

WAIT A LITTLE

African Big Five Horse Safari

Wait A Little Horse Safaris (PTY) LTD Reg. number: 2004/007893/07
Private Bag X3008, Suite 123, Hoedspruit 1380, South Africa, cell.:(+27)-(0)83-273 9788
safari@waitalittle.co.za www.africanhorsesafari.com

IMPORANT INFORMATION ABOUT WAIT A LITTLE HORSE SAFARIS

Location and Terrain: Against the backdrop of the Drakensberg mountains, Wait A Little Horse Safaris rides over an area of 35 000 ha (75 000 acres) prime African bushveld on the Karongwe Private Game Reserve and the Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve. The reserves have various ecosystems ranging from thick bush to open plains, woodlands, hills and koppies, to riverines and gullies. Our river systems are extensive and are the lifeline of the region and support an impressive population of big trees, plants and wildlife. We are located one hour from the Phalabora Gate of the Kruger National Park, between Hoedspruit and Tzaneen in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

Weather: We are blessed with almost year-round sunshine. It can get rather hot in the summer months (October-March), averaging 32°C; don't be surprised to find your late afternoon growing heavy with pregnant clouds and being punished with short drenching thunderstorms. Winter (April-August) is a sunny season of chilly early mornings, warm to hot middays (25°C) and cool to cold nights (can get down to 5°C and less at night in June and July).

What Game Do We Have on the Reserves? Game is plentiful and includes elephant, black and white rhino, lion, leopard, buffalo, cheetah, spotted and brown hyena, sometimes wild dogs, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, kudu, bushbuck, steenbok, duiker, impala, waterbuck, blackbacked and sidestriped jackal, honey badger, baboon, vervet monkey, mongoose, warthog, bushpig and tortoise. Amongst the endemic nocturnal creatures of special interest are porcupine, aardvark, civet, genet, caracal, serval and spring hare; water species are hippo, crocodile, otter and terrapins. A wide variety of bird species can be seen, particularly at big dams and along rivers.

ACCOMMODATION

Wait A Little Camp: Wait A Little has got 4 brand new rooms overlooking the Makuthswe River.

Room 1,2 and 4: These rooms can easily be converted from double rooms with a super king size extra length bed to twin rooms with three-quarter size extra length single beds. They have an en-suite bathroom with and outside shower, a bath overlooking the Makuthswe River, toilet and washbasin. The verandas outside are both under thatch and uncovered.

Room 3: This is twice the size of the others, with two king size double beds and a seating area. As with all our rooms the generous veranda outside is both under thatch and uncovered. This room has an additional viewing deck and an extra toilet for privacy. The en-suite bathroom also has an outside shower as well as a bath overlooking the river. This room is great for families or people that have to share not knowing each other.

All rooms have ceiling fans, hairdryers, different plug options including USB ports and adapters (two point to SA and English adapters). Toiletries are supplied including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, soap, vanity kits and sewing kits.

All rooms are equipped with mosquito netting and insect repellent. All rooms have electricity with hot and cold water. Our water is excellent drinking water. Wifi is available in the main area of the camp, please ask for the code.

After an exciting, hot day you may enjoy a drink at our bar: The fridge is always kept well stocked with cool drinks and ice and you are welcome to help yourself at any time; or you may prefer to relax at the swimming pool. Our lounge area is equipped with a generous supply of reference books, giving you the chance to read about the flora and fauna of South Africa. Please feel free to browse in our adjacent shop at any time; it also

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doubles as our massage sala, where our qualified therapist will be delighted to offer full body or back, neck and shoulder massages.

Beacon Rock: Sleep out camp, situated on a rock formation, the highest point in the area, with a magnificent view over the Lowveld Escarpment. We sleep on mattresses under the stars, with a huge campfire, enjoying the sounds of the night.

XiDulu: Is a stunning private lodge within the Greater Makalali Game Reserve exclusively used by the owners and Wait A Little guests. Situated at the edge of a large dam, Xidulu affords superb sightings of game as they come to the water to drink along with a huge wealth of birdlife and is complete with its own resident pod of hippos. Generous open-plan accommodation is offered within and a large outside deck area with bar, infinity pool and viewing platform wraps around the lodge. Guest rooms are located along the edge of the dam and through the bushveld. Mangwa (meaning Zebra) is the master suite and is situated directly on the dam with a super-king size bed which can be converted into 2 single beds, a dressing room, bathroom, inside and outside shower, bath overlooking the dam, a fireplace, air conditioning and a private sala. Nhongo (Kudu), Nyala (Nyala) and Hongonyi (Wildebeest): These three rooms are identical to each other with a king size bed (one room can be turned into a twin room), inside and outside shower, bath, viewing deck, air-conditioning and dressing area.

Clive's Camp: 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, aircon 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 the an open savannah. The lodge has two outside sitting areas with campfire & barbeque 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.

