



# Southern Cape Mountain Passes Road Trip

Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours

**Last updated:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Duration:** 8 Days/7 Nights

**Dates:** 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
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 09:00

**Price:** R11500 per person  
R3000 single supplement

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

## Tour Details:

This tour 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. It follows right after the 7-day Mountain Passes tour in the Western Cape.

The inaugural tour in 2024 was hugely successful and we just had to repeat it in 2025. Both mountain passes tours were fully booked! The natural beauty and diversity of this region is just unlimited. We take you on routes and roads even some local people living in the area don't know about!

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 60** 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 to drive.

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, Uniondale and many more!

We'll be visiting the famous Swartberg Pass, the Knysna Forest, Nature's Valley, Brenton-on-Sea, 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 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.

**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.



**OPTION # 1:** If you live in up-country (in the Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga or Northwest provinces or **any other** province) and you would like to travel in your own vehicle to the Southern Cape, you can join the group at the starting point outside Mossel Bay. (See more Info at the end of this memo).

**OR**

**OPTION # 2:** If you live up-country, you can **fly to George**, rent a vehicle, meet us at the starting point outside Mossel Bay and travel along. Any vehicle is suitable for these routes & roads. These would be for your own arrangements.

**OR**

**OPTION # 3:** This **Western Cape** Mountain Passes Road Trip takes place immediately prior to the **Southern Cape** Mountain Passes Road Trip. You'll be able to traverse more than 45 mountain passes in the Western Cape, Boland and Overberg regions. (See more Info at the end of this memo). **Suggestion:** Join the Western Cape tour as well.

**OR**

**OPTION # 4:** Do the Southern Cape Mountain Passes tour and travel back to Gauteng with the tour leader over two nights.

**Note:** During 2024 & 2025 most of the people made use of combining **Options 3 & 4**. I.e.: Travelled with the tour leader from & back to Gauteng and did both tours.

**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:** All other meals on tour, 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 or close by facilities.

**Dinner:** All other meals are **optional**, but budget for about R300+ 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. 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. We do **not** speed whilst on tour, but we expect all vehicles to travel at the speed set by the tour leader. Low profile tyres are not recommended.



**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 group 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. People talking about their illnesses, pains, medicines used, operations they've had, 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 works 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**

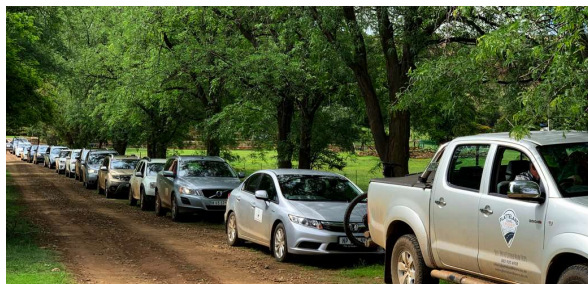
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**Note:** Some of the 60+ mountain passes to be traversed include the well-known Outeniqua Pass, Robinson Pass, Meiringspoort, Swartberg Pass, Seweweeks Poort & many more.

Some of the lesser known passes include: Bosluiskloof Pass, Seven Passes Road, Phantom Pass, Prince Alfred Pass, Poortjie, Bloukrans Pass and many more. These are **not** technical passes where advanced skills are required.



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Saturday to Saturday.

## Itinerary:



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

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



### Day # 2 **From Eight Bells Inn traveling a circular route to the Klein Karoo 285 Km**

09h00 Departure from Inn  
Travel inland to Oudtshoorn, Rooiberg, van Wyksdorp, Herbertsdale and back to the Inn, traversing several mountain passes like Robinson Pass, Cloete's Pass, Brakpoort, Perdebont Pass, Uitspan pass, Hagelkraal Pass and many more.  
We'll stop en route at a lodge up in the mountains with beautiful vistas and rock formations.  
Dinner at 8 Bells  
Overnight at 8 Bells



### Day # 3 **From Eight Bells Inn traveling to Brenton-on-Sea at Knysna 188 Km**

09h00 Departure from Inn  
Travel along the Outeniqua Mountains traversing some of the following passes: Moordkuil, Dagbreek, Outeniqua, Montagu (if open), Beveraas, Homtini, Touw River, Hoogekraal, Phantom and many more.  
Various rivers are crossed (by bridge!) and traveling on good gravel roads in the forest area.  
Dinner in Brenton-on-Sea  
Overnight in Brenton-on-Sea



**Day # 4**      **From Brenton-on-Sea traveling in a circular route via the Garden Route**      **171 Km**

08h00

Departure from Lodge

Breakfast en route

Today the famous Garden Route is explored, as well as the Knysna Forest. Mountain Passes include: Keurboomsrivierhoogte, Grootrivier, Bloukrans, Paardekop and more. Enjoy the beach at Nature's Valley.

Dinner in Brenton-on-Sea

Overnight in Brenton-on-Sea



**Day # 5**      **From Brenton-on-Sea traveling via the forest to De Rust**      **247 Km**

08h00

Departure from Lodge

Breakfast en route

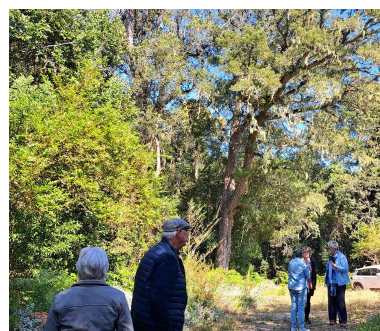
Traveling through the Knysna Forest, enjoying the beautiful nature on the back roads and listening to the bird calls, are all contributing to a special day in nature. Towns visited en route are Avontuur, Uniondale and Dysseisdorp.

Some of the mountain passes traversed include: Gouna Pass, Kom se Pad, Prince Alfred and Kammanassie.

A light lunch is enjoyed on a farm 'Where eagles dare'

Dinner at guest house in De Rust

Overnight in De Rust



**Day # 6**      **From De Rust in a circular route to Prince Albert & Swartberg Pass**      **201 Km**

09h00      Departure from Guest House  
The beautiful and arty town of Prince Albert will be visited via famous Meiringspoort en route to the Swartberg Pass, followed by Schoemanspoort and Rust & Vrede Pass and others. If time permits we can pop in at the Cango Caves.  
Dinner at guest house in De Rust  
Overnight in De Rust



**Day # 7**      **From De Rust to Calitzdorp**      **252 Km**

09h00      Departure from Guest House  
Another well-known and spectacular mountain pass, Seweweekspoort, is on today's itinerary. More passes include Bosluiskloof, Huisriver, Kruisrivier and Coetzee's Poort. The Red Cliffs will mesmerize you as well.  
Dinner in Calitzdorp  
Overnight in Calitzdorp



**Day # 8**      **From Calitzdorp back to Gauteng or continue on your own journey**

09h00      Departure for home or George Airport  
End of tour

## MORE INFO ABOUT THE TRAVEL OPTIONS:

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OR

**OPTION # 4:** Do the Southern Cape Mountain Passes tour and travel back to Gauteng with the tour leader over two nights.

Accommodation will be in guest houses in the 'owl town' of Nieu Bethesda and in Bloemfontein.

Costs for two nights' accommodation, B&B, is R1950 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:

