OUTDOOR TRAVEL
THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

# ACTIVE WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS

2027

## AFRICA – SOUTH AFRICAN CYCLING SAFARI

**10-days / 9-nights Moderate GUIDED cycling, game viewing in Kruger National Park and sightseeing**

More than just a cycling holiday this is an in-depth exploration of the north-eastern corner of South Africa, combining a traditional game-viewing safari with sightseeing, a cultural and historical insight AND cycling. Exploring by bike allows you to discover the vast panoramas of the Limpopo province. We cycle in the breathtaking Blyde River Canyon, one of the largest canyons in the world, and through plantations of citrus, avocado and macadamia. We visit a massive limestone cave system, admire the rock formations of the Blyde and Treur Rivers, wonder at the magnificent views of canyons, escarpments and mountains, and see the remains of an Iron Age African kingdom. The tour starts at Johannesburg airport and ends in Hoedspruit, a farming community with a good airport, gateway to the Blyde River Canyon reserve and Kruger National Park.

The highlight is the opportunity for wildlife encounters by bicycle, on foot and by vehicle. Kruger National Park is renowned worldwide for its diversity and density of wildlife, including the iconic animals of Africa – lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo, joined by cheetah, hyena, giraffe, zebra, antelope, vultures, eagles, and so many more. We stay in the National Park and also in private game reserves where we may spot giraffe, impala or zebra while cycling, or cheetah and elephants while walking with our expert guides.

**Cost from:** **$5355** per person, twin-share  Single room supplement on request, limited availability

**Departs:** 5 & 19 April, 24 May, 14 June, 26 July, 16 & 30 August, 13 September, 4 October, 1 November 2027

**Includes:** 9 nights in selected 3- and 4-star hotels, lodges or guesthouses; 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners; bicycle hire; tour guide; entrance into Kruger National Park; arrival transfer from Johannesburg airport to Sandton overnight accommodation; departure transfer to Hoedspruit airport; cycle tours, game drives and activities as per itinerary; and support vehicle.

**Not included:** Flights, drinks, dinner on first night in Sandton, 1 lunch, visa / passport charges, personal expenses, gratuities. Transfer from Hoedspruit to Johannesburg and extra nights of accommodation can be arranged at extra cost.

**E-bike hire:** From $600 per e-bike – availability strictly limited, please request when booking.

**Grading:** Moderate – the daily cycling ranges from 15km to 55km over varied terrain. It is mostly flat to undulating with some steeper climbs. We cycle mostly on gravel or paved roads, quiet country roads with little traffic whenever possible. The pace allows for rest stops and photo opportunities and should present little difficulty for anyone who is a regular cyclist.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on *03 5750 1441* for details or reservations**

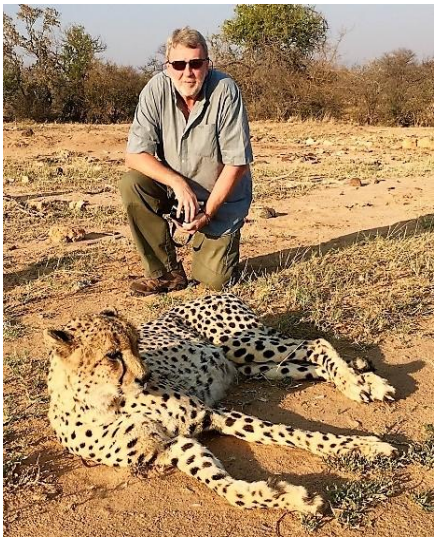
**Suggested itinerary:**

**Day 1: Arrival**
On arrival at Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport, you will be met by a guide and transferred to your hotel in Johannesburg. After checking in, the afternoon is free to rest or explore some of Sandton's attractions or maybe take a Hop-on-hop-off Johannesburg tour (at own cost). Dinner is at your own arrangement tonight.

**Day 2: African Bush**
After breakfast, join your group for the transfer from Johannesburg to a private lodge in the African bush, a journey of about 5 hours. Along the way stop to visit an Open-Air Museum which demonstrates the daily life of the Bakone people who inhabited the Polokwane area 250 years ago. The next two nights are spent at a Private Game Lodge near Bandelierkop. After settling in, end the day with a bushwalk to get acquainted with the African bush and enjoy a cosy dinner in an outdoor enclosure known as a *boma*.

**Day 3: Cycle Safari** **cycling @ 25km**
This morning set out on an exploratory ride through the South African bushveld, looking for close encounters with some of Africa's iconic animals, including giraffe and zebra, as well as kudu, impala and many bird species. In the afternoon join a guided sunset game drive or just relax by the pool. Dinner tonight is a uniquely South African experience served in the *boma*.

**Day 4: Tzaneen and surrounds** **cycling @ 30km**
After breakfast we transfer by coach to the start of our ride outside Tzaneen, a lush tropical garden town in a fertile agricultural region. Tzaneen is nicknamed 'Land of Silver Mist' because of the frequent cloud clinging to the mountains above it, including Limpopo's highest mountain, Iron Crown Peak (2200m). Our bike ride is an undulating ride on a mix of easy flowing single tracks, gravel roads and jeep tracks, with beautiful views of Tzaneen and surrounds. After lunch it's a short drive to our accommodation for the next two evenings.



