

Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails*

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: info@hiddentrails.com

Website: www.hiddentrails.com

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Hwange Explorer Safari - Zimbabwe, Southern Africa

Tour Code: IT-ZMRT02

8 days / 7 nights ~\$5,390.00

Dates: April to November

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●

Tack: English Trail Saddles & Australian Sto...

Horses: Boerpeds, Shire X, Friesian X and Thor...

Pace: Walk, Trot, Canter, Gallop, Jumps

Airport: Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA)



Introduction

Hwange, Zimbabwe

Go on a horse riding safari through Hwange National Park, the largest National Park in Zimbabwe. It is home to 400 different species of bird and 107 types of mammals.

The region that we ride in is underlain by deep Kalahari sands, the perfect terrain for our barefoot horses. The landscape is predominantly flat with no mountains or kopjes in sight, making for some excellent riding conditions and unimpeded views of the vast amount of wildlife that call this area home.

Zambezi Teak and Camelthorn tree woodlands surround a vast number of open waterhole systems, or pans as they are more commonly known. Marvel in the amazing intricate shapes of these grand ancient trees; trees that have shaded and fed thousands upon thousands of animals over the centuries and will also offer you some welcome respite from the African sun when we rest beneath their spreading boughs to enjoy a delicious packed lunch or snack with our noble steeds grazing nearby. Throughout these pan fringe areas numerous mammals roam amongst the wonderful woodlands, in particular elephants and giraffe, and if that isn't exciting enough there may be the opportunity to sail over a natural jump or two!

Other types of habitats that we ride through and explore include Silver Terminalia, Coppiced Teak, Kalahari Apple Leaf, Kalahari Sand Acacia and the more open grasslands near the "pans."

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a progressive ride so nights are spent in different locations.

Description

Hwange National Park is a protected area and therefore the bush camps where we stay here have no electricity, no plumbing, and no permanent structures.

There are no fences or barriers at most of the camps (Hwange National Park is home to a healthy lion population so security is provided by a working electric fence surrounding the encampment at night) as these are wildlife zones so any wildlife can be moving through. A safety briefing will be done by the Professional Guide at the camps.

There is limited WiFi at Iganyana and none at all in the National Park, nor any mobile-phone service in the Park.

We are limited with transport options and thus must reduce the amount of kit we carry. Therefore please note that guests will use shared long drop toilets and hot bucket showers.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1-2: Iganyana Private Tented Camp

Night 3-4: Camp Baikiaea in Hwange National Park

Night 5-6: Camp Kennedy in Hwange National Park

Night 7: Iganyana Private Tented Camp





Iganyana Private Tented Camp

This is a private bush camp lies on the border of Hwange National Park. The 15 guest tents form an arc, each tent with a view over an ancient, long-dry riverbed. The large tented rooms are elegantly furnished with lovingly restored antiques and locally crafted wooden furniture. All rooms accommodate king or twin bed configuration. Each tent features en-suite bathroom with shower and toilet, separate dressing area, a mini-lounge and a tea-coffee station. Glass sliding doors lead from the bedroom onto a private veranda. Air-conditioning and electricity ensure your room is always bright, cool and comfortable.

On an elevated wooden deck, you will find an outdoor pool overlooking the waterhole just a stone's throw away.

Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory in case we are unable to find you a roommate (only applies during high season).



Meals

All meals are included in your program.

Water at camps is borehole water that is filtered and very clean and safe to drink.

Dietary Restrictions

Vegetarians, vegans, gluten/lactose intolerant, celiac disease, etc. can be catered for IF all information about the diets and needs are received in time. Please, note that not all highly specific foods for these very specific diets are available in Zimbabwe so it is VERY important to be notified very well in advance (i.e. at least a couple of months) about any dietary requirements of food allergies.

It is easy to prepare meals without certain foods i.e. red meat, chicken, tomatoes, onions, peanuts, shellfish, etc., but not always easy to supplement with highly specific items found in many specialist food stores in Developed countries.

Riding



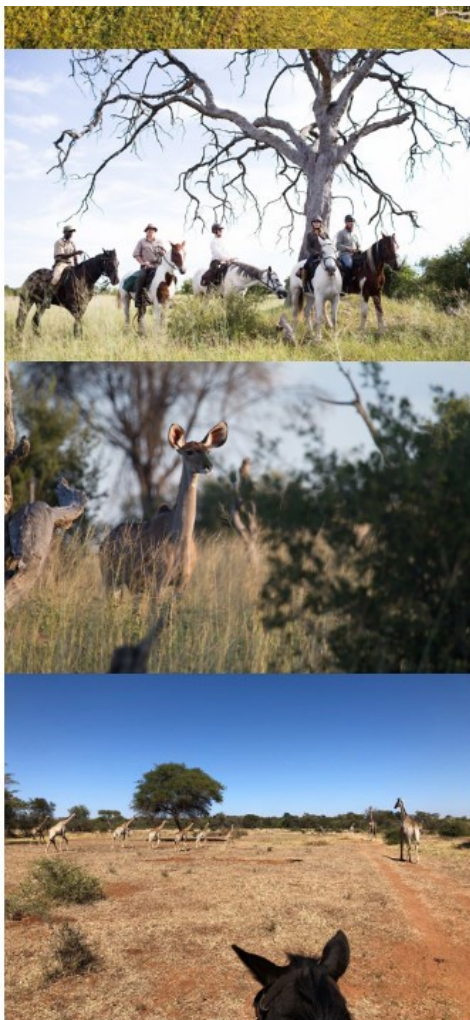
Riding Level

Strong intermediate to advanced riding skill required. Being a confident rider with being riding fit is a big advantage.

