




Ant's - Special Bushwillow week

SOUTH AFRICA

Tucked away in the beautiful Waterberg region, **Bushwillow at Ant's Lodges** offer a truly unique horseback safari experience. Unlike more traditional game lodges, Ant's Lodges combine thrilling wildlife encounters with a welcoming, homely feel. This special **Ant's set itinerary riding safari** based at Bushwillow Camp is designed for intermediate riders and above, who want to spend long hours in the saddle. Whether this is your first time in Africa or a return trip, this riding safari provide the perfect balance of riding, wildlife, and relaxation for a truly memorable holiday.

Horseback Safari	 10 days / 6 riding	 From £2,345	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Explore the African bush on horseback, with the chance to ride alongside giraffes, zebras, and antelope.
- A special set itinerary tailored to intermediate and experienced riders, with set departure dates.
- Stunning picnic spots, sundowners at scenic viewpoints, and traditional South African boma dinners.
- Warm, welcoming hospitality and a relaxed lodge atmosphere in the beautiful Waterberg region.

Day 1 — 1 : OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG

International flight overnight to Johannesburg (not included).

We recommend aiming to arrive in Johannesburg in the morning of Day 2. Please see "dates and prices" for information on flight timings. Alternatively you can arrive a day earlier in Johannesburg and spend a night in the city - we can recommend a comfortable guesthouse.

Day 2 — 2 : JOHANNESBURG - WATERBERG

 Bushwillow Lodge

Arrive at Johannesburg airport. You will need to arrive with a flight before 9:00 am to be on time for the 11:00 am transfer to the lodge.

You will be met in the arrivals halls and transferred to the lodge in the middle of the Waterberg plateau (c. 3h drive).

Arrive at the lodge, settle in, and soak up the atmosphere. In the afternoon, enjoy a gentle walk to stretch your legs before sundowners and a welcome dinner.

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



A first morning ride across the plains at Ant's private game reserve to get acquainted with your horse and the terrain - navigating your way across sandy tracks. Return to Bushwillow for lunch and head out again for an afternoon ride in search of more wildlife - whether that's plains game, rhino, buffalo, or some of the smaller interesting species like some of the "Little Five"!

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



Ride out from Bushwillow for a full day ride on safari. Expect views of giraffe nibbling on treetops, herds of impala weaving through bush corridors! After a few hours in the saddle, stop for a picnic lunch at Bushwillow Camp Dam. Afternoon ride back to camp, following fame trails through thicker bush, before sundowners and dinner under the stars back at Bushwillow.

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



A full day in the saddle. Ride deeper into the reserve, over ridges, through savannah and among riverine trees. Lunch in the bush surrounded by sweeping vistas. Wildlife sightings could include sable or roan, wildebeest, kudu, oryx, and perhaps a shy predator at a distance. Return to Bushwillow in the afternoon for a relaxed evening.

Day 6 — 6 : WATERBERG - 3 hours riding



After waking up to the "dawn chorus", enjoy another lovely morning ride across open tracks. Lunch at the lodge. In the afternoon, take the opportunity of a Big 5 game drive on a neighbouring reserve (extra cost, subject to availability). As the sun sets, gather for a dinner under the stars at Bushwillow.

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



Begin early, riding as the first light touches the bush. You might spot herds moving, the bush waking up. Picnic brunch at Bushwillow. Afternoon: slower ride, or time to rest, observe birds, relax at waterholes. Finish with sundowners at Kosari Koppie, watching the sky change colour.

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



Ride at Koshari in the morning, followed by lunch at Bushwillow. Afternoon to unwind; perhaps a gentle walking safari or spa time. Then head to a scenic spot for early sundowners, returning by night-drive which may reveal nocturnal creatures (porcupine, bushbaby, aardvark). To cap it all, enjoy a traditional South African boma dinner under the stars.

Day 9 — 9 : WATERBERG - JOHANNESBURG

A relaxing morning before brunch, then you are transferred to Johannesburg airport in time for your flight home. Departure from the lodge at 12:00 noon. Please see "dates and prices" for information on flight timings.

Day 10 — 10 : HOME

Arrival back home during the early morning.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
01/02/2026	10/02/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
17/02/2026	26/02/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure

24/02/2026	05/03/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
03/03/2026	12/03/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
15/03/2026	24/03/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
31/03/2026	09/04/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
09/04/2026	18/04/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
22/04/2026	01/05/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
30/04/2026	09/05/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
07/05/2026	16/05/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
14/05/2026	23/05/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
21/05/2026	30/05/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
19/06/2026	28/06/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
27/06/2026	06/07/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
04/07/2026	13/07/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
11/07/2026	20/07/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
19/07/2026	28/07/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
31/07/2026	09/08/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
07/08/2026	16/08/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
14/08/2026	23/08/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
21/08/2026	30/08/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
08/09/2026	17/09/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
15/09/2026	24/09/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
22/09/2026	01/10/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
30/09/2026	09/10/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
07/10/2026	16/10/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
14/10/2026	23/10/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
21/10/2026	30/10/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
03/11/2026	12/11/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
10/11/2026	19/11/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
17/11/2026	26/11/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
04/12/2026	13/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
11/12/2026	20/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure
19/12/2026	28/12/2026	£2,345	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- 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 standard room at Bushwillow Camp.

- Transfer from and to Johannesburg International Airport are not included in the price and will be invoiced separately. This is currently priced at £130/€150/\$175 return rate, but please note these prices are subject to change and will be confirmed with your quotation. You must arrive before 9:30 am on time for your 11:00 am airport transfer. You will be taken back to Johannesburg for around 3:30 pm - please make sure to book a flight departing after 6:00 pm. If flight times do not match, we suggest you arrive a day early or fly the next day.

- There is no single supplement for genuinely solo travellers.

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

Massages - Per hour: R750 / Per ½ hour: R450

Wine Tasting - Dependent on the number of wines and people, Usually between R350 – R550 per person

Star Gazing - Night Sky Safari: Cost per Group: R9500.00 (for 2 – 10 guests) for a full telescope show / Myths & Legends of the Night Sky: Cost: R450.00 per person (4 - 8 pax)

Big 5 Game Drive - Cost: R2200.00 per person including transfers (MIN 4)

Zipline - Cost per person: R600.00 per person (MIN 2) This is weather dependent & subject to availability. Closed on Mondays

Town Visit / Shopping / Cultural Visits - Town Trips & Church: Cost: R1500.00 per vehicle in our closed vehicles

Mountain Biking - Cost: R1200 per person for half day

Prices are valid in May 2024 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 at Bushwillow

MEALS

Full board from lunch on arrival to breakfast on departure

All the drinks including wines and cocktails (other than premium drinks and liquor)

EXTRAS

Conservation fees

Price doesn't include

TRANSPORTS

International flights bookable on request

EXTRA

Tips to local team.

Off-site activities such as the Big Five game drive

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

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers at set times

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

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 accompaning each ride - a lead guide who always speaks English and a back-up guide.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

This ride is suitable for intermediate riders and above. Beginner riders are welcome to Ant's, but on the standard lodge programme - [Click here](#)

There is a weight limit of 120 Kgs (19 stone or ~ 265 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 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.

Helmets are mandatory - 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

Bushwillow is a new addition to Ant's Lodges. It consists of 1100 hectares of open spaces along with the lodge itself. The lodge 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.

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.

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

Tipping is not expected but if you wish to leave a tip then up-to-date guidelines are provided in your room - currently around ZAR250 per person per night.

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](#) .