

## **About Hidden Trails**



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Hidden Trails**

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: <u>info@hiddentrails.com</u> Website: <u>www.hiddentrails.com</u>

#### Address

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

#### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

# Waterberg Big 5 Adventure - South Africa, Southern Africa

8 days / 7 nights ~\$3,870.00 Dates: Available all Year

Trip Rating : •••••
Difficulty : ••••• Lodging: A\*☆

Tack: Trail saddles (some English Horses: Boerperd, Thoroughbred, Anglo Arab and.. Pace: Depending on weather, sightings and gu. Walk, Trot, Canter,

#### Airport: Johannesburg











### Introduction

Waterberg, South Africa

Discover the Entabeni Reserve of South Africa, its wildlife and nature from the back of a horse: an overwhelming

Travel as the first settlers did many years ago: listen to the rhythmic sound of hooves galloping on paths used only by animals, the horses breathing breaking the silence, the pungent aroma of horse sweat in the air... We aim to convey a feeling of traveling back in time, disconnecting form everyday life and taking time to absorb the peace and tranquility of an African safari.

On this safari, you will experience pure adrenaline mixed with an ever-changing scenery and variety of wildlife, which will give you a true sense of freedom and excitement.

If you would like to design your own safari, we can accommodate a minimum of two people and maximum of eight, on our private rides. This is ideal for people who cannot travel on set dates or would like to base the ride at one or two lodges, or travel for a shorter number of days

#### Accomodation



This is a progressive ride, so nights will be spent in different locations.

You will be staying at different deluxe bush camps and lodges. We reserve the right to use alternative lodges on the reserve should the outlined be fully booked. Should this occur, guests will stay at a lodge of the same

Cell service is usually available most of the time while riding in the reserve. Our guides always have a radio to keep in touch at any time.

Accommodation Itinerary for 8-day program - subject to changes based on availability Night 1 & 2: Fly Camp

Night 3: Wildside Tented Camp

Night 4: Camp under the stars

Night 5 & 6: Kingfisher Lodge

Night 7: Hanglip Lodge

Accommodation Itinerary for 6-day program - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Fly Camp

Night 2: Wildside Tented Camp

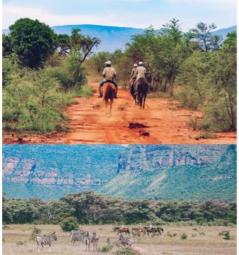
Night 3: Camp under the stars

Night 4: Kingfisher Lodge Night 5: Wildside Tented Camp

Note that from June to August, our night under the stars will be substituted by dome tents as the nights become









#### Wildside Tented Camp

It is one of the most charming accommodations on the reserve, with a real African wilderness feel. It is located on the lower escarpment and offers 20 comfortable en-suite tented chalets, all equipped with a tea/coffee station, a minibar (stocked on request), a ceiling fan and a hairdryer.

This camp is fully equipped with Wi-Fi access and electricity



#### Fly Camp

Our fly camp is set up exclusively for the group booked and can be broken down in 24 hours (leaving no trace of our passage). We choose the location for its natural beauty, safety and ambience so to allow guests to experience the true wilderness and spend a few days under traditional style canvas tents. Our Fly Camp is usually set up by natural rock pools, allowing guest to relax in the sun or swim when water levels are high.

Each tent can sleep two people, in military style bed frames with a comfortable mattress and white linen and duvets. The tents are high enough to walk in comfortably and are finished with a carpet and a bedside table. The tents are connected between each other with lantern lit pathways. Facilities are shared (long drop loo and bucket shower). There is no Wi-Fi access.

Dinners in the riverbed, are a must at this location as well as cozy evenings by the fire after the days ride to discuss the happening of the day.

#### Camping under the stars (weather dependent)

This mobile camp is set up for our riders only and is situated in a remote area of the reserve. Clients sleep under mosquito nets. There is a kitchen tent, dining tent, a basic wash up area with hand towels and toiletries and central soma area (open fire)

A sleeping bag will be provided (no need to bring your own). Hot water bottles in your bed in winter and steering hot showers (hung form a tree) are available during your stay. The true African experience.

There is no electricity or Wi-Fi in camp, but lanterns set the scene as the sun sets, for romantic evenings around the fire, in true wilderness.

