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Bicycle Township Tour

Meet the people of Masiphumelele, experience Xhosa culture and discover township life by bicycle.



“AWOL’s Community-based Bicycle Tour in Cape Town – a new take on township tours – providing the visitor with many more opportunities to interact with the community than they would have from an air-conditioned bus. BEN facilitates the importation of discarded second hand bicycles to South Africa where they have helped to set up and provide ongoing support to locally owned bicycle workshops, training and employing members of the local community to renovate the bikes for the Community Bicycle Tours. As a result of this work, they have also been able to assist a local lady to set up a restaurant providing further income for the community”

Guests are met at accommodation and transferred to Masiphumelele and the BEN workshop from where we start the tour. BEN is a non-profit organisation, which promotes the use of the bicycle in all of its forms to enhance low-cost, non-motorised, transport. BEN bicycles are second hand bicycles imported from Europe, fixed and repaired by BEN bike mechanics and then sold at affordable rate to people in the communities. The shopkeeper Phumlani has a vested interest in the BEN shop he runs, as he not only works there but also has ownership of the bicycle shop and thus has a future running his own small business. A local guide will take us round the township visiting interesting places and explaining some local Xhosa customs. We visit a local crèche where the teachers work under very difficult circumstances. Part of the tour proceeds go towards the betterment of their facilities. A highlight of the tour is to visit a Sangoma (traditional healer) who performs interactive dancing and drumming. For lunch we visit a local African restaurant or a local lady home who hosts the tourist groups in her home makes authentic African tea or lunch and has dreams of starting her own restaurant in the township. On full day tours, we include an hour volunteer work at a local crèche or at the library to assist schoolchildren doing their homework. A visit to District Six Museum is also included.

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Township bicycle tours with transport	Half day	R	2,300	R 1,450	R 1,150	R 1000	R 950
Township bicycle tours excluding transport	Half day	R	950	R 750	R 650	R 650	R 650

And is inclusive of the following:

- Transport to and from accommodation,
- Guided experience with township guide
- Sangoma (traditional healer) dancing and drumming
- Donation and Visit to Masivelani crèche (only available during the week)
- Visit crafters and local artists in community
- Lunch at Nongoloza’s Restaurant or tea in an African home
- Hire of Old fashioned Dutch Bicycles

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