



Ants Lodges

SOUTH AFRICA

Ants Lodges offer thrilling **riding safaris** on their private reserve in the middle of the malaria-free Waterberg plateau in South Africa. Ride amongst rhino, giraffe, zebra and rare species of antelope such as Sable and Roan. This lodge is also ideal for mixed groups including non-riders and families - the riding can be tailored to meet everyone's requirements.

Horseback Safari	10 days / 7 riding	From £1,855		Family holidays from 4 y.o	Open to non-riders
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The lodge is involved in rhino conservation programmes



The famous rhinos at Ant's Lodges



A perfect family riding holiday in South Africa

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ants Hill is situated on a ridge with spectacular views whilst Ants Nest is the old homestead down in the valley. You can choose to stay in just one or combine both. Both lodges are luxurious with a charming African feel and are beautifully situated within the reserve
- The diverse topography of the reserve also enables us to naturally sustain over 40 species of game including giraffe, white rhino, sable antelope, Roan antelope, buffalo, nyala, gemsbok (Oryx), kudu, Livingstone eland, blue wildebeest (gnu), red hartebeest, zebra, impala, bushbuck, duiker, steenbuck, mountain reedbuck, waterbuck, warthog, blesbuck, baboons, bushpig, klipspringer, leopard, jackal, brown hyena, caracal, civet and genet to name but a few.
- Small group sizes and plenty of guides offering great flexibility
- Numerous activities available on-site to suit non-riders as well as riders : game drives, walking safaris, fishing, swimming. Off-site activities can also be arranged locally at extra cost.
- Ideal for families during school holidays with activities aimed to introduce the secrets of the bush to children. Ponies are available for children to ride and a babysitter is also possible for very young children.
- Also ideal for singles or friends travelling together, particularly outside of the busy school holiday period
- Perfect for honeymoon couples with two private honeymoon cottages available

Day 1 — 1 : LONDON - JOHANNESBURG

International flight overnight to Johannesburg (not included).

We recommend aiming to arrive in Johannesburg in the morning, but transfers are private and can be arranged at any time. Alternatively you can arrive a day earlier in Johannesburg and spend a night in the city.

Day 2 — 2 : JOHANNESBURG - WATERBERG - 2 hours riding

Arrive at Johannesburg airport, where you will be met and transferred to the lodge in the middle of the Waterberg plateau (c. 3h drive). You should arrive in time for lunch and a short siesta before your first afternoon ride, where you get the chance to meet the horses and your guides.

You will either be at Ants Hill or Ants Nest, although it is possible to combine the two lodges, spending a couple of nights at each.

Day 3 — 3 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

The daily itinerary is flexible dependent on what you would like to do. There are 3 different activities on offer each morning and afternoon. If you are purely interested in riding then you may spend up to 6 hours a day in the saddle split between morning and afternoon rides; whilst those not as enthusiastic can enjoy a mixture of riding as well as other activities such as guided walks, mountain biking or game drives. The choice is yours!

Day 4 — 4 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

It's completely up to you - you can choose to ride for up to 6 hours (split between morning and afternoon rides) or to join alternative activities such as a guided walk or game drives. Or you could simply relax by the pool!

Day 5 — 5 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

It's completely up to you - you can choose to ride for up to 6 hours (split between morning and afternoon rides) or to join alternative activities such as a guided walk or game drives. Or you could simply relax by the pool!

If you have chosen to split your stay between the two lodges then you could move today, spending your morning activity at one lodge and your afternoon activity at the other.

Day 6 — 6 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

It's completely up to you - you can choose to ride for up to 6 hours (split between morning and afternoon rides) or to join alternative activities such as a guided walk or game drives. You may wish to go off-site to a neighbouring Big Five reserve in search of the game that are not present at Ants Lodges, such as elephant and lion - these trips are booked and paid for locally.

Day 7 — 7 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

It's completely up to you - you can choose to ride for up to 6 hours (split between morning and afternoon rides) or to join alternative activities such as a guided walk or game drives. Or you could simply relax by the pool!