#### Kinafisher Lodae

Ideally located on the banks of Lake Entabeni, this stunning lodge offers 8 suites. Each suite features an ensuite bathroom, a tea & coffee station, ceiling fan, a safe, a heater and a fireplace

As the most luxurious of all the upper escarpment lodges, the ambience is inviting with stylish décor and custom designed furniture.

There is a swimming pool and a beautiful wooden deck where guests can relax in the evening.

This beautiful 5-star lodge offers luxurious accommodations with beautiful views. The rooms are spacious and come equipped with a private sun deck, tea and coffee station, ceiling fan, air conditioning and private facilities. There is a pool and free Wi-Fi access.

Room Occupancy
If you are willing to share, the single supplement fee does not apply.









All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day.

<u>Dietary Restrictions</u>
We can cater to most dietary restrictions if given prior notice. Unfortunately, we are unable to cater to celiacs (but gluten-free diets are okay) and vegans.



## Riding



Our horse safari groups are small, and we ensure personal attention is given to our guests. There is one lead guide and a backup guide for each safari.

## Terrain & Riding Experience

Challenging terrain at times, with steep slopes. Leading the horse will sometimes be necessary. We accept strong intermediate riders on our safari and adapt the riding pace to the group. Everyone should feel comfortable at a walk, trot and canter in open spaces.

### Itinerary



NOTE: Please note that due to changes in weather and other unforeseen events, the itineraries and accommodations used may change at the last minute.

The lower part of the reserve is home to the Big 5 (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and African buffalo) while the upper escarpment is a rhino reserve with plenty of giraffes and other ungulates. There are no lions and no elephants on the upper escarpment.

Sample Itinerary: 8-day program - subject to changes

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival







You will be met at OR Tambo international Airport, by one of our representatives, to be transferred to Entabeni Game Reserve (about a 2.5 hour drive), heading North to reach the World Heritage Waterberg Biosphere

You will be welcomed by our team, at our "fly camp" set at the nearby farm in an area where buffalo roam abundantly as well as the rare sable antelone which we hope to see on horseback

Lunch is served, and you will receive a brief on the days to come. After we know a little more about you and your preferences, you will be matched with your horse.

You will depart for your afternoon intro ride, and later, you will enjoy sundowners on the wood deck, looking over the waterhole.

At dinner, the staff will welcome you with some traditional singing and a three-course meal under the African sky. Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Fly camp (Ikhava Nyati farm)

#### Day 2 (Sunday): Game Reserve Ride

Early wake up and breakfast before you set off on a 2.5 hour ride and come back for lunch at camp. You can have a rest and reset in the wonderful surroundings before your afternoon ride, enjoying drinks around the fire.

This is your last night at fly camp. Your bags will be packed for the following days move.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Fly camp (Ikhava Nyati farm)

#### Day 3 (Monday): Entabeni Ride

Wake to the sound of the bush coming to life, with hot water boiling on the fire. You will ride out of the reserve, and to a beautiful spot, for your brunch under a fig tree. Today will be the day to change or try a new horse should you want to

You will ride to the gate of Entabeni reserve and enter big 5 territory. We ride to the permanent tented camp, where you will arrive in time for a short break to settle in. Your luggage will be waiting in your rooms, and the horses will

Your game drive vehicle and guide will be waiting at 3:30 pm (in winter) or 4:00 pm (in summer) to take you on a 3-hour game drive, with a stop for sundowner drinks. There is a pool, so you may opt to skip the game drive if you would prefer some time at the pool

Have your camera ready, to hopefully capture lion or elephants up close!

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Wildside tented camp

#### Day 4 (Tuesday): Ride Up the Escarpment

A light breakfast will be served, and you have the opportunity of another early morning game drive (only possible during summer), followed by breakfast at the lodge. Your bags will be ready for our logistics team to collect.
You will be transferred to the horses which will be waiting at the reserve gate, and you will set off to explore the

reserve heading in a different direction and new terrain, with the possibility of encountering different species of

You will go up to the upper escarpment following a trail which was made by woman in 1994 and is the steepest manmade road in southern Africa. For that reason, you will have to partially lead you horse up (dismount) so please let us know in advance if you require a vehicle to take you up the 600 meter road, which is at a 40 degree slant on the toughest areas.

You will have a beautiful lunch set up at the natural rock pools on the way up, to arrive at top section of the reserve, where you will be surprised by the open plains, and such different scenery. Rhinos are abundant here, and heavily protected, creating a sanctuary for them.

