

Swartberg x Cross Cape

10 days of road & gravel cycling through remote roads of the
Western Cape



K A
A P

Tour Plan

Day 1

Transfer to Prince Albert

Day 2

Prince Albert to Oudtshoorn

Day 3

Oudtshoorn to Calitzdorp

Day 4

Calitzdorp to Rooiberg lodge

Day 5

Rooiberg lodge to Riversdale

Day 6

Riversdale to Barrydale

Day 7

Transfer to Swellendam & rest day

Day 8

Swellendam to Greyton

Day 9

Greyton to Stellenbosch

Day 10

Cape Town peninsula ride



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What is included

- Accommodation
- Bicycles
- Bottles and cycling snacks
- Helmets and pedals if needed
- Back up on route
- Transfers
- Cycling snacks
- 3 meals per day



Day 1 - Prince Albert

Transfer from Cape Town to Prince Albert. A beautiful town in the heart of the Karoo, it's known for its charming, well-preserved 19th-century architecture and scenic surroundings. The town, founded in 1842, is named after Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria. It's recognized for its vibrant arts scene, historical significance, and as a gateway to exploring the unique landscapes of the Karoo. Visitors are often drawn to its quaint atmosphere, cultural heritage, and outdoor activities in the surrounding area. The town is located at the foot of the Swartberg Mountains.



Day 2 - Prince Albert to Oudtshoorn



Swartberg Pass is a dramatic mountain pass in the Western Cape of South Africa, crossing the Swartberg Mountain Range. Completed in 1888, it was engineered by Thomas Bain and offers stunning, panoramic views of the rugged Karoo landscape. This could be the most iconic pass in South Africa. This is certainly a challenging way to start our trip, with a 1000m climb. However this road is a piece of art, offering such amazing views, the climb goes by quickly.

Once we reach the top, a thrilling descent follows, before a truly unique lunch stop at Kobus se Gat.

After this we descend into Oudtshoorn with an optional stop at the Cango Caves.

Oudtshoorn is a town in the Western Cape of South Africa, located in the Karoo region. Known as the "Ostrich Capital of the World," it has a rich history tied to the ostrich feather industry, which was a major economic driver in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This feather trade was the reason Swartberg Pass was built, a means of transporting valuable feathers to the nearest railway.



Day 3 - Oudtshoorn to Calitzdorp



The cycling route between Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp along the Swartberg foothills offers a picturesque and challenging ride through the Western Cape's Karoo region. This route provides stunning views of the Swartberg Mountains and the surrounding semi-desert landscape. Cyclists can expect varied terrain, including rolling hills and some steeper sections, with the scenic beauty making the effort worthwhile. The route typically includes stretches of gravel and dirt roads, which adds to the adventure. Along the way, riders can enjoy the charm of rural South African countryside and small towns, including the opportunity to visit local attractions and experience the region's unique flora and fauna.

The days ride ends in the charming town of Calitzdorp a charming town in South Africa's Western Cape, known for its port wine production and picturesque setting in the Karoo. With its historic architecture, wine estates, and scenic beauty, it offers a delightful blend of culture and natural allure, attracting visitors seeking a relaxed rural experience.



Day 4 - Calitzdorp to Rooiberg Lodge



After a lovely breakfast a mostly. We have a shorter day ahead of us. It starts with a beautiful almost pan flat 15km, weaving through Calitzdorp. But don't be fooled by the short distance and easy start. Rooiberg is a tough mountain to conquer. The gravel tends to be quite rough on this pass and the gradients are steep at times. This makes it fairly challenging, but still very rewarding. This is one of the most isolated sections of the trip so don't expect to see many others.



After descending the other side of Rooiberg and taking in the views. We arrive at an unlikely paradise, Rooiberg Lodge, The area surrounding the lodge is dry and arid. However the lodge itself is built at a natural spring, making the surroundings suddenly lush and green. It is a striking contrast. The spring attracts the animals in the afternoons, so you normally will see them from your room.

The shorter distance allows us more time to relax and enjoy the lodge. Making use of the swimming pool and maybe a game drive if desired.



Day 5 - Rooiberg to Riversdale





After a relaxing evening at Rooiberg Lodge. An early breakfast is on the cards. Before heading off towards Riversdale. The first 50km is undulating gravel, there is often wildlife to be seen alongside the road. After the gravel is Garcia's Pass a beautiful tarmac mountain pass. This Pass offers a striking contrast between the dry arid Karoo on one side and the lush green eastern side of the mountain. The descent is long and beautiful. We finish directly at the accommodation after a quick stop for lunch.



The ride finishes with a coffee and lunch in Riversdale, followed by a short spin to our accommodation nearby. Normally we stay at Zeekhoegat Historical Homestead, which was originally built in 1795. Although it is subject to availability.

Day 6 - Riversdale to Barrydale





Day 6 takes us to Barrydale through Grootvadersbosch a mountaneous nature reserve. We the take on Op De Tradouw. Which is one of the most beautiful passes in the country. The climb itself is not particularly difficult. However the views are exceptional.

Barrydale is just one of many unique towns along the popular Route 62, and most travelers remember it for either one of these: great farm stalls, and excellent brandy. Whatever your reason, it is a town for all seasons and with dozens of reasons to visit.



Day 7 - Transfer to Swellendam and rest day



Day 8 - Swellendam to Greyton



Day 8 sees us taking a short transfer by car to start the ride in Swellendam. This ride features a great mix of gravel and paved roads, Although we are getting closer to Cape Town there are still extended beautiful isolated sections of road and gravel.

Greyton is a lovely town known for its architecture and beautiful landscapes. There is plenty of restaurants to find dinner here.



Day 9 - Greyton to Stellenbosch





Day 9 sees us features a less gravel and more paved road. The highlight of the day is Franschoek Pass a long steady climb with absolutely stunning views. After tackling this climb we descend into Franschoek (a town named after the French hugueots who settled there), before making our way to Stellenbosch with vineyards on either side of us. The ride finishes at Boschendal, one of the most notable wineries which has an amazing lunch on offer.

Stellenbosch and Franschoek are known for world class wineries and food culture. Naturally experiencing this is part of the day.

Cape Winelands



Day 10 - Cape Town





After a short transfer to Cape Town. Followed by a ride including Chapman's Peak and sections within the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Beautiful coastal roads with panoramic views, will be a great way to finish.

There is a multitude of lunch and coffee spots along the way.



And just like that our memorable trip is concluded.
The only thing left to do is to celebrate with a beer
and lunch.

