

Township Cycling Tour
(Half Day Tour - Scheduled)

Tour description

The name Masiphumelele was given to the originally named “Site 5” situated in Noordhoek, Masiphumelele means “success” or “hope” in Xhosa, one of our local languages. Despite facing huge challenges in every day life, many of the inhabitants of Masiphumelele are remarkable. There is a strong sense of community, high levels of social organization as well as support for elderly and a safe environment for children in this area.

Since the establishment of this tour, more than 3000 visitors have taken this tour, and thus spread considerable financial benefit to this community. Apart from the various donations from the visiting guests, much needed income has been generated and put into circulation in this township as part of tourism services and fees paid to business owners.

One of whom is Phumlani Dlongwana’s BEN IBD Bicycle shop. Dlongwana is part of the bicycle tourism programme in the Masiphumelele community of Cape Town that runs in conjunction with the Bicycling Empowerment Network (BEN), a non-profit organisation. BEN promotes the use of the bicycle in all of its forms to enhance low-cost, non-motorised, transport and health and access to opportunity, employment, skills and education. This programme evolved from BEN’s importation of second hand bikes and the establishment of Independent Bicycle Dealers (IBD) owned and operated by local residents. In 2006, at the World Travel Centre in London, BEN was the winner of the “First Choice Responsible Tourism Award” for the category “Best for Innovation and Technology”. This award programme is the largest of its kind in the world and represents a partnership between Responsible Travel, UK media (The Times and Geographical Magazine), Conservation International and The World Travel. The central tenet of the Awards is that all types of tourism – from niche to mainstream – can and should be operated in a way that respects and benefits destinations and local people.

On this cycling tour in the community we visit Peacock crèche to meet one of the many amazing women from townships who have taken it upon themselves to run crèches from their homes and feed children, who would otherwise be orphaned.

What’s more visitors will also have the opportunity to savour Nongolozí’s traditional lunch and to meet a traditional healer or “sangoma” to gain more insight into the local beliefs and customs.

This tour is officially certified Fair Trade and gained recognition as a finalist for the 2008 Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards in the category “Best practice - economic impact”. This award programme focuses on local purchasing and economic practices, employment equity, Black Economic Empowerment, employee training and development of and adherence to general and industry-specific legislation

Tour includes:

- Transport return CTICC (Other meeting points on request. May be subject to an extra cost)
- Transfers return CTICC
- Guided township tour with selected visits (NB: our itineraries may vary and therefore not all stops are possible for each trip) and bicycle hire
- An accredited guide from pick-up to drop-off

Tour excludes:

- Any personal purchases and gratuities

Please note:

- You can take as many **pictures** as you wish – but please do not forget to ask in advance if you want to photograph people other than our hosts and guides.
- Please note that we sub-divide large groups into smaller groups of about 8 -12.
- Kindly inform your clients about the following:
 - Guests may take **pictures** – but guests need to ask in advance if they want to photograph people other than our hosts and guides.
 - Guests are asked not to give children sweets or money. If they wish to make a **donation** or give **gifts** kindly consult us first as to the appropriateness of the kind gesture. We also have a “**wish list**” available to consult before clients depart from their country of origin. This list has items, which can be used or new, which are needed for particular local projects or hosting families.
 - Guests are not allowed to pick up children nor to encourage them to follow the tour with us.
 - Guests are to wear comfortable shoes and **appropriate clothing** in respect to the community (e.g. no mini skirts, bare shoulders, sexy clothing, flashy jewelry). Bring sun protection and wind protection and a warm jersey.
 - We highly recommend bringing a small bottle of water as the local shops only stock sodas and sometimes other soft drinks.
 - We recommend guests bring a little cash in small bills should they wish to purchase gifts or souvenirs.

Tour facts:

Tour code:	TIE-HD4_AA
Pick-up & Drop-off point:	CTICC
Scheduled:	Tuesday 6.9.11
Minimum numbers:	8
Departure & Return times:	8:30 am – 1/1:30 pm (5 hours)
Rack rate p.p. incl. VAT:	ZAR 835,- (valid Oct 2010 – Sept 2011)