You will spend a night under the stars, with mosquito nets. Camp will be lit up with lanterns and candles before your three-course dinner is served.

Meals included: Breakfast Tunch & Dinner

Overnight Camping under the stars (weather dependant)

#### Day 5 (Wednesday): Ride to Kingfisher Lodge

Today, you wake up before dawn. Your horses will be ready for a "night ride" to reach a breathtaking spot at the top of the mountain, to watch the sunrise, with coffee in hand. Come back to camp for breakfast, taking in the views before you depart to the next lodge.

On your arrival, a well deserved lunch awaits, as you take in the views and hopefully see some hippos in the lake. You may make use of the pool, before your afternoon ride, in search for hippo, giraffe and rhino amongst other such as eland and other abundant game.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Kingsfisher Lodge

#### Day 6 (Thursday): Entabeni Ride

Early start with tea, coffee and biscuits at the lodge, before your game drive or bush walk. Come back to a wonderful breakfast followed by your half day ride. You will come back to the lodge for lunch and some time to

In the afternoon, you will set off on your ride covering the other side of the reserve.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Kingsfisher Lodge

#### Day 7 (Friday): Ride Down

You will have the option of a game drive or bush walk, before breakfast. Your bags will be collected by the team, and you will set off on a long ride (5 hours) to the lower part of the reserve again.

Ride sandy tracks with great canter opportunity, to arrive at Hanglip Lodge, with views to the mountain you just came down. This colonial feel lodge, has a spa should you wish to book a massage (extra charge, payable at lodge)

Afternoon will be spent at leisure or game drive as preferred.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hanglip Lodge

#### Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Early morning, after breakfast you will go on your last morning ride, on the lower escarpment of the reserve,

You might be able to squeeze in a game drive early enough before your ride.

Our driver will be ready to transfer you to the airport for your flight.

Meals included: Breakfast





Sample Itinerary: 6-day program - subject to changes

Note that this program can be shortened (minimum of 4 night's stay).

#### Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

You will be met at OR Tambo international Airport, by one of our representatives, to be transferred to Entabeni Game Reserve (about a 2.5 hour drive), heading North to reach the World Heritage Waterberg Biosphere.

You will be welcomed by our team, at our fly camp. The area allows for wonderful sightings of buffalo, as well as giraffe. During your afternoon ride, you will be welcomed by the team, with traditional songs and drinks before you head back to camp for a three course meal prepared over the fire.

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Fly camp (Ikhaya Nyati farm)

#### Day 2 (Monday): Entabeni Ride

Wake to the sound of the bush coming to life and depart on your early morning ride. En route, you will stop at a beautiful shaded spot, close to the stables for an opulent brunch. You will then continue the ride to Entabeni, and head for a short game drive to Wildside tented camp where you will arrive in time for dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Wildside tented camp

#### Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride Up the Escarpment

After morning game drive and breakfast, the horses will be waiting for you for your ride through big 5 territory. You will go up to the upper escarpment following a trail which was made by woman in 1994 and is the steepest man made road in southern Africa. For that reason, you will have to partially lead you horse up (dismount) so please let us know in advance if you require a vehicle to take you up the 600 meter road, which is at a 40 degree slant on the toughest areas.

You will have a beautiful lunch set up at the natural rock pools on the way up, to arrive at top section of the reserve, where you will be surprised by the open plains, and such different scenery. Rhinos are abundant here, and heavily protected, creating a sanctuary for them.

Arrive at the top of the mountain, where you go to your star gazing tents (or dome tents weather depending). The views onto the plains are spectacular, and you can expect abundance of game right at your "doorstep".

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight Camping under the stars (weather dependant)

#### Day 4 (Wednesday): Mountain Ride

Early start before sunrise. Our horses will be waiting with tea and coffee in your saddle bags. Today, you will ride to the peak of the mountain to view the reserve from the highest point, only accessible by horseback.

Come back to camp for breakfast and head out to the lodge, arriving in time for lunch.