Timings and Meals: Wake up time is 5:30 am in summer, 6:30 am in winter. A light breakfast is served in the lounge ½ hour later and another ½ hour later we will depart for our ride.

The length of rides is determined by the weather and the animal activity, but we usually ride for 3-4 hours in the morning and approximately 2 hours in the afternoon.

A generous buffet lunch is served after your return from your morning safari with fresh salads, homemade bread and meats or fish. You are then free to relax in your room or by the pool until afternoon tea is served at 3:30pm or 3 pm in winter, followed by an afternoon ride or game drive (please consult your itinerary).

A sumptuous three-course dinner is served at around 8 pm or 7:30 pm in winter and a fine international cuisine is served. Emphasis is made on venison, pasta, fresh fish if available and lovely barbecues over open fires. Please remind us of any dietary requirements / allergies you may have on arrival

Single room: One single room is provided for single travellers who don't want to share their accommodation without having to pay single supplement.

Single Supplement: 50% single supplement is charged if guests are not prepared to share their room when the single room provided is already occupied. First come first serve basis

ABOUT THE RIDING

Riding Ability: Please note that this horse safari is only for experienced riders. Sporty and long canters require a good level of riding. "Bushwhacking" (winding canters through the bush) is one of our specialties and with a good balance it is great fun. It is of great advantage if you are a fit and proficient rider and used to long hours in the saddle. Please understand, that no novices or inexperienced riders can be taken with on trail and will be dismounted if the riding ability is not sufficient or a danger to the rest of the group.

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Riding Style: The riding style is strict classic on English saddles. The reins are kept long in walk to allow the horses to stride out, but shortened in canter. Please get out of the saddle and use the light seat in canter. A good leg contact is important and riders should have an independent seat not balance themselves on the reins.

How to Ride Our Horses:

- Please leave the reins long in walk so that your horse is able to stride out. Don't hold the reins too short as it makes the horse stiff and uncomfortable and it won't walk forward.
- Have your reins shorter in game situations, tracking an animal or over difficult terrain (such as going up or down hills or riding through thick bush)
- When there is enough space please ride next to each other in walk; only when the terrain doesn't allow it ride in single file
- Please take your reins shorter in canter and stay in single file. Don't pass each other and never overtake the guide
- Never let your horse run downhill, always try and keep it walking. Catch up with the rest of the group when it is safe and even ground
- Please have your hands on the reins at any given time, but in particular in a game sighting and when taking pictures
- Horses are allowed to graze when we are watching animals or standing still, however they should not eat during the ride
- As soon as we dismount please be patient and hold your horse until we help you. Never tie the horse by the reins!
- Please note that each horse needs a different saddle and each saddle is fastened differently. Although we welcome any offers of help, we would appreciate it if you would leave the saddling of the horses to us to prevent any problems.
- We would also appreciate if you would use the mounting block to get on your horse. Please try to mount softly.

Type of Horses: The main breed used is the South African Boerperd, a beautiful and elegant horse, sensitive, responsive, well-tempered, forward going and very brave. Other appropriate breeds are Warmblood-, Shire- and Frisian crosses. Their heights vary between 14.3 and 17 hands. There is a suitable horse (app 40 horses) for the competitive rider as well as for the steady hack. Every effort is made to match horse and rider. All horses are trained in basic dressage in the riding arena in the method the GFN (German National Equestrian Federation) recommends. This ensures your horse is responsive, well mannered and fun to ride. All horses are spirited and forward going, some obviously more than others.

Tack general: Our top priority is the care and well being of our horses and their equipment. All effort is made to fit the right saddle and bridle. The equipment for the trail is carefully chosen to ensure the horses and riders comfort on long distance rides. All tack gets cleaned and checked every day.

Saddles: Stuebben Scout Saddles are used mainly. These saddles were designed for the mounted poilce, they sit perfect on the horses back for many hours and give the riders a very comfortable position. We also use Bates Caprilli Dressage Saddles; This is a wonderful soft saddle in the dressage style, which helps you gain a comfortable seat with longer stirrups for distance rides.

Comfort: We do offer seat savers and sheepskins, but our saddles are so soft, that rarely anyone uses them.

Bridles: Almost all horses go in a loose ring snaffle, however, some horses benefit from a little stronger bit like a Kimbelwick or a Pelham.

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Gear: Breeches and half chaps is the best option, comfortable riding boots, please bring whatever you usually wear to ride in. New equipment is not a good idea, rather come with something you are most comfortable in.

Helmets: We do highly recommend wearing helmets. A light weight riding helmet, preferably with a good circulation is of advantage. We do have a little assortment of chaps and helmets, but best is to bring your own equipment, which fits better and will be more comfortable.

Other Aids: None

Weight Limit: Maximum weight is 95kg (210lbs/15stone).

