EQUUS JOURNEYS
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Last updated 19/11/2026

Ant's River Lodge - Big Five safari

SOUTH AFRICA

The classic **Ant's safari... With a big game twist!** Set within the breathtaking landscapes of the Kaingo Private Game Reserve, Ant's brand new River Lodge offers an authentic bush safari experience that complements the renowned hospitality and equestrian culture of Ant's Lodges. Overlooking the winding **Mokolo River** and surrounded by rolling savannah and beautiful mountain views, the lodge provides access to extraordinary wildlife and natural beauty, all seen from the back of a horse (or from a vehicle should you prefer!). Guests can expect a warm, welcoming atmosphere, comfortable riverside accommodation, and **quality riding in search of big game** in small groups.

Horseback Safari	**10 days / 7 riding**	**From £4,270**		Open to non-riders


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ITINERARY

Highlights

• A comfortable centre-based safari, based at a luxury lodge providing a peaceful base from which to enjoy game viewing, birdlife and the rhythms of the African bush.
• Enjoy the same exceptional riding and hospitality for which Ant's lodges are known, with the added bonus of Big Five sightings (lion, elephant, leopard, rhino and buffalo plus a variety of plains game)
• This safari operates in the 16,400-hectare Kaingo Private Game Reserve, that supports over 50 mammal species and more than 250 bird species. Conservation is a priority with animal welfare taking precedence over density (no overstocking).
• Easy access from Johannesburg in the malaria-free Waterberg area of South Africa
• Whether on horseback, game drive or on foot, each day can be customised to suit your pace and interests, with non-riders very welcome.

Day 1 — 1 : EUROPE - JOHANNESBURG

Fly to Johannesburg. International flights are not included in the price but can be priced upon request.

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). Transfer at set time, please see dates and prices – aim to arrive early in the morning.

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 - WATERBERG - 2 hours riding

Ant's River Lodge

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.

Sundowners and dinner at Ant's River Lodge.

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

Ant's River Lodge

Each day on this safari is different, with ample opportunity for excellent riding across the Kaingo Reserve in search of big game or plains game. You can expect to spend around five hours in the saddle each day (with a long 3-hour morning ride and a shorter, 2-hour afternoon ride, with a long lunch break) and enjoy varied scenery and paces. Every day there is a possibility to take a break from the horses and join a game drive or walking safari instead.

The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

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

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The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

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

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The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

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

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The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

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

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The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

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

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The day usually ends with a sundowner in a special location and dinner back at camp.

Day 9 — 9 : WATERBERG - JOHANNESBURG

Time for one last ride and brunch before transfer to the airport. Please book a flight departing after 6:00 pm to allow time for your transfer – see dates and prices.

Day 10 — 10 : EUROPE

Arrival back home during the early morning.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
11/12/2026	20/12/2026	£4,270	Full
08/01/2027	17/01/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
12/02/2027	21/02/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
19/03/2027	28/03/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
16/04/2027	25/04/2027	£4,795	Full
14/05/2027	23/05/2027	£4,795	Full
18/06/2027	27/06/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
09/07/2027	18/07/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
14/08/2027	23/08/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
10/09/2027	19/09/2027	£4,795	Full
08/10/2027	17/10/2027	£4,795	Guaranteed departure
12/11/2027	21/11/2027	£4,795	Full
11/12/2027	20/12/2027	£4,795	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.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 6 international riders, plus guides.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room there is a single supplement of £2135/€2460/$2950 per person.

- Transfer from and to Johannesburg International Airport are not included in the price and will be invoiced separately. This is currently priced at £220/€260/$290 return rate (2026 - 2027), 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.

- Rider weight limit: 90 kilos, 14st1lbs. This is a strict limit as the horses are small and the terrain is demanding / Heavier riders please contact us.

- There is a strict minimum age of 16 yo on this riding safari.

- Non-riders are welcome, with alternative activities such as game drives, bush walks, spa treatments, and river cruises. Non riders benefit from a special price of £3710/€4265/$5110 per person in 2026-2027.
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

Twin or double room at the Lodge

MEALS

Full board from lunch on arrival to breakfast on departure

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 at set times - see dates and prices

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

There are no permanent stables at Kaingo, so horses are transferred from Ant's Nest or Hill, approximately a 45-minute drive away. The horses range from big, strong, forward going thoroughbreds, tough African Boerperds and exciting crossbreeds.

Each rider is matched with a horse for the duration of the safari, allowing a strong partnership to develop over the week.

Guide & local team

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

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

Riders must be at ease at all 3 paces - walk, rising trot, canter 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.

There is a weight limit of 90 kilos / 14,1 st / 198 lbs

PACE

Game viewing is always done at a walk to avoid spooking the animals. There will be long spells of walking whilst viewing game, but there are plenty of opportunities for long trots and canters.

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

You need to be physically fit for the long hours in the saddle in the African sun. The terrain can be varied to include holes, branches and ascents/descents of river banks so you need to be balanced and secure in the saddle. Sometimes, you may be asked to dismount and lead your horse on foot.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

McLellan saddles and English bridles.
A bottle handler 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

Ant's River lodge features 10 standalone double / twin, en-suite rooms, each with a private veranda overlooking the river. Every room includes a mini bar, tea and coffee facilities, and air-conditioning. Guests also have access to a main lodge area offering a swimming pool, bar, riverside viewing deck and comfortable lounging and dining spaces.

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.

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 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!