



'Big Five' riding safari in Entabeni

SOUTH AFRICA

In the bush in the heart of the Waterberg mountains, experience a unique **South African horseback safari** on the private Entabeni Reserve. Each day, ride out from your comfortable private camp and discover breathtaking scenery and the magnificent wildlife roaming across it. **Ride across open plains** inhabited by elephant, kudu, giraffe, zebra and lion. In the evening, after discovering **South Africa from the saddle**, return to your camp or lodge to relax under the stars, to the unique sounds of the reserve at night.

Horseback Safari	 10 days / 7 days riding	 From £3,399	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride through an area well-suited to observing most of the 'Big Five' game as well as allowing you to explore the beautiful and unique landscapes this reserve is known for
- Camp out in the African bush in the traditional way - mixing charm, comfort and immersion in nature
- Ride through this fantastic region in small groups of 8 riders maximum
- Discover a zone unaffected by malaria

Day 1 — 1 : EUROPE - JOHANNESBURG

You will head out from to Johannesburg. International flights are not included in the price.

Flights are usually overnight, in which you will arrive in Johannesburg in the morning (Day 2), however you may wish to fly during the day and then relax and spend an additional night in Johannesburg tonight before taking the transfer to the lodge the next day (not included)

IMPORTANT This is a sample itinerary. The actual itinerary will depend on game movements, water levels and weather conditions but always with your best interests at heart.

Day 2 — 2 : JOHANNESBURG - RESERVE

 Waterberg Wildside Tented Camp

You will arrive into Johannesburg in the morning - plan to arrive early, before 10:30. You will be met at the airport by one of the team and driven (2h30)

to the Entabeni Reserve in the Waterberg mountains.

You will be welcomed by our team, at Wild-Side Tented camp, settle in and have lunch. Our guide will explain the days to come, and you will set off on a game drive (3 hrs.) to hopefully see the big 5 from the vehicle today. Arrive back for dinner, and a good rest as you settle in to the African bush.

Day 3 — 3 : RESERVE - 5 hours riding

 Waterberg Wildside Tented Camp

Breakfast at 6:30, and transfer to the horses for a short intro ride before entering the reserve. Ride for 2.5 hours before you stop for a bush lunch at 12:00, catered from the back of the game drive vehicle, by the dam. Continue the ride for another 2.5 hours before returning to the lodge to freshen up. Get ready for a game drive at 15:30 to capture some more impressions and hopefully some of the Big 5 on camera. Dinner and overnight at Wildside Tented Camp.

Day 4 — 4 : ENTABENI RESERVE - 5-6 hours riding

 Entabeni Fly Camp

Wake up as the sun starts to rise, and set off for your game drive (3 hrs.) in the early morning. You will return for breakfast, and have your luggage packed for the logistics team to pick up. Your horses will be ready as you head for the renowned Yellowwood kloof, which is the steepest man made road in Southern Africa. You will partially lead your horse up and ride on the less steep areas, taking you through a valley and mountain passes with spectacular views. (total 5-6 hour trek) There is a support vehicle on stand-by should you not be able to walk. You will stop at natural rock pools for lunch, and a swim if the weather permits. As you come out of the valley, the plains open up in front of you, like a mirage of open savannah dotted with game, blesbuck, giraffe, eland... maybe your first sighting of rhino, who tend to like to visit the horses at camp! The team will give you an intro to fly camp, and welcome you with some traditional song and dance to set the scene. The tents look out onto the plains, where animals roam free. As the horses settle in the paddocks next to camp, the team will have prepared the bar ready for sunset drinks by the fire, and a three course meal. Let the feeling of serenity set in, and enjoy this spectacular camp which you will call home for the next three nights.

Day 5 — 5 : ENTABENI RESERVE - 5 hours riding

 Entabeni Fly Camp

Wake to the sound of the bush coming to life, with hot water boiling on the fire and a bush breakfast ready. Set off in search for rhino (2.5 hrs.), as you track these protected giants. You might come up very close to giraffe today, as you ride the plains and mountain passes, taking routes which no vehicle can go. Return to camp for lunch and a break before you set out on your afternoon ride (2.5hrs) to the highest point of the reserve, for a drink or two! Soak in the views, and return for a lovely dinner, with pathways lit up and lanterns to set the scene.

Day 6 — 6 : ENTABENI RESERVE - 4-5 hours riding

 Entabeni Fly Camp

Breakfast followed by a 3-hour morning ride with some more technical riding as you meander rock formations and stop by one of the dams with possible hippo sightings. Bush lunch from 12:30 to 13:30. Continue riding until 15:30. Return to camp, freshen up, and enjoy a candlelit three-course dinner. Overnight at Fly Camp.

