



Hi there

Thank you for entering **The 2021 Investec Great Kei Trek**. We hope you will have as much fun participating as we have had in putting this together.

We are really looking forward to hosting you and we have no doubt that this is going to be one of our highlights of the year. We have just over 160 riders taking part, making this year's event a small and intimate affair in a relaxed environment. All taking place in and around the beautiful seaside village of Morgan Bay.

To get you in the mood, check out our preview video that was recently flighted on Supersport. It will give you an idea of what is waiting for you in a month's time.

<https://vimeo.com/524721861>



There are some important things to take note of, especially with all the logistics involved, so please read everything carefully.

Here goes....

REGISTRATION AND BIKE TRANSPORT

We are doing our best to take the hassle out of the behind the scenes “bike admin” for you, so please read carefully.

Gauteng Riders: The idea is that you come to registration in Joburg, pick up your rider box and then take your box home, pack it and then return it to us the following day so we can transport it to Morgan Bay for you. All for “mahala” – compliments of SG Convenience.

NOTE: Our suggestion is that if you are staying in a hotel, don't use the rider box option, but rather bring us your packed suitcase, or alternatively, fly down with your case. Carrying a huge rider box up a flight of stairs can be a bit cumbersome.

If you are staying in a tent, a rider box makes sense.

If you have booked and paid to have your bike transported, you will be able to drop this off at registration. We will pack it in a special bike box for you.

You will be able to register on the following days:

Thursday the 22 April from 12h30 to 17h00

Friday the 23 April from 12h30 to 15h00

This will take place at **Adega in Rivonia**. It's close to the freeway, so access should be fairly easy.

The address is: Rivonia Crossing 2, 3 Achter Road, corner Witkoppen Road, Rivonia (situated in the same complex as The Barnyard Theatre)

[CLICK HERE](#) for directions

Adega has some unbelievable lunchtime specials, so come and enjoy a special Portuguese experience. [Find out more.](#)

GOODIE BAG AND RACE NUMBER COLLECTION

This will take place at the Morgan Bay Hotel from 12h30 to 16h00 on Thursday 29 April.

Please note: A comprehensive rider briefing will then take place at 16h00 at the hotel. You need to ensure that you have booked your flights to make sure you get there in time to attend this. Please note that the drive time from East London Airport to Morgan Bay is approximately 1½ hours.

We will only issue you with your race number at registration (refer to the “there's always one in a fourball” clause)

WELCOME BRAAI AFTER RIDER BRIEFING

Have you booked yet? This is automatically included in your package if you are staying at one of the hotels or in the campsite, part of the race village.

If you are an economy package rider, please ensure that you book for the braai in good time. Should you want to stay for a bit of fun after the briefing, you can book your spot at the braai, or book your bus ride by mailing Monique on greatkeitrek@icon.co.za.

Please can you do this by no later than Friday 23 April.

The cost is R250 for the braai.

AIRPORT SHUTTLES

We are offering bus shuttles for a small fee, courtesy of Luxliner Coaches, from East London Airport to Morgan Bay.

Again, this is included in your package if you are staying in a hotel or in the campsite. Plus we will have bus shuttles from Morgan Bay to East London Airport, again courtesy of Luxliner Coaches, on Sunday 2 May and Monday 3 May. We strongly advise you to catch the Monday bus as the after party takes place at the Morgan Bay Hotel on Sunday evening. The bus shuttle cost is R350 each way or R700 return.

BUS TIMES

Bus departure times from **East London Airport to Morgan Bay**
Thursday 29 April:

Investec Bus – 09h00

Bus 2 – 09h00

Bus 3 – 12h30

Bus departure times from the **Morgan Bay Hotel to East London Airport**

Sunday 2 May: 14h30 and

Monday 3 May: 07h00

Should there be any further bus requirements, please consult with us at the event, at registration.

TENTED ACCOMMODATION

Each team of two riders will be allocated a tent with two stretchers and two camp chairs.

TECH SUPPORT

We will have technical support and you will be able to book a maintenance package that includes a service at registration.

You will also be able to book your bike in for any technical issues during the three days.

You need to WhatsApp Candy directly on 083-653-1112 to book your bike maintenance package (included for all Investec-sponsored Riders).

THE WEATHER

Weather at this time of the year can be unpredictable. There has been a fair amount of rain and it's playing havoc with Siya's and Roger's Trails. So do bring a raincoat and some warm clothes, and if you are camping, **an extra blanket**, as it can get cold at night.

ROUTE MARKING

This will be done "Keagan" style, so expect pink stickers, white A4 boards with green arrows and lime marking – biodegradable of course!

CHARGING FACILITIES

This applies to campers. We will have charging facilities, but we do advise you to bring along an additional power bank.

START TIMES

Each day will commence at 08h00

THE ROUTE

Day 1 – 62km

Day 2 – 52km

Day 3 – 58km

We will brief you about each stage at rider briefing, each day. For more information, visit the website.

