ROUTE TWO · SELF-GUIDED · 7 DAYS

Frontier & Mist.
The Highlands loop.

Seven days through the Eastern Cape Highlands — a bigger, wilder loop that climbs to some of the highest mountain passes in South Africa before looping back to the coast. Around 70% gravel, with the legendary Naude's Nek and Lundean's Nek passes at its heart. Days 4 and 5 ride through the heart of Ben10 country — the region made famous among adventure riders by the Ben10 Eco Challenge — taking in five of the ten challenge passes.

7	~1,811 km	~70%	3–8 hrs
DAYS	TOTAL DISTANCE	GRAVEL	DAILY RIDING

INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE

- Motorcycle — fully prepared, 7 days
- Garmin zūmo XT2 GPS — full route preloaded
- 60-litre soft pannier system — three 20-litre compartments
- 6 nights accommodation — a private room for each rider, breakfast included
- Pre-departure route briefing & bike familiarisation
- 24/7 breakdown support — phone help first, then a standby motorcycle brought to you if needed
- 24/7 phone & WhatsApp support
- Secure luggage storage at base
- Tyre repair kit on every bike
- Airport transfer

RIDER'S OWN ACCOUNT

- Dinners, lunches and drinks
- Fuel for the full route
- Riding gear and helmet
- Travel & medical insurance — specific cover required, see page 3

PRICING — PER RIDER, 7 DAYS

4 riders	€2,950
3 riders	€3,100
2 riders	€3,250
Solo rider	€3,450

30% deposit at booking, non-refundable; balance due 60 days before collection. A booking is confirmed when we issue a written Booking Confirmation. Tours run year round — October to April is our premium riding window.

THE MACHINE

KTM 790 Adventure — 799cc parallel twin, 95 hp, 203 kg, ~400 km tank range, WP Apex suspension, 21/18" wheels.

WHO THIS IS FOR

Experienced riders comfortable on unpaved roads — around 70% of the route is gravel. Valid motorcycle licence required; IDP strongly recommended for non-South African riders. Full protective gear is mandatory.

01 St Francis Bay → Kirkwood

North through Humansdorp and the Gamtoos Valley, with Hankey and Patensie marking the start of citrus country. The route swings inland past Kariega (Uitenhage) into the farmlands around Addo and on to Kirkwood — an easy first day before the climb into the Highlands begins in earnest.

~205 KM · OVERNIGHT: KIRKWOOD

02 Kirkwood → Tarkastad

Along the gravel R335, a public road through Addo Elephant National Park. It is fenced off from the game-viewing areas, but there's a good chance of seeing elephant, buffalo and other game from the bike. The road then opens east into the Karoo interior via Cookhouse, with De Beer's Pass, Niekerk's Pass and Volstruisnek Pass stitching together a long gravel transition from farmland to open Karoo plain. One of the longer distance days, ending at the quiet rail town of Tarkastad.

~289 KM · OVERNIGHT: TARKASTAD

03 Tarkastad → Lady Grey

Further into the Stormberg via Barkly East, crossing Carn Nek Pass, the Kraai River Pass and Killian's Pass near Rossouw. The longest day in the seat, climbing steadily toward the high country and finishing at Lady Grey, beneath the Witteberg.

~303 KM · OVERNIGHT: LADY GREY

04 Lady Grey → Rhodes

Via Sterkspruit and over Lundean's Nek Pass (2,162 m), continuing across the Carlisleshoekspruit, Volunteershoek (Bidstone) and Ben MacDhui passes into the Eastern Cape Highlands. A shorter day in kilometres but the biggest climbing of the trip, ending in the legendary mountain village of Rhodes. Three of these — Lundean's Nek, Carlisleshoekspruit and Volunteershoek — are official Ben10 challenge passes.

