



# Eswatini Road Trip

(Eswatini was previously Swaziland)

Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours

<b>Duration:</b>	4 Days/3 Nights	<b>Dates:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 Friday to Monday
<b>Departure:</b>	Sasol Rosehaven North – 32 Km East of Pretoria on N4 <b>OR</b> Shell Ultra City East on N4, Middelburg	<b>Return:</b>	Sasol Rosehaven South
<b>Departure time:</b>	09:00 (Route briefing and welcome <b>at 08:30</b> ) 10:30 Ultra City, Middelburg		
<b>Numbers:</b>	Max. 10 Vehicles		Max 22 passengers
<b>Tour price:</b>	R3900 pp sharing on R1260 single supplement	<b>Distances:</b>	+ -1140 km. About 190 km easy gravel roads.

## Tour Details:

Travel in your own vehicle in a convoy through towns that you normally just sped past or don't know exist like Carolina, Chrissiesmeer, Warburton, Lothair and many more (not in this order!) Real 'Platteland dorpies'! (Small countryside towns).

On Day # 1 you'll cross the international border into Eswatini and head to our overnight lodge just South East of the capital, Mbabane.

Some of the places to be visited include a glass factory, a traditional market, candle factory, the King's Palace (drive by) and many more.

We'll stop en route for sightseeing, snacks, road stalls, photo's, toilets, coffee/tea, tourist destinations and less familiar places. Enjoy the drive and ride in your own vehicle. At night and en route you'll have the opportunity to mix, mingle and have fun.

There is a lot of photographic opportunities. If you've never been to this small neighbouring country, do so now and enjoy its beauty.

**Departure & Return Location:** Depart from Sasol Rosehaven North, East of Pretoria **OR** at the Shell Ultra City (East) outside Middelburg on the N4 for people coming from Johannesburg, East Rand and other places. We'll return to the same venue, late afternoon on the last day. You can join and/or leave en route. Just inform us accordingly on the Booking Form.

**Price includes:** Accommodation for 3 nights (B&B), a tour leader with his own vehicle, all administration and leading of the tour (including booking of accommodation, meals & excursions, etc.), high frequency two-way radio per vehicle to use during the tour, lots of relevant info, group safety by traveling together, an electronic travel report with pictures after the tour, daily briefings of the tour, limited vehicle breakdown support, fun, new friends & new routes.

**Tour price excludes:** Lunches & dinners, fuel & toll gates for vehicles, Comprehensive Travel Insurance, gratuities, entry fees to venues or places, drinks, breakdown recovery costs and personal expenses.

**Accommodation:** We overnight all three nights in the same & good lodge, **including breakfast**.

**Dinner:** All other meals are optional, but budget for about R250 pp/dinner.

**Booking:** Complete the Booking Form and send it **with** your Proof of Payment (PoP) for the deposit to us. We'll confirm your booking in writing.

**Deposit:** At least 25% of the tour price with the booking, another 25% three (3) months before departure date and the outstanding balance by latest 6 weeks before departure date.

If booked within the 3 months period prior to departure of the Road Trip, 50% deposit is required.

If booked within the 6 weeks period prior to departure of the Road Trip, full payment is needed.

**Take on tour (suggested):** Your vehicle, your family & friends, pocket money, a smile and goodwill. Some other extras could include: Sneakers (walking shoes), a hat, binoculars, toilet paper, wet wipes, coffee flask, camera, torch and sunglasses.

**Vehicle:** Any 4 x 2, SUV vehicle or sedan with a good ground clearance, for when traveling on the gravel roads, is suitable for the tour. Only 10 vehicles allowed on tour. We do not speed whilst on tour, but we expect all vehicles to travel at the speed set by the tour leader.

**Who should go on this tour:** People who love travelling, enjoy back roads, singles, couples, those who have never been to the Eswatini region and would like to enjoy the natural beauty, flowers and friendliness of the people; people who are unfamiliar with driving at foreign places, people who'd prefer to travel with other people in a safe environment, people who don't like getting lost, those who'd like to be well informed as they drive along, those who like driving their own cars, people who like sharing their lives, interest, knowledge, fun and care with others. People who enjoy life at an easy pace.

**Who should not go this tour:** Moaners, groaners, whiners, speedsters, hooligans, boozers, people who can't drive on a gravel road, etc.

**VHF Radio:** We provide each vehicle with a two-way radio for the duration of the tour in order to communicate with everyone. It charges on the vehicle's cigarette lighter. (Please make sure your vehicle's cigarette lighter is working **before** the tour starts).

**Money:** A credit or debit card, plus some cash, will be needed. You may use RSA money.

**Passport:** Yes, you do need a passport and your vehicle's papers to enter Eswatini.

**Fuel & toilets:** We'll stop regularly.

**Clothing:** Casual

### **What to expect:**

An orderly and well planned Road Trip, with a few surprises en route. Good food, a beautiful country, interesting roads and routes, tar and gravel roads, mountain passes and small towns, cute shops and funky art places, friendly people and something new...

The natural beauty this country will mesmerise you.

We are looking forward in welcoming you on this Road Trip.



Johan & Lenie Badenhorst

### **Platteland Tours**

Tel: 082 920 6908

E-mail: [joan@plattelandtours.co.za](mailto:joan@plattelandtours.co.za)

Web: [www.plattelandtours.co.za](http://www.plattelandtours.co.za)

18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Itinerary:



**Day # 1            Friday**

**Pretoria to Manzini District**

**384 km**

Welcome, briefing & handing out of 2-way radio's before departing via Pretoria, Emalahleni, Middelburg, Carolina, Chissiesmeer en Lothair to Eswatini. (You'll notice that we use the N4 East only for a short distance – we prefer the back and lesser known roads). En route you'll stop at interesting places and enjoy lunch as well (own pocket). Discover the small town of Chrissiesmeer en compare your foot with 'Big Foot' outside Lothair.

Late afternoon you'll arrive at our lodge to enjoy the scenery, settle in and for the first dinner and overnight. We sleep all three nights at the same venue.

**Day # 2            Saturday**

**Circular Route to the South**

**224 km**

After breakfast we depart for some sightseeing, markets, countryside, rivers and natural beauty.

Take your camera along and make use of the opportunity to take pictures; buy a beautiful candle or more; enjoy the colourful market and purchase some fresh fruit.

Dinner is available at the lodge.

**Day # 3            Sunday**

**Circular Route to the North**

**215 km**

After breakfast you can spend the day at the hotel and just relax OR you can join us on a circular route to a variety of beautiful & scenic places in the mountains, valleys, forests and farms. (Don't miss out). Well go as far North as Pig's Peak.

We traverse some back roads (gravel) and see the real countryside of Eswatini.

Dinner is available at the lodge.

**Day # 4            Monday**

**Eswatini to Pretoria**

**315 km**

The fact that it is our last day on the road trip does not mean that we speed for home. You'll visit a glass factory en route and travel via the N4 home. People living on the East Rand and Johannesburg can leave the group at Emalahleni, following the N12 home.

**End of Document**