

# Africa Adventure Ride: 18 Days

## Victoria Falls to Cape Town

### Information Kit

Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Lesotho: 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 or 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: Victoria Falls

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 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: Elephant Sands

We depart the amazing Victoria Falls Hotel and ride straight to the remote border post of Pandamatenga where we cross into Botswana. We have this border to ourselves as the horde of other tourists are at a different border! The ride to the border is via a superb dirt track through the Kazuma Forest Reserve where elephant and lion have been spotted. We skirt the Hwange National Park once in Botswana and may see elephants, antelope and even Lion.

### Day Three: Martins Drift

After the dirt of yesterday, its paved road all day today. We cross Botswana and arrive at our wonderful Kwa Nokeng Lodge located on the Limpopo River, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest river on the African continent. We may see hippo and crocs from our lodge; we are on the Botswana / South Africa border.

### Day Four & Five: Irene Country Lodge

Today we cross into South Africa and spend the day on dirt; we will be riding through the beautiful Waterberg Mountain Range, the only Savannah Biosphere in the world and UNESCO listed. We ride most of the day through the Limpopo region famous for its game reserves and traditional "bushveld", some real Africa. Two nights are spent at the superb Irene Country Lodge allowing us time to visit the nearby Dinokeng Game Reserve, an amazing reserve home to the big 5, elephant, lion, leopard, rhino and water buffalo.

### Day Six: Lesotho

We ride south today before having lunch in the Germanic villager of Clarens located on the border of the Highlands National Park. Continuing on we enter "the kingdom in the mountains", Lesotho, a culturally rich alpine type country. We overnight in the Maliba Lodge, an amazing 5-star resort located high up in the Ts'ehlanyane National Park surrounded by the Maloti Mountains.



## **Day Seven: Himeville**

Today is full on adventure as we continue south towards the legendary Sani Pass. At an altitude of 2,876 m (9,400 ft), this spectacular pass is located in the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa and offers the rider a fantastic series of twisties that climb 1,332 m / 4,370 ft in just 9 km / 5.6 mi. We have lunch at the highest pub in Africa, on top of Sani Pass, before a short ride down to our accommodation at the wonderful Moorcroft Manor located in Himeville situated in the foothills of the picturesque Southern Drakensberg.

## **Day Eight: Tiffendell**

Today we enjoy some more wonderful riding via the rural back roads into a region known as the Eastern Cape, where Nelson Mandela was born. It's a mixture of dirt and paved roads today with LOTS of switchbacks until we reach South Africa's only ski resort at Tiffendell.

## **Day Nine: Hogsback**

Retracing our route, we return to Rhodes; today is spent riding mainly farm tracks as we head towards a famous region known as the Karoo. We ride the spectacular Barkley Pass before reaching a beautiful mountainous area known as Hogsback. This area is renowned for its indigenous forests, mountains and waterfalls.

## **Day Ten: Zuurberg**

A shorter ride today as we continue along remote, rarely used, dirt tracks requiring gates to be opened and closed; we are well off the beaten tourist path. We cross yet another pass before arriving mid-afternoon at our destination in time to enjoy an afternoon game drive into the Addo Elephant Park. We may see elephants, buffalo, zebra and antelope, to name a few species. Our accommodation in a superb 150-year-old manor located in the Zuurburg Mountains.

## **Day Eleven: Baviaanskloof**

Leaving Zuurburg we will enjoy some utterly spectacular riding today as we head into South Africa's world heritage listed, Baviaanskloof National Park, a landscape of jagged mountains, rugged gorges and abundant wildlife. Today is a challenging ride that is often the highlight of the tour, the scenery is breathtaking

## **Day Twelve & Thirteen: Knysna**

The spectacular riding continues as we cross Prince Albert Pass before we reach wonderful Knysna. We spend two nights at Knysna giving us time to explore this beautiful village, on the famed Garden Route, with its sandstone cliffs that separate the village from the pounding surf of the Indian Ocean. We stay at the amazing Turbine Hotel & Spa a 5-star hotel that was previously the power station!

## **Day Fourteen: Gondwana Game Reserve**

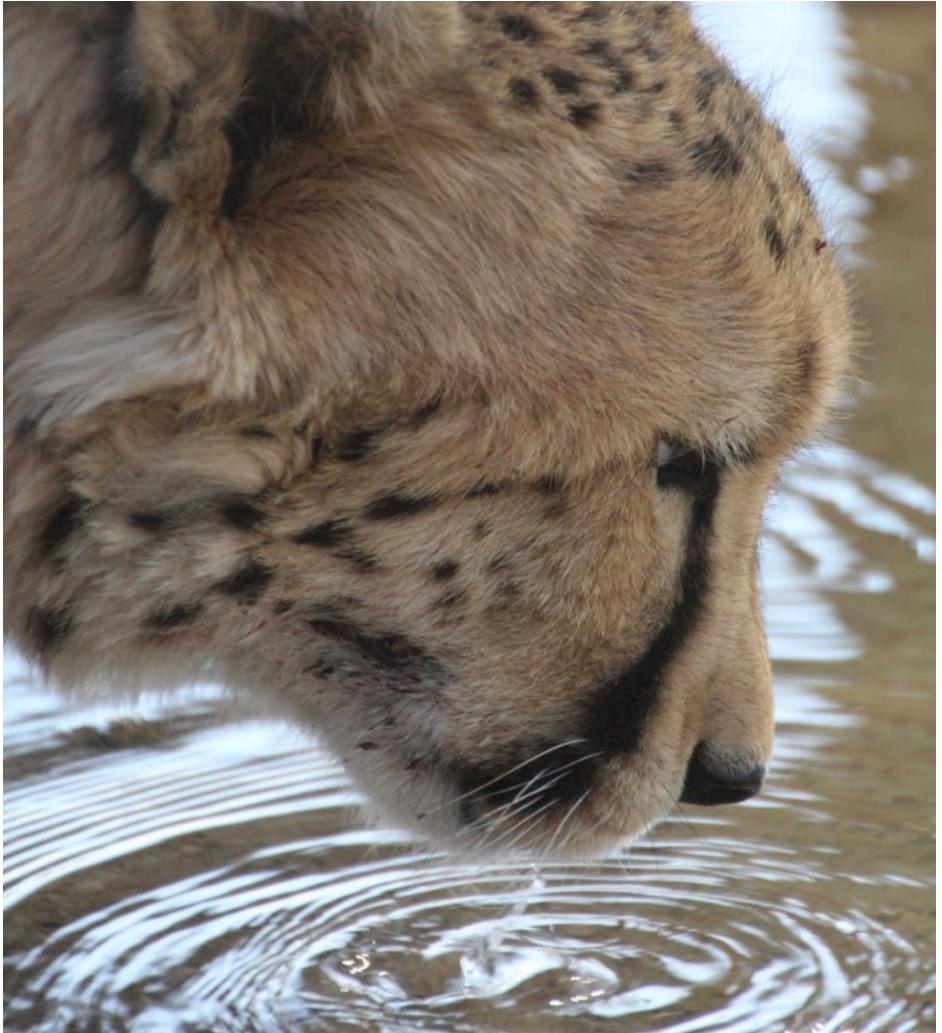
A short ride today we continue along the Garden Route through the Western Cape until we reach the private game reserve of Gondwana that overlooks the Langeberg and Outeniqua Mountains. Lunch is at the game reserve before an afternoon game drive is organized where we may see lion, elephant, giraffe, antelope, leopard and, possibly, white rhino.

## **Day Fifteen: Arniston Bay**

Some more dirt today as we cross the scenic Cloetes and Gouritz Passes before joining the R62 scenic cape route. Lunch can be had at the legendary "Ronnie's Sex Shop" before hitting the coastline again and overnighting at the beautiful seaside village of Arniston. A late afternoon swim could be had, but the Indian ocean in this area is famous for its whales and sharks!!!

## **Day Sixteen: Hermanus**

We start the day off riding to the southernmost tip of the African continent at Cape Agulhas; this point is where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet. Turning northwest we ride towards Gansbaai, then through the beautiful Walker Bay State Forest en-route to the seaside village, and our overnight stop, of Hermanus. This village is legendary for its whale watching opportunities and a whale-watching trip is included, weather permitting, where we hope to see whales and sharks.



### **Day Seventeen: Cape Town**

We leave Hermanus and after a short ride we have a special wildlife surprise awaiting us at Cornellskop. We continue on riding the stunning South Coast Road and visit the most south-westerly point on the African continent, the Cape of Good Hope, where we will see baboons and may see ostriches. Our final ride will see us enjoy the superb Chapman's Peak Drive before entering Cape Town and arrive at our 5-star accommodations at the renowned V&A Waterfront, downtown Cape Town.

