Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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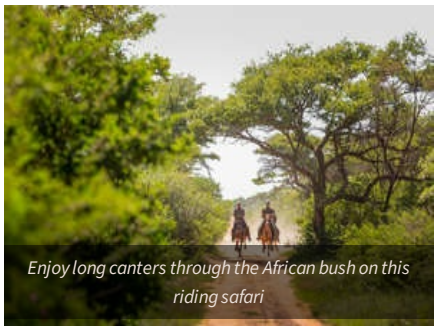
Last updated 09/11/2026

Ant's 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 £2,345**		Family holidays from 4 y.o	Open to non-riders


Enjoy long canters through the African bush on this riding safari


Watching sable antelope on a riding safari in South Africa


This horseback safari is for riders of all levels

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ants Hill is situated on a ridge with spectacular views whilst Ants Nest is the old homestead down in the valley. Bushwillow is a recent addition to the reserve and consists of 1100 hectares of open spaces along with the camp itself, including four standard rooms. You can choose to stay in just one or combine them. All 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 : EUROPE - JOHANNESBURG

International flight overnight to Johannesburg (not included).

We recommend aiming to arrive in Johannesburg in the morning of Day 2, 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 - 3 hours riding

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

ANTS NEST

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 home. We recommend booking an overnight flight (see dates and prices)

Day 10 — 10 : EUROPE

Arrival back home during the early morning.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
14/11/2026	23/11/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
21/11/2026	30/11/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
28/11/2026	07/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
05/12/2026	14/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
12/12/2026	21/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
19/12/2026	28/12/2026	£2,625	Full
26/12/2026	04/01/2027	£2,625	Full
02/01/2027	11/01/2027	£2,485	Full
09/01/2027	18/01/2027	£2,485	Full
16/01/2027	25/01/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
23/01/2027	01/02/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
30/01/2027	08/02/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
06/02/2027	15/02/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
13/02/2027	22/02/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
20/02/2027	01/03/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
27/02/2027	08/03/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
06/03/2027	15/03/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
13/03/2027	22/03/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
20/03/2027	29/03/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
27/03/2027	05/04/2027	£2,765	Guaranteed departure
03/04/2027	12/04/2027	£2,765	Guaranteed departure
10/04/2027	19/04/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
17/04/2027	26/04/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
24/04/2027	03/05/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
01/05/2027	10/05/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
08/05/2027	17/05/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
15/05/2027	24/05/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
12/06/2027	21/06/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
19/06/2027	28/06/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
26/06/2027	05/07/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
03/07/2027	12/07/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
10/07/2027	19/07/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure

17/07/2027	26/07/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
31/07/2027	09/08/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
07/08/2027	16/08/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
14/08/2027	23/08/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
21/08/2027	30/08/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
28/08/2027	06/09/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
04/09/2027	13/09/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
11/09/2027	20/09/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
18/09/2027	27/09/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
25/09/2027	04/10/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
02/10/2027	11/10/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
09/10/2027	18/10/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
16/10/2027	25/10/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
23/10/2027	01/11/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
30/10/2027	08/11/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
06/11/2027	15/11/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
13/11/2027	22/11/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
20/11/2027	29/11/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
27/11/2027	06/12/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
04/12/2027	13/12/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
11/12/2027	20/12/2027	£2,485	Guaranteed departure
18/12/2027	27/12/2027	£2,765	Guaranteed departure
25/12/2027	03/01/2028	£2,765	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Please note: the departure starting on the first week of June 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.

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- The prices displayed above correspond to a 7 night stay sharing a basic standard twin room (Davidson Room). There are numerous different room categories so please enquire for an accurate quote reflecting the room availability over your preferred dates. If you decide to stay for shorter durations, please note the nightly rate may be slightly more expensive depending on your chosen dates.- 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.

- Transfers from and to Johannesburg International Airport are not included in the price and will be invoiced separately. This is currently priced at £340/€410/$450 each way per car (up to 3 people) but please note these prices are subject to change and will be confirmed with your quotation. All pick-ups before 08:00 and all drop-offs after 16:30 will be subject to a £70/€80/$85 surcharge. Solo riders or groups of 2 can also request shared transfers with other guests, in which case this will be paid locally depending on how many guests are able to share the transfer (if no sharers are found, the full rate will apply)
Please note 2027 transfer rates are not yet confirmed. Please note transfers must be confirmed at least 7 days before departure to be honoured.

- A single room supplement is applicable for solo travellers. This is calculated depending on the season and room type, please enquire.

The full description of the rooms can be found in the "Did you know?" tab on this page. 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 include 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

- 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.
Massages - Per hour: R850 / Per ½ hour: R550
Wine Tasting - Dependent on the number of wines and people, Usually between R350 – R550 per person
Big 5 Game Drive - Cost: R2200.00 per person including transfers (MIN 4)
Zipline - Cost per person: R650.00 per person (MIN 2) This is weather dependent & subject to availability. Closed on Mondays
Town Visit / Shopping / Cultural Visits - Town Trips & Church: Cost: R1850.00 per vehicle in our closed vehicles
Scenic helicopter flight: R13,000-00 per 30minutes (MAX 2 adults)
Prices are valid in 2026 and subject to change.
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 - superior rooms are also available

MEALS

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

EXTRAS

Conservation fees

Price doesn't include

TRANSPORTS

International flights bookable on request

EXTRA

Tips to local team.

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 - please see above

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.

Guide & local team

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

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.

There is a weight limit of 110 Kgs (17st3 / 240 lbs)

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 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. You will ride in groups of up to 6 riders, plus guides.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

McLellan saddles and English bridles.
A bottlehandler is provided on the saddles.

Helmets are mandatory. We recommend you use a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

There are three 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.

- Bushwillow consists of 1100 hectares of open spaces along with the camp itself. The camp includes 3 basic standard en-suite double/twin standalone rooms and one two bedroom,two bathroom unit. It sleeps a maximum of 10 guests and a minimum of 4 guests at a time. All rooms offer the same amenities along with air conditioning and tea and coffee making facilities. All the rooms surround the main lodge and are within close proximity of each other. The main lodge offers a swimming pool, bar, lounging and dining area.

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.

All rooms have hairdryers and safes, and a laundry service is included.

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 still humid 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 tress 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.

TIPS

Tipping is completely at your own discretion, but you are welcome to use the guideline of R250-R300 per guest per day. Tips are distributed on a pro-rata basis so that all the staff who contribute to your stay benefit accordingly. Should there be any staff member that has been outstanding during your stay, you may tip them separately, we would however request that you use the envelopes provided in the room / from the office and clearly indicate whether general / or individuals name and hand it to the manager on duty. We accept Rand, or via credit card.

PACKING LIST

Head
- Hard hats are mandatory when riding and we recommend 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

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

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...

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 taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- In your hand luggage carry any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes is highly recommended - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .