

# OUTDSHOORN 2010



## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Event</b>	BMW Bike Fest 2010
<b>Date</b>	Friday 19th of March – Monday 22nd of March 2010
<b>Venue</b>	Kleinplaas Resort, Oudtshoorn, in the heart of the Klein Karoo, Western Cape.
<b>Routes available</b>	Plenty of fantastic on-road and off-road options.
<b>Who's welcome?</b>	Any BMW motorcycle owner (and pillion!) or BMW Club member who's adventurous and looking forward to a fantastic weekend.

## INTRODUCTION

Scheduled for the long weekend in March, this event promises to be two full festive days of celebrating the fantastic bikes we ride. It will also give us the opportunity to enjoy the excellent fellowship of like-minded people and make use of the local expertise of hosting well-known events like the KKNK to turn our meeting into a festival of note. And if that's not enough the routes we're going to explore offer pure biking heaven.

"It has to be an Adventure. It has to be a Festival. And it has to offer more choices!" – These comments summarised some of the feedback we received at the BMW Bikers Gathering.

So we consulted the experts, called in the specialists and considered our past, as well as our future, before our plans started taking shape. The name was changed from the "Annual BMW Bikers Gathering", or "ABBG" to "The BMW Bike Fest". This event has a long-standing tradition, originally organized by the BMW Clubs themselves and subsequently taken over by BMW.

The team also felt that the new format needed to be about BMW bikes, be more owner orientated and that a mere "gathering" wouldn't cut it anymore – it needed to be a "Festival"!

### The venue

When asked about the most popular events in the past, Oudtshoorn featured every time – no doubt because of the venue, the great routes and the good times people have had here. So it really was a no-brainer to return to the Klein Karoo for the inaugural BMW Bike Fest!

### The dedicated team behind it all – and that includes you!

The Fest is made possible by owners like you, by BMW Clubs Africa, which includes all the BMW Clubs in South Africa (although BMW MCC Cape will take the lead on the routes to ride), by BMW Motorrad with their dealer network (specifically Raymond Botha and his team at Lynn Schroeder Motorrad in George), who will provide technical support; as well as playing an active role via the BMW Boutique, the BMW Rider Academy and by providing demo bikes – the latter three being some of the most popular activities at previous Gatherings.

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## Local Community Charity Programme

The Mayor and municipality of Oudtshoorn have already given their support and commitment to the event.

All profits and donations from the event will be given to local charities selected and proposed by Ds. Gerrit van Schalkwyk, a well-known charity figure in the local community.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Please note: The final, detailed programme will be confirmed closer to the event.

### Friday 19 March

Arrival in Oudtshoorn. Book into accommodation.

Registration: From 15:00 onwards.

Evening: At own leisure – we will provide specific options closer to the Fest.

### Saturday 20 March

Meet at Kleinplaas after breakfast and depart on all the various routes. (More info on routes will be posted on the site closer to the event.)

Dinner: Traditional Klein Karoo cuisine prepared by *Kobus se Gat* will be served at Kleinplaas for a nice and relaxed evening together.

### Sunday 21 March

Meet at Kleinplaas after breakfast and depart on the various routes. (More info on routes will be posted on the site closer to the event.)

Dinner: For our last evening together, we'll have our own Foodfest at Jamstreet, otherwise known as *Moooi*. We're keeping the rest as a surprise.

### Monday 22 March

After a hearty breakfast, we say our goodbyes and depart for home.

## THE ROUTES

Rides will be scheduled daily with On- and Off-road options. The names just roll off the tongue when you start thinking about possibilities the area offers... There's so many options, that you will probably consider staying another few days!

- **Dirt / Off-road options**

- The historical and scenic Swartberg pass.
- "Die Hel", or Gamkaskloof, the forgotten valley with a fascinating story, nestled in the Swartberge.
- Montagu Pass, a scenic gravel pass between Oudtshoorn and George.
- The famous Prince Alfred pass between Avontuur and the Knysna forest.
- The remote Rooiberg pass between Calitzdorp and Vanwyksdorp.
- The magical Groenfontein road – a beautiful dirt road between Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp along the foothills of the Groot Swartberge.
- Routes through the Kamanassie to Uniondale.
- Lesser-known roads like the Vergenoegd and the Oudemuragie roads.
- And then you could travel through Baviaanskloof on the way to the event or back (at your own risk, of course!)

