



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. On a fully prepared KTM 790 Adventure.

7 DAYS	~1,811 km TOTAL DISTANCE	~70% GRAVEL	5–7 hrs DAILY RIDING	4 MAX RIDERS
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INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE

- KTM 790 Adventure — fully prepared, 7 days
- Garmin zūmo XT2 GPS — full route, waypoints & fuel stops pre-loaded
- 60-litre soft pannier system — three 20-litre compartments
- 6 nights handpicked accommodation — farms & lodges, breakfast included
- Pre-departure route briefing & bike familiarisation
- Standby KTM 790 and recovery vehicle on call 24/7 — dispatched to you on breakdown
- 24/7 phone & WhatsApp support
- Secure luggage storage at base
- Tyre repair kit on every bike

RIDER'S OWN ACCOUNT

- Dinners, lunches and drinks
- Fuel for the full route
- Riding gear and helmet
- Travel & medical insurance (incl. motorcycle cover — required)

PRICING — PER RIDER, 7 DAYS

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

30% deposit secures your dates. Balance due 60 days before departure. Tours run year round on a fortnightly schedule — best riding window October to April.

THE MACHINE

KTM 790 Adventure — 799cc parallel twin, 95 hp, 203 kg, ~400 km tank range, WP Apex suspension, 21/18" wheels. The benchmark mid-weight adventure bike: light enough for technical gravel, powerful enough for the Karoo.

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 Kariëga (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

Through Addo Elephant National Park on the gravel R335 — keep an eye out for elephant, buffalo and other game — before the road 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 Carlisle'shoekspruit, 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, Carlisle'shoekspruit 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 Elandschoogte 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 Ecce 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 and brief you fully on the confirmed route before departure.