

# African Explorer, South Africa & Botswana

## Itinerary

Please note that the following itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions.

### DAY 1

You will be met at Johannesburg International Airport and transferred to Camp Davidson (a journey of c. 3 hours). Flights should arrive in Johannesburg by 09:15 at the latest.

On arrival at Camp Davidson there should be time to explore the beautiful surroundings and to meet your guides before enjoying a late lunch. This afternoon you will be introduced to your safari horse. You are matched with a horse to suit your ability and experience before heading off on your first ride.

On route through the Matlapeng reserve the ride will take a sundowner break at the Red Dam, where you are likely to encounter the pod of resident hippo, before climbing the ridge to Camp Davidson.



The following is the planned itinerary. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions such as weather. Occasionally you may be upgraded from Camp Davidson to staying actually at the horse's base at Horizon. These changes are always with your best interests in mind

### DAY 2

A day of exploration in the reserve spent tracking giraffe, zebra, eland, wildebeest, kudu and impala. You pass "Sunset Lake" where resident fish eagles and Spur-Winged geese are often spotted and its shallow gives great photo opportunities cantering through the water.

Return back to camp for lunch and a chance to relax by the pool. The afternoon ride provides another opportunity for hippo viewing and some nice canters.

This evening there is the possibility, if the whole group would like it, for a night sky safari with local astronomer Dr Philip Calcott. The absence of light pollution enables incredible chances to view some of the amazing wonders of the universe. This is only possible if the sky is clear of clouds and is payable locally (R300 per person).



### DAY 3

This morning you will set off on a ride tracking the game and possibly enjoy some of the jumping lanes if you would like to jump.

If the weather permits you can finish off with a swim with the horses in one of the many lakes on the reserve before returning to camp for lunch.

After lunch enjoy a sundowner ride exploring the reserve further.



Dinner and overnight back at Camp Davidson.

### DAY 4

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997, Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)

This morning you pack up your belongings and depart from Camp Davidson, riding towards Bellevue Plains, a game reserve, south of Camp Davidson.

This ride offers lovely long canters on sandy tracks and good game viewing opportunities on the open plains with the possibility of seeing wildebeest, hartebeest, sable, eland, cape buffalo and blesbok.



You arrive at Bellevue Plains in time for lunch by the poolside.

After a relaxing lunch break and dip in the pool, this afternoon you explore the reserve further.

You finish the day with sundowners overlooking the plains and dinner on the decking under the stars.

Overnight at a lodge on Bellevue Plains. Usually you stay at Savannah Lodge but on occasion an alternative lodge may be used.



## DAY 5

This morning you mount your horses for a final early morning ride back to Horizon, soaking up the early morning sights and sounds of the African bush. Your ride ends at the horses' base at Horizon Lodge.

You depart from Horizon Lodge at around 09:30 and are transferred by road to the remote eastern corner of Botswana (a journey of 4 to 4 ½ hours).

From the Pont Drift border post you cross the Limpopo River and enter the Tuli Block before arriving at the stables.

An introductory afternoon ride will familiarise you with your horse for this leg of the safari. Arrive at Two Mashatus Camp in time to freshen up before supper.



## DAY 6

Each morning you have an early wake-up call with tea or coffee brought to your tent, followed by breakfast around the campfire.

An early start each day means you enjoy the freshness of the morning and maximise game-viewing opportunities in the hours when wildlife is most active.

The group normally has the choice of a longer morning ride with an afternoon game drive, or two shorter morning and afternoon rides.



You should soon come across the large herds of elephant for which the Tuli Block is renowned, as well as many different species of antelope; also giraffe, zebra, bat-eared fox, jackal, hyena. If you are lucky, you may even spot lion, leopard, wild dog or cheetah.

You arrive back at Two Mashatus Camp for lunch and a cooling afternoon in the shady camp or lazing by the pool.

This afternoon, if the group have decided to have a game drive you have the chance to explore the south western side of the reserve which you will not visit on horseback during the African Explorer safari. This part of the reserve is rich in game with a resident pride of lion. The highlight of the the drive is a sundowner in the ancient landscape of rock formations or the Mmamagwa hills, which offer vast vistas across the reserve.

Return to Two Mashatus Camp for dinner.



### DAY 7

Ride out today following the movements of wildlife in the area and observing and interpreting the world around you. The tempo of the rides is always varied and depending on the terrain there are opportunities to enjoy the spirit and fitness of the horses at a faster pace before returning to camp to freshen up before lunch.

In the afternoon there is a chance to again choose between another ride or a bush walk in the northern area of Mashatu Game Reserve and enjoy the rich birdlife, try to spot crocodile in the pools.

Later return to camp for your final evening.



### DAY 8

The last day of your African Explorer adventure begins early with a final morning ride before arriving back at the stables.



After saying farewell to your horses there is time for a refreshing shower and change before brunch.

You then begin the transfer back to Johannesburg International Airport via Pont Drift border post (departing at c. 11:00, a journey of c. 5½ hours).

Alternatively you can now opt to fly back to Johannesburg by light aircraft (additional supplement payable in advance).

Flights should depart Johannesburg after 20:30.