19		S	R	C	
	View Point – Ramansdrift	3	72		S	R	C	
10	Ramansdrift – Witbank – Groot Melkboom	1.5	27		S	R	C	
	Groot Melkboom – Klein Pella turn-off	4.5	75		S			
	Optional: Klein Pella turn-off – Charles' Pass – Klein Pella	2	57		S	R		
11	Klein Pella – Pofadder 	1.5	54	G	S			
	Pofadder – Okiep (Springbok) 	5	219	G	S			
12	Okiep – Kliprand	4	163	G	S			
	Kliprand – Nieuwoudtville 	3	138	G				T
13	Nieuwoudtville – Die Hel	3	99	G		R	C	
	Die Hel – Nieuwoudtville 			G		R	C	
14	Nieuwoudtville – Wupperthal	3.5	135	G	S			
	Wupperthal – Cederberg Oasis 	2.5	40	G		R		
15	Cederberg Oasis – Katbakkies Pass – Tankwa Padstal	2.5	85	G				
	Tankwa Padstal – Baviaanshoek – Ceres 	3	107	G				
	Ceres – Paarl – Bellville	2	114	G				T

Some of the stages may look short in terms of distance, however and for the kind of terrain encountered, it is usual to plan and count in hours rather in km.

(*) Border crossing: add between 1 ½ and 2 hours to clear the vehicles, get the passport stamped, etc. It is also part of the experience...

Stage maps



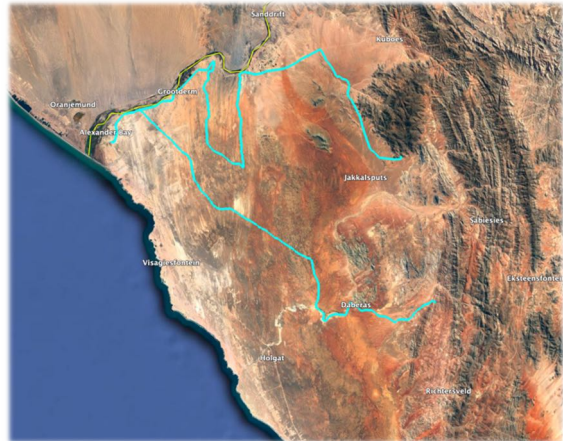
Stage 1: Cape Town – Vredendal



Stage 2: Vredendal – Hondeklip Bay



Stage 3: Hondeklip Bay – Bakkrans Caves



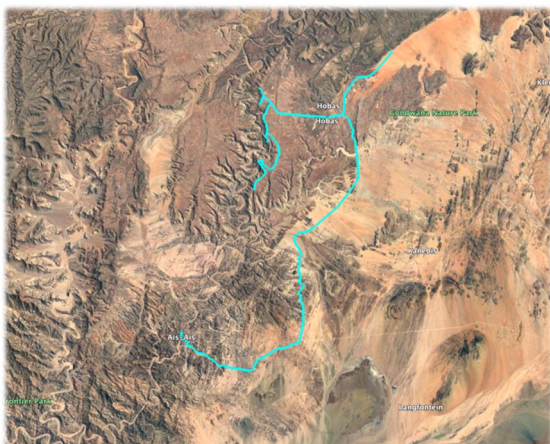
Stage 4: Bakkrans Caves – Tierhoek



Stage 5: Tierhoek – Vioolsdrift



Stage 6: Vioolsdrift – Ai Ais (NAM)



Stage 7: Ai Ais – Fish River Canyon – Ai Ais



Stage 8: Ai Ais – Kamgab (Eco Trail)



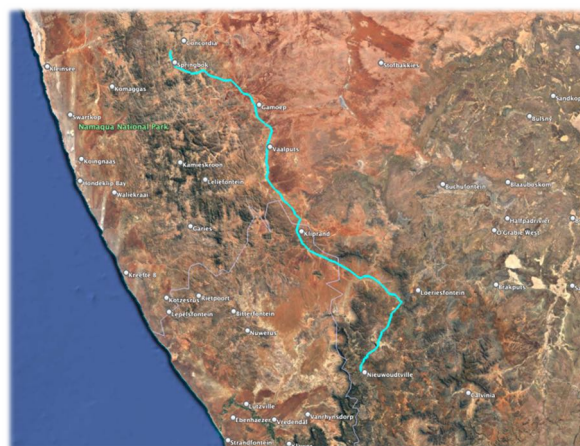
Stage 9: Kamgab – Ramansdrift (Eco Trail)



