

## WILD COAST HOTEL-HOPPING TRAIL



The full "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 (the Meander trail) , while the last section extends along the eastern Cape holiday coast north of East London (the Sunshine trail).

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 we 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. New option to break this leg into 2 sections with an overnight stop at Serendipidity cottage at Cebe (B&B lodge sleeping up to 8 people)

**Leg 3: Wavecrest to Seagulls/Trennerys: 12km** - grassy paths above a rocky coast, Jakaranda ship wreck and a river crossing of the Kobonqaba river (canoe ferry organized if river is up).

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

**Leg 5: Morgan Bay to Haga Haga: 14 km** - spectacular cliffs and shelly beaches mark this section of the coast. One river crossing (normally wadeable) at Double Mouth.

**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 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.



## Slackpacking Hike Packages in 2013

We have introduced a number of different hike options to cater for hikers of differing ability, requirements and budgets, as well as to make most use of the wide variety of scenery and hiking attractions of this stunning coastline.

New slackpacking hikes introduced in 2013 are :

### ❖ Meander Transkei Package

Takes in the best of the Transkei with easy walking along wide sandy beaches running south of Kob Inn and completing at Morgan Bay or Haga Haga. Itinerary designed around your choice of hotels and hiking legs (12 to 21 km per day). DBB with packed lunches at hotels, guide service all the way and shuttle service for either self drive groups or those flying into East London. Bags taken between hotels by porters at own cost.

### ❖ Sunshine Standard Package

Extends over 4 days between Wavecrest hotel in the north to Crawford's Beach Lodge at Cintsa in the south. We choose the hotels or B&B's depending on availability and size of group. Guide used only in the Transkei section (north of Kei river) but includes pack lunches, luggage transfers between hotels (no porters) and one shuttle transfer back to start hotel.

### ❖ Minibreak Package

This is aimed at busy people looking for a long weekend break with a scenic 2 day hike and 3 nights of hotel pampering on the Sunshine Coast. Fly into East London on a Thursday and be back home on Sunday with all arrangements taken care of eg airport shuttles, full guide service, luggage transfers and packed lunches for your daily hikes of 14-16 km per day between Morgan Bay and Cintsa.

### ❖ Adventure Package

Combines hotel stays along the Sunshine Coast (from Trennerys southwards) with nature based activities to introduce you to the history, culture and wildlife of the Eastern Cape. Includes a 3 hour Xhosa history tour at Trennerys, a sundowner boat trip up the Kei river, a night at a bush camp at Inkwenkwezi game reserve and an optional canoe paddle up the Kwelera river to Arena Resort to conclude a memorable Wild Coast experience. Same hotel services and conditions as offered in the Sunshine package.

### ❖ Trail Run Package

Aimed at fit hikers and walkers looking for a challenge and for whom the journey is more important than the destination! Can be scheduled for either a 3 day or 4 day walk/run between Kob Inn (4 days) or Wavecrest (3 days) in the north and Cintsa in the south, ie the full trail normally taking 6 days to complete. Daily distances are from 16 to 24 km for self sufficient groups running with just a day pack. No packed lunches, guide or porters necessary as your bags will be transported round between hotels and you should get into the next hotel before lunch if you make an early start. The trail follows the coast and traverses wonderful scenery and vistas making it one of the most exciting trail runs in the country. Full hotel catering and shuttle transfers from East London.



## BOOKINGS AND 2013 RATES

Please ask for our **2013 Rates Sheet** with prices for above packages. Prices listed are for groups of 6 or more hiking out of season (excludes Easter and Christmas school holiday period). For smaller groups the rates are determined on a pro rata basis. Children under 12 years may qualify for a small discount (depending on hotel). Rates are per person sharing and a single supplement may be levied if rooms are at a premium.

For the **Sunshine, Meander and Minibreak** packages use is made of the marked hotels on the rates sheet. Choice of hotel depends on size of group, availability of hotel rooms and distance between hotels (to allow for shorter day hikes where children are concerned).

The **Adventure and Trail Running** packages are offered only in the winter months from May to end September when the weather is cooler and more predictable and river levels are generally lower so that crossings are easier.

Hikers may start on any day of the week but for fly-in groups suggest check flight schedules with airlines serving East London. Guests usually make up their own groups but for small groups it may be possible to combine two groups hiking the same route on the same start date if requested. This can help in reducing the group cost since shuttle and perhaps guide may be shared.

In all cases a full itinerary and quote will be given for your approval. Once this has been accepted a non refundable deposit of R1000 per person will be required to secure reservations made, with the balance being payable shortly before you leave (at least 2 weeks beforehand to give time to post vouchers and maps etc).

