Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Delta & Desert safari

BOTSWANA

This combination safari might just be one of the most exciting riding holidays Africa has to offer! On this **African horse safari**, you will combine two totally different ecosystems into one riding safari, providing an extraordinary contrast in the landscape and excellent wildlife-watching opportunities. You will ride through seasonal flood plains and explore the wide-open spaces of the Makgadikgadi salt pans as you move from the **Okavango Delta to the Kalahari Desert** in the heart of Botswana. Both areas are renowned for the quality of the wildlife, so be prepared to encounter a wide variety of species zebras, elephants, hyenas - and of course the famous meerkats of the Kalahari. An exhilarating horse safari in Botswana with the opportunity for faster paces. This is probably the **ultimate riding safari for competent riders** looking for an adventurous riding holiday.

Horseback Safari	**11 days (8 days riding)**	**From £6,702**	





ITINERARY

Highlights

- Experience a combination of two of Botswana's best riding safaris, and discover two incredible ecosystems in one riding holiday
- Stay in exquisite camp locations, all very comfortable and offering a real "Out of Africa" experience.
- Interact with local communities throughout the ride and join a sustainable safari holiday.

Day 1 — 1 : HOME - OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

International overnight flight (flights are not included, but can be arranged upon request) - please note the final destination is Maun, but you will likely transit through Johannesburg in South Africa. It is important that you book your flight to arrive early the following morning (day 2) in Johannesburg, before 09:00, in order to leave enough time for you to catch your transfer - leaving 2-3 hours to change terminals, perhaps collect your baggage and catch your flight for Maun.

Day 2 — 2 : JOHANNESBURGH - MAUN - OKAVANGO DELTA - Approx. 2 hours riding

Cha Cha Metsi Camp

You will be met at Maun airport in Botswana (reached by a flight from Johannesburg which we can help you organise if you wish). You will immediately be transferred out by car to the south of the Okavango Delta. After a short transfer by car (2hrs) or helicopter (20 minutes), you will meet the horses and your support team.

You will then start your horseback safari. The itinerary is not set in stone and will be arranged depending on the season and the level of water found in

the different riding locations, this allows for a new discovery of the area on ever safari.

You will ride out for the first time in the afternoon in order to familiarise yourselves with your horses before a first night at camp out in the delta.

Day 3 — 3 : OKAVANGO DELTA - Approx. 6 hours riding

Cha Cha Metsi Camp

The precise itinerary you will follow will be organised depending on the period of the year, the water level and changed expressly to follow the movements of the wildlife; this will ensure that in all seasons you will have the best opportunities to view the native animals on your safari. A typical day will start with a hearty breakfast eaten together around the fire. The day's programme will then be dedicated to the discovery of the delta and the exploration of the stunning landscapes and wildlife. Each morning you will ride for around 4 hours. This morning ride will be the perfect opportunity for gallops along the flooded plains, as well as fording and swimming the delta's deepest outlets.

At midday, you will return to the camp where a light brunch is waiting. You will also have time for a bit of relaxation. In the middle of the afternoon, you will head out for a second ride (around 1h30 - 2 hours) at a gentler pace, as this ride will give you the perfect occasion to take breathtaking photos in the last light of the day, and to immerse yourself completely in the sights, sounds and smells of the bush.

You will return to the camp just before nightfall for sundowners, dinner under the stars and a night slept falling asleep to the sounds of the local wildlife.

You may if you wish decide not to ride and instead head out in Mokoro, a traditional canoe or a jeep to discover the delta. This experience will bring you close to the African flora and fauna, especially the birds.

Day 4 — 4 : OKAVANGO DELTA - Approx. 6 hours riding

Cha Cha Metsi Camp

You will ride out for a new day on your horseback safari by following paths trodden by elephants making their way between the islands. Several metres above the waters where your paths weave, the mopane trees grow with their leaves like butterflies and whose canopy offers protection from the strength of the morning sun. The landscape before you will stretch out as either a savannah landscape, forest or groves of fig trees, baobabs, kigelia and ebony trees that are mixed between the elegant palms.

You will head back to your camp for the night.

Day 5 — 5 : OKAVANGO DELTA - Approx. 6 hours riding

Cha Cha Metsi Camp

After an early rise and a full breakfast, you will ride out through the delta. You may see some of the famed Okavango wildlife; lechwe and graceful antelopes that race through the flood pains at a gallop. You as well will enjoy some fantastic gallops across the flooded plains (in season – the Delta is usually flooded from June to September), home to gnus, zebras and a multitude of birds. You will ride along the uncountable streams of water lined with mopan and palm trees.

Day 6 — 6 : OKAVANGO DELTA - Approx. 6 hours riding

Cha Cha Metsi Camp

On horseback you will ride across the little islands linked one to the other by paths used by hippopotami leading to the main island. These areas are perfect for observing wildlife and are full of surprises. Gazelles, lechwe, hippo, buffalo... A magical environment for unforgettable gallops in the wide-open plains of the delta. Here and there the clear and nourishing waters of lagoons dot the landscape full with water-lillies and bulrushes.

Day 7 — 7 : OKAVANGO DELTA - KALAHARI DESERT - Approx. 4 hours riding

Kalahari camp

Last morning of riding before leaving your horses, your team and the Okavango Delta. Return to Maun by vehicle to catch a light aircraft transfer to Makgadikgadi Pans in the heart of the Kalahari Desert (on occasions this may also be road transfer). Nestled under the shade of the acacia and Mokolwane palms of Brown Hyaena Island, your camp is on the edge of Makgadikgadi Pans, once a beautiful lake, now covered with flamingos during the rainy season (November to April), large herds of zebra and wildebeest, and of course associated predator territory! Meet the horses and go on your first ride in the afternoon to familiarise yourself with your mounts.

Day 8 — 8 : KALAHARI DESERT - Approx. 4 hours riding

Kalahari camp

Up with the dawn, a light breakfast will be followed by a long morning ride through the “land of a thousand islands”. Stranded on the ancient lakebed, these sand dunes covered in palm trees are one of the most beautiful and fascinating areas of the Botswana wilderness. At the height of the migration season, the islands and adjoining grasslands are awash with zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest and ostrich and predators! The white encrusted pans between the islands provides excellent going for the horses. Returning to the camp for lunch, rest through the heat of the day in the welcome shade of the camel thorn trees.
After tea, head off by vehicle to see some unique desert species such as springbok, gemsbok, red hartebeest and the elusive brown hyaena. Enjoy a night game drive back to camp, and with the aid of a spot light, look for nocturnal desert inhabitants such as aardvark, bat eared foxes, aardwolves... and perhaps a black maned Kalahari Lion.
Arrive at Camp Kalahari in time for dinner.

Day 9 — 9 : KALAHARI DESERT - Approx. 6 hours riding

Kalahari camp

A non-riding morning starts with an early morning walk with Zu/’hoasi Bushmen trackers. Uncharted Africa has pioneered and passionately supported cultural tourism in Botswana since the company’s inception. Offering a window into the past, they will teach you how they have survived in this harshest of environments, using their vast and ancient knowledge of plants, animal behavior and survival skills.
Time for one more lunch before you bid farewell to Camp Kalahari in preparation for your onward journey.
Transfer to the airstrip for your light aircraft transfer to Maun (included in the price), then flight to Johannesburg and connection to Europe or the US (not included in the price) or beginning of your extension (please consult us, different possibilities exist such as a journey to Victoria falls).

Day 10 — 10: ARRIVAL HOME

Arrive home in early morning.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
21/11/2026	01/12/2026	£6,702	Open
06/12/2026	16/12/2026	£7,182	Full
23/12/2026	02/01/2027	£7,903	Guaranteed departure

Price details

PLEASE NOTE: On certain dates, the itinerary is on reverse (starting in the Desert and ending in the Delta). Please contact us before booking.

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

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a tent during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guides.

- Transfers are not included but will be invoiced at the time of your booking. There is a 2 hour road transfer between Maun Airport Cha Cha Metsi, or a short 20 min helicopter flight. From Maun to the Kalahari there is the option of a road transfer (3 hours) or a flight transfer (50 minutes).

> Helicopter transfer to Cha Cha Metsi + flights to the Kalahari: $1765/£1210/€1500 in 2026 (min. 2 riders).
> Road transfer in the Okavango and in the Kalahari: $710/£540/€640 in 2026 (min. 2 riders).
Is up to each traveller to decide which transfer they prefer but please note that for single travellers there is a 100% surcharge on the transfer of your choice if there are no other travellers to share. This will be waived if there are other travellers on the transfers.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a tent with another guest of the same sex - except in the high season where it will apply for the nights spent in the Delta. To guarantee your own tent there is a single supplement - this is dependent on the season, from $2560 to $3070 (per person for the duration of the trip).

- Young riders aged 12+ are welcome to join provided they match the riding requirements. Younger riders can sometimes be exceptionally accepted on this ride. Please contact us to discuss options, depending on their levels of maturity and riding experience. Children discounts are available.

- IMPORTANT : Riders weighing more than 95 kg must contact us before booking.
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 horse guide specialising in the area
1 backup guide

LOGISTICS TEAM

1 cook, technician and groom

ACCOMMODATION

Double or twin sharing accommodation

MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure
Drinks (water, wine, beer, soft drinks)

Price doesn't include

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

MEALS

Meals on travel days

TRANSPORT

International flights to Maun

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

Single tent supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

There is a wide variety of horses such as Hanoverians, Trakehners, Anglo-Arabs, and Arab-barbs. All are forward going and spirited, always eager to gallop and quite comfortable around the game. You will ride the same horse throughout your Okavango safari, and swap for a fresh mount in the Kalahari.
There is a horse to suit everyone, with gentle mounts for those who wish to relax and more spirited horses for guests who prefer a more exciting ride. They range in size from 14.1h up to 16.2h, including weight carriers which are suitable to riders of up to 95kg.

Guide & local team

David is your English speaking host, he lives in Botswana with his family. They are passionate about horseback riding and love nature. David or one of his competent guides will be your lead guide, always accompanied by a back-up guide for safety.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

In order to enjoy all that this safari has to offer, you should be a competent rider. You must be comfortable riding in open spaces, keeping your balance over varied and uneven ground and having the necessary experience to keep and find your seat again in unpredictable situations.

IMPORTANT: Weight limit is 95kg – heavier riders please contact us

PACE

This ride includes all three paces, with 4-7 hours in the saddle each day. There are plenty of opportunities for long canters across the salt pans of the Kalahari, particularly during the dry season (May - September). In the Delta, you might have the chance to enjoy some splashy canters during the flooded season, otherwise you'll still be able to appreciate a good canter on the dry plains.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

If you wish you can help untacking, but this is not expected as a team of grooms will take the best care of the horses.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Guests who do not ride regularly are requested to get fit prior to the ride. This is vital to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding at speed across rough terrain and open spaces.

Riders must also be prepared to meet people whose cultural specificities and differences of approach must be treated with acceptance and respect.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

South African trail saddles.
Water bottles holders are provided on each saddle (enough space for two bottles). Saddle bags are available.

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

The first five nights are spent at Cha Cha Metsi, a permanent camp in the Okavango Delta. Cha Cha Metsi sleeps only 12 guests and overlooks the permanent waters of the stunning Gama Tau Lagoon – the gathering place of the lions – and part of the Santantadibe River. Personally decorated by Marieke with a collection of their family's antique furniture it feels like you are being welcomed warmly into their own home. You will stay in one of the six safari tents. All tents are on raised platforms, with plenty of standing room and made-up stretcher beds. All tents have their own private bathroom with running hot water and proper loo. Limited WiFi in the reception area.

The following three nights are at Camp Kalahari. Camp Kalahari has 10 spacious Meru tents : 7 Twin tents, 2 Double tents and 1 Family tent consisting of 2 adjacent tents, accommodating 2 guests in each with an inter-leading bathroom. All tents have en-suite outdoor bathrooms, flush loos, hot and cold running water, along with comfy beds, fresh cotton sheets, stripy African blankets and hot water bottles in winter. A common space with library, living/dining area and a swimming pool for those hot Kalahari days.
A laundry service is included. There are camera charging facilities in the camp and limited WiFi.

MEALS

Breakfast has sweet and savoury options, tea, coffee and juice.
Cold lunch buffet (salads, cold meat, fruit and cheese).
Dinner are three course meals including a starter, fish or meat main, and something sweet or fruit for dessert.

Mineral water provided, as well as beer, spirits and local wines.

CLIMATE

The months of October to March are the hottest of the year, with temperatures varying between 15 and 37°c.

The Okavango Delta is a seasonal flood plain and so different times of the year offer different experiences - each magical in its own way. The seasons in southern Africa are the following December/January is mid-summer with high temperatures and the chance of dramatic thunderstorms, whereas July/August is mid-winter when temperatures are lower and there is little chance of rain. The water level in the Delta depend on the rainfall in Angola and the floods usually arrive around April/May and recede around September/October, but this varies every year and is difficult to predict.
In the Kalahari Desert, precipitation, is highly variable. Most of the rain comes as summer thunderstorms, with great variation from place to place and from year to year. Winters are extremely dry: humidity is very low, and no rain falls for six to eight months.
Great ranges in both diurnal and seasonal temperatures are usual. During the summer temperatures often reach 43°C but can drop to around 20° during the night; temperatures on winter nights may go as low as -12 °C.

TIPS

Tips are usually between 20-25 USD per rider/ per day for the whole local team which will then be shared equally.
- Guide: US$ 10 per day per guest
- Camp Staff (including back up rider): US$ 10 per day per guest
- Community Staff (Delta only): US$ 2 per day per guest

PACKING LIST

Luggage for local charter flights and helicopter flights is limited to 20kg per person in soft bags including hand luggage, riding kit and camera equipment. This is strictly enforced by all charter companies for safety reasons.

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
- You must bring a headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night.
- There is no electricity at Camp, a solar charging bank could be a useful item to charge camera batteries

Head
- A riding helmet: it is seriously recommended and often mandatory. Manufacturers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel, Equithème...) offer today ventilated, solid and light riding helmets, pleasant in all latitudes. There are also protective shells to put under your hat (Ranch & Rider, Lexington Safety Products) or western helmet hats (Troxel).
- Cap or hat for the sun (essential)
- A bandana or Buff scarf to protect yourself from dust, sun and sometimes insects.
- A pair of high protection sunglasses.

Upper body
- 3 to 4 cotton polo shirts or long sleeve shirts (protection against the sun and mosquitoes)
- 2 short-sleeved T-shirts
- 1 or 2 spare shirts for the evening.
- 1 light fleece or equivalent. (from September to June)
- 1 warm fleece or equivalent (from June to September during the austral winter).
- 1 warm or light windproof jacket depending on the season. It is very practical on horseback to wear a jacket with many pockets to put your little rider's gear. Rain is more likely Oct-April, but in the Delta you may appreciate a waterproof jacket for splashy canters May-September

Legs
- 1-2 riding breeches
- 1 pair of pants (jeans, cloth, or equivalent)
- For comfort, cotton or synthetic non-irritating underwear is preferred, and sometimes sheepskin for the saddle.
- 1 bathing suit.
- 1 pair of shorts or 1 pair of Bermuda shorts

Hands and Feet
- Light hiking shoes or riding boots and mini chaps. We recommend short boots with half . We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged. During the flood season you may wish to take a second pair so that you aren't putting wet boots on.
- 1 pair of light shoes for the evening
- Several pairs of socks.
- 1 pair of gloves to protect from the sun and avoid blisters, which must be warmer from June to September during the southern winter.

Other useful items
- Swimsuit
- Binoculars for viewing game
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery

- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Waterproof pouches if you want to bring your camera or phone with you whilst riding

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. Some toiletries are provided by the camp so you can pack lighter.

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

Medical kit
- As a precautionary measure, please indicate any allergies to medication in your first aid kit:
- Personal medication
- Aspirin or doliprane
- Anti diarrhea medication
- Vitamin C
- Sunscreen with strong protection for lips and skin
- Eye drops
- Moisturizing cream
- A roll of plaster
- 10 cm wide elastic adhesive bandage
- A box of adhesive bandages
- Ready-to-use disinfectant packets
- 1 broad spectrum antibiotic
- Mosquito repellent sprays for the skin and for the tissues

Additional information
- 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!
- If you lose your documents, we advise you to keep a copy of your passport in a different place from the originals.

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 .