SOUTH AFRICA - WAIT A LITTLE - WAIT A LITTLE BIG FIVE SAFARI

ITINERARY

Day 1

You should fly to Johannesburg and then on to Hoedspruit. We can arrange transfers from Hoedspruit.

When looking at flights into Hoedspruit, we recommend the flight arriving c.13.00 to allow more time for your connection in Johannesburg. On departure, please choose the later flight leaving at c. 14:00 which gives time for your last morning ride.

You can also transfer to Wait A Little by road from Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport (a journey of c. 5 hours). For this road transfer your flight should arrive into Johannesburg by 08:00. The shared transfer departs from Johannesburg between 09:00 and 10:00 and so there may be a short wait for other guests arriving at similar time.

Return flights from Johannesburg should depart after 19:00 to allow time for either a road transfer or internal flight back to Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport.

Arrive at Wait A Little camp. If your room isn't quite ready after departing guests there are plenty of lovely places in camp to sit and relax. Over a light lunch or perhaps afternoon tea and coffee, have a ride briefing during which the schedule, the rules and safety measures of the safari will be discussed. Your hosts would like you to mention anything that could influence your riding at this point, for example that you are feeling nervous, or if you have any specific horse preferences.

After you have been matched to your horse, there is a short orientation ride to give you time and confidence with your horse and the riding style. You may even see the first giraffe or zebra.

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Return to camp for a three course dinner, accompanied by South African wines. This is taken in the dining area, which is furnished with African art.

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

Tents 1, 2 and 4 are double rooms that can 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.

Day 2

Wake up to tea or coffee. After a light early breakfast set off for a trail ride through the Reserve. Now the search for wild game can really begin. Your guide

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will show you the tracks made by the game and take you to good viewing areas in the reserve.

The weather will determine the day's ride, but usually you ride for 3-4 hours in the morning and 2-3 hours in the afternoon.

Black Rhino in dense woodland.

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!

Overnight Wait A Little.

Day 3

Another exciting day awaits. The morning is similar to the one on day two, but today you go on a game drive in the afternoon.

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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.

Overnight Wait A Little.

Day 4

Whatever tracks the guide finds he will try to follow. On your morning ride, perhaps an elephant track might lead towards the Kufunyame River, where huge palm trees and tall river reeds provide a good meal for an elephant.

In the afternoon pack your bags and leave for another camp. The luggage will be brought by vehicle, whilst you set off on horseback. Ride south, passing with baited breath between the twin rock formations of Lion and Leopard Hill. The gently undulating roads in this area lend themselves to long easy canters. Giraffe, zebra or wildebeest may pick up the pace and run by your side, elegantly manoeuvring through the veldt.

Beacon Rock, your fly camp for the night, is situated at a giant rock formation. A quick scramble up to the top rewards you with a spectacular panoramic view over the whole reserve and the perfect vantage point to witness a stunning red sunset fall over the high Drakensberg Escarpment.

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Spend the night under the stars, around a campfire with your horses. Steaks or chops, cooked over the open fire, with baked potatoes and salads are the perfect food to help you into a deep sleep tonight. Listen to the call of the hyena or jackal which might visit the camp in the night.

Overnight Beacon Rock. Beacon Rock is a sleep out camp, situated on a rock formation, the highest point in the area, with a magnificent view over the Lowveld Escarpment. Sleep on mattresses under the stars or under a shelter, having a huge camp fire going, and enjoying the sounds of the night.

Day 5

Awake to the rich colours of sunrise and revive the fire for coffee and breakfast before embarking on a long ride (approx five hours). Enter the Makalali Game Reserve, which is dominated by huge open plains. Arrive at the luxury XiDulu camp, your base for the next two nights.

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The horses take a break in the afternoon while you join a game drive in the search of game that you cannot approach on horseback. Lion and leopard can sometimes be found, hopefully even on a kill. Return to camp for dinner, which is served in the dining area or outside around the fireplace under the stars.

Overnight XiDulu. 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.

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Day 6

Today go exploring, cutting through the veldt at a canter, twisting and turning around the trees ("bushwhacking") with your surefooted horse carrying you nimbly through the undergrowth, having just as much fun as you. Here and there a tree, felled by an elephant, provides an irresistible jump. Or perhaps the eland, or kudu, seeing you pass, fall in to run in front of you showing the best path to follow. At the top of the hill you pause for thought, as mile after mile of unspoiled Africa stretches away before you.

Have lunch at XiDulu, enjoying fresh salads, meats and cheeses served on banana leaves, while watching nyala, waterbuck, kudu or other little animals roaming the dam.

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During your siesta watch the hippo in the dam. Let them entertain you, playing in the water, rolling and laughing. With luck, a crocodile will be relaxing on a sandbank, enjoying the warm sunshine.

Later enjoy another irresistible game drive.

Overnight XiDulu.

Day 7

A nice ride home lies ahead of you today, leaving the Makalali camp XiDulu behind and riding back to Wait A Little. What will be seen on the way? This is always open to the wildlife, tracks of elephant, lion, rhino, and giraffe determine the guide's path. Home at Wait A Little the team eagerly awaits your exciting tales whilst you enjoy another fantastic lunch.

The last sundowner on Wait A Little's open plain will be a sad, but beautiful ride and an impressive unique experience. The African fever might have caught you and the good bye can be hard. For your farewell dinner there is something

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special - perhaps game fillets like kudu or eland served on pasta with sherry sauce.

Overnight Wait A Little.

Day 8

An early wake up for a short and sporty ride, before finishing your packing and checking out.

You will be transferred to Hoedspruit airport.

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