

AFRICAN INSIGHT

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Off the beaten track

WILD COAST HIKE



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This rugged and scenic region stretches for 270km from the Great Kei River to the boundary between the Eastern Cape and Natal. The Wild Coast has become the graveyard of many vessels, but none more than those belonging to the early Portuguese navigators.

Known as the pearl in the crown of the Eastern Cape, the Wild Coast forms part of the former Transkei homeland, and much of the area is rural South Africa in its true essence.

The Wild Coast remains a relatively untouched paradise in South Africa. It is an eco-haven of unspoilt stretches of coastline, open spaces and pristine indigenous coastal forest areas. Tourists are guaranteed a wonderful and exciting holiday.

Much of the Wild Coast region is populated by rural Xhosa, who still practice traditions and customs that are no longer evident in the larger cities. Some of these include the initiation ceremonies, and the payment of *lobola*, a type of dowry payment in cattle and cash.

Travellers will not get an opportunity to get bored! The entire Wild Coast is ideal for walking, with many caves, bays, shipwrecks, cliffs and capes to explore and its savage beauty will enthral. Hiking trails available in the Wild Coast area are something special, while anglers will revel in the game fishing opportunities. If you'd like to test out your vehicle and driving skills, then one of the many 4x4 routes will prove to be a challenge.



WILD COAST HIKE

DAY 1:

After overnighting at a camp near the Wild Coast Sun or Cutwi Village homestay, we will meet at the Wild Coast Sun Casino, where we will start the hike. Most of the walk on this day will be on the beach; we will enjoy the fossils, sand dunes and those unspoilt beaches if the tides are in our favour. We will cross Umzamba River and have a little bit of history about the mining battle by the community just across the Umzamba river. Then go all the way and cross the Umnyameni river and have lunch on the other side. This is where the red dunes start and where the villages in the area will be most affected if the mining happens. We then continue to our finishing point which is just below Xholobeni village (19km) Overnight Camp



DAY 2:

Hike from Xholobeni across uMthentu river. Walk through Mkhambathi Nature reserve all the way to Umsikaba mouth. The beautiful landscape, indigenous plants, shipwreck, Strandloper Caves with beautiful waterfalls, unspoilt beaches and wildlife on the reserve like elands and zebras are some of the highlights on today's hike (17km) Overnight camp at Msikaba river mouth.



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DAY 3:

Hike from Msikaba mouth to Rhole village. On route we will enjoy two popular shipwrecks then walk straight to the village where we will overnight in a homestay. This evening we will enjoy warm water to wash, tea and homemade bread waiting on arrival (15km). Overnight Homestay.



DAY 4:

Hike will start very early from Rhole village to Cutwi village. The stretch between Rhole and Cuthwini is the most beautiful and popular on this part of the coastline. Things to enjoy on the way are the beautiful landscape with amazing natural attractions like Waterfall Bluff, Cathedral Rock Mfihlelo Falls, unspoilt beaches, Luphothano waves (where the waves shoot up high into the sky) Mamba pools and Grosvenor Wreck. (18 km). Transport from Cutwini Village to our starting point at the Wild Coast Sun and drive back to KZN.

