

Tar Route 4

2012



Fort Beaufort – Bedford

Away – 139km
Return – 220km

Page 1 of 4

Leave the monument and head east onto the N2 for 11km before turning left onto the R67 for Fort Beaufort, via Ecca Pass. Fort Beaufort lies about 85km from Grahamstown.

Lying in the heart of the citrus farming Katriver Valley and about 85km from Grahamstown, Fort Beaufort is a little historical town that dates back to 1822, when a frontier post was established here by the British, who occupied the town until 1870 during a period of struggle for possession between colonists, supported by the British, and the Xhosa.



Fort Beaufort also boasts a number of historical sites worth visiting, including the Martello tower, today a national monument, on which sits a mounted cannon that pivots through 360° and is considered one of two in the world - the other is in Canada.

This Martello Tower has been skillfully restored to its original condition, and is one of only two Martellos in South Africa. The other is located in Simonstown. Fort Beaufort's Martello is unique in that it is the only one of its kind in the world, which is not situated along the coast.

Turn Left onto the R63 to Adelaide. Just south of the Winterberg Mountains, seeped in settler history, Adelaide is a charming little town some 37 kilometers from Fort Beaufort - one of the largest towns in the area that also happens to boast one of the finest Victorian barracks outside of the UK.



The tree-lined streets of Adelaide are lined with beautiful historic homes, churches and monuments whilst the large 'square' with its trees, gardens and public offices - more of an island than a square – sets the tone for the little



historic town, definitely worth further exploration. Adelaide's main attraction is its setting. It lies right in the heart of eco-tourist heaven.

There are no fewer than six distinct biomes in the surrounding countryside; there is a spectacularly rich bird life, fine examples of rock art, a rich diversity of flora and fauna, and access to a number of game reserves and game farms.

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Page 2 of 4

Whilst its history is a series of occupations that began with the Boers - who together with black Bantu speaking people rapidly displaced the San - and ended with Scottish settlers sent to establish a presence in the Mankanzana River valley; today Adelaide is predominantly a beef, mutton, wool and citrus farming district.



The Winterberg Mountains and foothills provide numerous scenic drives, mountain biking - the Winterberg Mountain Bike Race takes place every October - and hiking opportunities. Rock climbers can head off to Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve where three sectors - the fever ward, the labour ward and more mojo - lie along the rim of a huge forested amphitheater.

Continue a further 22km along the R63 to Bedford. Bedford was established in the mid-19th century when Sir Andries Stockenstrom sold portions of land from his farm Maastroom to raise funds for the restoration of his library, which had been burnt by British soldiers mistrustful of his attempts to broker peace in one of the Cape Frontier Wars.



It is located on the southern edge of the Winterberg mountain range, in the smaldeel (a narrow strip of grass land running laterally from Fort Beaufort to Somerset East, renowned for its sweet grass).

Fort Erasmus, The Old Bedford Jail



Leaving Bedford, continue on the R63 for 21km and turn left onto the N2. At S32 57.246 E25 48.758 you can stop at Middleton Manor for refreshments before continuing over Olifantskop Pass.

Please be aware that due to the large number of heavy vehicle using the pass, there are often oil and diesel spills on the road.

Stop off at Nanaga farm Stall for more refreshments. Head back up the N2, 72 km taking you back to the monument.

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Page 3 of 4

Route 4 - Away Ride



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2012

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Page 4 of 4

Route 4 - Return Ride