Day 8 — 8 : WATERBERG - 4-6 hours riding

 ANTS NEST

It's completely up to you - you can choose to ride for up to 6 hours (split between morning and afternoon rides) or to join alternative activities such as a guided walk or game drives. Or you could simply relax by the pool!

Day 9 — 9 : WATERBERG - JOHANNESBURG

There should be time for a final ride this morning before brunch, then you are transferred to Johannesburg airport in time for your flight back to the UK. We recommend booking an overnight flight if possible.

Day 10 — 10 : LONDON

Arrival in London during the early morning.

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	PRICE INCLUDING FLIGHTS	STATUS
10/04/2020	19/04/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
17/04/2020	26/04/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
24/04/2020	03/05/2020	£2,090		Guaranteed departure
01/05/2020	10/05/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
08/05/2020	17/05/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
15/05/2020	24/05/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
22/05/2020	31/05/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
29/05/2020	08/06/2020	£2,780		Guaranteed departure
05/06/2020	14/06/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
12/06/2020	21/06/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
19/06/2020	28/06/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
26/06/2020	05/07/2020	£1,970		Guaranteed departure
03/07/2020	12/07/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
10/07/2020	19/07/2020	£2,125		Full
17/07/2020	26/07/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
24/07/2020	02/08/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
31/07/2020	09/08/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
07/08/2020	16/08/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
14/08/2020	23/08/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
21/08/2020	30/08/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
28/08/2020	06/09/2020	£1,970		Guaranteed departure
04/09/2020	13/09/2020	£2,085		Guaranteed departure
11/09/2020	20/09/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
18/09/2020	27/09/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
25/09/2020	04/10/2020	£1,930		Guaranteed departure
02/10/2020	11/10/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
09/10/2020	18/10/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
16/10/2020	25/10/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
23/10/2020	01/11/2020	£2,125		Guaranteed departure
30/10/2020	08/11/2020	£2,010		Guaranteed departure
06/11/2020	15/11/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
13/11/2020	22/11/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure
20/11/2020	29/11/2020	£1,855		Guaranteed departure

27/11/2020	06/12/2020	£1,855	Guaranteed departure
04/12/2020	13/12/2020	£1,855	Guaranteed departure
11/12/2020	20/12/2020	£2,010	Guaranteed departure
18/12/2020	27/12/2020	£2,125	Guaranteed departure
25/12/2020	03/01/2021	£2,125	Guaranteed departure
01/01/2021	10/01/2021	£2,125	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights are not included.

- Please note: departure on the 29th of May 2020 is for experienced riders only. This week will be dedicated to a game census and riders are expected to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event! This is a 8-night programme and only available on first come, first served basis - the standard accommodation options may not be available at the time of your booking and a supplementary charge for upgrades may apply. Please contact us.

- The prices displayed above correspond to a 7 nights stay sharing a basic standard twin room. There are numerous different room categories so please enquire for an accurate quote reflecting the room availability over your preferred dates.

- The price does not include :

International flights are not included

Transfer from and to Johannesburg International Airport: £195 each way per car (up to 3 people) and £245 each way between 4 and 7 guests sharing the same transfer.

Please note that if you require a transfer before 08:00 or after 20:00 then there is a surcharge of c. £20-40. Transfer time is approximately 3 hours.

Rhino Conservation fee: approx. £15 per night per adult, £8 per night per child (11 years and younger).

- Please note that these prices are based on the South African Rand rate which is very volatile at the moment so we will confirm the price to you upon booking.

- You can arrive and depart on any day and stay for as long as you like. The above dates are for guidance only, so please contact us with your preferred dates.

- Most of the rooms charge a single supplement, although sometimes this can be waived during low season - please enquire.

SEASONS 2019

Low season : 9 Jan - 9 Feb, 1 May - 1 June, 1 Nov - 14 Dec

High season : 15 Dec - 8 Jan, 10 Feb - 30 April, 2 June - 31 Oct

SEASONS 2020

Low season: 10 January - 19 March, 1 May - 30 June (outside of game census dates), 1 September - 30 September, 4 November - 14 December.

High season: 20 March - 30 April, week of the 29th of May (game census), 1 July - 31 August, 1 October - 3 November, 15 December - 9 January 2021.

The full description of the rooms can be found in the right-hand sidebar "Did you know?". Prices for the rooms are calculated per person/ per night based on a double room (in up to 2 different lodges, of the same standard) and do not include rhino conservation fees. Long stays will benefit from a preferential rate. Whether you wish to stay for 7 days, or shorter, or longer, we recommend contacting us first so we can put together a personalised quotation

Ant's Nest Lodge

"Davidson" Standard room

Low Season: £240 - High Season: £276

Single supplement : £167 high season only

2020: Low Season: £264 - High Season: £305

"Rondavel" Superior Standard room

Low Season: £280 - High season: £322

Single supplement : £187 high season only

2020: Low Season: £308 - High Season: £354

2020 Single supplement : £200 high season only

"Sable suite" and "Weaver suite" Superior rooms

Low Season: £304- High Season: £369

Single supplement : £176 low and medium season - £215 high season

2020: Low Season: £334 - High Season: £407

2020 Single supplement : £203 high season

Ant's Hill Lodge

Eagle Nest Superior Standard room

Low Season: £280 - High Season: £322

Single supplement : £187 high season only

2020: Low Season: £280 - High Season: £354

"Lookout" Superior room

Low Season: £304 - High Season: £369

Single supplement : £176 low season, £214 high season

2020: Low Season: £334 - High Season: £407

"Hideway" Deluxe Superior room with private pool

Low Season: £348 - High Season: £386

Single supplement : £207 low and medium season - £232 high season

2020: Low Season: £383- High Season: £424

Single supplement : £123 low and medium season - £212 high season

"Family Cottage" (rate valid up to 5 Adults)

From £1298 to £1477

2020: From £1428 to £1625

"Worldsview" (rate valid up to 4 Adults)

Medium season: £1393 - High Season: £1543

2020: Medium Season: £1533 - High Season: £1697

- There are child discounts available if children are sharing rooms with their parents - please enquire for more details.

- There are a number of off-site activities available in the area which are payable locally.

- Vehicle safari in neighboring Big Five reserve: R640

- Fishing (depending on the season)

- Handicraft shopping in neighbouring village

- Massage : c. R500 (one hour) R300 (1/2 hour)

- Private guide (one activity in the morning and one in the afternoon) : c. R2000

Please note that those activities which are off-site will also incur additional transfer costs.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

2 English-speaking horse guides

LOGISTICS

1 groom

1 assistant groom

ACCOMMODATION

Standard twin room

MEALS

Full board from lunch on day 2 to lunch on day 9

Price doesn't include

TRANSPORTS

International flights bookable on request

Airport transfers

EXTRA

Tips to local team. Plan around £7-14/day

Conservation fees : approx. £13 per night per adult, £ 8 per night per child (11 years and younger). These rates might vary, please contact us.

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement. See the price details above

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers. Price depends on car size

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

Nearly 90 horses which are fit, responsive, reliable and adapted to the African environment. They are divided into two different stables at the Nest and the Hill, and are turned out at night, which means they are well acquainted with the bush and the wildlife.

The horses range from big, strong, forward going thoroughbreds, tough African Boerperds and exciting crossbreeds. There is a horse to suit everyone, from beginners to competent riders.

McLellan trail saddles are used along with English bridles. Hard hats are compulsory.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

All abilities are welcome, from the complete beginner to more experienced riders. There are horses to suit everyone. Rides are usually split according to ability, but groups can choose to ride together, although the pace will be set by the weakest rider.

A hard hat is compulsory and we recommend you take your own to ensure the best fit.

PACE

Game viewing is always done at a walk to avoid spooking the animals. At other times there are opportunities for trots and canters (depending on rider ability) on the long, sandy tracks.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

The horses are tacked up for you by the staff, but you are welcome to assist with untacking and turning the horses out after your ride.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

No special difficulties. The riding is done on sandy tracks or across open fields. Riders usually ride in a line with a lead guide and a back-up guide.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

McLellan saddles and English bridles.

A bottlehandler is provided on the saddles.

We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

There are two unique lodges in the reserve and you can choose to spend your time in one, or combine the two. A basic bush camp is also possible for private groups.

- Ant's Nest is nestled in a natural amphitheatre. This is the original homestead, with a wide variety of game frequenting the waterhole in front of the lodge, where horses and dogs abound. There are wide verandahs, a heated swimming pool in the garden and plenty of areas for relaxing.

- Ant's Hill is built on the edge of a cliff, offering breathtaking views across the Waterberg. The draped four-poster beds are seven foot wide and each bathroom is spectacular. Set in boulders on the edge of the cliff, the heated swimming pool cascades over the lip of the gorge, inducing you to relax there for hours.

The rooms at each lodge are unique and priced individually. There are twin/double rooms situated above the main lodge with a private veranda overlooking the spectacular gorge; a spectacular two bedroom cottage with vast living and veranda areas as well as a plunge pool; privately appointed honeymoon cottages, one which has a private plunge pool. Please ask for information on which rooms are available for your desired period.

WiFi is available in the communal areas and in the rooms.

MEALS

Meals are prepared locally using fresh ingredients. Vegetarians and special diets can be provided with advance notice. The food is excellent and always plentiful.

Most drinks are included, including alcohol, except for premium wines, champagnes etc. You can help yourself to soft drinks, water, juice etc throughout the day. Tap water is safe to drink but the staff can buy bottled water for you if you prefer.

There are three meals a day - breakfast, a light lunch, and a three course dinner in the evening. Guests usually eat together around one communal table but honeymoon couples can request private dining one night if they wish.

CLIMATE

From November to December, the summer months become hotter and more humid with either continual rain or storms in the afternoon, on these days, you will head out to ride once the rains have stopped. At this time of year, mosquitoes and other insects are also more numerous and present in comparison to the winter months.

From January to March, the weather is usually drier and the days are very hot. Your morning rides finish earlier in order to avoid this heat. At this time of year, mosquitoes and other insects are also more present and numerous in comparison to the winter months.

In April, the vegetation starts to change, the green bush becomes brown and sparse throughout this period of autumn. The temperatures will drop during the night, however during the day it will still be hot with the possibility of storms in the afternoon.

In May and June, the winter months, the temperature lowers significantly at night and early in the morning. The vegetation becomes browner still and the trees lose their leaves. Due to the sparseness of the vegetation, visibility through the bush is improved.

From July to September, the weather is extremely dry with very cold nights. The temperature is also quite cool during your morning and end-of-afternoon excursions.

From October to November, the spring is at its peak dryness with hot winds and sparse vegetation. The first rains arrive at the end of October.

GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM

There are two guides accompanying each ride - a lead guide who always speaks English and a back-up guide.

TIPS

Tipping is not expected but if you wish to leave a tip then up-to-date guidelines are provided in your room.

PACKING LIST

Head

- Hard hats are mandatory when riding and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. They can be provided by the lodge if necessary.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and thorns
- T-shirts
- Fleece, jumper or jacket - the evenings can be cold, particularly during the winter months (May - September)
- Waterproof jacket - particularly during the summer months (October - April) when there can be rain or thunderstorms
- Casual clothes for the evening

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Shorts for lazy lunchtimes
- Casual clothes for the evening

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps to protect against thorns. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Sandals, flip-flops or trainers for moving around the lodge and camp
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding

Nightwear

Our Recommendations

- Wherever possible you should wear neutral colours, such as beige, brown or natural bush colours for riding as bright colours, such as red, yellow or white can startle the wildlife and they will see you long before you've seen them
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

Other useful items

- Swimsuit - for the pool or swimming your horse in the dam
- Binoculars for viewing game
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Torch for finding your way back to your room at night

In your luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Your riding hat

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - must be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...

Formalities

To enter South Africa, a passport valid for at least 30 days after the intended date of departure is required by all UK, Australian, USA, Canadian and other EU nationals.

