

Ride and Dine Safari, South Africa

Itinerary

10 days, 9 nights

Day 1

On arrival at camp have a light lunch or afternoon tea (depending on your arrival time). The Wait A Little team, including Philip and Gerti are there to welcome you. Gerti and Susie will introduce you to the safety procedures before you go on your first ride.



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 the horses and riding style. You may even see the first giraffe or zebra. Sundowners, looking out towards the Drakensberg Mountains, are a perfect prelude to the three course dinner, accompanied by South African wines, which awaits you back at camp.

The first night, with all its fantastic sounds and noises, is probably the most exciting one.

Accommodation for these first three nights is at Wait A Little main camp, in spacious old style safari tents with en-suite bathrooms, mounted on platforms above the Makhutswe River.

Please note that although every effort will be made to follow the itinerary as outlined, local conditions may necessitate changes to the order of the itinerary and the wildlife determines your daily activities.

Day 2

Wake up to tea or coffee. After a light, continental breakfast, mount your horses and go on safari.

The order of the day will depend on the weather, but usually you ride for about 3-4 hours in the morning and approximately 2-3 hours in the afternoon. After returning from the morning ride a big lunch awaits with homemade quiches, pizzas or pancakes, freshly baked bread and lots of green salads, meats and cheeses.



After lunch there is the chance to relax with a siesta. Spend your well-deserved rest in your room or at the swimming pool or maybe you would like to improve your knowledge about Africa by reading one of the books provided in the camp library.

Afternoon tea and coffee strengthen for your next adventure. The afternoon ride ends at a beautiful sundowner spot where drink in hand, you can enjoy an often colourful sunset!

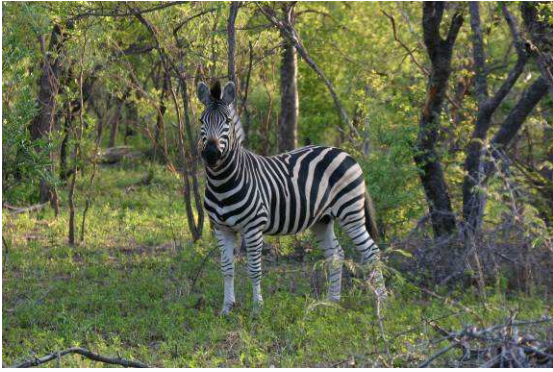
Day 3

Another exciting day awaits. The morning is similar to the one on day 2.

This afternoon unwind at camp. Have a siesta by the pool or enjoy a massage to ease away any aches or strains. There is a well-prepared massage sala where everything is there for your comfort. Today there is also usually the chance to acquire some of Wait A Little's merchandise material. From fleeces, fleecy jackets and sweatshirts to shirts, T-shirts, golf tops, hats, beanies to beads there is a beautiful and fashionable selection of safari outfits available.

Day 4

Waking to the rich colours of the sunrise you get ready for a long ride. Entering the Greater Makalali Game Reserve, dominated by huge open planes, where you might find yourself cantering next to giraffes, zebras or wildebeest. Spectacular views over large distances show you the way to Clive's Camp, your base for the next two nights.



The afternoon siesta is followed by a game drive. An open top Landrover will follow the directions of your native tracker as he reads the signs left by the big cats during the day. After a long, slow Gin, watching the sunset, the drive continues into the night, where, with luck, some of the nocturnal wildlife will be seen. Bushbabies, owls, maybe even a leopard, may complete your day's excitement.

Day 5

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

Today you will ride towards XiDulu camp.

A lovely 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.



Arrival at camp rewards you with a view of the big dam that lies in front of the camp and has a resident pod of hippos. The camp is surrounded by a huge open plain where giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, kudu, warthog and a big herd of eland can often be seen. Plus the occasional swimming elephant! As with all the other Makalali camps, accommodation at XiDulu camp is in private chalets, each equipped with an en-suite bathroom, outdoor shower and a private veranda for your relaxation.

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.



Day 7

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.



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

Today promises to be another full day in the saddle as you make your way across the reserve for the return to Wait A Little. Lunch is a saddlebag picnic along the way.

At home, the Wait A Little team eagerly awaits your exciting tales, which are the perfect accompaniment to one last, sad farewell sundowner on Wait A Little's open plain. The African fever is sure to have taken hold and the good bye can be hard. But it mustn't be pre-empted, for there is one last sumptuous dinner to be enjoyed, when Gerti chooses something special – perhaps game fillets, such as Kudu or Eland.



Day 9

Today will be your last full ride around Wait A Little. You may have a chance to get those last amazing shots of the animals which have managed to escape the camera so far! The chance for a final canter with Giraffe or Zebra maybe?

The afternoon brings the sad task of having to choose what your last afternoon activity will be.

Day 10

An early wake up will get you on the horses quickly, so we can enjoy a final short, sporty ride.

You will then be transferred to the airport

Accommodation

Wait A Little has 4 spacious tents on platforms overlooking the Makuthswe River.



Tents 1, 2 and 4 are double rooms that be easily be converted into twins. Tent 3 is larger with two double beds, but there is space to add a single bed too

(making it ideal as a triple for friends to share), it also has two toilets (one inside, one outside).

There is also a bar and a swimming pool and the main area is equipped with a library with books on the local wildlife.

On this safari you will stay two nights at XiDulu Camp, a luxurious lodge on nearby Makalali Game Reserve. Should XiDulu Camp be unavailable then another Makalali Lodge of a similar standard will be used.

XiDulu Camp is stunning. The big dam in front of the camp has a resident pod of hippos and the camp is surrounded by a huge open plain where giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, kudu, warthog and a big herd of eland can often be seen. Plus the occasional swimming elephant!



The individual chalets are comfortably furnished with large double beds, en-suite bathrooms and private veranda areas.



If you are willing to share a tent and room then there is no single supplement charged. If you wish to guarantee your own tent and room throughout, then there is a supplement of 50% of the safari price.

There is one single available at no supplement - staying in the rondavel at Wait A Little and a single at XiDulu.

You will also stay two nights at the luxurious Clive's Camp.



Clive's camp is an open and spacious lodge, with a lovely swimming pool to relax beside, plus a very comfortable braai area.



The rooms are well furnished and most have outdoor verandas to relax upon.



What to Bring

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com