

Africa Adventure Ride: 18 Days

Cape Town to Victoria Falls

Information Kit

South Africa, Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe: Africa is one of the world's true last frontiers, an outstanding bikers' destination



Few places in the world have captured the imagination of adventurers like Africa. Discover a landscape full of amazing wildlife, the likes that can be seen nowhere else on earth, a landscape of epic deserts, impossibly rugged mountains, fertile valleys stuffed with wineries and dramatic waterfalls. Ride with and be entertained by Charley Boorman and learn about what you are seeing from qualified wildlife guide Billy Ward.

Itinerary

Day One: Cape Town

Today is about receiving and familiarising ourselves with the bikes. Meeting each other and spending some time learning how to properly use the GPS units, which will be fitted to each bike with the preloaded routes. This day is about meeting Charley Boorman and Billy Ward, his friend, manager and second guide rider.

Day Two: Franschhoek

A great ride today as we ride the legendary Chapman's Peaks Drive en-route to the most south-westerly point on the African continent, the Cape of Good Hope. While hugging the Atlantic shoreline we may see whales and will almost certainly see baboons and, curiously, ostriches on the beach! The afternoon is finished off as we ride inland into Cape Winelands, via an experience we like to keep as a surprise; Cape Winelands is home to some of the world's finest wines and we overnight at the superb Franschhoek.

Day Three: Clanwilliam

We enter the rugged Cederberg Mountains where just after Ceres we hit the dirt and ride into Leopard country. We enjoy lunch at the remote Cederberg Oasis before spending the afternoon riding the superbly rugged and remote tracks that abound in this region. It's a ride of narrow canyons and unused tracks before we finally reach the pavement again at the wonderful Clanwilliam, a village with a certain wild west feeling about it.

Day Four: Springbok

Leaving Clanwilliam we enter the Northern Cape region where we enjoy some seriously winding paved roads until the Englishman's Grave, a historical point from the Boer War. After here it's all dirt all day via a series of very remote single lane tracks through farming lands opening and closing gates a lot of the way. This is remote wonderful riding. We enjoy a snack at the wonderful Pakuilsfontein Farm and visit an amazing private bike collection at Nieuwoudtville before seeing the day out at Springbok.

Day Five: Canyon Village

Today we cross into Namibia and enter a wonderful world of escarpments, deserts and remote stations. We ride onto the hot springs at Ais Ais via a superb dirt track that crosses a stunning wide-open desert landscape with impossibly rugged mountains in the distance. After an early check in at



the incredible Canyon Village we ride to the second largest canyon in the world, Fish River Canyon. As stunning night is spent at the remote Canyon Village surrounded by the silence and a star laden sky that only a desert can bring.

Day Six: Helmeringhausen

Not long after leaving Canyon Village we visit the amazing Canyon Roadhouse for fuel and a coffee. Back on the dirt we ride the Namib Desert via Naute National Park and onto Bethanie, a remote outpost and supply town in the Namib Desert. Tonight's stay is at Germanic Helmeringhausen, a wonderful desert oasis.

Day Seven & Eight: Sossusvlei

Today we ride some more beautiful desert-scapes as we enter the Namib - Nakluft Park, a landscape of picture books and movies. We spend two nights at the wonderful and remote Sossusvlei allowing us a day to quad bike the innumerable sand dunes or fly over some of the 32,000 kms sea of sand. Or simply relax in the superb location.

Day Nine: Swakopmund

Crossing the Tropic of Capricorn and riding the awesome Gaub Pass we reach the Germanic town of Swakopmund late afternoon. You should see Oryx and Zebra en-route today and wonder what the hell they eat? Swakopmund is scenically located, sandwiched in between the pounding Atlantic Coast and the giant sand dunes of the Namib Desert, on a stretch of coast known as the Skeleton Coast. This town is the first place of any size since South Africa and offers a good opportunity to stock up on anything we need. A great night can be spent at the local bikers bar.

