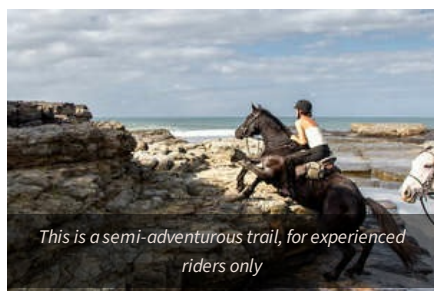


# The Wild Coast Trail

## SOUTH AFRICA

One of the most beautiful **beach riding trails** in the world! Explore on horseback the rugged and unspoilt natural beauty of the Wild Coast: ride down deserted beaches, exploring gorges and gullies on horseback. A fantastic journey with spectacular scenery from Kei Mouth into the southern region of the **Wild Coast of South Africa**, stopping at comfortable coastal hotels along the way. Ideal for experienced riders who enjoy exciting riding, with long gallops and some adventures along the way!

Trail Riding	 10 days / 8 riding	 From £2,400	
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## ITINERARY

## Highlights

- Exhilarating beach canters that go on and on for miles
- Horseback trails along the stunning coastline of the Eastern Cape and its beaches
- Ride inland through Transkei and past local traditional Xhosa villages
- The deserted and wild beaches are perfect for long canters and gallops
- Watch for dolphins and whales out to sea (peak viewing months for Southern Right whales and Humpbacks are July - November)
- Groups are usually limited to a maximum of 8 riders
- Varied and interesting, comfortable accommodation

## Day 1 — 1 : EUROPE - JOHANNESBURG

International flight overnight to Johannesburg. Please note that you need to depart Europe at c. 19:00 so that you arrive in Johannesburg at c. 07:00 in time to make your connection onto the flight to East London.

## Day 2 — 2 : JOHANNESBURG - EAST LONDON - KEI MOUTH - 1-2 hours riding

On arrival at Johannesburg, you will make your way to the domestic terminal for your connecting flight to East London airport - again we can book this flight for you if requested. We recommend flight 4Z915 from Johannesburg, which arrives into East London at 12:00 noon. (If you arrive later than 12:00 noon then you may have to pay extra for a private transfer).


You will be met on arrival and transferred by minibus to Kei Mouth. A light lunch will be served and you will change into your riding clothes. Your horse riding adventure starts now!

The afternoon is a short introductory ride around the local area. It will give you the opportunity to blow away those travelling cobwebs and get to know

your horse for the week. A relaxed, friendly evening meal awaits you back at the guesthouse along with a good night's sleep. Overnight at Kei Mouth Guest Lodge.

## Day 3 — 3 : KEI MOUTH - TRENNERY'S - 4-5 hours riding

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 Trennery's hotel

Your horse riding adventure starts now! After a light breakfast it's back up to the paddocks. A short ride down to the Kei River and then a crossing by ferry, to ride over rocky headlands and long stretches of beach. The guides will take you to hidden waterfalls for a picnic lunch and a swim if you choose! Then it's to Trennerys or Seagulls Hotel (both quaint, authentic hotels that give guests a real taste of traditional South African holidaying). Here you can stretch your legs on the beach or unwind with a beer by the pool before enjoying a great dinner, and time with your riding group. Our unhurried itinerary will give you plenty of time to explore the hotel. Overnight at Trennerys or Seagulls Hotel.


## Day 4 — 4 : TRENNERY'S - MAZEPPA BAY - 5-6 hours riding

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You will awake to the sound of the sea, and the solitude of being somewhere on the edge of Africa. Now it's time to move on with a distance of 40km to be covered. Heading out from the hotel you will continue up the coast, traversing rolling hills and sandy beaches and pass through rural settlements. You cross a number of inland river drifts, then the ride veers back to the sea for a breakfast or lunchtime picnic on the beach. Tides permitting, the rest of the day is a breath-taking ride on long, endless beaches, which mean faster riding and the thrill of a good horse in a great location. Another traditional beach hotel, Mazeppa Bay is your next stop. Exploring the secluded beach will lead you to a suspension bridge onto one of the only islands along the coast. A pleasant evening spent soaking up the relaxed atmosphere gives riders the opportunity to unwind after a challenging day in the saddle. Overnight at Mazeppa Bay Hotel.