Length of Rides: Between 4 and 7 hours a day

Guide and Safety on Trail: Rides are lead by Philip Kusseler, a FGASA (Field Guide Association of South Africa) qualified guide, who has gained the highest qualification or Ray Erasmus also well qualified by the association and followed by a back-up rider. All camps and vehicles have radio contact and the armed guide carries a hand held radio. A full safety briefing expanding in detail on the above points and explaining how we approach game sightings will be held at afternoon tea on your arrival day. Please note that an **international medical/travel insurance** is compulsory and clients will be asked to sign an indemnity before going on safari.

Cameras: We do have saddle bags that fit a small to medium sized camera. Big cameras are not advisable as difficult to handle. However if you have to bring one we can fit your camera bag onto the saddle. We do not allow people wearing any camera or bum bags that contain cameras or anything hard around their body.

Smart Phones: Smart Phones take great pictures, but are not so easy to handle from horseback. You can get clips for iPhones and androids at the airport that make them safer to hold in one hand whilst riding. We do ask you to keep the phone on silent and in flight mode on safari.

GoPros: GoPros have become very popular and are a great device for outdoor sports. However they can be very disappointing on a horse safari as the videos mainly consist of people from behind and due to the wide angle lens it's also difficult to make out the animals. It also distracts from the animal sightings. If you really have to bring a GoPro please be advised that you will have to have permission from all other guests and guides that they are willing to be filmed.

Size of Group: Up to a maximum of 7 guests, groups of 8 might be considered.

Children: We do accept children above the age of 12 years and if they are competent riders. We do give 20% discount for children between the age of 12 and 16 years.

Medical: A first aid kit is carried on each ride. At base camp a full medical kit is available. Guides are professional first aiders. The nearest hospital is 45 minutes away.

Malaria: Malaria occurs occasionally in the months of September to May. We are situated next to a river (flowing water) and have hardly any mosquitos and none in the months of June to August. The national health organisation still describes the areas around the Kruger Park as low-risk Malaria areas. Avoid being bitten by the use of an appropriate insect repellent and the wearing of long shirts and trousers especially around sunset and take your anti-malarials as advised by your doctor.

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TOURIST SAFETY

If travelling on to sightsee in built-up urban areas you should take the same precautions as you would in any other large international town or city. Avoid the unnecessary display of valuables including jewellery, cash and audio or visual recording equipment. The rural areas are very safe and especially here at Wait A Little you can be assured to find all our doors open. If travelling by car you should always try to reach your destination before dark; cows and people in the road are the reason that travelling at night is quite dangerous. In general, the South African people are very friendly, helpful and hospitable.

The use of Credit Cards is more advisable than that of large amounts of cash. Traveller cheques are save, but cost you a lot of bank charges and is a nightmare to get exchanged at the local banks. Get cash from the ATM with your Credit Card and your PIN, they offer the best exchange rate, it is quick, safe and you have access to it at any time whilst you are traveling.

QUICK TIPS BEFORE YOU START YOUR JOURNEY

1. Bring the **riding gear** you are the most comfortable in as you will be spending many hours in the saddle, probably more then you are used to. New riding gear needs to be worn in, so not a good idea to do this on an 8 day horse safari where you can spend up to 7 hours in the saddle in a warm climate!
2. Pack some jods and riding shoes in your **hand-luggage**, a change of underwear and a toothbrush and whatever else you think is absolutely necessary. If your bag gets lost during your travels it is of great advantage to have your well fitting riding gear in hand. We can help you out with leisure clothes, chaps, and helmets, but it is good to have some comfortable riding gear (in particular your boots)!
3. We do highly recommend wearing **helmets**. A good ventilated helmet is of advantage. We do have a great collection of helmets, but your own helmet fits better and will be safer!
4. You have to have **medical/travel insurance**. Most insurance companies won't insure you unless you wear a helmet, so be aware of that. Have your travel documents, passports, money and your travel/medical insurance details always close to you! Do not put these items in your luggage or any luggage that might be out of your sight!
5. **Cameras**: We do have saddle bags that fit a small to medium sized camera. Big cameras are not advisable as difficult to handle. However if you have to bring one we can fit your camera bag onto the saddle. We do not allow people wearing any camera or bum bags that contain cameras or anything hard around their body.
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8. Always collect your **luggage** on arrival at Johannesburg Airport and take it through customs. Most of the South African smaller Airports don't have customs clearance! Even if the airline tells you that your luggage can be checked through to Hoedspruit or Phalaborwa, it is not true!!! It will not make it!!!

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9. At Johannesburg Airport there are a lot of **porters** who can be of great help if you are in a hurry to find your check in counter or your gate. However they are sometimes a bit cheeky asking a lot of money. R 50,00 is more than enough to give them when they have been of great help, if they have only pushed the trolley, R 20,00 should be enough.

10. If you travel by car and **police** stop you for speeding or something else you might have done wrong, don't give them any cash money, always ask for a ticket. If they persist, ask to speak to their supervisor. Also the toll gates don't take Credit Cards.