Days Ten: Ugab Terraces

Today we continue along the Skeleton Coast stopping off at the shipwreck of the Zeila of Hangara, located meters off shore. Turning inland we reach the scrubby plateau of Damaraland, via the amazing Mt Branberg, and home to the stunning Himba and Herero women. We should encounter giraffe, zebra and antelope in the area. The afternoon's ride is again via some remote tracks that offer sweeping views of distant mountains and valleys and also home to 15,000-year-old rock art. The accommodation is, again, incredible, perched high above the valley with uninterrupted views of the Vingerkilp, a 35 m pillar in the Ugab Valley.

Day Eleven & Twelve: Etosha National Park

More wonderful dirt riding through numerous stations requiring opening / closing of many gates and virtually devoid of any traffic. We reach the world-renowned Etosha National Park early afternoon and no visit to this incredible park is complete without a Game Drive. Two nights here allows us time to enjoy this exceptional park. We are in the dry season and the waterholes are few and far between affording us the best opportunity to view a plethora of game including the rare Black Rhino, Etosha offers us the quintessential African experience.

Day Thirteen: Nkwasi

Riding northeast the scenery becomes more and more quintessential Africa with small villages of thatched roofed rondavels with the "veld" becoming thicker. Acacia trees and thorn bushes replace the deserts of the south. Our overnight stay is the gateway to the infamous Caprivi Strip, a former gun running corridor during the Angolan war. Our lodge is on the banks of the Cubongo River and we can see Angola only 50 m away.

Day Fourteen: Divava Resort & Spa

Today we ride the dirt track that travels through many small African villages lining the Cubango; the main paved road is 10 km away. Our route allows us to really experience traditional African life, away from the tourist buses and highway traffic. This evening is spent in the spectacular Divava Lodge & Spa, stunningly located high above the Cubango River. We sit in the restaurant / bar overlooking hippos as they wallow in the river below us. A sunset cruise is included that takes us to the impressive Poppa Falls and allows sighting of crocs and hippo. Listening to the hippos at night while we enjoy dinner above the river could not be more African.



Day Fifteen: Lianshulu

We are on pavement a lot of today, but that doesn't stop us seeing wildlife, especially herds of elephant, if we are lucky! We travel through the Bwabwata National Park where we stay at the superb Lianshulu Lodge located on the banks of a large lake with hippo and innumerable birdlife. An afternoon safari is enjoyed where we are unlikely to see any other tourists, but are likely to see elephants, kudu, impala and bushbuck to name a few species.

Day Sixteen: Chobe National Park

We cross into Botswana today at Ngoma Bridge; even the border location is spectacular with huge views of a fertile swampland below, often with elephants grazing. Once into Botswana we ride on paved roads to another renowned game reserve, the Chobe National Park, legendary for the biggest concentrations of Elephant in Africa. A sunset cruise on the Chobe River is included, offering sightings of not only elephants, but also water buffalo and crocs.

Day Seventeen: Victoria Falls

We leave the main border crossing into Zimbabwe to the tourist hordes and we cross at the deserted Pandamatenga Border Post. Once into Zimbabwe we ride the solitary dirt track through the Kazuma Forest Reserve where elephant and lion have been spotted, before arriving at the location of myth and legend, the breathtaking "Mosi-oa-Tunya", the "smoke that thunders", Victoria Falls. We stay at one of the world's most iconic hotels, the legendary Victoria Falls Hotel, where Hollywood actors, presidents and renowned explorers have all frequented during last 120 years of operation. We cannot think of a more fitting way to end this unique riding experience with Charley Boorman and accredited wildlife guide, Billy Ward, than a dinner at the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel.

Day Eighteen: Departure day

Spend some time in Victoria Falls or fly home, the choice is yours.

Ride Details

Ride Grade: 4

Grade 4 doesn't mean we are climbing cliff faces and forwarding raging torrents, it means we spend considerable time on dirt roads as opposed to paved roads, some of these same tracks are used by 2 wheel drive cars and semi trailers, so **NOT** extreme.

