

# WAIT A LITTLE

African Big Five Horse Safari

*Wait A Little Horse Safaris (PTY) LTD Reg. number: 2004/007893/07*  
P.O.Box 126, Ofcolaco 0854, South Africa, cell.:(+27)-(0)83-273 9788 fax.:(+27)-(0)83-276 7256  
safari@waitalittle.co.za www.africanhorsesafari.com

## **GARONGA RIDE (10 days, 9 nights mobile safari)**

**Wait A Little Horse Safaris is one of the few places in the world where you can see wildlife in its natural environment from the back of a horse! So please note, that this itinerary is an example and not a guarantee, wildlife determines our daily activities. Please help us to preserve nature by respecting our guidance throughout your trip. Good riding skills and fitness are essential.**

### **Day 1**

You will be picked up at preferably Hoedspruit or possibly also Phalaborwa airport by our transfer service. A pick up from Johannesburg OR TAMBO direct can also be arranged, note that travelling time is 5 hours.

On arrival at Wait A Little sandwiches and afternoon tea and coffee awaits you. The Wait A Little team, including Philip and Gerti, are there to welcome you. Gerti will introduce you to the safety procedures before going on your first riding safari.

This orientation ride takes you through the area surrounding the camp as you unwind from your journey and forget yourself in the peace of the African bush. This is your chance to become accustomed to our horses and riding style. We might even see the first giraffes or zebras or whatever else is in the vicinity. Sundowners, looking out towards the Drakensberg Mountains, are a perfect prelude to the generous 3 course dinner, accompanied by hand-picked South African wines, which awaits you in our dining area, furnished with antique African art.

The first night, with all its fantastic sounds and noises, is probably the most exciting one. Accommodation for these first three nights is in old style safari tents with ensuite bathrooms, mounted on platforms above the Makhutswe River at the Wait A Little main camp.

### **Day 2**

We wake you with tea or coffee in the morning. After a light, continental breakfast we are ready to mount our horses and go on safari.

The weather will create our day. But usually we ride for 3-4 hours in the morning and app 2 hours in the afternoon.

After we return from our morning ride a big lunch, made by Ana our chef, awaits us with homemade quiches, pizzas or pancakes, freshly homemade bread, different types of salads and greens, meats and cheeses.

After lunch the hardest time of the day has arrived, siesta. You can spend your well deserved rest in your room or at the swimming pool or may be you would like to improve your knowledge about Africa by reading one of the books provided in our library.

Afternoon tea and coffee strengthen us for our next adventure. Our afternoon ride ends at a beautiful sundowner spot where, drink in hand, we enjoy an often colorful sunset!

### **Day 3**

Another exciting day awaits you. The mornings and afternoons are similar to day 2, where you will go on outrides tracking animals, cantering alongside some plains game, crossing rivers, jumping some logs, whatever is in our way.

Over lunchtime you are welcome to have a relaxing massage by our therapist. There is a well prepared massage room where everything is there for your comfort. This is also the

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time to pack our bags as we will be away for 5 nights.

Today is also the chance to acquire some of our merchandise material. From fleeces, fleecy jackets and sweatshirts to shirts, T-shirts, golf tops, hats, beanies to bath utensils there is a beautiful and fashionable selection of safari outfits available.

## **Day 4**

Waking to the rich colors of the sunrise we get ready for a long ride. Entering the Makalali Private Game Reserve, dominated by huge open planes you might find yourself cantering next to giraffes, zebras or wildebeest. Spectacular views, over big distances show you the way to XiDulu our camp for the next two nights.

XiDulu is built at the edge of a dam with a resident pod of hippos. Enjoy the game from the deck of your chalet or the viewing platform or even better whilst enjoying the infinity pool. XiDulu's rooms are all equipped with inside and outside showers, baths, aircon and a big veranda. Elephants often come for a swim during the day, whilst at night lions and hyenas are often seen or heard near the camp.

The afternoon siesta is followed by a game drive. Your guide Patson is a very well known tracker and guide who knows all the native stories about the bush and the wildlife. In an open top Landrover he will follow the directions of the signs left by the big cats during the day. After a long slow Gin watching the sunset, the drive continues into the night where, with luck, some of the nocturnal wildlife will show its face. Bushbabies, owls, maybe even a leopard, will complete your day's excitement.

Dinner is served in the dining area or outside around the fire place under the stars at the waters edge. The Wait A Little team in their usual fashion will be responsible for your culinary experience at XiDulu.

## **Day 5**

Today we go exploring, cutting through the veldt at a canter, twisting and turning around the trees - what Philip calls bushwhacking - and your surefooted horse carries you nimbly through the undergrowth, changing direction as you guide his course, having just as much fun as you. Here and there a tree felled by an elephant, provides an irresistible jump. Or perhaps the eland, or kudu, seeing us pass, fall in front of us to show us the best path. At the top of the hill you pause for thought, as mile after mile of unspoiled Africa stretches away before you.

The afternoon is open to either join another one of Patson's irresistible game drives or to go on another ride.

## **Day 6**

Today we direct ourselves toward a more northerly part of the reserve and the luxuries of Garonga safari camp. Tucked into the edge of a steep cliff, overlooking a tributary stream, Garonga is different again to what we have so far experienced. Fusing the familiar sight of the termite mound with the light, airy, feel of an old, colonial expedition, Garonga spoils you for tranquil relaxation. Owned and run by Bernardo Smith, the camp is particularly personal in its approach and your every desire can be catered for here.

Our long ride this morning will have seen us cantering through the grassy plains and tracking over the hills and valleys that rise between the camps. Long hours in the saddle, over numerous days, mean that you will definitely have earned the right to spoil yourself with an aromatherapy treatment this afternoon. Or perhaps a long siesta and a strong sundowner is more to your taste! There is even a "bush bath" set in the veldt, in which

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you can wash away the smell of leather, up to your ears in bubbles, whilst listening to the sounds around you. Whatever helps you more, you are free to choose how you spend this afternoon before rejoining the party for another excellent meal.

Dinners are served as a group, where all guests of the lodge eat together, or individually, as a party in the torch lit boma.

## **Day 7**

After all that pampering yesterday afternoon, we are fit again for another full day ride. Today we head out towards Garonga's tree house. Our route takes us over one of the highest points in the reserve: the view from this point is truly bird's-eye and can only emphasize the sheer grandeur of the immense space around us. Literally coming off the top of the world, we are once more embraced by the bush as we venture deeper and deeper into the world we have just surveyed. Coming across a dam we watch some hippos cavorting in the water before we casually look up: waiting for us, half way up a Marula tree, is Bernie and the rest of the team. A true, old style picnic has been laid out for us on the deck, so we can continue watching life on the water from our eagle-eyed vantage point.

Our horses wait patiently below, snacking on their own, natural picnic from the veldt, until we choose to head off, in pursuit once more of Africa's finest.

Back way after lunch time we spend the afternoon relaxing or going on another game drive.

## **Day 8**

Whatever has thrilled us most so far can be tracked again this morning as we ride out with the sun on our backs to warm us, pick-nicks in our saddle bags. Perhaps the elephants are snoozing in the river reeds, or a rhino is having a mud bath in one of the little waterholes.

With our return to camp we have ample time to gather our thoughts before embarking on the afternoon's activity. Again, this is your choice – perhaps a bird walk appeals, another game drive to search for something not yet encountered or another relaxed afternoon by the pool.

## **Day 9**

Today promises to be another full day in the saddle as we make our way across the reserve for our return to Wait A Little. This is the longest ride of the week (app 7 hours); prepared with lunch packages in our saddlebags the backdrop of the Drakensberg Mountains makes this ride incredibly beautiful.

At home, the Wait A Little team eagerly awaits our exciting tales, which are the perfect accompaniment to one last, sad farewell sundowner on Wait A Little's open plain. The African fever is sure to have taken hold and the good bye can be hard. But it mustn't be pre-empted, for there is one last sumptuous dinner to be enjoyed, when Gerti chooses something special – perhaps game fillets, such as Kudu or Eland – to crown the final evening.

## **Day 10**

An early wake up will get us on the horses quickly, so we can enjoy a short, sporty ride before the transfer service brings you to the Airport. Thanks so much for your visit.