Stage 10: Ramansdrift – Klein Pella



Stage 11: Klein Pella – Okiep



Stage 12: Okiep – Nieuwoudtville

1.2 Travel bag, clothing & various

<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof bag (size: 50L +, to store your gear in or on the 4x4 vehicle)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Light down jacket or equivalent (evenings can be very chilly)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pair of takkies (caution with sandals and flip-flops: scorpion area)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quick drying underwear / T-shirts (merino wool is the best even in hot weather)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long socks (e.g. merino wool ski socks, which are the best in enduro boots)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casual pants and/or shorts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foot and baby powder, deodorant (shower not available every day...)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thin microfiber quick drying towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buff(s) or scarf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun lotion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insect repellent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medication and prescription (if required)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hat and/or cap
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toiletry bag
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunglasses / Reading glasses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Powerbank (min. 10'000mAh), USB chargers, power adaptors, cables
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic gadgets (e.g. GoPro, camera, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

1.4 Safety & protective apparel

(Please don't forget to tell us if you needs some of our rental gear)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Adventure jacket with protectors or soft body armour and light enduro jacket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adventure pants with protectors or enduro pants with knee and hip guards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adventure or offroad boots (no low boots, e.g. Sidi Adventure 2, Klim Adventure GTX)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adventure or enduro helmet (e.g. Arai Tour X4, Airow Aviator, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goggles (even if your helmet has a visor, it might be nicer in hot weather)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kidney belt (not mandatory, only if you feel for it)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rain jacket / pants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daypack with hydration bladder (min. 2L, if you drink a lot consider even 3L or 2x 2L)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Accommodation

Abbreviations: **W** Wild Camping **T** Tented Camp **L** Lodge/Hotel **G** Guest house/cottage **B** Camp

Day	Location	Coordinates	Accommodation				
			W	T	L	G	B
1	Vredendal	S31° 40' 06.0" E18° 30' 31.9"					
2	Hondeklip Bay (West Coast)	S30° 18' 54.4" E17° 16' 35.5"					
3	Bakkrans Caves (Richtersveld)	S28° 51' 48.1" E17° 04' 29.8"					
4	Tierhoek (Richtersveld)	S28° 38' 01.0" E17° 00' 41.6"					
5	Violsdrift (Oranger River)	S28° 41' 46.2" E17° 29' 51.7"					
6 & 7	Ai Ais (Namibia) *	S27° 55' 03.6" E17° 29' 23.1"					
8	Gamkab (Namaqua Eco Trail)	S28° 51' 11.8" E18° 01' 44.5"					
9	Ramansdrift (Namaqua Eco Trail)	S28° 53' 08.6" E18° 19' 59.4"					
10	Klein Pella (Namaqua Eco Trail)	S29° 00' 20.6" E19° 00' 38.8"					
11	Okiep	S30° 00' 12.8" E21° 08' 46.5"					
12 & 13	Nieuwoudtville	S31° 22' 25.4" E19° 06' 39.5"					
14	Cederberg Oasis	S32° 33' 04.6" E19° 21' 41.1"					

(*) depending on availability

Food & Drinking water

Compared to our commercial tour food standard, everything will have to be simplified...

Braai, instant soup and lots of pasta for suppers at camps, easy snacks for lunches and on-the-go. No scrambled eggs for breakfast (*it is too tricky to carry eggs in the 4x4*), and wherever possible we will get meals from local businesses.

Please let us know if someone has **special diet** requirements (*gluten free, vegan, halal, etc*).

The 4x4 vehicle will have to carry our drinking water for up to 2.5 days, which means 3 jerricans of 25L each (based on 5L/per day/pp). The Orange River only provides cooking and ablution water.