~173 KM · OVERNIGHT: RHODES

05 Rhodes → Elliot (Khowa)

The signature day of the route. Naude's Nek Pass, Barkly Pass, Bastervoetpad and Bottelnek passes string together the roof of the Eastern Cape Highlands, dropping through Maclear and Ugie before the final climb over Elandshoogte Pass into Elliot (Khowa). Naude's Nek and Bastervoetpad are both Ben10 challenge passes — Bastervoetpad widely regarded as the most technical of the ten.

~238 KM · OVERNIGHT: ELLIOT (KHOWA)

06 Elliot → Hogsback / Alice

West through Lady Frere and Komani (Queenstown), with MacKay's Neck, Nonesi's Nek and Cala passes carrying the route into forest country, finishing over Hogsback Pass into the misted Hogsback / Alice area for the final overnight.

~260 KM · OVERNIGHT: HOGSBACK / ALICE AREA

07 Hogsback / Alice → St Francis Bay

The longest distance of the trip, but the easiest — far more tar than gravel. Via Ecca Pass and Grahamstown (Makhanda), then south through Bathurst and over Van Stadens Pass back to the coast, with the Eastern Cape Highlands already feeling like another country behind you.

~345 KM · FINISH: ST FRANCIS BAY

Gravel passes and remote sections are affected by weather and road works — where a section is closed or unsafe, we substitute equivalent riding of the same character. Overnight stops may also change with availability. We brief you fully on the confirmed route and stays before departure.

AVAILABILITY & PRIVATE OPERATION

Tours run year round. October to April is our premium riding window — drier, warmer and the most settled conditions — but both routes run outside those months too. Every tour runs privately: no fixed departures, no minimum numbers, from a single rider upwards. You are never put in with strangers and never wait for a departure to fill. Rates are published to four riders; larger groups are quoted on request.

RIDER REQUIREMENTS

Minimum rider age 25, with a motorcycle licence held for at least two years. Pillions are not permitted on either route, a consequence of the terrain these routes cover. Full protective gear is mandatory, and an International Driving Permit is strongly recommended for non-South African riders.

LUGGAGE

A 60-litre soft pannier system, three 20-litre compartments, fitted to the motorcycle. You carry your own luggage with you; we do not move it between overnight stops. Secure storage is available at the collection point for anything not needed on the road.

IF A MOTORCYCLE IS NOT AVAILABLE

We would tell you as early as we possibly could and offer alternative dates first. If the dates cannot be moved, your deposit is refunded in full, without deduction.

YOUR OWN TRAVEL INSURANCE — READ THIS BEFORE YOU BOOK

You must hold travel insurance covering emergency medical treatment, medical evacuation and repatriation, valid for motorcycling on unsealed roads in South Africa. This is where bookings most often trip up: a great many standard European policies exclude engine capacities above 125cc and exclude unsealed roads altogether, so a policy that looks perfectly adequate often is not. Specialist adventure-riding cover exists and is not difficult to find. We are not in a position to recommend an insurer, only to flag the requirement clearly. Proof of cover is requested at balance payment.

OUR PUBLIC LIABILITY COVER

Public liability is held through SATIB, purchased per rider for the duration of your trip, with a limit of indemnity of R10,000,000.

SECURITY DEPOSIT & RIDER LIABILITY

A refundable security deposit is taken by payment link 48 hours before handover, on a credit or debit card in your own name, and refunded within three working days of the return inspection, less any charges due. It is charged and refunded in rand; exchange differences and bank fees are for your account. Where a motorcycle is damaged, your liability is the lesser of the actual cost of repair or a fixed limit, plus an administration fee, per motorcycle issued. The amounts are set out in your booking documentation and in the rental agreement.

RECOVERY

Recovery is charged per kilometre for the return trip, and only where the need for it arises from your own act or omission. Where a motorcycle fails mechanically through no fault of yours, recovery is at our cost. Where the cause cannot be established, we do not charge.

NEW & CUSTOM ROUTES

Bespoke and extended routes are developed to order and quoted individually — a different length, a particular pass or region, a harder or softer gravel balance, a start or finish somewhere other than St Francis Bay. Every route is ridden or confirmed rideable by us before handover, and every overnight stop is checked before it is offered.