### **Day Eighteen: Departure day**

Spend some time in Cape Town 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.

**75%** 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 as such are not maintained resulting in washouts and rocky conditions. Dusty conditions must be expected. The Sani Pass is steep and rocky and clay surfaces are the norm in the south of South Africa.

**25%** 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, some are empty and some are very busy, especially the Garden Route and when entering Cape Town.

## Distances

The biggest riding day is 510 km / 320 mi with the shortest being 180 km / 115 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 **4,250 km / 2,650 mi**.

## Bikes

We offer new or near new BMW F850GS, R1250GS and R1250GSA 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 any time 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.

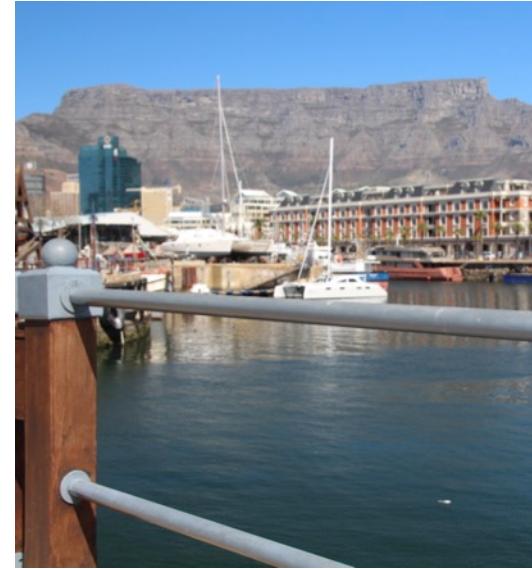
## Weather

The start of the ride, while in Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls, could experience maximum temperatures of around 35° C / 95° F, but the evening temperatures are wonderful. Botswana will still be warm and humid, however as we ride south and enter South Africa spring has recently arrived and temperatures will be cooler. Some rain and cold weather must be expected in Lesotho due to the mountainous topography. Further south we should expect temperatures to be in the mid to high 20° C / 70° F and possibly rains as spring weather is volatile. Generally, the weather description could be summarised as dry for the majority of the ride, hotter in the north gradually cooling with increased chance of showers in the south.



## Highlights

- Victoria Falls "the smoke that thunders" and the Victoria Falls Hotel
- Botswana's wildlife
- The Kingdom in the mountains – Lesotho
  - The Sani Pass
  - The Spectacular Drakensberg Mountains
- Exceptional riding through the Baviaanskloof National Park
  - Exciting Game drives
- Whale watching (weather permitting)
  - Agulhas Point – the southernmost tip of Africa
  - Chapman's Peak drive
- Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula



## 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 along the coastal villages we stay at. Potjiekos (single pot stews) are available throughout as is the ubiquitous snack of Biltong (dried meat). Braai's (BBQ) are also very popular, but it's 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 day
- 16 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 tour shirt
  - Game Drive – Gondwana Reserve
  - Whale and Shark spotting - Gansbaai
- Game Drive – Zuurberg Mountain Village (Addo Elephant Reserve)

# 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 Lesotho and possibly south near the ocean, 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 visor 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 both summer and winter gloves, as generally the weather will be warm up north, turning to cool down south. Gloves would ideally be waterproof. It must be remembered that all bikes have heated grips.

**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 (four for this trip). Depending on nationalities most visas are available at the border when entering the country. If you need to organise a visa before departing, 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:	<a href="https://visalink.com.au/compassexp">https://visalink.com.au/compassexp</a>
Canada:	<a href="http://www.cibtvisas.ca/compass">http://www.cibtvisas.ca/compass</a>
USA:	<a href="http://www.cibtvisas.com/compassexp">http://www.cibtvisas.com/compassexp</a>
France:	<a href="http://www.cibtvisas.fr/compassexp">http://www.cibtvisas.fr/compassexp</a>
UK:	<a href="http://cibtvisas.co.uk/compassexp">http://cibtvisas.co.uk/compassexp</a>

## Vaccinations

We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor and/or check out the World Health Organization website at [www.who.int/country](http://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](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) or phone 1300 65 88 44. For our U.S clients visit [www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/) and for our U.K clients go to [www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/](http://www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/) for travel health recommendations in general go to [www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://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.**

## Compass Expeditions

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