Assistance 4x4 Vehicle

Although it might take away a bit of the adventurous feeling, we've opted for the assistance 4x4 vehicle (Isuzu KB300 or Toyota Hilux), and this for many (*good*) reasons:

Luggage and camping gear will not overload the small bikes, enough drinking water and additional petrol can be transported, and furthermore the 4x4 allows a comprehensive toolbox and even spare tyres .

The 4x4 is fitted with a 80L fridge, a cool box and a side awning.



Number of participants

Because of the logistics and the amount of equipment which needs to be transported in the 4x4 vehicle, the number of participants is strictly limited to 5.

Motorbikes



Honda CRF250L and CRF300L



Rallycross MT21 D606

All bikes are fitted with a skid plate, handguards, modified shock, rack + 5L waterproof rack bag.
For this particular tour, the bikes will be fitted with the following tyres (*in the hope they will last 3'300km*):
Front: Pirelli Rallycross MT21 90/90-21 | Rear: Dunlop D606 120/90-18
All bikes will be serviced (*new air/oil filters & full synth oil change*) and thoroughly inspected before the tour.
All bikes are fitted with a 3L or 5L petrol bladder. **No spare bike will be available during the trip.**

Vehicle's allocation

[Name] Honda CRF300L-2021 CY429207	[Name] Honda CRF300L-2021 CY437043	[Name] Honda CRF300L-2021 CY429211	[Name] Honda CRF280L-2017 CY308215
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Insurance & Liability

All participants should (*shall*) contract a repatriation insurance, covering emergency medical expenses and evacuation (*helicopter rescue*). Make sure that off-road motorcycling is covered. Please check with your insurance broker.

By returning the signed booking form, the participant accept that neither endurafrica (Pty) Ltd, the guide/driver, nor the hosting facilities, are liable for any injury or damages, to person or property, resulting from the taking of the tour.

Skills & Fitness

This tour requires slightly more than just basic off-road skills, sand riding experience would clearly be an advantage, and although the small displacement dual-sport motorcycles make things much easier than with a big adventure bike, a **reasonable level of fitness / endurance** is strongly recommended.

The stages can (and will) be long, with some of them requiring up to 8 hours of riding.

For those of you not used to sand riding yet, plenty of kilometers will wait for you from day 2, allowing you to dramatically improve your skills.

Weather

As one of the **hottest places in Southern Africa**, the temperatures in the Namaqua and Richtersveld can easily climb to up to 40°C and more. Usually, mid-October to mid-November offers quite stable weather conditions in the North, and feared cloud bursts are unlikely.
The temperatures at night can go down to 0°C.

First Aid & Emergency Services

Although the guide is First Aid qualified (*and carries a comprehensive first aid kit*), all participants should basically have an in-date BLS certificate.

Furthermore, we'll carry a Garmin In-Reach satellite phone connected to the GEOS global emergency services.

Area specific hazards

The Richtersveld is known for being a scorpion area. Even if not (*always*) life threatening, scorpions stings are insanely painful. Best is to keep clothes and boots in the tent at night, and check everything (with gloves on) before gearing up in the morning.

Communication

A mobile network is basically not available in the Richtersveld, along the Namaqua Eco Trail and in the Fish River Canyon.

We still have the possibility to send text sms (*with the satellite phone*) to the endurafrica's office, who can forward the message(s) to whoever via Whatsapp. Some of the accommodations offer limited wlan (*if no load shedding occurs*).

Driving License & Visa Requirements (Namibia)

For non-SA residents, it is strongly recommended to have an international driving license in Namibia.

No visa is required to enter Namibia (*only a passport, valid for no less than 6 months*).

Cash and ATMs

Most of the remotely located stores don't accept card payments. The only cash you really need is for drinks and souvenirs, all the rest is included.

Expect ATMs only at a few locations (*Bellville and Vredendal (day 1), Port Nolloth (day 3), Alexander Bay (day 4), Noordoewer and Aussenkehr (Namibia, day 6), Pofadder and Springbok (day 11), Nieuwoudtville (day 12) and Ceres (day 15)*).

COVID-Restrictions

No restrictions as per today (5 April 2023) in either South Africa or Namibia.