## Day 5 — 5: MAZEPPA BAY - KOB INN - 3-4 hours riding

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 Kob Inn

The next leg of your adventure is "The Gorge". This route takes you through a beautiful river ravine and over some tricky terrain. Once through the rocky river bed, the ride heads back to the sea through valleys and along winding cattle tracks before reaching your next destination – Kob Inn. You arrive just in time for lunch.

In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to relax and soak up the laid-back hospitality of another coastal treasure. With a pub on the rocks overlooking the wild seas and sheltered private beaches on either side, this is an exquisite location in which to kick back, relax and truly embrace 'Africa time'.

## Day 6 — 6 : WILD COAST - KOB INN - 5-6 hours riding

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 Kob Inn

After having had an opportunity to relax the day before, you should be fresh and ready for a full day in the saddle. The day's ride will take you along sheltered beaches, into hidden coves and beautiful lagoons. During the ride, your guide will select a beautiful, sheltered spot for you to enjoy a picnic lunch on the hoof before heading back to the Kob Inn for another evening of lively conversation, delicious local food, and maybe a few cocktails!

## Day 7 — 7 : KOB INN - WAVECREST - 3-4 hours riding

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 Wavecrest Hotel

It will be time to turn around and start heading back down the coast again. Once more, the timing of the day's riding will be dependent on the tides as you cross rivers, climb hills and speed along beaches on your way back to Wavecrest.

After a good +/- 30km ride, you can choose to indulge in a little pampering at the Wavecrest spa; explore the rare mangrove forests by either boat or canoe or challenge one of your fellow riders or guides to a game of tennis. More South African coastal hospitality awaits you as you relax and allow yourself to be spoiled by the Wavecrest team.

## Day 8 — 8 : WAVECREST - KEI MOUTH - 4-5 hours riding

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Departing from Wavecrest, you will continue your journey back to your starting point with a horseback ride meandering through villages, dune forests and rolling hills, with a smattering of beach work to keep the adrenalin pumping!

After dropping your horse off at the beach base for a well-earned rest, you will have a late lunch at the country club. Your last night of trail is spent at the home of Julie-Anne in her guest lodge, where you will be treated to a typical Braai (the traditional South African BBQ). Finishing off a week of unforgettable riding with the warm hospitality that the Wild Coast is known for.

## Day 9 — 9 : EAST LONDON - JOHANNESBURG - LONDON - 1-2 hours riding

Depending on your departure time, you could squeeze in one more ride before the shuttle picks you up to transfer you back to the airport.

On the final day of the ride, you will be transferred to the airport at either 9:00 am if taking a flight at noon or 2:00 pm for a late afternoon flight. Flights are not included but can be booked for you on request.

## Day 10 — 10 : EUROPE

Arrival in Europe early in the morning.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
31/05/2024	09/06/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
21/06/2024	30/06/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
19/07/2024	28/07/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
16/08/2024	25/08/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
13/09/2024	22/09/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
11/10/2024	20/10/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
08/11/2024	17/11/2024	£2,400	Full
29/11/2024	08/12/2024	£2,400	Guaranteed departure
24/01/2025	02/02/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
07/02/2025	16/02/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
09/05/2025	18/05/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
06/06/2025	15/06/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
04/07/2025	13/07/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
01/08/2025	10/08/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
05/09/2025	14/09/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
03/10/2025	12/10/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure
31/10/2025	09/11/2025	£2,470	Guaranteed departure

## Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.
- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room. There is no solo rider supplement. Single rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please let us know in advance if you'd like a single room, but there is no guarantee.
- Rides are confirmed for a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 8 international riders plus guides.
- Airport transfers are an extra c. 1400 ZAR (c. £70) per car per transfer at a set time. Transfers are payable locally in ZAR only and the cost is shared between the number of passengers.
- Please note that these prices are based on the South African Rand rate which can be volatile, we will confirm all prices to you upon booking

- There is a maximum weight limit of 15 stones/95 kg - please contact us if you weigh more than this as it may be possible to pay a supplement for an extra horse.

- Wild Coast Trails are available throughout the year at set dates to coincide with the tides. Rides are possible all year round on a semi-itinerant basis - contact us to find out more or see "Kei River Beach Trail".

