

Spectacular South Africa



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*If you're not living on the edge
you're taking up too much room !*

Spectacular South Africa

+ Lesotho & Eswatini (Swaziland)



Destinations and Places of Interest

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cape Town | 5. Tsitsikamma | 9. Ladybrand | 13. Eswatini |
| 2. Kalk Bay | 6. Graaff-Reinet | 10. Lesotho | 14. Kruger N.P. |
| 3. Arniston | 7. Addo N.P. | 11. Clarens | 15. Johannesburg |
| 4. Prince Albert | 8. Morgan's Bay | 12. Paulpietersburg | |



Spectacular South Africa Motorcycle Safari

Itinerary for March 2024

Day	Date	Details	Distance	
1	M	Mar 11	Fly to Cape Town, arrive in the morning, lunch, then afternoon winery visit	--
2	T	12	* Half day visit Robben Island, exploring Cape Town, then bike allocations	--
3	W	13	First day's ride Cape Town to Cape of Good Hope via Chapman's Peak	115k
4	T	14	From Kalk Bay to Hermanus and on to Cape L'Agulhas & Arniston	315k
5	F	15	Arniston to Prince Albert, in the Western Cape via the Swartberg Pass	470k
6	S	16	Prince Albert to Tsitsikamma National Park via the Outeniqua Pass	330k
7	S	17	From Tsitsikamma N.P. on the Garden Route to Graaff-Reinet, Eastern Cape	400k
8	M	18	* Rest day exploring Graaff-Reinet; optional Valley of Desolation ride	80k
9	T	19	Short ride to Addo Elephant N.P. for afternoon game viewing	240k
10	W	20	Addo to Morgan's Bay on The Wild Coast	350k
11	T	21	From Morgan's Bay, through KwaZulu-Natal to Ladybrand	620k
12	F	22	Across the border into Lesotho, near the Maluti Mountains	400k
13	S	23	Half day ride to Clarens, Free State, afternoon exploring the town	260k
14	S	24	From Clarens to Paulpietersburg via Ladysmith	360k
15	M	25	Short ride Paulpietersburg into Lobamba, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)	160k
16	T	26	From Eswatini back into South Africa and onto Kruger National Park	260k
17	W	27	* Game safari in 4WD jeeps in Kruger National Park	--
18	T	28	Leaving Kruger for Johannesburg, Gauteng	410k
19	F	29	* Half day tour of Soweto & the Apartheid Museum, then our farewell dinner	--
20	S	30	Tour finishes with breakfast; arrange to fly out, or extend	-----
				4,770k

* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

Departure Date:

The Spectacular South Africa Motorcycle Safari 2024 is scheduled to commence on **Monday 11th March 2024** as shown above. Flights leaving Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane transit briefly in Perth and Johannesburg before arriving in Cape Town. Please see our discussion on recommended flights herein.

Tour Operator:

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **World On Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Operating for 20+ years as **Ferris Wheels**, Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by a private group of Australian riders. In 1995, by now a qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike and Denise Ferris now operate and personally lead annual **World On Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as the Indian Himalaya, Nepal, Bhutan, Rajasthan, Turkey, Morocco, the Dalmatian coastline, the South American Andes, Iceland, Mexico-Guatemala-Belize and this one through South Africa, all of approximately two or three weeks in duration.

Mike Ferris is Australia's only international motorcycle tour leader who is also a fully qualified and government-accredited riding instructor.

Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make the final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our local agent, authorities and of course, group members.



Package Price

The Spectacular South Africa package tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Cape Town is **US\$7,500-00**. Riders must have a valid and unrestricted rider's license. Pillions are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, a minivan which accompanies the riders for the length of the Safari – price for pillion or passenger is **US\$6,500-00**. Please note that our prices are subject to daily exchange rates and we reserve the right to alter any pricing, pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions, up to the date of final payment.

In this itinerary our tour prices are shown in US\$ for greatest stability but we ask for the equivalent in AU\$ at the prevailing daily exchange rate. The international website (unaffiliated with any bank) to be used for daily foreign exchange calculations is: www.XE.com/currencyconverter We request a US\$1,000 deposit and will invoice you in US\$ thereafter for the remaining balance, but you have some flexibility as to when to pay. Final payment will be due 60 days before the tour date, but if you choose to pay us say 90 or 120 days beforehand because you feel the forex rate is favourable, this works well for everyone all round.

