

Tuli Trail - Botswana

Itinerary

Tuli Trail

Tuli Trails are scheduled to run between February and November, avoiding the hottest months of December and January. You will have the first and last night at Two Mashatus camp, and the rest of the time at a number of different bush camps.

Sunday

You will be transferred by air charter. You will be met at Johannesburg International Airport at 11am for the flight which will depart from Johannesburg at c. 12:00 (1 hour flight time). If you are travelling by road on arrival at the Botswana border at Pont Drift you will be met by a representative from Limpopo Horse Safaris.

You should arrive in time for a late lunch in the thatched dining room.

After lunch you change into your riding clothes (so it will be best to pack these near the top of your bag). Then meet your horse and have a short introductory ride to acclimatise both horse and rider to one another. You will have a short introductory ride in the area first and then ride from the stables to your first camp Two Mashatus (if you arrive late you will be transferred in a vehicle to camp).

On arrival at camp celebrate the end of your first day with refreshing sundowners. Dinner and overnight at Two Mashatus.



The following is the likely itinerary for a seven night Tuli Trail. Please note that the itinerary of each ride

may vary due to local conditions, but always with your best interests in mind. The order of camps and particular camps used is not guaranteed.

You ride about 30kms each day on average. The norm is to ride out at first light (c.06.30) and ride for between four and six hours arriving at the new camp for lunch. In the afternoon relax in camp and in the cool of the late afternoon enjoy a bush walk or on one day a game drive. On some days your riding will be split so you will ride in the morning and in the afternoon. The evening rides are normally much steadier and gentle in pace.



Monday

The day begins early with tea or coffee brought to your tent. After a light breakfast the ride heads off from the dense woodland along the Limpopo River towards the shallow rocky hills that mark the edges of the great river valley. Your destination for tonight is Majale River Camp, a rustic series of cabins atop the steep banks of the Majala River. Please note on occasions you return to Two Mashatus for a second night rather than going to Majale River Camp.

After lunch and a siesta, there is a bush walk allowing you the chance to get closer to the smaller wildlife upon the ground. On foot you are able to witness the smaller creatures and plants that are missed from horseback.

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Dinner is prepared over an open fire pit by Martha or Grace, both culinary wizards. Your day draws to a close with the sounds of the bush all around eating your dinner in the thatched lapa overlooking the river.



Tuesday

Today is a long morning ride and your journey takes you through the heart of the Mashatu to the ancient rock formations synonymous with the Limpopo Valley. Long canters sweep past the Giant Baobab trees silently surveying the land as they have done for centuries we follow the ancient elephant trails stamped into the soil. Your ride continues to Kgotla camp, an old tribal court on the banks of the Mocloutse River.

This afternoon you may have the chance to relax a little bit before heading out to the nearby village of Lentswe Le Moriti and afterwards to a stunning sundowner spot in the Mmamagwe Hills overlooking the Mocloutse River. This 'Amphitheatre', is an ancient and awesome rock formation. Here you can discuss the highlights of your day from a rocky outcrop and gaze out over the plains below.

Return to camp for dinner.



Wednesday

A shorter morning ride exploring the sandstone formations, including the famed Solomon's Wall. Ancient civilisations harboured their wealth in between these hills, where two mighty rivers meet – the Limpopo and the Mocloutse.

Later this afternoon you will have the chance to ride again on a quiet evening ride.



Thursday

An early rise and hearty breakfast sets you up for a long day on horseback. Today's ride takes you through mopane bush and across large open plains, where hopefully you will be joined by herds of wildebeest and zebra. You arrive at Liana camp on the banks of the Limpopo River.



Tonight you have the possibility of an evening game drive in search of the big cats. Sundowners are taken in the bush, usually overlooking a Kopje, before returning to camp for another welcome dinner.



Friday

Our ride today meanders its way through the beautiful plains between the Mojali and Majele rivers. This area is abundant with game and offers spectacular views into the Limpopo River valley.

You will ride your way back to base camp, Two Mashatus. With the feel of a returning traveller you will arrive at Two Mashatus where you will have the opportunity to relax by the pool and enjoy the comfort of a permanent camp with its shady tents and ensuite bathrooms.

After some lunch, you will ride to one of the nearby koppies for a sundown drink.

Dinner and overnight at Two Mashatus.



Saturday

Today's riding will hopefully offer great game viewing from horseback as we explore the Pitsane river valley on an all-day ride. The Pitsane has a spring high in the hills, which provides regular drinking holes along its course to draw thirsty herds of game.

History has it, that the area you are riding in today there was a skirmish during the Boer war and Bryces store and an old supply post was destroyed. There was once a stage coach line called Zeederbergs, which ran from the cities of the Transvaal in South Africa to the newly forged settlements of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). These coaches crossed Limpopo and followed the Pitsane River crossing into Zimbabwe. Today a picnic lunch is served in an area of shady Mashatu trees before exploring the area further in the afternoon.

You will return to Two Mashatus camp in the afternoon with time for a cooling drink around the pool.

Dinner is in the Llala palm rondavel. Experience your last evening in the bush, relaxing around the fire pit with the unforgettable sounds of Africa echoing around you.



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Sunday

The last day of your Tuli Trail adventure begins early in the morning. Ride along the Limpopo River, with hopefully the possibility of one last photo of the magnificent elephants. Arrive back at the stables in time for a refreshing shower and change before brunch.

Transfer to Johannesburg. You arrive into Johannesburg in time to connect with a flight back home or to continue your holiday in South Africa.

Accommodation

The Tuli Trail starts from Two Mashatus Camp and normally has the last two nights there too. You also stay at a number of wilderness camps including Majale River Camp, Kgotla Camp and Liana Camp.



Two Mashatus Camp is a semi-permanent tented camp. There are five comfortable and roomy tents, each on its own raised teak platform, with en suite flushing toilets, hot running water and solar lighting in each tent. Two traditionally-built Lala Palm rondavels serve as the Dining Room and Lounge. There is also a small plunge pool with decking to relax beside.



Majale River Camp is made up of rustic cabins set atop the Majale River. It features a beautiful thatched lapa dining and rest area set in the shade of a thicket of old Mashatu trees. Accommodation is made up of two twin room units with each unit sharing a bathroom, with separate flushing toilet and secluded outdoor showers. As well as a large fixed site tent with adjoining outdoor bathroom.



The wilderness camp (Liana Camp) offers accommodation in canvas 'A' frame tents with beds (made up with sheets and duvets) and additional blankets for colder nights. This camp has bucket showers and long-drop loos, which may be shared. The camp is not enclosed and a real treat will be to see game in and around camp.



The Kgotla Camp offers the unique experience of sleeping in the open air in a secure boma. The boma is an open-air traditional African enclosure made up of a circle of Leadwood Logs.



Between 01-March to the 30-November there is one tent which can be allocated to a single person without payment of a supplement - this tent will be strictly allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Once this tent has been allocated the supplement is payable to guarantee a single tent. There is no supplement payable if you are prepared to share a twin tent with someone of the same sex.

If you visit between 01-December through to 28-February there is no single supplement payable on a single tent (applies to genuine solo travellers only).

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