

CAPE TOWN & BOTSWANA SAFARI

SOUTH AFRICA & BOTSWANA



DATES April 3 - 12, 2020

LAND COST \$4350 USD pp. dbl. occ.

TYPE XC/all-mountain

GROUP SIZE 4 - 8

FITNESS & SKILL LEVEL Level 1-2

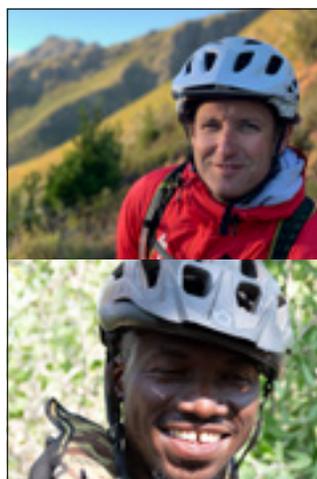
DURATION 10 days, 9 nights

✈ Cape Town (CPT)

AFTER A DECADE HIATUS WE'RE ECSTATIC TO BE RE-LAUNCHING THIS AMAZING ADVENTURE. RIDE STELLENBOSCH'S GLORIOUS TRAILS, EXPLORE CAPE TOWN THEN RIDE ACROSS THE BOTSWANA SAVANAH WHILE VIEWING WILDLIFE LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.

WHAT SETS US APART IN SOUTH AFRICA & BOTSWANA?

We offered this exciting trip from 2004-2010 with many successful departures. This new version now visits Cape Town & Stellenbosch, a riding region that has quickly become one of our favourites. Here, you can rest up from travels and ride some of the flowiest XC trails that you can imagine while sipping fine wines, exploring vibrant Cape Town, gazing out over the seas and so much more. The Botswana Safari portion of the trip hasn't changed much — it's like nowhere else and we're confident that this experience will resonate with riders forever. This trip showcases two distinctly different and amazing regions in Southern Africa — combined into one itinerary, this trip is truly worldclass.



OUR GUIDES

In South Africa you'll ride with a transplanted Brit with an infectious passion and deep knowledge of the region. In Botswana you'll ride with a seasoned local guides team who will safely navigate this unique riding experience.

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ITINERARY CAPE TOWN & BOTSWANA SAFARI

The following is a 'general' outline for the Cape Town & Botswana Safari trip. Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.



DAY 1

Arrive to Cape Town. Warm-up ride Stellenbosch.

Morning arrival to Cape Town International Airport (CPT). Please arrive no later than 11:00 AM. Transfer 35-mins. to our hotel in Stellenbosch, the wine capital of South Africa and host of the Red Bull UCI World Cup in 2018. After our orientation and fitting bikes we'll ride from our hotel with views of vineyards and mountains. This area is famous for its berms, jumps, pumps and bumps; perfect for warming up and becoming familiar with your bike & the region. Listen for the baboon calls echoing off the nearby cliffs. **Overnight:** [Caledon Villa Stellenbosch](#). **Distance:** 20 km. ⚡ 540 m. ⚡ 540 m.

DAY 2

Ride Jonkershoek. Explore Stellenbosch.

This morning, we'll ride from the door to nearby Jonkershoek Nature Reserve for an epic day in a spectacular valley. The trails here are purpose-made with all the elements of riding that we love including swoopy bermed-turns, fast sections peppered with easy rock gardens. Lunch at a beautiful winery then relax this afternoon & explore Stellenbosch, or head out for another ride? It's up to you. **Overnight:** [Caledon Villa Stellenbosch](#). **Distance:** 40 km. ⚡ 800 m. ⚡ 800 m.

DAY 3

Ride Bottelary Conservancy. Transfer to Cape Town.

Short 20-minute transfer through vineyards & farmland to the beautiful Jordan Wine Estate. Today's XC ride offers a unique perspective of the region due to the 360-degree view of the region. You will deserve a break after today's climbing and The Bakery provides the perfect opportunity to stretch out, unwind and enjoy another lazy lunch on the wooden viewing deck. This afternoon we'll transfer 45 minutes to Cape Town and enjoy dinner in the city. **Overnight:** [The Tree House](#). **Distance:** 34 km. ⚡ 900 m. ⚡ 900 m.

DAY 4

Ride Table Mountain. Explore Cape Town.

This morning we'll ride the lower slopes of famous Table Mountain and nearby Kirstenbosch with views of the city, mountains, sea & Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. This afternoon is up to you to explore this beautiful city. Go see penguins? Go to the beach? **Overnight:** [The Tree House](#). **Distance:** 15 km. ⚡ 700 m. ⚡ 700 m.

DAY 5

Fly to Johannesburg. Transfer to Botswana. Ride Botswana Safari.

Early flight to Johannesburg then take a private mini-bus five hours to Botswana. After border formalities, setting up the bikes we'll enjoy a light lunch and then ride about two-hours to our first wilderness camp along the shore of the Limpopo River. You can expect to see a plethora of wildlife on today's ride such as zebra, elephant, wildebeast, impala, giraffe and much more. **Overnight:** Wilderness camp. **Distance:** 10 km. ⚡ 65 m. ⚡ 65 m.

DAY 6

Ride Botswana Safari.

Awake at dawn to freshly brewed coffee and a light breakfast, then saddle up to explore uncharted landscapes. Today we discover why this region is called the Land of the Giants. We'll break for coffee and muffins en route and arrive at camp in time for lunch. As afternoons become too hot for riding we'll relax around camp. This evening enjoy a delectable meal around the campfire. **Overnight:** Wilderness camp **Distance:** 35 km. ⚡ 155 m. ⚡ 155 m.

DAY 7

Ride Botswana Safari. Sundowner drive & hike.

Ride in a northerly direction on well-worn elephant trails with a gentle ascent out of the Limpopo Valley. Then ride through the Valley of the Elephants and continue towards the Motloutse River where sandstone ridges provide a beautiful backdrop. Enjoy an afternoon of relaxation followed by a short drive and an epic sundowner at a historical sight and famous Baobab tree. **Overnight:** Wilderness camp. **Distance:** 35 km. ⚡ 165 m. ⚡ 165 m.

DAY 8

Ride Botswana Safari to Lux Tent Camp. Evening Game Drive.

Today we wake up at leisure to a hearty breakfast and then ride to the Lux Main Tented camp. We arrive at camp around midday, enjoy a delicious lunch followed by an afternoon to chill by the pool with a good book. Be prepared to be impressed, this is a special place. This evening we'll head out on a game drive with tracking specialists to look for the Big 5, and more. Fingers crossed that you'll view lion, cheetah, leopard, elephant, giraffe, and much, much more. **Overnight:** Lux Tent Camp. **Distance:** 31 km. ⚡ 165 m. ⚡ 165 m.

DAY 9

Morning Game Drive. Ride Botswana Safari. Evening Game Drive.

This morning you can head out on a dawn game drive to see the amazing wildlife with a qualified guide and tracker. After breakfast we'll head out on our last ride, a loop from our property. Tonight we'll head out on our final Game Drive and sundowner. **Overnight:** Lux Tent Camp. **Distance:** 20 km. ⚡ 105 m. ⚡ 105 m.

DAY 10

Transfer to Johannesburg Airport. Good-bye!

This morning we'll then load the Land Rover for a quick transfer to the South Africa border. Then we board our mini-bus for our transfer five hours to Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport for flights home. Most returning flights depart around 7pm.

DETAILS



BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

We can provide good rental bikes on this trip so that you don't have to bring your bike from home. In Cape Town we can source great Specialized StumpJumpers & Cambers whereas in Botswana we'll be riding hardtail GT bikes. The riding in Botswana is not technical, as such hardtail bikes are sufficient. Bikes include a water bottle cage, pump and spares. Do bring your own pedals and riding kit – and it's also recommended to bring your own saddle. If you would prefer to bring your own bike please let us know.

SUGGESTED BIKE FOR THIS TRIP:

TREK FUEL EX 9.8



CLIMATE

April is the end of summer in Cape Town so daytime temperatures are in the low/mid-20's c (70-80 fahrenheit), perfect for riding. This is the tail end of the rainy season in Botswana so the dry landscape is as green as it can be. Daytime temperatures can reach the low 30's c & hotter (85-90 fahrenheit).

LODGING

In Stellenbosch & Cape Town we overnight in comfortable three-star level hotels. In Botswana we'll spend two-nights at a 'wilderness camp', a mobile bush camp where riders sleep in 10'X10' canvas tents with cots & mattresses. There are warm showers, an open dining tent and camps are fully catered with a staff that cooks and serves meals and provides cold drinks etc. We also spend one night at a Boma Camp, where we sleep out under the stars on our cots — but enclosed by the Boma (wood fence). The final two nights are in true luxury camps with canvas tents with electricity, queen-size beds, a swimming pool, restaurant and bar, and more. Please notify Big Mountain Bike Adventures if you have any special dietary needs.