Price includes

- BMW motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari (See **Our Motorbikes**, herein)
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 1 to 19 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional US\$900) ¹
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and evening)
- Experienced guide, local agent and mechanical assistance
- Minibus support vehicle and driver, for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines, first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance and repairs, third party insurance for the bikes
- Game Park fees and game safaris for Addo and Kruger National Parks
- Half day tour of Soweto and Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg
- Complimentary *World On Wheels* T shirt, luggage tags and South African map

¹Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and will therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

Price excludes

- Airfares to Cape Town / from Johannesburg (from Australia, approx. Au\$3,000 SA Airways)
- Travel insurance policy covering use of motorbike ²
- Tourist visa for any of these countries (currently not required, but things change!)
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs, and all drinks
- Border fees in/out of Lesotho and Swaziland and highway tolls (we avoid where possible!)
- Ferry tickets & entries to Robben Island and other National Parks
- Tips for support staff at the end of the tour (optional but appreciated; Au\$100 suggested) ³

² Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. If you already have existing travel insurance, we will insist on sighting a copy of the policy before you will be permitted to participate in this tour. For Australian clients, we can recommend www.AussieTravelCover.com.au where you can easily issue your own policy online – be sure to nominate the optional add-on 'Motorcycle Pack'. **Be aware**, however, that any travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare resumes at that point.

³ A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not automatically part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Hotel porters will expect a small reward for carrying your bags to your room. Our driver and support staff anticipate reasonable tips to supplement their modest wages whilst on tour with us; we suggest something like A\$100 (only about \$5 per day) is affordable for your three weeks and the resultant pool of money will be distributed amongst our crew. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to donate generously! (If you haven't, let us know why and we'll contribute on your behalf).

International Flights

It's a pretty simple procedure these days to book airline tickets online. There are several internet sites such as FlightCentre, Expedia, SkyScanner, FlightNetwork, etc which will give you comparisons on all available carriers to/from your required destination. There are many flight options to Cape Town / from Johannesburg. We recommend you book your airfare about six months ahead to get the best price.

Food & Health

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our clients are often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution, and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible. Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness, and capability, but in all cases a **consultation with your doctor is suggested** in order to identify any necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if you are traveling overseas for the first time.



Climate & Clothing

South Africa is a subtropical region moderated by ocean on two sides and the altitude of the interior plateau. Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant moderate weather of the autumn season. Temperatures can range from cool to warm, depending on our destination. At times there will be little shade available, so plenty of sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and long sleeves will also be required. Jeans and our *World On Wheels* shirts tend to be the norm, with strong boots and riding gloves. Helmets, full or open-face as you prefer, should be brought with you from home.

Professional quality riding gear including jackets, overpants and other protective clothing are an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. The chance of an occasional rainy day is always a possibility on a tour of this duration, so pack some wet weathers!

And we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. Our recommendation here is the renowned operation Stay Upright, who offer a range of courses designed to progressively increase your riding ability. Mike Ferris completed his Instructor's course with Stay Upright, who offer various track and adventure riding courses in the eastern states of Australia.



Our Motorbikes

Our bike supplier provides BMW motorbikes, and we'll have the range of GS models available (F750GS, F850GS, R1250GS). All bikes are late model and in well-maintained condition. They are fully-faired and are perfect steeds for travelling the South African roads. For the more vertically challenged we are able to make some adjustments to certain bikes to assist in your riding comfort. All motorbikes come with a top box, and all fuel, insurance and maintenance are included.

We will attempt to provide you with the bike of your choice, but they may be allocated on a first-booked first-choice basis, and we retain the right of assignment. Our bike provider is a commercial operation and their fleet changes frequently, so your preferred model might not always be available.

Please note when you pick up the motorcycle you will be required to provide an insurance excess deposit on your credit card, of approximately US\$1,000 depending on the model of your bike. At the conclusion of the tour an assessment will be made of any damage incurred during the tour and any repairs necessary to your motorcycle. Any repair/replacement costs incurred discussed with you before being charged against your credit card provided.

Our riding policy

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day and play 'follow the leader', but that's not our style at all. You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our support van with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

Detailed Daily Itinerary



Day 1 We arrive in Cape Town from our various starting points and meet up at our hotel late morning. After checking in and showering, if we're not too travel-weary we'll jump in a minivan and go to explore one of the nearby wineries for which this region is famous, and enjoy a leisurely relaxing lunch. Then it's back to the hotel for a light dinner and an early night!

Day 2 Sees us heading down to the Victoria & Albert waterfront to catch the first ferry of the morning for the 3.5 hour round trip and tour of Robben Island.