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- **Tar / on-road options**

- The R62 – that famous stretch of road between Montagu and Oudtshoorn.
- Via Schoemanshoek to the Cango Caves at the foot of the Swartberg Pass.
- Robertson Pass to Mosselbaai.
- To the quaint town of De Rust, through twisty Meiringspoort (be sure to stop at the waterfall) via Klaarstroom, and on to the arty town of Prins Albert.
- The “7 Passes Road”, the old road between George and Knysna.
- To coastal towns like Victoria Bay, Wildernis, Heroldsbaai, Grootbrakrivier, Mossebaai and Knysna via the N2.
- Outeniqua Pass to George.
- The old cement road between Oudtshoorn (Volmoed in particular) and Calitzdorp, a town that can rightfully lay claim to being SA’s “Port Capital”.
- A little further, going anti-clockwise via the Huisrivier Pass to Ladismith, Riversdal, Albertinia (famous for its Aloe Vera products), Mosselbaai back to Oudtshoorn, stopping just before the Robertson Pass at the Eight Bells Hotel for coffee and delicious cake.

## WHAT TO BRING

It’s simple! Bring yourself, your pillion or family if you wish, your trusty steed, your sense of adventure and fun, cash for extras unique to this area (they say you can fit one or two ostrich chicks and a few bottles of wine into a pannier) petrol and lunch along the routes. You don’t need a fancy outfit for dinner as there are no dress codes. If you want to bring your cocktail jacket, you are most welcome. But you might feel a bit out of place, as the rest of us will be dressed in denims and t-shirts.

If you are camping, remember your tent, sleeping bag and insect repellent.

## ABOUT OUTTSHOORN & THE DISTRICT

Apart from being famous for the very popular KKNK (the 15th Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees will be held only 2 weeks after our gathering) Oudtshoorn, as you might know, is famous for its mediterranean climate, lots of ostriches (they’re the tallest living birds, but probably also the dumbest birds on the planet), hence the title of “Ostrich Capital of the World”.

Other things include the Cango Caves, the Swartberg Pass (a national monument that is still in its original state); as well as the many excellent wines and brandies the local agriculture is known for. And, of course, there’s also the mysterious mermaid, locally referred to as the *watermeid*, who was said to have been discovered after she stranded on the banks of the Olifantsriver after the 1996 flood...

It has a rich history of historical events, the most famous probably being the Ostrich Feather Boom – which came to an abrupt and bankrupt end in 1915 when elaborate ostrich feather hats instantly fell out of fashion as a result of the growing popularity of fast cars (and probably bikes too!).

The district also has a proud Jewish heritage, with the local Jewish community (mainly originating from Lithuania) reaching a total of about 600 families in 1914. They were not only traders, but also ostrich farmers and a few prominent families still live in Oudtshoorn to this day. A few Victorian architectural gems like the old Boys School, which is now an award-winning museum, were built with ostrich money, and are well worth a visit.

Oudtshoorn and its farming districts has a population of approximately 80 000 people. Agriculture and tourism remains the main source of employment for the locals inhabitants.

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For more information about the region visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oudtshoorn>

More about the historical buildings: <http://www.oudtshoorninfo.com/culture.php?id=202&category=23>  
Oudtshoorn has 3 museums, one of which was the residence of famous Afrikaans author and politician, C.J. Langenhoven

For a list of things to do when not riding your bike, please visit  
<http://www.oudtshoorninfo.com/activities.php>

Oudtshoorn's most popular attractions: Ostriches, Cango Caves, Klein Karoo Wine Route, the Wine, Chocolate and Cheese route, Swartberg Pass and Gamkaskloof, fantastic hospitality, Meiringspoort gorge, small quaint towns around Oudtshoorn with interesting shops, donkey cart rides in De Rust, famous artists, etc...

## CONTACT US

**For any queries or questions, you are welcome to contact us and we will be happy to assist.**

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*Other documents in the info pack:*

- 1. Payment sheetS A & B*
- 2. Maps: Oudtshoorn and the Klein Karoo*
- 3. Terms and Conditions*