



Southern Cape Mountain Passes Road Trip

Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours

Duration: 8 Days/7 Nights

Dates: 7th to 14th September 2024
Saturday to Saturday.

Daily depart from: Venues where we overnight
Various places

Arrive: 16h00 on Day # 1
Eight Bells Mountain Inn,
Ruitersbos, outside Mossel Bay

Departure time: Daily at 08:00

Max. No: 10 Vehicles

Max. 22 persons

Price: R11200 per person
R3000 single supplement

Distance: 1581+ km
About 460+ km on gravel roads

Tour Details:

This inaugural tour, following the Mountain Passes tour in the Western Cape, will give you the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the Southern Cape (Garden Route, Outeniqua and Klein Karoo regions) and take you on beautiful, interesting and spectacular main & back roads.

You'll sleep at four different venues and travel daily in a circular route or to the next overnight destination. In total you'll traverse **more than 65** mountain passes - on both tar and gravel. You do NOT need a 4x4 to go on this Road Trip. The routes are NOT technical and will be easy driving.

On this Road Trip you'll travel where people normally do not go and you'll see and experience another beautiful side of the regions – both coastal and inland.

Travel through towns that you normally just sped past or don't know exist like Friemersheim, Herbertsdale, De Rust and Uniondale and many more!

We'll be visiting the famous 'The Hell' (Gamkaskloof), the Knysna Forest & Nature's Valley.

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 with the other people on tour.

This tour is in the spring season – it promises to be lush and beautiful. The orchards will be in its splendid beauty with fresh flowers. Expect some waterfalls to be roaring as well!

Departure & Return Location: The Road Trip starts at Eight Bells Mountain Inn at Ruitersbos, just outside Mossel Bay (on the R328). It finishes in Calitzdorp after the last overnight in the latter town.

Depart daily from the guest house where you stay and return to it when staying for two nights.

Note # 1: If you live up-country, you can fly to George, rent a vehicle and travel along. Any vehicle is suitable for these routes & roads. These would be for your own arrangements.

Note # 2: This Western Cape 7-day Road Trip (1st to 7th September 2024) is hosted immediately before the **Southern Cape** Mountain Passes Road Trip in the Stellenbosch, Boland and Overberg region where you'll be able to traverse more than 50 mountain passes. (See more Info at the end of this memo).

Note # 3: If you live in Gauteng and would like to travel in your own vehicle to the Western Cape, you can travel along, over two nights, with the tour leader. (See more Info at the end of this memo).

Note # 4: If you live in Gauteng and would like to travel in your own vehicle from the Southern Cape back home, you can travel along, over two nights, with the tour leader. (See more Info at the end of this memo).

Price includes: Accommodation for 7 nights (B&B), one dinner (the last evening), 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, lots of photos, daily briefings of the tour, limited vehicle breakdown support, group safety, new friends & new routes.

Tour price excludes: Meals on tour (breakfasts are included), fuel for vehicle, Comprehensive Travel Insurance, gratuities, entry fees to venues or places, drinks, breakdown recovery costs and personal expenses.

Accommodation: We stay overnight in good guest houses and lodges. Max. two persons per room.

Breakfast: All breakfasts will be enjoyed at the venues where we stay.

Dinner: All other meals are optional, but budget for about R250+ pp/dinner. Dinner will be enjoyed at various restaurants.

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. Only space for 22 people per road trip. Book **NOW**.

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

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, sedan or SUV vehicle with 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 Southern Cape, Garden Route & Klein Karoo regions and would like to enjoy the natural beauty 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.

Fuel & Toilets: We'll stop regularly.

Clothing: Casual.

Excursions: Entry fees are not included in the tour price. You can book and pay an excursion on the day of arrival at the venue. Additional excursions on this tour are limited.

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 road stalls, friendly people and something new...

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



Johan Badenhorst

Platteland Tours

Tel: 082 920 6908

E-mail: johan@plattelandtours.co.za

Web: www.plattelandtours.co.za

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Note: Some of the 65+ mountain passes to be traversed include the well-known Outeniqua Pass, Roibinson Pass, Meiringspoort, Swartberg Pass and Seweweeks Poort & many more.

Some of the lesser known passes include: Bosluiskloof Pass, Kredouw Pass, Gamkaskloof, Prince Alfred Pass, Poortjie and many more.

These are **not** technical passes where advanced skills are required.

Itinerary:

Day # 1 **Eight Bells Mountain Inn, Ruitersbos**

15h00 - 17h00 Book in
18h00 Welcome & briefing. Radio installation
19h00 Dinner

Days # 2 to # 7 **Various guest houses & lodges**

08h00 Departure from Guest House or Lodge
Travel & sight-seeing. Varies between 160 & 285 km per day
Dinner at overnight venues
Overnight in Guest House or Lodge

Day # 8

08h00 Departure for home or George Airport

Note # 2: This Western Cape 7-day Road Trip (1st to 7th September 2024) is hosted immediately before the **Southern Cape** Mountain Passes Road Trip in the Stellenbosch, Boland and Overberg region where you'll be able to traverse more than 50 mountain passes.

If you have booked on the Southern Cape Mountain Passes tour from the 7th to 14th September 2024 and you want to participate in the Western Cape Mountain Passes Road Trip from the 1st to 7th September 2024, you should obtain the Info Doc and Booking Form for that tour from us.

Note # 3: If you live in Gauteng (or other Northern provinces) and would like to travel in your own vehicle to the Western Cape, you may travel along, over two nights, with the tour leader.

See the Info Doc for The Western Cape Mountain Passes Road Trip for details.

Note # 4: If you live in Gauteng and would like to travel in your own vehicle from the Southern Cape, **after** the Road Trip, you can travel along over two nights with the tour leader. We'll sleep two nights en route at Nieu Bethesda and Bloemfontein respectively.

Costs for two nights' accommodation, B&B, is R1800 per person sharing.

Please indicate on your Booking Form if you would like to make use of this option.

Our accommodation at various hotels & lodges:

