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Last updated 26/04/2024

# Equestrian holiday on the Wild Coast

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

An escape from your everyday life. Work or study remotely, ride, eat, sleep, repeat and live like a local... All in one of the most **beautiful riding locations** in South Africa! This is a unique opportunity for horse lovers to truly immerse themselves and experience the joy of being with and riding horses day after day along the stunning **Wild Coast of South Africa**. Learn from Julie-Anne and her team, and bring along your spirit of adventure!

Working holidays \begin{align\*}
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### **ITINERARY**

# Highlights

- Enjoy a varied programme to include ground work, introduction to barefoot trimming, exercising and schooling horses, and assisting out on trail rides along with basic yard chores.
- Ride along the Kei Mouth and Morgan Bay area.
- The opportunity to take part in clinics, mini trails or full Wild Coast trails for longer stays (see itinerary).
- Become a better rider and horsewoman or horseman by learning from Julie-Anne and her team. The interconnection between horses and people is an integral part of their beliefs, their environment and the way that they work with the horses and visiting riders.
- Discover life in a South African beach town. Meet with locals and learn about the culture and lifestyle.

# Day 1 - 1: HOME - JOHANNESBURG - EAST LONDON

Fly to East London in South Africa. We recommend flight 4Z915 from Johannesburg, which arrives into East London at 12:00 noon. (If you arrive later than 12:00 noon then you may have to pay extra for a private transfer). Flights are not included but we can help with this on request.

You will be met on arrival and transferred by minibus to Kei Mouth. Transfers are payable locally - please see dates and prices.

# Day 2 - 2: TTOUCH CLINIC

Today you will take part in an awesome 1-day "Riding with Touch Workshop" run by Klara Webb. This works as an introduction to "Ride with Your Mind" and TTouch methodologies, which will give you new insights on how to connect with horses.

# Day 3 - 3 to 14: RIDE, EAT & SLEEP

During your stay, you will ride around Kei Mouth and Morgan Bay. You may also take part in the day rides over the river to the waterfalls or Trennerys for a pub lunch.

Understanding and practising the principles of holistic horse care of horses that live out all year round in the African bush is a big part of this riding holiday.

You may choose to participate and be part of the many experiences like the following:

- Daily care of the horses
- Cleaning tack and equipment
- Introduction to barefoot trimming, riding and management
- The horses all live out, so there are no stables to muck out
- An introduction to ground work
- Exercising & schooling horses in basic flat work, dressage & jumping at the beach paddocks in Kei Mouth.

Work/study remotely: If you have chosen to stay as a ride & work remotely option, you would generally ride once or twice a day and make your own time available to do your work. It's pretty flexible to your needs, and you can be sure of a quiet space and fast connection (printing and scanning facilities are also available)

Longer stays will get extra bonuses:

- 4-11 week-stays: mini beach trail (3-day ride to Wavecrest Hotel & Spa).
- 12 week-stay: full Wild Coast mobile trail.

# Day 4 — 15 : EAST LONDON - JOHANNESBURG - HOME

Depending on your departure time, you could squeeze in one more ride before the shuttle picks you up to transfer you back to the airport.

On the final day of the ride, you will be transferred to the airport at either 9:00 am if taking a flight at noon or 2:00 pm for a late afternoon flight. Flights are not included but can be booked for you on request.

#### **DATES & PRICES DEPARTURE RETURN** PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS **STATUS** 29/04/2024 13/05/2024 £1,400 Open 06/05/2024 20/05/2024 £1,400 Open 13/05/2024 27/05/2024 £1,400 Open 20/05/2024 03/06/2024 £1,400 Open 27/05/2024 10/06/2024 £1,400 Open 03/06/2024 17/06/2024 £1,400 Open 10/06/2024 24/06/2024 £1,400 Open 17/06/2024 £1,400 01/07/2024 Open 24/06/2024 08/07/2024 £1,400 Open 01/07/2024 15/07/2024 £1,400 Open 08/07/2024 22/07/2024 £1,400 Open 15/07/2024 29/07/2024 £1,400 Open 22/07/2024 05/08/2024 £1,400 Open 29/07/2024 £1,400 12/08/2024 Open 05/08/2024 19/08/2024 £1,400 Open 12/08/2024 26/08/2024 £1,400 Open

19/08/2024	02/09/2024	£1,400	Open
26/08/2024	09/09/2024	£1,400	Open
02/09/2024	16/09/2024	£1,400	Open
09/09/2024	23/09/2024	£1,400	Open
16/09/2024	30/09/2024	£1,400	Open
23/09/2024	07/10/2024	£1,400	Open
30/09/2024	14/10/2024	£1,400	Open
07/10/2024	21/10/2024	£1,400	Open
14/10/2024	28/10/2024	£1,400	Open
21/10/2024	04/11/2024	£1,400	Open
28/10/2024	11/11/2024	£1,400	Open
04/11/2024	18/11/2024	£1,400	Open
11/11/2024	25/11/2024	£1,400	Open
18/11/2024	02/12/2024	£1,400	Open
25/11/2024	09/12/2024	£1,400	Open
02/12/2024	16/12/2024	£1,400	Open
09/12/2024	23/12/2024	£1,400	Open

# Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request please contact us for rates.
- Dates are flexible and you can arrive/depart on any day and stay for as long as you like.
- The usual group size is a minimum of 1 and a usual maximum of 4 international riders.
- Rates are per person, based on a 2-week stay including dinner, breakfast and riding. Longer stays are available at discounted rates. There is no solo rider supplement. Please contact us to have a personalised quote.
- There's in an option to include a 2-night beach trail. This stay has a cost of £1875/€2175/\$2350 (2023), or £2060/€2395/\$2590 (2024).
- Airport transfers are an extra c. 1200 ZAR (c. £70) per person at a set time, each way. Transfers are payable locally in ZAR only and costs are divided by the number of riders in the vehicle.
- Please note that these prices are based on the South African Rand rate which can be volatile, we will confirm all prices to you upon booking
- There is a maximum weight limit of 14 stones/90 kg/198 lbs.
- You must be aged 18 or over to join this volunteering opportunity.

#### 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

An English-speaking team

# **ACCOMMODATION**

Private en-suite room

#### **MEALS**

Full board during the programme except for lunches while out on day rides

# **ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT**

First aid kit

# Price doesn't include

#### **MEALS**

Beverages and personal extra

Meals outside of the programme such as dinners out or lunches on day rides.

#### **TRANSPORTS**

Airport transfers
International flights

#### **EXTRA**

Extras and personal expense

Gratuities for the house maids who clean the house, make your beds and do your laundry!

Additional activities: Paddling trips hosted by local guides, Abseiling at Morgan Bay hosted by local guides, Township Tour hosted by local guides, Inkwenkwezi - Big 5 Jeep Safari

# **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

# **EQUESTRIAN INFO**

# Horses

Julie-Anne's horses are much loved; they are a mixture of Arab, Boerperd, Thoroughbred and Percheron crosses that are perfect for trail riding. You will be delighted by how gentle, well trained and friendly they are! The trail team is kept endurance fit to be able to complete adventure trails along the coast, while younger horses are brought on carefully with ground work and schooling.

The saddles are comfortable for riders with a high pommel and shallow seat which permit a good seat - most also have a sheepskin seatsaver on top. Each saddle also has a small saddle bag sufficient for carrying bottles of water and sunscreen necessary for the entire riding day.

# Guide & local team

You are staying with Julie-Anne, Clint and their team on the Wild Coast. They are a lovely bunch of people and committed to the welfare of their horses and happiness of their guests!

The staff is a small team of dedicated riders and horsemen and women. They will show you anything you need to know from horse management to the local culture and lifestyle. Do not hesitate to ask questions and be curious!

# Minimum riding ability

# **MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY**

Ideally, you are a competent rider, capable and in control at all paces, able to rise to the trot and canter/gallop in a forward seat. You should have experience of riding in the outdoors and over rough terrain as well as being fit for long hours in the saddle, especially if staying for longer durations and

joining the trails.

More novice riders can be accommodated on request and will be given riding lessons to get them comfortable and proficient in the saddle.

There is a maximum weight limit of 14 stones/90 kg/198 lbs.

#### PACE

The riding is at mixed pace, with plenty of opportunities for long trots and canters along the beaches or on inland paths.

#### TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Guests must be willing to learn and to contribute.

### TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You need to be physically fit for long hours in the saddle in the African sun.

This program is designed to be flexible. You can help and ride at the stables everyday, or just share your day between helping, riding and walking around. The rides are varied and allow you to enjoy the stunning landscapes of the area.

There are many walks around the house and the stables for you to enjoy, you can also go to the beach and have a swim or enjoy any of the many activities offered by Kei Adventures, or even go on a safari tour in the nearby reserve.

At the weekend, the staff will most likely include you into their activities - going to the pub to watch a rugby game, having a spa day in the nearby city or discovering a new place.

## **EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT**

We recommend that guests who do not ride regularly get fit prior to the ride, especially if staying for longer durations and taking part in the trails - in which case it is of particular importance to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding at speed across rough terrain and open spaces.

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**

Riders will stay in the guest house. You will have your own en-suite room for the duration of your stay.

WiFi is available.

# **MEALS**

Daily breakfast (cereal, yogurt, fruit, bread, preserves, tea & coffee).

Lunch at the home base is provided (light meals - cheese, cold meat, pasta, salads and the like), but not included if out on day rides. Lunch out at local pubs and restaurants range from about R60 to R150 depending on what the person orders.

Home cooked dinners are catered and served either at lunch time or evening depending on the days schedule. Most food is based on fresh meat or local fish.

Tea/coffee/water are provided.

Vegetarians and special diets can be catered for to a certain degree but must be advised at the time of booking.

# **CLIMATE**

The rainy season is between November and the end of March, with some storms at the end of the day. The warmest months are January and February: expect around 26°C. The South African winter (July/August) is cooler with 10°C during the day on average.

May: temperatures between 13°C-23°C during the day June/July/August/September: average of 20°C.

October: between 14°C-22°C

November: lovely riding weather with temperatures between 16°C and 23°C

December: 17°C - 25°C

#### **TIPS**

we would recommend approximately £10 per guest per day which you can give to your guide to distribute amongst the team

#### **PACKING LIST**

### Head

- Hard hats are compulsory and we recommend you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- 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
- T-shirts
- Fleece, jumper or jacket the evenings can be cold
- Waterproof jacket required all year round, but particularly during the winter months (May October) 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. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged (they can also be hot!). Please note riding in salty water can damage the leather so don't bring your brand new boots.
- Sandals, flip-flops or trainers for when not riding
- Gloves your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding

### **Nightwear**

Pyjamas

### Other useful items

- Swimsuit for the pools the sea is generally not safe for swimming
- Binoculars for spotting dolphins/whales along the coastline
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding

### Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take or needed for this trip
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

# **Our Recommendations**

- 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.
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- 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. 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!

# **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 carl).
- 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.