This morning we will visit the prison where Nelson Mandela (named Prisoner 46664, as the 466th prisoner to arrive in 1964) and his ANC comrades were imprisoned in the early 1960's for their stand against apartheid in South Africa. Our fascinating tour will be conducted by an ex political prisoner and actual inmate of Robben Island, we will see the prison and hear his story. The afternoon is free time to continue to adjust to your jet lag, take the 'Hop-On Hop-Off' bus to Table Mountain and elsewhere, or simply explore Cape Town on foot. In the evening we need to process some bike commissioning paperwork.

"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Nelson Mandela, June 1999

Day 3 Our first day's ride is the day of two Capes; from Cape Town to the Cape of Good Hope. Leaving Cape Town central we'll enjoy the coastal vistas of Camps Bay and Hout Bay before taking in the majestic scenery of Chapman's Peak on the western side of the Cape Peninsula. The afternoon then sees us continuing down the Peninsula to visit the well-known Cape of Good Hope. Watch out for ostriches en route! Tonight we're staying in Kalk Bay on the eastern side of the same peninsula.



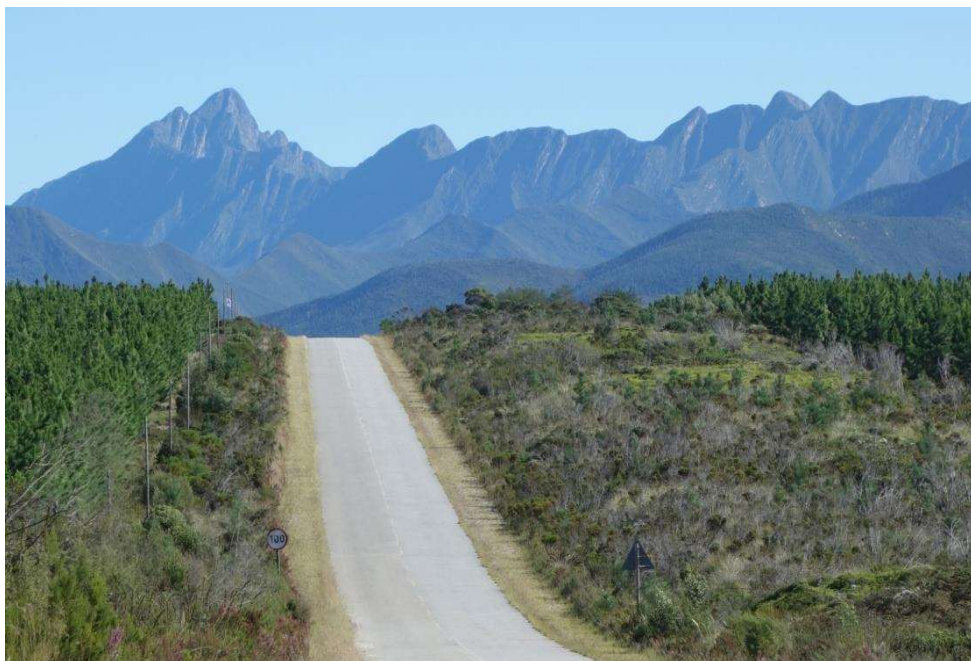
Day 4 Our main destination today is yet another cape; L'Agulhas, sometimes regarded as one of the Great Capes. Cape L'Agulhas is the geographic southern tip of the African continent and the beginning of the line dividing the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. On the way we'll swing by the beautiful coastal town of Hermanus, famous for its southern Right Whale watching and preservation. We'll wish we could stay longer, but after lunch the very tail of Africa beckons! After an obligatory photo stop, it's then on to our hotel in Arniston.

Day 5 Today we stay in the Western Cape province but start to put some k's under our tyres as we ride from Arniston in the south, to Prince Albert in the north. We travel via the Swartberg Pass running through the somewhat mystical Swartberg Mountain range. Prince (or Prins) Albert is the gateway to the Great Karoo at the foot of this mountain range; a peaceful town known for its wide-open spaces and serenity.

Day 6 Leaving Prince Albert this morning we ride the Outeniqua Pass in the mountain range of the same name, before leaving Western Cape and entering Eastern Cape province. Today we join the main arterial highway of the famous 'Garden Route' which runs between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth as we progress to our evening's destination, the rugged and naturally spectacular Tsitsikamma Forest National Park. Tsitsikamma (pronounced with a silent 'T' and the local Khoi word meaning 'place of abundant sparkling water') is a protected coastal reserve known for its indigenous forests, dramatic coastline, otters ... and the lesser-known rock dassis.



Day 7 We wake this morning to the fresh coastal air and the natural beauty of the Tsitsikamma National Park, before heading northeast to the historic town of Graaff-Reinet. Founded in 1786, Graaff-Reinet is the fourth oldest town in South Africa and often referred to as the 'Gem of the Karoo'. It is also the only town in South Africa to be completely surrounded by a national park. It seems there are a lot of national parks in this country ... and it's our job to discover as many as we can in three weeks!



Day 8 Today is our first full, well earned rest day. So we can do just that, rest, catch up with laundry, write postcards ... or Skype, email, Facebook, whatever! Alternatively, Graaff-Reinet is a lovely town to wander around at your leisure. There's an optional ride to two nearby places of interest: the Valley of Desolation in the surrounding Camdeboo National Park, and Nieu Bethesda, a whitewashed village and artist's colony, home to The Owl House with its extensive collection of unusual works by the late Helen Martins.

Day 9 This morning, refreshed, we'll take a short morning ride through to our beautiful country lodge in Addo, in time for our afternoon game viewing safari. The Addo Elephant National Park is the third largest national park in South Africa, covering around 180,000 hectares. It is sanctuary to more than 550 elephants, lions, buffalo, black rhino, spotted hyena, leopard and a variety of antelope and zebra species. Time to grab the binoculars and swap the bike for a safari jeep ...

Day 10 Reluctantly, today sees us leaving the expansive vista and deep stillness of our country lodge as we are bound for the 'Wild Coast'. The Wild Coast of South Africa stretches along the Eastern Cape's northern coastline, between the Mtamvuna River in the north to the Great Kei River in the south. It is the heartland of the Xhosa people, an area best known by locals rather than tourists and as its name suggests offers incredible views of rugged coastline, jagged cliffs, wild beaches and untouched natural beauty. This is our last night of the tour on the South African coast before heading inland; we'll stay at the southern end of the coast where there is time to enjoy this unspoiled natural treasure.

Day 11 Now over halfway through, it's our biggest day on tour in terms of distance in the saddle (620 km), riding across three separate provinces and traversing the mighty Drakensberg Mountain range. We depart the Eastern Cape early, crossing into the KwaZulu-Natal province, home to the Zulu monarchy, created in 1994 with the merging of the KwaZulu and Natal provinces. Our pilgrimage north then takes us into the Free State, our third province of the day, and our evening's destination of Ladybrand – chosen because this small agricultural town is only 18km from Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, where we are heading tomorrow.

Day 12 This morning it's passports out ... with border formalities taken care of we are now in 'The Kingdom in the Sky'. Lesotho is a high altitude kingdom encircled by South Africa and, made up mainly of highlands, it is one of the only three remaining monarchies in Africa. Prepare for some spectacular scenery today and epic passes, as this is the only country in the world which has the entirety of its area lying at altitudes in excess of 1400m above sea level. Wikipedia tells us Lesotho is just over 30,000km in size and has a population of 2 million. Many people here live below the poverty line. Our accommodation tonight is an all year round adventure lodge located in the Maluti Mountains, very fitting after our intrepid days ride.



Day 13 After our big day yesterday we have a shorter ride back down into South Africa and the tree-lined town of Clarens, back in the Free State Province at the foothills of the same Maluti Mountains. We should be here in time for a late lunch and an afternoon exploring this attractive town with its natural beauty and collection of artisans' studios and shops.

Day 14 Today we saddle up for a ride from Clarens to Paulpietersburg, a convenient stop over on our way to Eswatini. Paulpietersburg is a small town in the Kwa-Zulu Natal province, established in 1888 and named after the Boer President Paul Kruger and the Boortrekker hero Piet Joubert. This spot is popular with local visitors because of the hot and cold mineral water pools found that can be found here, fed by a natural hot spring that surfaces on the southern approaches to the 1,536m Dumbé Mountain.

The land size of France + Germany + UK = South Africa

Day 15 We are heading to Eswatini. This morning we have a short ride to the border where we'll also stop to appreciate some of the local artisan works, before continuing to the pioneering conservation area of Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, our destination to be enjoyed for the rest of the afternoon and evening. Our secluded sanctuary covering 4,650 hectares is nestled in the Ezulwini Valley ('Valley of the Heavens') and offers unique accommodation and an authentic taste of local culture.

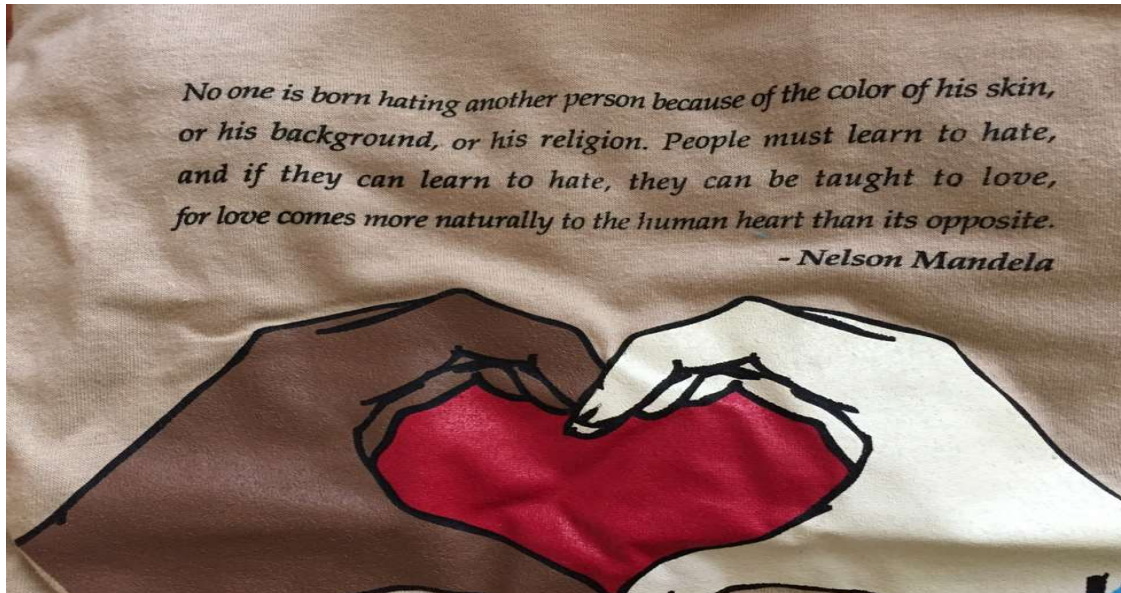
Day 16 It's time to leave our wildlife sanctuary to head towards the world-famous Kruger National Park. We'll enjoy some more great riding this morning on the unexpectedly good biking roads of Eswatini before having our passports stamped one last time, crossing the border back into South Africa. Kruger National Park is not too far up the road. Obviously we can't ride motorbikes into this National Park, so we'll park 'em up nearby at our lodge and enjoy a relaxing sundowner while soaking up the vista and absorbing the serenity of this amazing landscape, our home for the next two nights.



Day 17 Today we travel via a game safari jeep in search of The Big 5 (Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Elephant, Cape Buffalo). 'The Big 5', a term coined by big game hunters referring to the difficulty in bagging these large animals, is now somewhat misused in promoting only these five species as the ones to see in wildlife parks. We might also come across giraffe, hyena, zebra, wildebeest, cheetah, wild dog, some spectacular birdlife and the fleet-footed impala. Some intimate and special interactions of the animal kind are guaranteed.

Day 18 We begin to draw the curtain on our tour with our final days ride, just over 400k, to Johannesburg (Jo'burg/Jozi), the capital of the Gauteng province. Jo'burg is South Africa's biggest city with over 3 million people and is the fourth largest in Africa. At the end of our final riding day back to the hotel we'll farewell the motorbikes and then perhaps enjoy a celebratory drink or two!

Day 19 But the experiences are not over yet. This morning, we'll meet up with our local guide for a unique and cultural half day tour visiting the once infamous and now burgeoning township of Soweto and the edifying Apartheid Museum, opened in 2001, describing apartheid and the 20th century history of South Africa, with a special section dedicated to Nelson Mandela. Even if you are not normally a museum goer this is a must. The remainder of the afternoon is free time before our farewell dinner tonight.



Day 20 Swap addresses with your fellow riders at breakfast so we can all keep in touch and share photos of your happy memories. Free time today to do a final pack (and re-pack) of the luggage to avoid paying excess baggage on all those mementos, before the evening flight towards home. Don't forget to tell 100 friends how much fun you've had with us in Spectacular South Africa (and Lesotho, Eswatini)! See you somewhere else in the world, sometime soon, on two wheels.

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Further detailed trip notes, including a list of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Please contact our office any time for further information via email: adventure@worldonwheels.tours

(Continue to next page to view our motorbikes)

Our Motorbikes:



BMW F750GS

Capacity	853cc ('powered down' to 750cc)
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Cast aluminium, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	227 kg
Seat height options	815mm, or 770 with lowering kit
Maximum power	77 HP



BMW F850GS

Capacity	853cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Wire spoked 21" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	233 kg
Seat height options	860mm, or 815 with lowering kit
Maximum power	90 HP



BMW R1250GS

Capacity	1254 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Horizontally opposed twin (boxer)
Transmission	6-speed, shaft drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Spoked, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	20 litres
Wet weight	249 kg
Seat height options	850mm, or 800 with lowering kit
Maximum power	136 HP