80% of this ride is off road. Track conditions vary wildly on this trip, but generally wide and easy. It must however, be noted that some tracks consist of very loose gravel, significant sand sections, generally not deep, but "surface sand" on hard packed dirt. Some more remote tracks pass through private stations and are such not maintained resulting in washouts and rocky conditions. Dusty conditions must be expected.

20% of this ride is on paved road, however some paved roads we are better off riding on the dirt!! Expect huge potholes tall shoulders and bad cambers. However, some roads are like new and almost all are empty.

Distances

The biggest riding day is 435 km / 270 mi with the shortest being 200 km / 125 mi. Most riding days we average around 250 – 300 km / 160 – 190 mi, with rest days included where the bike is available for more riding if desired (subject to any maintenance requirements). The total distance is approximately **4500 km / 2800 mi**

Bikes

We offer new or near new BMW F800GS, R1200GS and R1200GSA on this ride. These bikes come equipped with the standard crash protection, new off road tyres and top boxes are available at a nominal charge.

Experience

Some off- road riding experience **IS** required for this tour, mainly due to the fact that we do cover significant distance off road rather than anything being too technical or difficult. Co-riders can travel in the support vehicle at anytime if any dirt becomes too challenging. Although not a requirement Compass Expeditions does highly recommend an off road training course that gives riders of all levels the tools to tackle off road riding. Riders must be confident with their off road riding abilities, this tour is not the place to experience dirt for the first time, although this has happened with no issues. Contact us for more information on training events and recommended schools.

Weather

It's the last days of winter in South Africa and some rain should be expected, especially as we ride out of Cape Town. The skies clear up quickly as we ride north with cool to cold clear mornings turning to warm blue-sky days. Once in Namibia the temperatures continue to rise to a maximum of around 28° Celsius / 82° Fahrenheit during the day, but overnight temperatures drop significantly. These temperatures are dry, however once in Botswana the humidity rises significantly, but temperatures remain steady. Zimbabwe and Vic Falls could experience maximum temperatures of around 35° Celsius / 95° Fahrenheit, but the evening temperatures are wonderful.



Highlights

- Cape Town & Cape Peninsula
 - Cape of Good Hope
 - The Winelands
 - Cederberg Mountains
- Wildflowers of Namaqualand
- Fish River Canyon and Ai-Ais Hot Springs
 - Dunes of Namibia
- Namibia's Skeleton Coast
 - Vingerklip
 - Etosha National Park
- The incomparable wildlife
- The Himba & Herero Tribes
 - Victoria Falls Hotel
- Sunset cruise on the Chobe River
- Kavango and Kwando Rivers
 - The mighty Zambezi River, and Victoria Falls "The Smoke That Thunders" at the iconic Victoria Falls.



Meals

The food is as diverse as the continent we are riding in. We stay in high quality safari camps and lodges most often with restaurants attached. The food in our accommodations is nothing short of spectacular. Game meat steaks are very popular in the safari lodges, as is seafood in Cape Town and also available at some of the buffets on offer. Potjiekos (single pot stews) are available throughout, as is the ubiquitous snack of Biltong (dried meat). Braai's (BBQ) are also very popular but its not all about the meat, vegetarians are well catered for in the upmarket accommodations we stay at.

Breakfasts: **17**

Dinners: **17**

Accommodation

Our hotels and lodges are generally 4 stars with the occasional 5 stars, they are chosen for their location, cleanliness, suitability for motorcycle groups and amazing African ambience. On occasions we spend the night in more basic accommodation, but we always get the very best accommodation that is available in the location. Many of our hotels and lodges have restaurants and bars attached. Accommodation is an important part of your ride experience and after many years in Africa we believe we offer a superb mix of excellent boutique hotels and lodges. Some accommodation of note is the legendary Victoria Falls Hotel; a once off must see accommodation experience, as are some of the African Safari Lodges, the quintessential African experience.

Accommodation: **17 nights**

Tour Inclusions

- Airport Transfers
- Motorcycle rental as per your selection.
 - Breakfast & dinner every night
- 17 nights in excellent small hotels, remote African wildlife lodges & 5 star hotels
- Services of ride leaders Charley Boorman and Billy Ward
 - Services of 2 support vehicle drivers
 - Services of paramedic
 - Pre-departure material and route maps
- GPS on each bike with preloaded route information
 - Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
- Charley Boorman / Compass Expeditions polo shirt
 - Popa Falls Cruise - Divava
 - Wildlife safari cruise – Chobe River
 - Etosha National Park game drive

Your Responsibilities

Riding equipment

Riding jacket / pants: We will experience both hot and cold weather on this 17 day ride, some rain should be expected in the first few days, but nothing too serious, therefore a multi layer jacket and pants is essential. The jacket and pants ideally need to have internal removable liners as the day warms up and have Kevlar crash protection and a waterproof pocket for your documents and small camera. Preferably your jacket / pants should be 100% waterproof or carry a set of waterproofs with you.

Helmet: your helmet should be full faced and of a good quality. Ensure you have a spare visor or replace before departing if scratched. Motocross style helmets are generally unsuitable for long distance rides on very dusty surfaces, as you will experience considerable dust ingress. Internal drop down tinted visors are great, but not so if you need prescription sunglasses where a clear visa is obviously recommended.

Boots: ideally motocross style boots would be best boot to consider, but bulky. When choosing a boot it is essential to choose a boot that offers the most rigid ankle protection possible, ankle injuries are the most common injuries we experience. Having the correct footwear can save you from turning a simple fall into a trip-ending incident.

Gloves: we recommend the use of summer gloves, as generally the weather will be warm. Gloves would ideally be waterproof, possibly required on the first few days of the ride when it may be cold and wet, however each bike has heated grips, the warmth is better felt through summer gloves.

Additional items: Silk neck warmer, great for keeping the wind out. Earplugs, great for keeping the noise out.

Travel insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance to tour with us. It just makes sense! Your insurance must cover you for any incident you may have whilst riding a motorcycle 700 cc and over. We have negotiated a 10% discount with various insurance providers around the world, who WILL offer coverage for you, for the activity of riding a motorcycle 700cc and over in foreign lands. For more information return to the "tour page" and click on the "insurance" tab.

Passport & Visas

Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months **AFTER** completion of your ride. Your passport should have at least one full page available, for each country you will be visiting. Compass Expeditions has teamed up with the world leaders in visa procurement, CIBT, who have created a special Compass Expeditions visa application page. They have offices in Australia, USA, Canada, UK, Mexico, Brazil, Singapore and numerous European countries. Tour participants can obtain their own visas if preferred, however, for a small charge, CIBT can obtain your visa and negotiate any issues that might arise. Links to CIBT / Compass page for visa applications, for other nationalities please contact us directly:

Australia: <https://visalink.com.au/compassexp>
Canada: <http://www.cibtvisas.ca/compass>
USA: <http://www.cibtvisas.com/compassexp>
France: <http://www.cibtvisas.fr/compassexp>
UK: <http://cibtvisas.co.uk/compassexp>

Vaccinations

We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor and/or check out the World Health Organization website at www.who.int/country and have a look at their excellent International Travel and Health book, available online. In Australia visit the Australian Medical Centre website at www.traveldoctor.com.au or phone 1300 65 88 44. For our U.S clients visit www.cdc.gov/travel/ and for our U.K clients go to www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/ for travel health recommendations in general go to www.mdtravelhealth.com now part of red travel.



You've made a booking, what happens next?

Once a booking has been made, you will receive an automated booking confirmation. Soon after, you will receive a "welcome" email, and then receive our comprehensive pre departure booklet in the post. This booklet will prepare you for your adventure and has more details on what to bring and what to expect. We email a "tour dossier" 90 days before departure; this dossier is full of information, including historical and country information. The more you read, the more you will get out of your ride.



Thanks for spending your time reading this information kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not riding with us then just riding and enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

If you have further questions, please contact us.

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