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

## Price includes

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### SUPPORT TEAM

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2 English-speaking tour leaders

### LOGISTICS

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1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

1 assistant groom who looks after the horses

### ACCOMMODATION

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Comfortable hotels/guest houses from day 2 to day 8

### MEALS

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Full board from lunch on day 2 to breakfast on day 9

### ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

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First aid kit

## Price doesn't include

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### MEALS

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Beverages and personal extra

Price does not include breakfast on day 2 or lunch on day 9

### TRANSPORTS

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Airport transfers

International flights

### EXTRA

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Tips to local team - at your discretion

### INSURANCE

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Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

## EQUESTRIAN INFO

## Horses

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There is a stable of 40 horses which are calm, energetic and sure footed. Many are home-breds and have been raised on the farm. They are a mixture of Arabs, Anglo Arabs, Thoroughbreds, crossbreeds or local African horses such as Boeperds.

The saddles are comfortable for riders with a high pommel and shallow seat which permit a good seat - most also have a sheepskin seatsaver on top. Each saddle also has a small saddle bag sufficient for carrying bottles of water and sunscreen necessary for the entire riding day.

## Guide & local team

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There are always two guides with the group - a lead guide and a back-up guide. There may be extra support crew riding as well.

Your luggage is moved by vehicle and the driver may join you for dinner in the evenings as well.

## Minimum riding ability

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### MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

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You need to be a competent rider, capable and in control at all paces. You must be able to rise to the trot and canter/gallop in a forward seat. You should have experience of riding in the outdoors and over rough terrain as well as being fit for long hours in the saddle.

There is a maximum weight limit of 15 stones/95 kg - please contact us if you weigh more than this as it may be possible to pay a supplement for an extra horse.

### PACE

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The riding is at mixed pace, with plenty of opportunities for long trots and canters along the beaches or on inland paths.

### TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

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Your guides will feed, care for and saddle your horses, but you may wish to help untack at the end of the day.

### TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

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You need to be physically fit for long hours in the saddle in the African sun.

### EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

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Guests who do not ride regularly are requested to get fit prior to the ride. It is of particular importance to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding at speed across rough terrain and open spaces.

We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

## TRAVEL INFO

### COMFORT

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Accommodation is in local hotels along the coastline with the first and last night's stay at Julie-Anne's guest house.

They are basic, but clean and comfortable. Tea and coffee making facilities are available. Meals are had from the set menus at the hotels and are prepared with local fresh produce. Special dietary requests can be accommodated for with advance notice. Please note that only the hotels on the first and last night have WiFi.

### MEALS

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Meals are provided by each hotel you stay at. Breakfast is usually buffet style and includes cereals, bread, tea and coffee, fruit and often a hot option. Lunch may be a picnic carried in your guides saddlebag or something light at the hotel. Dinner usually consists of three courses and is local fare - hearty and tasty. Fish is often available!

Drinks are not included but are very cheap! You will put drinks on your room bill each evening and settle up before departing in the morning. Tea/coffee/water are provided.

Vegetarians and special diets can be catered for to a certain degree but must be advised at the time of booking.

### CLIMATE

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The rainy season is between November and the end of March, with some storms at the end of the day. The warmest months are January and February: expect around 26°C. The South African winter (July/August) is cooler with 10°C during the day on average.

May: temperatures between 13°C-23°C during the day

June/July/August/September: average of 20°C.

October: between 14°C-22°C

November: lovely riding weather with temperatures between 16°C and 23°C

December: 17°C - 25°C

## TIPS

we would recommend approximately £10 per guest per day which you can give to your guide to distribute amongst the team

## PACKING LIST

### Head

- Hard hats are compulsory and we recommend you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

### Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Fleece, jumper or jacket - the evenings can be cold
- Waterproof jacket - required all year round
- Casual clothes for the evening

### Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Shorts for lazy lunchtimes
- Casual clothes for the evening

### Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged (they can also be hot!). Please note riding in salty water can damage the leather so don't bring your brand new boots.
- Sandals, flip-flops or trainers for when not riding
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding

### Nightwear

Pyjamas

### Other useful items

- Swimsuit - for the pools - the sea is generally not safe for swimming
- Binoculars for spotting dolphins/whales along the coastline
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding

### Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take or needed for this trip
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

### Our Recommendations

- In your hold luggage: Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant over 100 ml and all bottles can be decanted into small, clear, plastic Ziplock bags. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- In your hand luggage carry any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc. We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .