

WILD COAST HOTEL-HOPPING TRAIL



The "hotel-hopping" trail extends southwards from Kob Inn in the north to the small town of Cintsa in the south. The first 3-4 days of the trail lies to the north of the Kei River in what was formerly known as the Transkei, while the last section extends along the eastern Cape holiday coast north of East London.

The hike takes in some of the most unspoilt and picturesque sections of our coastline and can be walked by anyone who is reasonably fit and enjoys rambling, as there are no serious challenges other than the odd river which must be waded. When river levels are up after heavy rains, a ferry will be arranged. The Kei river marks the border between the Transkei and the eastern Cape and you will cross this broad river by means of one of the last operating pontoons in the country.

The standard 5 night / 4 days hiking "hotel-hopping" trail package is described here. However, please let us know your time and/or budgetary constraints in order that may develop an itinerary to suit your needs

Maximum Number of Hikers:

Group sizes of 6-12 hikers are preferred.



Duration & Distances:

The full trail is 83 km long. The trail is not marked in the Transkei section and a guide is required for first time hikers. It is important that you time your day's walk to coincide with the tides so that you walk on the hard sand with a receding tide and reach the river mouths at low tide to make the crossing easier. Your guide will assist you with this and show you the best place to cross

Leg 1: Kob Inn to Mazeppa Bay: **6 km** - the shortest stretch with easy walking under huge sand dunes.

Leg 2: Mazeppa Bay to Wavecrest: **21km** - the longest stretch along wide sandy beaches. Take your time and enjoy the swimming along the way and maybe a break at Cebe cottages

Leg 3: Wavecrest to Seagulls/Trennerys: **12km** - rocky headlands, ship wrecks and river crossings.

Leg 4: Trennerys to Morgan Bay: **14 km** - crossing the Kei river and a walk through coastal forest

Leg 5: Morgan Bay to Haga Haga: **14 km** - spectacular cliffs and shelly beaches

Leg 6: Haga Haga to Cintsa: **16 km** - a rocky wavecut platform and a long beach passing several picturesque lagoons

Customising your Hike

A number of options exist along this trail catering for more budget conscious hikers and/or those looking to include other adventure activities such as canoeing, river cruises and visits to nature reserves etc. This allows you to do the full trail or selected sections and to spend more time at the locations you pass through - enjoying nature and local activities along the way. It also provides a more economical alternative to full board hotel accommodation by staying at self-catering or B&B places.



2012 RATES

(A) LUXURY HOTEL-HOPPING PACKAGE

The luxury hotel-hopping package is generally 5 nights and 4 days of hiking but you can customize to your requirements (more or less days). You have choice of which hotels you wish to stay in and are accommodated in front sea-facing rooms (out of season only). A guide is provided in the Transkei sections and while you pay in cash for portage in the Transkei, your bags will be transferred by vehicle from hotel to hotel once you are south of the Kei river.

Rates for bookings placed in 2012 are :

6 persons or less: Quotation on Request (a single person supplement may apply)

7-12 persons: **R 5,200 pp/sharing** (single person supplement may apply)

Extra night at any hotel: R 650 per person sharing

(B) STANDARD HOTEL-HOPPING PACKAGE

The hike is for a standard 5 nights and 4 days of hiking and starts either from Mazeppa Bay through to Haga Haga, or if you want to avoid the first long day, starting from Wavecrest and walking through to Cintsa in the south. Accommodation choice is determined by group size and availability and may include small lodges or B&B's . Although we do try and provide the best rooms available, units may share bathrooms (family units or cabanas) or be non-seafacing. Minimum group sizes of 6 or more are required for the standard rate tariff

Rates for bookings placed in 2012 are :

6 or more hikers : **R 4,500 per person sharing**

Extra night at any hotel or lodge: **R 550 per person sharing**

Both packages INCLUDE the following:

- 5 nights hotel accommodation / 4 days hiking (with local guide in Transkei section i.e. up to Morgans Bay)
- All meals: 5 dinners, 5 breakfasts & 4 trail lunches
- One shuttle / transfer (self-drive: leave vehicles at end-point and be shuttled to start of hike or vice-versa; fly-in (East London): one shuttle from airport but group needs to pay for return shuttle (depending on group size - usually approx R200pp/ one-way)

The package price EXCLUDES:

- Personal beverages (soft & alcoholic)
- Hotel Lunches if group decides to have a rest-day at any one of the hotels (only trail lunches are included)
- Porter service (there is an option to have your luggage 'portered' by local women. This service costs R100/pp/per day - paid directly to the porters. In the Morgans Bay - Haga Haga & Haga Haga - Cintsa sections, a vehicle luggage transfer is available - R400/ vehicle transfer, divided by the group, or included in the 'luxury' package)
- Optional Extras: such as Trevors Trail (well advised) - a 3hr guided nature & culture trail from Trennerys hotel