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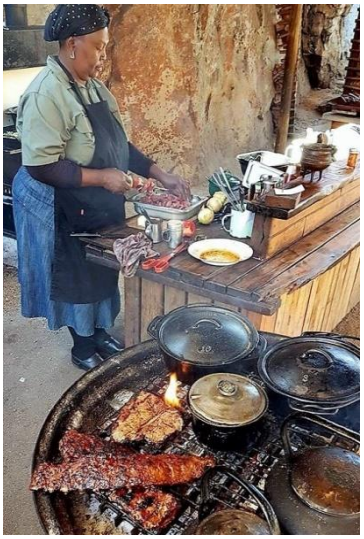

**Day 5: Wolkberg Mountains** **cycling @ 15 to 45km**

After breakfast head to the majestic Wolkberg Mountain range of Limpopo which separates the Highveld from the Lowveld and where avocados, macadamias and lychees are cultivated. Cycle a leisurely circuit through pine and eucalyptus plantations, mountain and farm scenery. Lunch is at a restaurant with views into the Wolkberg Mountains before an afternoon which is yours at leisure.

**Day 6: Blyde Dam and Kruger National Park** **cycling @ 40km**

After breakfast, cycle alongside the Blyde River, keeping an eye out for kudu and baboons, to a vantage point with impressive views – photographs hardly do justice to this panorama, as they call it locally 'God's Window'. Explore the Blyde Dam with a boat cruise and spot hippos and crocodiles as well as the amazing Three Rondavels from below. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the banks of the Blyde River in the shade of lush green trees and then head to Kruger National Park. On the way, drive through Bushbuckridge (named after the enormous herds of bushbuck which populated the ridge in the 1880s) and the small farming town of Hazyview, just a few kilometres outside the park. Arrive into Kruger in the late afternoon at your lodge for the next two nights, in time for an evening BBQ.

**Day 7: Kruger National Park** **no cycling**

Enjoy a full day safari in open-topped game viewing vehicle in Kruger National Park today – make sure your camera battery is fully charged! Kruger is one of Africa's largest game reserves, nearly 2 million hectares of diverse habitat comprising of mountains, bushveld, savannah and tropical forest, supporting an enormous variety of wildlife. The highlight is sighting the *Big Five*: lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos and buffalo. The park is also home to cheetah, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, eland, impala, hippos, hyena, monkeys, the endangered African wild dog and over 100 other species of mammal. Early morning and dusk game drives can be spectacular.

Bird watchers are well-rewarded here, with over 500 species of birds, some migratory and others resident year-round, including eagles, stork, vultures, owls and hornbills. Less obvious but still essential to the ecosystem are reptiles, fish and amphibians, including crocodiles, African rock python, black mamba and on rare occasions the Zambezi shark. This is truly a place like no other in the world. We return to our accommodation late in the day for dinner and to reflect on the special moments of the day.

**Day 8: Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve** **cycling @ 40km**

The Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world, with many of its walls covered with lush subtropical vegetation. Our ride starts at Pinnacle Rock and we follow the escarpment to Wonder View, where on a clear day we can see as far as Mozambique. We continue to Lisbon Falls, a very photogenic 94-metre cascade. Here you can choose to either extend your bike ride by cycling to our lunch spot or hop into the support vehicle for a relaxed drive.

The canyon is home to a wide range of wildlife including antelope, hippos, crocodiles, bushbabies and vervets, eagles, falcons, kestrels, vultures, buzzards and owls. After lunch we visit Bourke's Luck Potholes, a series of potholes and plunge pools sculpted over thousands of years by the currents of the Blyde and Treur Rivers as they meet and form swirling eddies and whirlpools. We take a short drive to the Three Rondavels lookout point, where the rock formations below resemble the traditional round African huts. We stay overnight nearby, overlooking the escarpment.

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**Day 9: Echo Caves and Big 5 Nature Reserve** **cycling @ 30km**

Leaving the Three Rondavels and Blyde River we cycle mostly downhill to Echo Caves. A farmer stumbled upon the caves when seeking his lost cattle in the 1920s and we glimpse a portion of the enormous limestone cave system – eerie rock formations, dripping stalactites, rock art and large caverns. We drive the Abel Erasmus pass through the Drakensburg escarpment into the Lowveld for our last evening. In the late afternoon we go for a game drive looking for the Big 5 in an open-topped game viewing vehicle with an experienced guide. Our farewell dinner is once again served in a *boma*, around a fire and under the starlit African skies.

**Day 10: Departure day**

We begin our last day with an early morning bushwalk led by an experienced game ranger. After breakfast we depart for Hoedspruit Eastgate airport (a private transfer to Johannesburg can be arranged at extra cost). Departure flights from Hoedspruit should be booked for 12pm or later.

**Outdoor Travel** can offer pre- or post-tour extensions in Johannesburg or Cape Town. In Johannesburg a visit to Soweto is a must. In and around Cape Town there are safari lodges, wine regions, and marine wildlife. We also offer guided or self-guided cycling holidays in Europe and the UK, in New Zealand, the USA & Canada.

Contact **Outdoor Travel** for more details and reservations:

- Call: 03 5750 1441
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