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# BIG FIVE RIDE & DINE SAFARI

Itinerary of a 10 day, 9 night mobile horse safari with a combination of good food and adventure on horseback.

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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.

Although this ride might sound like it is only about food, yes, food will be an important part, the riding will still be the same as on all the other safaris. The distances between the camps are great and leaves us with a lot of time to track animals. We feel that the possibility of seeing lot's of game on this safari is huge.



## DAY 1, ARRIVAL DAY

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

On arrival at Wait A Little afternoon tea and coffee awaits you at the famous bar area with a spectacular view over the Makuthswe River covered by old Jackal-berry trees. The Wait A Little team is there to welcome you. Gerti or Susie 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 the dining area, furnished with modern and antique African art.

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The first night, with all its fantastic sounds and noises, is probably the most exciting one. Accommodation for the first three nights are in modern, thatched canvas camps with ensuite bathrooms, equipped with an outside shower and a lookout bath, mounted on platforms above the Makhutswe River at the Wait A Little main camp.



## DAY 2 AND 3 WAIT A LITTLE

We wake you early with tea or coffee followed by a light breakfast. Rested and strengthened 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 mornings and app. 2 hours in the afternoon. Tracking animals dictate where we go, whenever we have a chance, we enjoy sporty canters jumping little logs or going for some challenging bushwhacking. However hopefully we will be spending time with animals like giraffe, maybe lions, elephants, rhinos, cheetahs, sometimes with cubs, hippos in dams, where you will also find plentiful birdlife or crocodiles, just to name some of the species we might encounter.

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 arrives, siesta. You can spend your well deserved rest in your room or at the swimming pool, maybe you would like to improve your knowledge about Africa by reading one of the books provided in our library. We also have a qualified therapist who could treat you to a relaxing massage. There is also a little shop where you can acquire some of our merchandise material. From fleeces, fleecy jackets and sweatshirts to shirts, T-shirts, golf tops, hats, beanies to a beaded collection there is a beautiful and fashionable selection of safari outfits available.

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 colourful sunset!

## DAY 4 RIDE TO CLIVE'S CAMP

Waking to the rich colours of the sunrise we get ready for a nice long ride. Entering the Makalali Private Game Reserve, dominated by huge open plains where you might find yourself cantering next to giraffes, zebras or wildebeest. We enjoy spectacular views, over big distances which show you the way to Clive's Camp our accommodation for the next two nights.

The "Clive's Safari Lodge" offers 5 private luxurious chalets with thatched roofs. All chalets have a wooden deck, en-suite bathroom as well as a private outside shower, air-con and ceiling fans for your comfort. We provide in each room tea & coffee facilities for the early cup in the morning and your terrace offers wonderful views over a waterhole and an open savannah.

The lodge has two outside sitting areas with campfire & barbecue and a large pool for a pleasant dip - not only in the hot summer months! Stunning views over the open plains surrounding the lodge, ensures a unique experience and the night-illuminated waterhole provides even more opportunities for excellent wildlife photography.

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Claudia and Robin will be our hosts, both are dedicated bush people with many years of guiding experience. But most importantly for this safari, both are also excellent chefs who often organise so called “cooking safaris” where well known chefs cook together with the safari guests, making this ride to a culinary experience of excellency. Watching Robin cook in the open plan kitchen of Clive’s camp, wine in hand, after a long exhilarating ride is so relaxing and soothing, enjoying conversations about food, wildlife, horses or whatever topic might arise. The dining area is beautifully furnished by Tessa, the owner with a mix of very modern and African design, a huge table invites for long conversations and the fireplace makes evenings in winter very cosy.



## DAY 5 BUSH LUNCH

A full day ride awaits us riding along the Makuthswe River with many pools where we might find hippos and crocodiles. Many animals prefer the river systems like Nyala, Kudu and Bushbuck. Elephants love digging in the sand for fresh water if the river is not in season and lions often try and find an easy snack. Claudia and Robin will await us with one of their wonderful bush brunches under one of the biggest sycamore fig trees along the river.

After our return mid afternoon we can spend the time relaxing at camp watching Robin cook, enjoying a massage or simply just jump in the pool to refresh after a long ride!

Later we take you on a 4 x 4 game drive to watch wildlife getting active after a warm African day and nocturnal animals awakening to get ready for the night. We will return to camp after dusk to be met at the so called “boma” area, where Robin awaits us with local cuisine. Enjoy the campfire under the night sky as well as the “Out of Africa” atmosphere and listen to the voices of the night ... a perfect way to end an exciting and unique day.

## DAY 6 RIDE TO XUDULU

Today we will again ride along the Makhutswe River to find our way to XiDulu. Crossing another big open area where often huge numbers of wildebeests, zebras and giraffes occur. Sometimes one is lucky to see wild dogs crossing the path.

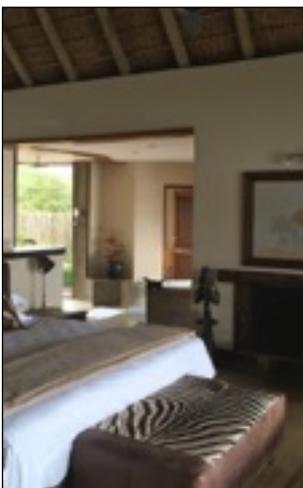
XiDulu is built at the edge of a dam with a resident pod of hippos. Marvel at the big numbers of game from the deck of your chalet or the viewing platform or even better whilst enjoying the infinity pool. A huge crocodile lives in the dam too and guests have seen leopard trying to take on the smaller versions.

XiDulu’s rooms are all equipped with inside and outside showers, baths, air-con 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 bush and wildlife. In an open top Landrover he will follow the directions of the signs left by the big cats during the day. After a Gin & Tonic watching the sunset, the drive continues into the night where, with luck, some of the nocturnal wildlife will show its face. Bushbabies, owls, may be even a leopard, will complete your day's excitement.

Robin has followed us to XiDulu, where we are also able to watch him create more of his excellent dinners which are served either in the dining area or outside around the fire place under the stars at the waters edge.



## DAY 7 TRADITIONAL DINNER UNDER THE STARS

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. Often Philip or Rusty spend the whole morning tracking black rhino, which are plentiful in this area.

The afternoon is open to either join another one of Patson's grand game drives or to simply enjoy the beauty of the lodge.

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Tonight Claudia and Robin will take you to a stunning open area, where they prepare a traditional so called Potjie, mostly made of african venison. Under the stars in the best company, telling stories of the bush we spend the evening.



### **DAY 8 AND 9 RETURN TO WAIT A LITTLE**

Today we make our way across the reserve for our return trip to Wait A Little. With the backdrop of the Drakensberg mountains pass waterholes and dams, following tracks of hyenas or lions we make our way "home".

At Wait A Little the remaining team eagerly awaits your exciting tales, which animals did you see, did you have any exciting encounters, what did Robin cook for you?

Now you have to be content with Wait A Little's cuisine. Susie, Philip or Gerti will try and match Robin's cooking by preparing something special like Italian pasta or on the last night - perhaps game fillets, such as Kudu or Eland to crown the final evening.

During the day we will go on rides in the mornings and in the afternoon, again leaving it to the tracks of the animals to find our path.

### **DAY 10 DEPARTURE DAY**

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 and we are looking forward to seeing you next year again.