



Cherry Festival Road Trip

Gauteng to Ficksburg District
Self-Drive Guided Road Trips hosted by Platteland Tours

Duration: 3 Days/2 Nights

Dates: 12th to 14th November 2027
Friday to Sunday

Depart: Engen One Stop N1 (South)
Near Grasmere

Return: Total Petroport N3 (West)
Near Heidelberg

Departure time: 09:00 (Route briefing and welcome **at 08:30**)

Tour Price: R5200 per person
50% single supplement
Children under 12 pay half price

Distance: 885 km. About 57 km on gravel road.

Doc Updated: 2nd November 2026

Tour Details:

Travel in your own vehicle in a convoy through towns that you normally just sped past or don't know exist like Kroonstad, Marquard, Ficksburg, Fouriesburg, Clarens, Reitz, Tweeling & Frankfort. (Not in this order!) Real 'Platteland dorpies'! (Small countryside towns). Discover or rediscover these places.

We'll stop en route for sightseeing, snacks, road stalls, photo's, toilets, coffee/tea, tourist spots and less familiar places. Enjoy the drive and ride in your own vehicle. At night and en route you'll have the opportunity to mix, mingle and have fun.

We'll attend the cherry festival and activities at the Ionia Cherry Farm outside Ficksburg AND visit the Sandstone Estate with its remarkable collection of steam engines and historical farm equipment. You'll experience a ride on a narrow gauge steam train as well! Click here to see a variety of beautiful pictures of Sandstone Estate.

Departure & Return Location: Depart from the Engen One Stop N1 (South) – near Grasmere toll gate, South of Johannesburg on the N1 highway to Bloemfontein. The Road Trip will end at the Total Petroport N3 (West) – near Heidelberg, late afternoon on the last day.

You can join en route. Just inform us accordingly on the Booking Form.

Price includes: Accommodation for 2 nights (D, B&B), a tour leader with his own vehicle, all administration and leading of the tour (including booking of: Accommodation, meals & excursions, etc.), high frequency two-way radio per vehicle to use during the tour, lots of relevant info, group safety by traveling together, pictures after the tour, daily briefings of the tour, limited vehicle breakdown support, fun, new friends & new routes.

Tour price excludes: Lunches, fuel & toll gates for vehicles, Comprehensive Travel Insurance, gratuities, entry fees to venues or places, drinks, breakdown recovery costs and personal expenses.

Entry fees at Ionia Cherry Farms in 2026 were R200 pp (excluding a tractor-and-trailer trip into the cherry orchards and eat-as-much-as-you–like @ R185 pp). This we'll purchase, on your behalf, closer to the date).

Entry fees at Sandstone Heritage Farms in 2026 was R280 pp (including all the expos on the farm, as well as a trip on the steam train). This is paid at the venue's gate.

Accommodation: We overnight in a good guest house, **including breakfast & dinner**.

Dinner: These dinners are big & 'lekker'. (You may ask the people who attended in the previous years).

Bookings: Please complete the attached Booking Form (one per vehicle) and send it to info@plattelandtours.co.za with your Proof of Payment. Bookings will be confirmed in writing. Book soon. This tour is every year sold out long before departure.

Deposit: At least 25% of the tour price with the booking, another 25% three (3) months before departure date and the outstanding balance by latest 6 weeks before departure date

If booked within the 3 months period prior to departure of the Road Trip, 50% deposit is required.
If booked within the 6 weeks period prior to departure of the Road Trip, full payment is needed.

Take on tour (suggested): Your vehicle, your family & friends, pocket money, a smile and goodwill. Some other extras could include: Sneakers (walking shoes), a hat, binoculars, toilet paper, wet wipes, coffee flask, camera, torch and sunglasses.

Vehicle: Any 4 x 2, SUV vehicle or sedan with good ground clearance, for when traveling on the gravel roads, is suitable for the tour. We do not speed whilst on tour, but we expect all vehicles to travel at the speed set by the tour leader.

Who should go on this tour: People who love travelling, enjoy back roads, singles, couples, those who have never been to the Cherry Festival, Sandstone Estate & the Eastern Free State and would like to enjoy the natural beauty and friendliness of the people, people who are unfamiliar with driving at foreign places, people who'd prefer to travel with other people in a safe environment, people who don't like getting lost, those who'd like to be well informed as they drive along, those who like driving their own cars, people who like sharing their lives, interest, knowledge, fun and care with others. People who enjoy life at an easy pace.

Who should not go this tour: Moaners, groaners, whiners, speedsters, hooligans, boozers, people who can't drive on a gravel road, etc. People talking about their illnesses, medicines and operations they've had!

VHF Radio: We provide each vehicle with a two-way radio for the duration of the tour in order to communicate with everyone. It charges on your vehicle's cigarette lighter whilst driving. (Please make sure your vehicle's cigarette lighter is working **before** the tour starts).

Money: A credit card, plus some cash, will be needed.

Fuel & Toilets: We'll stop regularly.

Clothing: Casual – no dress up at any stage.

What to expect:

An orderly and well planned Road Trip, with a few surprises en route. Good food, a beautiful country, interesting roads and routes, tar and gravel roads, small towns, cute shops and fresh cherries to eat from the trees, the beautiful Muluti Mountains, friendly people and something new…

We are looking forward in welcoming you on this Road Trip.



Johan Badenhorst

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Itinerary:

Day # 1 **Engen 1-Stop N1 to Guest House (Ficksburg)** **380 km**

Welcome, briefing & handing out of 2-way radio's before departing via Kroonstad to Ficksburg. Dinner and overnight.

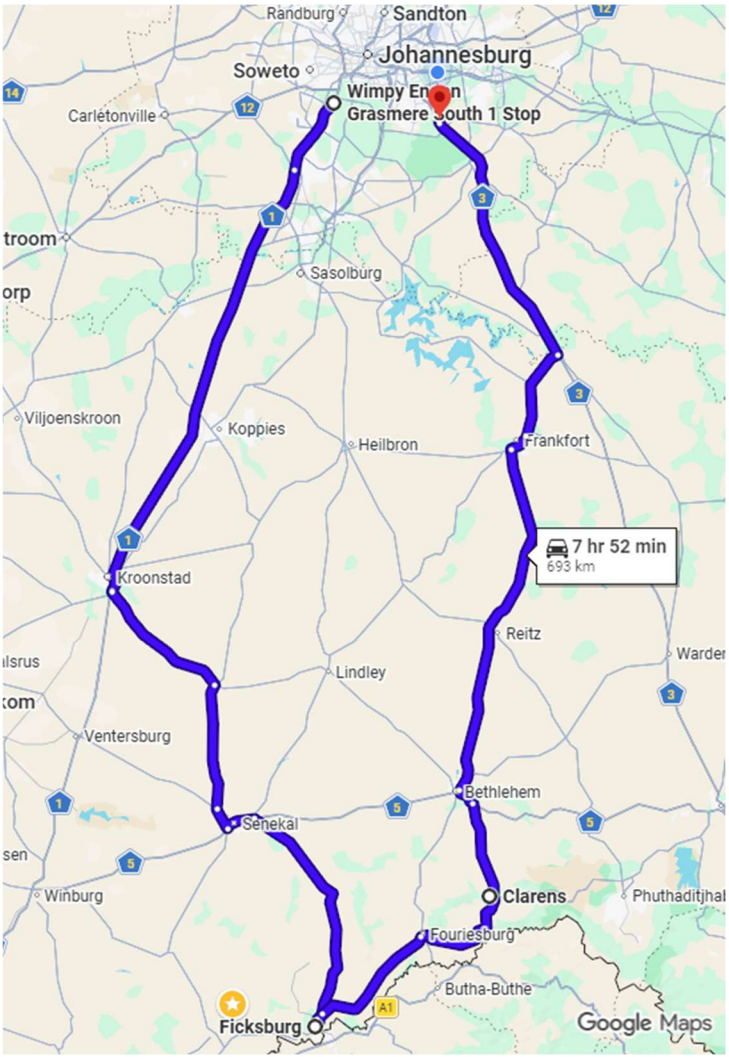
Day # 2 **Ficksburg to Cherry Festival & back** **115 km**

After breakfast we depart for the Ionia Cherry Farm Festival for cherry pickings and attending the expo, then off to the Sandstone Heritage farm for a trip on a steam train and LOTS to be seen. Time for dinner again before overnighting in Ficksburg.

Day # 3 **Ficksburg to Petroport on N3** **390 km**

After the last breakfast on tour we depart for beautiful Clarens via Fouriesburg. You spend the morning in Clarens before driving through Bethlehem and the small towns of Reitz, Tweeling, Frankfort and Villiers before arriving at the Petroport N3 (after Heidelberg) late afternoon to say goodbye.

Map:



PHOTOS of some of the places to be visited/seen:



















