

Okapuka Ranch Stay, Namibia

Itinerary

After settling into your room at Okapuka you are introduced to the horses and have a safety briefing in preparation for your introductory ride. If you arrive at Okapuka before 12:00 in winter and before 14:00 in summer then you should be in time to have a short introductory ride, otherwise this will take place the next day. It is unlikely that you will ride on your first day if you arrive on a Sunday.

The itinerary each week is flexible depending on the wishes of the group, their riding experience and fitness, the time of year and also if there are new riders arriving on a particular day. During the rainy period it may not be possible to ride out in the afternoon when the rain is typically at its heaviest.

The riding day might be a day ride with a picnic lunch in the bush; or morning and afternoon rides or a long morning ride returning to the lodge for lunch and an afternoon free to relax or do other things. Dinner in the restaurant will be served whenever you are ready.



One morning you may ride out over the savanna tracking game: sable, gemsbok, springbok, black and blue wildebeest, giraffe, white rhino and so much more. Return to the stables, un-tack your horses and give them a wash down, before heading to the bar for lunch. The remaining afternoon is free time to relax and enjoy the reserve. Or there might be the opportunity for an afternoon ride. Set out at about 16:30 for a lovely afternoon ride when the light and colours are so different. Your guide may take you to one of the many beautiful spots where you can enjoy the sunset, perhaps with the sound of jackal in the background.



On another day the riding may be split into a morning and an afternoon ride with a delicious picnic during the hottest hours of the day. The table will be laid and ice cold drinks ready waiting. After a short siesta saddle up the horses and slowly ride back to the lodge. Then head quickly to the bar for that well deserved drink.

Some days will be more relaxed as you set off for an easy and relaxing ride on the lookout for the impressive Cape eland and many other species of game. After a few hours in the saddle, lunch will be served back at the lodge. In the afternoon you might choose to go for a hike or a swim or just relax by the pool. If someone is going to Windhoek, then you may be able to take a lift and spend some time in the city. Or maybe you prefer taking the horses out again for a short afternoon ride instead.



Weather and rider ability permitting, a highlight of the week for most people is the spectacular ride into the mountains; an exciting and tough day for both horse and rider. You will be on the lookout for kudu, mountain zebra and klipspringer. The game might be

more difficult to spot than on the flat, but the scenery is wonderful and absolutely worthwhile. Please note that you do have to get off your horse at times due to the rough terrain. You have a short break during the morning and return to the lodge in the early afternoon for lunch. After a restful afternoon, go by vehicle to a lovely spot on the reserve and watch the sun go down.

Depending on your flight departure time, you may have time for a final morning ride (if you are departing after 12:00 midday). You will likely have to vacate your room, but facilities will be made available for you to shower and change before leaving for the airport.