

Journeys with Gerald

RIDE TO EXPLORE



With the explosion of mountain biking in South Africa, riders are spoilt for choice when it comes to stage races and events. But not everyone is a racer chasing the clock, the podium or a medal! Increasingly people are looking for an experience both on and off the bike that stimulates mind, body and spirit.



Long-time sports broadcaster, and now mountain bike addict, **Gerald de Kock** is one such person. In his pursuit of riding something different Gerald has joined up with **Detour Trails**, a vastly experienced mountain bike tour and guiding company to launch **Journeys With Gerald (JwG)**. These are unique multi-day mountain bike journeys that will take riders on an exploration into off the beaten track areas of Southern Africa (for now, but further afield later). In many cases the trails will never have been ridden before.

JwG is for the rider who is done with races and is ready to explore new terrain and landscapes, getting more out of the adventure than just riding. No purpose built single track here, **JwG** is about riding wild trails, sculpted by animals, human feet and a million years of African weather!

On the bike, days will vary in distance and difficulty, but not in stimulating riding and compelling trailside banter alongside a small group of like-minded people. Off the bike the experience will be top notch with accommodation in lodges and remote bush camps.

JwG will be an intimate riding experience with no more than 30 riders on a tour. All the riders' needs will be taken care of from the moment they arrive to departure.

"Every ride on my mountain bike is a journey" says Gerald, "I don't have a racing bone in my body and the idea behind **Journeys with Gerald (JwG)** is to take our bikes and ride beyond the confines of a timed race. Rohan and his team from **Detour Trails** are amazing explorers, I can't wait to ride through landscapes with them that we would probably only see from an airplane."

"The event and race scene in South Africa is fantastic, but I know of many people who are ready to do something different, and I and the **Detour Trails** crew will make **Journeys With Gerald (JwG)** very different"

Detour Trails have an excellent reputation for taking their guests to the roots of mountain biking.

"We at **Detour** don't ever go the normal way, rather we take the less or not travelled routes inspired by the hidden gems we find, be they trails, cultural experiences, wild game, geographic features, etc. The explorers in us fuel our passion for the natural trails that abound in Africa. We are privileged to be the platform for **JwG** so that we can share our finds with like-minded adventurers who only have limited time to be out on their bikes." Says Rohan Surridge of **Detour Trails**.

The inaugural **Journeys With Gerald (JwG)** is set to explore the Matobo Hills, an area of granite koppies (large domes of 'whalebacks' or dwalas), balancing rocks (Giant's playground) and wooded valleys south of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Detour Trails has done extensive exploring in the area, while it is home to the local Zimbabwe hosts, so their knowledge of the area, its history, flora and fauna, etc. is quite unbelievable. Expect the unexpected when it comes to 'more than riding'.

JwG is about pure riding pleasure. No timing, no racing, just fun on and off the bike.

The Matobo Hills Adventure (6th - 11th June 2019) is sure to set the standard for future **Journeys with Gerald (JwG)**.



Presented by Detour Trails
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