

ZUURBERG – FROM CRADOCK VIA SOMERSET EAST TO ZUURBERG, OVERLOOKING ADDO ELEPHANT PARK



**Tuishuise & Victoria Manor** is a faithful adherent to the golden age of Queen Victoria. Check in after arrival for your first night in **Cradock**. A visit to this area is incomplete without a game drive into the nearby **Mountain Zebra Park**, where lions, leopard and other predators run freely.



**Day 2.** Stay the course with the gravel road, taking the route over the **Swaershoek** pass (also a favourite with many local mountain-bikers) towards **Somerset East**. Some of the more fanatical cyclists insist on riding the entire 95km route to Somerset East! If you're a leisurely cyclist, you'll want to take the road off to the right and head for well-known game farm, **Tollies** [www.buffelsfonteinlodge.com](http://www.buffelsfonteinlodge.com) (about

60km from Cradock with 35km to Somerset East). Tollies has a number of lodges set against the backdrop of the Bosberg mountains and welcomes cyclists and road trippers.

**Day 3.** Travelling from Tollies through hilly and scenic Eastern Cape scrubveld, stop for tea or lunch at one of **Somerset East's** restaurants before travelling out in a westerly direction for 12km to **Glen Avon guestfarm**, ([www.glenavonfarm.co.za](http://www.glenavonfarm.co.za)), run by Bill and Alison Brown. This is another one of those hidden jewels of the E Cape, offering superior accommodation and meals.

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Glen Avon Guest farm near Somerset East

**Day 4.** Leaving Glen Avon the next morning, stick to the dirt road headings towards **Addo Elephant Park**. Some 50km from Somerset E, cycling or driving through gradually more dense vegetation, you will encounter **Ann's Villa**, [www.annsvilla.co.za](http://www.annsvilla.co.za), literally alongside the road. This was the home of the first cycling club in the E Cape and has recently added a number of new bedrooms in the old schoolhouse. It serves as an enchanting stopover for weary cyclists before taking on the demanding 26km **Zuurberg Pass** to the Inn itself..



Ann's Villa – home of first cycling club in E Cape

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**Zuurberg Mountain Village** ([www.addo.co.za](http://www.addo.co.za)) sits at the top of the pass and, being only 18km from Addo gate, is a particularly popular weekend getaway for folk in PE and surrounding towns. It opened its doors to travelers in 1861, originally as a stagecoach post, and endured seven frontier wars. It was also the route used by Jan Smuts and his commandos during the Anglo-Boer

From Zuurberg it is a short hop to the town of **Kirkwood** and on to **Port Elizabeth** (in total 80km). Dirt roads precede you to the outskirts of the city.

**Best months in the Karoo**, whether cycling or driving, are in Autumn (March – May), avoiding the icy winters and hot summers.