Passports must have at least two blank facing pages for entry stamps - visitors have been refused entry by airport immigration officials for flouting this regulation.

Yellow fever certificates are required if your journey starts from or passes through a country with yellow fever (such as Zambia/Victoria Falls). Visas for South Africa are not required by UK, Australian, USA, Canadian and other EU nationals for stays of up to 90 days except:

- Nationals of Cyprus, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, who may stay visa-free for up to 30 days.
- Nationals of Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia, who do require a visa.

Other passport holders are advised to contact the embassy/high commission for visa requirements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

South Africa has relaxed its requirements for travelling with children under the age of 18. Visa exempt children (including UK Nationals visiting for tourism purposes) entering South Africa accompanied by an adult are required to present only a valid passport on arrival, regardless of whether the child is travelling with both parents, one parent, or an adult who is not a biological parent (for more information, please see the Immigration Act in conjunction with the advisory from the South African Department of Home Affairs). This includes children travelling as part of school groups.

Contact South African Immigration for what is required for other circumstances.

ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

- South African High Commission
South Africa House
Trafalgar Square
WC2N 5DP London
Tél. : +44 (0) 20 7451 7299
Fax : +44 (0) 20 7839 5670
- Paris | Ambassade d'Afrique du sud
59, Quai d'Orsay
75343 Paris Cedex 07
Tél. : 01.53.59.23.23
Fax :
info@afriquesud.net
- Ambassade de France en Afrique du Sud
250, Melk street
New Muckleneuk
0181 Pretoria
Tél. : +27 (0) 12 425 1600
Fax : +27 12 425 1609
france@ambafrance-rsa.org

Health

We recommend that you talk to your doctor as they have access to the most up-to-date information.

There are no vaccinations legally required to travel to South Africa, however, you need a yellow fever vaccination if you have travelled to a country where that disease is widely prevalent, such as Zambia/Victoria Falls. So although Yellow Fever is not a problem in South Africa, you will need to carry a certificate of vaccination if you are arriving from an infected country.

Like with most countries, it's advisable to have general injections regarding diseases like Hepatitis A and typhoid. Most travellers are already vaccinated against DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio) and Hepatitis A, especially if you travelled already to countries outside the western world. If you are staying longer than 3 months or have a particular risk you might consider a rabies vaccination. Vaccination against Tuberculosis as well as Hepatitis B are also sometimes recommended for stays longer than 3 months.

Malaria, although not prevalent in most of the country, is a serious disease which must not be underestimated. If you are travelling in the eastern quarter of the country (towards Kruger National Park), take anti-malarial medication such as Malarone, especially when travelling during the warmer and wetter summer season (October to April/May). Also wear long-sleeved shirts and use insect repelling containing DEET.

Very occasionally there are reports of African Tick Bite Fever in guests returning from South Africa. Cover up when riding/walking through the bush and check yourself for ticks. If you experience flu-like symptoms on return to the UK it is worth mentioning to your doctor that you have visited a rural part of Africa. The disease is easily treated with antibiotics.

Insurance

It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

Voltage

220/230 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs have three fat round pins.

Budget and money

The currency of South Africa is the Rand, often called the 'buck', and it's divided into 100 cents. The sign for it is R and the financial code is ZAR. It was introduced in 1961 to coincide with the establishment of the Republic of South Africa, replacing the South African pound.

Notes come in R10, R20, R50, R100, and R200 denominations. Coins of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents exist, as well as R1, R2 and R5.

Telephone and jetlag

GMT +1

South Africa's country code is 27. Telephone numbers in South Africa are 10 digits, including the local area code. There are also some prefixes like 0800 (toll free), 0860 (charged as local call) and 0861 (flat-rate calls).

Roaming agreements exist with international mobile phone companies and coverage extends to most of the country except the very remote areas. GPRS for data coverage is also widespread. Airport kiosks can sell you a phone or local SIM card if you show some ID.

Internet cafes are common in towns throughout the country and wireless is available at airports and in up-market hotels. Most hotels charge for connectivity and it can be cheaper to find the nearest internet café.