Day 7 — 7 : ENTABENI RESERVE - 3 hours riding

 Kingfisher Lodge

After breakfast, the staff will most probably urge you to join in on their dance and songs as they sing you farewell from Fly Camp. With your bags packed, ride for 3 hours to Kingfisher Lodge. Arrive in time for lunch at the five-star lodge for some luxury and comfort after a few days in the saddle. Soak up some sun at the private pool or pre-book a massage before your afternoon game drive. Come back for dinner, possibly at the boma. Overnight at Kingfisher Lodge.

Day 8 — 8 : ENTABENI RESERVE - 4 hours riding

 Waterberg Wildside Tented Camp

Early breakfast, and the logistics team will take care of moving your luggage. Meet your horses at Hippo Boma which is a short walk from your rooms and ride from 9:00 to 13:00 descending the escarpment and traversing the upper and lower escarpments on horseback. The descent again involves some walking, but is less strenuous than uphill, which is why we urge all to walk and not make use of a vehicle. Should you need one, please book in advance. Transfer to Wildside Lodge for lunch and an afternoon game drive. Overnight at Wildside Tented Camp.

Day 9 — 9 : JOHANNESBURG - 2 hours riding

First thing in the morning, your packed bags will be taken by the team to the meeting spot for your departure.

Early morning game drive followed by breakfast and transfer to the stables for a farewell ride (subject to transfer times).

Lunch is optional (at own expense) at the clubhouse (it is also possible to book a pack lunch depending on transfer times). You will have the chance to take showers on the resort before your departure to the airport at 13:00.

There is the possibility of an extension to this trip either to visit Mozambique, the Okavango Delta, the Victoria Falls, Cape Town, the Wild Coast or any other destination in southern Africa - just contact us for more information.

Day 10 — 10 : Europe

You should arrive back in Europe before midday.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
01/05/2026	10/05/2026	£3,399	Open
08/05/2026	17/05/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
15/05/2026	24/05/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
05/06/2026	14/06/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
19/06/2026	28/06/2026	£3,399	Open
03/07/2026	12/07/2026	£3,399	Open
10/07/2026	19/07/2026	£3,399	Open
17/07/2026	26/07/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
31/07/2026	09/08/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
07/08/2026	16/08/2026	£3,399	Open
14/08/2026	23/08/2026	£3,399	Open
21/08/2026	30/08/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
04/09/2026	13/09/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
11/09/2026	20/09/2026	£3,399	Open
18/09/2026	27/09/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
02/10/2026	11/10/2026	£3,399	Open
09/10/2026	18/10/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
16/10/2026	25/10/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
06/11/2026	15/11/2026	£3,399	Guaranteed departure
13/11/2026	22/11/2026	£3,399	Open
20/11/2026	29/11/2026	£3,399	Open
04/12/2026	13/12/2026	£3,399	Open
11/12/2026	20/12/2026	£3,399	Open

Price details

- Flights to your destination (Johannesburg) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person for a 7-night safari based on two riders sharing a twin or double room/tent during the ride.

- Groups are made up of 2 - 8 (max.) riders - (New Year departure: 4 riders minimum)

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. £330/€385/\$280 (2024-2025). You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Transfers from and to Johannesburg airport are not included and are £240/€280/\$290 (2025/2026) - If there are more than 3 people in the transfer the price goes down to £210/€240/\$450, per person, return.

- Minimum riding age is 12 years old. We have set this as a minimum riding age as it reflects a realistic idea of the riding abilities needed to get the most out of this trip, safely. To ride in this wild area of the world, you need to be an accomplished and confident rider.

- Non-riders can be accommodated and will be offered game drives. Please contact us for more information.

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

1 English-speaking guide will lead each excursion

LOGISTICS

In the stables - grooms and assistant guides

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable room at the lodge or 2-man tent at the mobile camp

MEALS

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

All the drinks at fly camp / sleep out

EXTRAS

Game drives mentioned in the programme (additional game drives can be booked at a supplementary charge)

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages - at the lodges, mineral water and other drinks are not included in the price

TRANSPORTS

Return airport transfers invoiced separately

International flights to/from Johannesburg. We can book these for you upon request

EXTRA

Tips to the local team

Additional game drives or other extra activities

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an

insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Individual room/ tent supplementary charge - see price details

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The stables are home to an excellent selection of Boerperd crosses. The horses are even tempered, docile and sure footed.

The horses are trained in the English riding style, but they can be ridden with either two hands (English style) or one hand (Western style), depending on your preference. On the trail, we tend to ride with long reins, allowing the horses to stretch out and move more comfortably, ensuring they can clearly see where they're placing their feet.

The horses roam freely across the nature reserve, allowing them to build confidence and remain relaxed when ridden through diverse habitats. It's not uncommon to see them grazing peacefully alongside wildlife as part of their daily routine. Each morning, they come in for feeding and exercise, with a second feeding at sunset.

Their health and well-being are carefully maintained, with regular deworming and treatments to protect them from ticks, which are common in the area. All vaccinations are up to date, and they receive the necessary supplements to support their overall condition.

Most of the horses are barefoot, and the farrier visits every 6 to 7 weeks to ensure their hooves remain in excellent shape.

Guide & local team

Your team are all English speakers.

In Entabeni Private Game Reserve, guides do not carry firearms but are equipped with a bull whip and bear bangers. All guides are professional guides.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

Riders must be at ease at all 3 paces - walk, rising trot, gallop in a forward seat - across varied, uneven terrain and be in good physical condition. Riders must have some previous experience of riding outdoors and have a good seat in order to compensate for any sudden movements made by the horses while around the native wildlife.

For riders over 95kg/ 209lbs / 14st9 lbs, please contact us before booking so we can organise a suitable mount

PACE

You will experience all three paces throughout your trip. All observations are done at a walking pace - there will be no galloping around/ with the wild animals.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

An English-speaking staff take care of all of the horses' needs, as well as tacking and untacking your horses.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Riders must be in good physical condition and previous experience of a horse-riding trip over several days is a considerable plus. Riders who do not ride regularly should get riding fit before the trip's departure.

Riding helmets are mandatory and are not provided.

For riders over 95kg/ 209lbs / 14st9 lbs, please contact us before booking so we can organise a suitable mount.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Trail riding saddles. Some English Wintec saddles are available, please note that if you prefer English saddles, this must be notified at the time of booking.

Small saddlebags are provided.

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

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

This safari offers a large variety of accommodations and experiences - from a permanent tented camp to a comfortable lodge, and even fly camp for a few nights! All bedding is provided and hot showers are available every night. Your meals will be had alfresco, in an "Out of Africa" atmosphere.

Fly camp: this camp offers lightweight tents and is designed to be comfortable, authentic, and thoughtfully serviced, offering a rustic wilderness experience without compromising on essential comforts. The camp includes two flush toilets and basins with running water, housed in a fixed structure for added convenience. Showers are bucket showers in tent cubicles, with hot water prepared individually for each guest. Each tent is equipped with proper beds, linen, standard mattresses, and pillows.

Click on each accommodation tab in the itinerary to get more information about each place.

WiFi is limited.

MEALS

Breakfast is served in the form of a buffet with both sweet and savoury options - eggs, bacon, tea, coffee, hot chocolate. Lunch is also served as a buffet

Dinner is served at the table and will be a hearty meal of grilled meat, vegetables and fresh fruit.

Drinks and mineral water are not included in the price at Lakeside and Wildside lodges, but are included at fly camp/sleep out/rondavel (Pedi village)

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.

TIPS

A customary tip would be around €15/£10/\$20, per person per day which is then split between the team.

PACKING LIST

When on a horseback safari, it is best to wear clothes of a neutral colour (green, brown, beige or grey) that will blend in to the countryside. For the evenings, bring clothes that are simple yet a little bit elegant!

Head

- A riding helmet is compulsory and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. Helmet makers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel, Equithème) now offer horse-riding helmets that are ventilated, strong, light and comfortable. You also have the option of buying protective shells to go under your hats (Ranch & Rider, Lexington Safety Products) or western hat helmets (Troxel).

- Sunhat (indispensable)

- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding

- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun, wind or rain

Upper body

- 4 to 6 polo shirts in cotton or long-sleeved shirts (to protect against the sun)
- 1 or 2 long-sleeved shirts for the evening
- 1 lightweight fleece or jumper (from September to June)
- 1 warm fleece or jumper (from June to September during the winter)
- 1 lightweight or warm waterproof jacket (depending on the season). It is always a good idea to wear a coat with a multitude of pockets to keep your cameras, snacks, other items in.

Legs

- 1 pair of lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- A swimming costume
- Non-irritant cotton or synthetic underwear

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half. We don't recommend taking your favourite leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bum bag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lip balm etc)
- A soothing cream may be useful to treat areas irritated by long hours in the saddle
- 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

- Travel bag 70-100 litres (hold luggage)
- Travel bag 25-30 litres (cabin bag)
- Double saddlebags are available on request
- Water bottle (1.5 litres or 2 equivalent)
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Toiletries
- Protein or cereal bars for the longer stretches of riding
- Toilet paper and a lighter to burn it after use
- Swiss army knife or equivalent (in checking-in luggage!!)
- Small plastic bags for your rubbish
- Ear plugs (may be useful)
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- A pair of binoculars

Medical kit

Make sure any allergies (to medication or otherwise) and clearly stated in your medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Painkillers
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhea medication
- Vitamin C tablets
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Eye drops
- Hydrating/soothing cream
- Plasters
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- 10cm wide bandage
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

General information

- The airline allows only one bag to be checked-in per passenger. Make sure it weighs no more than the specified weight limit; if it exceeds this weight, you will have to pay excess luggage fees at check-in

- Hand luggage mustn't contain any sharp objects (knives, scissors, nail file or nail scissors, etc.) and the quantity of liquid allowed per passenger is limited to 100ml per container.

In your hold luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant over 100 ml and all bottles can be decanted into small, clear, plastic Ziplock bags. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.

- 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.

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](#) .