In the afternoon, you have the option of a ride or game drive. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight Kingfisher Lodge

### Day 5 (Thursday): Ride Down

After a game drive this morning, you will have breakfast at the lodge before riding back down the escarpment. To

go down, we will not have a support vehicle, but it is not strenuous and worth the "leg stretch". You will ride through big game territory again, to arrive at the gates of Entabeni from where you will be transferred to your lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon, you will have a game drive.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Wildside tented camp

#### Day 6 (Friday): Departure

After breakfast you will have the opportunity for a 2.5 hour "goodbye ride". After this you will say farewell to the horses and depart to the airport. Meals included: Breakfast

## Other Info

Airport: Johannesburg

Transfer: Johannesburg Airport

Pick-up and Drop-off transfers are available from/to Johannesburg International Airport for an extra fee. Transfers might also be possible from Pretoria City - please inquire.

Trail saddles (some English saddles available) Tack:

Snaffle bits

Horses: Boerperd, Thoroughbred, Anglo Arab and mix

Depending on weather, sightings and guests fitness (4-6 hours in the saddle per riding day Pace:

- approx 15km daily)

Some longer canters where possible. Mostly walking and tracking game.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: (4 to 5 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

Age: Min 12 Weight: 210 lbs / 95 kg

Riders: Min 2 riders May 8 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

## Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-SAPR01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals with drinks at fly camp, Activities as described in itinerray & Taxes Sadlebags provided

A sleeping bag is provided when camping under the stars (weather dependant)

## **Packages and Options**

A 2024 8 day Safari €3520  Single supplement (if not willing to share) €240  B 2024 6 day Safari €2640				
Single supplement (if not willing to share)         €240           B 2024         6 day Safari         €2640	Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
B 2024 6 day Safari €2640	A 2024	8 day Safari	€3520	\$3870
170 - 170 -		Single supplement (if not willing to share)	€240	\$265
Single supplement (if not willing to share) €150	B 2024	6 day Safari	€2640	\$2905
		Single supplement (if not willing to share)	€150	\$165

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

## **Transfer Option**

### Description

2024	Transfer from/to Johannesburh airport, pp, return (2 pax only)	€280	\$290
2024	Transfer from/to Johannesburh airport, pp, return (3+ pax only)	€120	\$125

-	ur Dates			
Se	ason	Tour Dates		
A	2024	02/03/2024 - 02/10/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	02/11/2024 - 02/16/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	02/17/2024 - 02/24/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	03/02/2024 - 03/09/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	03/10/2024 - 03/15/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	03/16/2024 - 03/23/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	03/24/2024 - 03/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	04/06/2024 - 04/13/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	04/14/2024 - 04/19/2024	6d/5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	04/20/2024 - 04/27/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	04/28/2024 - 05/05/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	05/12/2024 - 05/17/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	06/09/2024 - 06/14/2024	6d/5n	6 day Safari
В	2024	07/14/2024 - 07/19/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	08/11/2024 - 08/16/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	09/15/2024 - 09/20/2024	6d/5n	6 day Safari
Α	2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	10/13/2024 - 10/18/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	11/02/2024 - 11/09/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	11/10/2024 - 11/15/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari
A	2024	11/24/2024 - 12/01/2024	8d/7n	8 day Safari
A	2024	12/07/2024 - 12/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day Safari
В	2024	12/15/2024 - 12/20/2024	6d / 5n	6 day Safari

## Min/Max: 2/8

Shorter program available (min 4 nights) - please inquire

Rates do not include: Optional SPA activities, Optional night drives, Additional game drives, Airport transfers, Drinks at the lodge & Gratuities

# **Reservation Form**

Tour:	Code #:	from: to :
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female Single room / Or tent Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height Weight Specific Specifi
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Special Diets:		
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor How long	g have you been riding?
How often do you ride?	Have you been on other	riding tours? No Yes last trip when?
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local	al airport/station: I would	l like the transfer to be included: YES NO
In an emergency, name and phone number of	contact:	
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have to sign	n the reservation form - make copies if needed
with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions an brochure or as listed on the Internet.	d the Hidden Trails Recrea Activity Release and Indem	Interest activities. All participants have read and agree ational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this unity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.
Stree <u>t</u>	_e-	-mai <u>l</u>
City	State	Postal/Zip Code
Phone (wk) (hm)	Cell	Fax
		max.
Date	Signature (mandatory	1.
Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my	y credit card.	Additional Signatures:
For payments by VISA () or Mastercard (		
The state of the s	(no debit cards)	2.
Cardholder:	(no debit cards)	3.
The state of the s		2. 3. 4.
Cardholder:		
Card #3 di	igit Security #	

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