RACE TIMING AND RACE FINISH POSITIONS

The only timing we will have is the time you give us from your Strava.

We will have **CLOCK IN** and **CLOCK OUT** stations on the trail where you are expected to sign in and out so we know you haven't been abducted by aliens or caught up in a shebeen somewhere.

This year, you can finish in 1 of 3 positions: 1st, 2nd or 3rd. There's only one person who can finish first and one person who can finish second. I'll leave the rest up to you to work out what position you could finish in.

START BATCHES

On Day 1, we will be starting you in groups of 20 with five-minute intervals as you will be crossing the Kei River with the Kei River ferry. The ferry only takes 20 people at a time, so please stay in your group until you get to the other side of the river. More about this at Rider Briefing.

Day 2 and Day 3 will be a single batch start and seeding is voluntary.

CUT OFF TIMES

While we hope that you are fit and healthy, we do not intend cutting off anyone. However, if it means that you are going to be riding in the dark, then we will need to "offer" you a lift home.

WATER TABLES

The longest distance you will travel each day without a water point is 20km. There will be well-stocked points on each stage and we will brief you on this each day. More details will be communicated at the various daily rider briefings.

CATERING

All hotel guests and campers have their meals included in their entry.

If you are on an **economy package**, and would like to join us, please book your "meal package" at a cost of **R1 400** through us. This is for the welcome braai and the other eight meals from Friday Morning to Sunday lunch time.

Kindly **book by no later than Friday 16 April**. After this we cannot accommodate any requests. Please mail me directly on rob@leveragecorporation.co.za

The meal and drinks costs at the after party at the Morgan Bay deck on Sunday night will be for your own account.

PRIZE GIVING AND AFTER PARTY

This will take place on The Deck at the Morgan Bay Hotel at 18h30 on Sunday the 2 May.

SPORTS MASSAGE FACILITIES

Bookings are essential, and can be done at the hotel reception at a cost of R200 per 30 minutes. Be warned... you need to book early.

(Included for all Investec Riders)

RULES OF THE ROAD

Please obey all instructions and please remember that if you are riding on a dirt or tar road, you need to obey the rules of the road. We do not have road closure, you **DO NOT** have right of way.

THE BIKE WASH

After the ride, have your bike washed courtesy of some of the local youngsters, and here we do ask that you tip the bike washers. Please, not more than R20 per bike.

THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW TODAY THAT YOU WILL KNOW ON THE 3 MAY

- What a "fines" session is exactly
- Exactly where Seagulls, Trennery's and Haga Haga are on the map
- What "Molo" means
- What "Ngonyama" means
- How good Eastern Cape hospitality actually is
- How good Eastern Cape lamb is
- How beautiful the cliffs of Morgan Bay actually are
- For everything we do, a little bit of good comes out of it

And speaking of which.....

GKT OUTREACH PROGRAMME: IXGARA CRECHE & THUADULWAZI MATHS & SCIENCE ACADEMY

We have adopted a local crèche in Morgan Bay, run by the community. There are just over 40 children from the community who attend the school. We will take you on a brief journey past the crèche. We do ask that when you come to Morgan Bay, please can you bring, as a donation, age appropriate books, toys or even clothing. There will be a collection point at rider registration.

The Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy is based in Johannesburg. There are over 3 000 children in attendance.

The Academy was created in 2005, a pioneering initiative of St Stithians College, to provide educational growth opportunities for students and teachers based in public schools in greater Johannesburg.

There will be four riders supporting Thandulwazi. Get to know them and find out how you can help.

OUR SPONSORS

We are really pleased to have Investec on board as our title sponsor. Long may it last. There will be over 20 people representing Investec, from some of their top clients, staff, management and more. Please get to know them and be kind to them. We want them back next year.

A special thanks must go to Luxliner Coaches, SG Convenience, Super Group and Food Lovers Market for their support. Get to know Mike, the owner of the Food Lovers Group. He's a passionate mountain biker and has done a gazillion Epics.

Thank you for your support.

SPECIAL THANKS

A ride like this cannot take place without the support and assistance of more than just sponsors. We would like to thank the following:

Thomas River Farmers Association, Komga Farmers Association, Kembali Farms, Saints Farm, Morgan Bay Hotel, Mitford Hotel, Bayview Farm, The Shed Restaurant, Seagulls Hotel, Trennery's Hotel, the Haga Haga Hotel, Oppie Plaas, Bidvest Car Rental, Casseys Ford Benoni, Buffalo Toyota, Twizza, Ecotron, The Rep, Go Express and much more.

And finally: Please respect the MTB Code. You aren't the only one out there riding. Have a look at our **TLC CODE OF CONDUCT** – [CLICK HERE](#) to read. Let's hope that the weather plays ball. Have a safe and fantastic ride.

Please check the website www.greatkeitrek.co.za to view any updates or changes.

See you in Morgan Bay on 29 April.

Regards

Rob Jackson and The Great Kei Trek Team