ACTIVITY LEVEL

This trip is rated Level I and II. The riding in Stellenbosch is on buffed purpose-built singletrack with some 15-20 minute climbs where a good level of fitness is important. Riders can always opt to ride more or less here. In Cape Town (on Table Mountain) we'll climb for about an hour, then ride a moderately technical trail that has sections that can be walked. The riding in Botswana is suitable for a beginner-level rider as it's technically easy, but distances are considerable so a strong fitness is important. Riders on this trip can be strong beginners to advanced-level, and can expect 4+ hours in the saddle daily. As with all Big Mountain Bike Adventures trips, the fitter you are the more fun you'll have. This trip is demanding at times in a remote landscape.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert local leadership.
- Airport transfer on scheduled days only in Cape Town upon arrival (& departure), Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport to Botswana arrival (& departure).
- All ride day transportation & on-trip transfers.
- Eight & a half days of guided riding.
- Bike rental for the trip duration.
- Two nights guesthouse in Stellenbosch, two nights guesthouse in Cape Town, three nights wilderness camp & two nights full-Luxury Camp in Botswana.
- Domestic flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg.
- Eight breakfasts, seven lunches, six dinners.
- Three game-drives in open-air Jeeps with wildlife trackers.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Three dinners, three lunches & one breakfast.
- Extras like coffees, alcohol and ride snacks like Clif Bars etc.
- International airfare; personal travel and medical insurance.
- Optional tipping to leaders and local staff.
- Airport taxes & excess baggage charges (if any) on flights from home & domestic Cape Town to Johannesburg flight.
- Related equipment needed to ride including helmet, hydration pack, pedals, saddle (optional), etc.
- We recommend \$30 USD per dinner.

DETAILS cont.



YOUR SAFETY

All participants must ride safely and within their limits daily as mountain biking is a dangerous sport with risks and hazards. Most accidents occur at the beginning of a trip due to jet lag, fatigue and unfamiliarity of trail conditions and obstacles; it is imperative that riders especially take it easy at the beginning of the trip. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Participants will remain hydrated and rested throughout the trip. Riders will be responsible for their daily bike checks and keeping bikes in good working condition. Everyone is ultimately responsible for their own well being on our trips. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected, will call local search and rescue and/or an evacuation helicopter at the cost of the participant. The majority of our trips take place in remote regions with limited evacuation options. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory on all trips.

THE NEXT STEPS

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or +1-604-902-1807 for international guests or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm there's space on this trip. If Skype is preferred please send us an email to arrange a meeting. We like to speak to everyone interested in joining our trips. This helps ensure everyone signing up is well matched for the group!

Make sure you have read and understand our [Terms and Conditions](#) and also our [Waiver](#). Both found on our website under registration.

To confirm your spot please complete our secure online [Registration Form](#) found on our website.

Once your online registration form has been received, we'll send you detailed pre-departure information, for review, to ensure you're well prepared for the adventure ahead.

PAYMENT

Once you've completed our online registration form and we've confirmed that we have the needed number of riders to proceed, we'll collect a \$750.00 CAD deposit that is refundable up to 14 days after registering (outside of 90 days before the trip departure), afterwards your deposit becomes non-refundable. At 90 days prior to the departure, the full trip balance will be collected. Please review our [Terms & Conditions](#) for full details on payment, cancellation and refund policies. Please note that while our land costs are quoted in the destination country's preferred currency, the balance and deposit are processed in Canadian dollars. The exchange rate is based on the daily rate quoted using the Bank of Canada. If you are paying with credit card and reside outside of Canada, you may incur a foreign transaction fee. If you wish, there's the option of paying with a wire transfer or you can also send us a cheque. Please contact us anytime to discuss your options.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The single supplement of \$650 US is an additional fee for solo travellers who wish to have their own rooms during the trip. If riders agree to share a room with someone of the same gender BM will pair you up. If there isn't another single participant of the same gender available, you will automatically have your own room and incur the additional single supplement fee.

REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call us at 1-866-894-0220 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions or need any additional information. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

Big Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd. Box 922, Whistler BC, V0N 1B0 CANADA
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Trip Advisor](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [Pinkbike](#)



WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Since 2001 Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer of performance mountain bike adventures to destinations worldwide. Our itineraries are designed by local professional guides and Big Mountain travel experts and lead by the very best local leaders available. Our mission is to deliver safe, quality trips with the best customer service - ensuring a trip of a lifetime.