This ride is for experienced riders that are comfortable at all paces as we will be riding in a Big Game Area, logs to jump (nothing serious) rough ground to navigate and trees to avoid!

Weight Limit

Our normal weight limit is 90kg. However, we might be able to accommodate experienced riders up to 95kg - please enquire.



Age Restriction

The minimum age to join this safari is 14 years old. Younger competent riders traveling with family might be able to join (please enquire).

Staff

Each riding safari is led by a Professional Guide and supported by a Learner Guide/Back up Rider/guide. In Mana there will also be a professional guide. First Aid Kit and Satellite Phone carried at all times.

Horses

Our experienced bush savvy well cared for and loved safari horses make the perfect companions for your Zimbabwean Adventure. We prefer cross-breed horses for their stamina and athleticism, and breeds include Boerpedes, Shire X, Friesian X and Thoroughbreds. Heights range from 15-16.3 hh.

Our horses have been specially selected for their job suitability, skills and temperaments to take you on safari. Every horse is very special to us, and they are not only the core aspect of our business but part of our family! We personally train and ride all our horses and they are super-responsive, friendly, obedient, loving and happy animals.

Currently we have a team of 26 horses ranging from experienced bush horses to green-backed youngsters. They are predominantly geldings, with a few foundation mares that we shall breed from in the future.

Our team of grooms have been trained in natural horsemanship methods to develop a rapport with the horses and ensure they are fit and surefooted.

Tack

Tack is of an excellent quality to ensure our clients utmost comfort and include Leon Liversage Trail Master Saddles handmade in South Africa, Australian Stock Saddles and Wintec English Saddles. These trails saddles are very comfortable for most horses backs and also for the riders for long hours in the saddle.

Most horses are ridden in a Snaffle bit.

Water bottle pouches and built in saddle bags on our numnahs provide ample space to carry day kit.

Insurance

It is a requirement and pre-requisite that guests must have purchased fully comprehensive accident and emergency evacuation insurance coverage.

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

This is representative of what the itinerary will be like. Many factors will influence the day to day order of these rides. Weather conditions (cold, heat, rain, cloud, etc.), wildlife activity and movements, rider abilities and interests, climatic conditions (i.e. good wet season or very dry conditions), logistics, and many other factors will determine how the riding and other activities will be conducted. The guide will always ensure to maximise the wildlife experience.

Chances of rain are highest in December and January therefore riding is according to the weather conditions. Wildlife sightings will be minimal during this period as well.

Being bush camps it is likely to encounter animals such as elephants, buffalo, lion, hyena, baboon, snakes, spiders, scorpions, mosquitoes, flies, and many other types of insects in these natural bush locations. No guest should be surprised that these creatures exist as part of the daily experience of being in the Zimbabwean wilds.

Due to the very hot days during November, guests will be expected to wake up as early as 4:30 am so as to start riding before it becomes too hot.

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, meet and greet by a road transfer company, followed by a two-hour drive to Iganyana Private Tented Camp.

Afternoon high tea, briefing, intro to the horses, and then onto the horses for a short ride.

Back to camp, sundowners, showers, dinner, and peaceful sleep under canvas.

Meals included: Afternoon high tea & Dinner

Overnight at Iganyana Private Tented Camp

Day 2: Dete Vlei

Rise and shine with early morning tea and coffee and a light breakfast. Today we will explore the Dete Vlei and surroundings on horseback. More time to adapt to our riding style in the bush, the tack and horses. Any changes required will be done on this day.

We may ride for the whole day or we may ride in the morning for 3 to 4 hours and again in the afternoon for a shorter ride.

This evening we return to Iganyana Wild for our second night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Iganyana Private Tented Camp

Day 3: Hwange National Park

Guests early morning wake up, tea and coffee, breakfast and game drive to Main Camp in Hwange National Park. This is only a short drive of half an hour to perhaps an hour depending on sightings of wildlife. Check-in and payments at the Tourism office, then mount up and ride into the park, or game drive deeper into the park.

Overnight with sundowners, hot showers, and dining under the stars.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Camp Baikiaa

Day 4: Hwange National Park

Another early morning start – of which time does vary according to the seasons. Onto the horses and out to explore the area again. There are no set routes and the ride is conducted according to what sounds were heard during the night, animal tracks, weather conditions, and many other factors.

The day may be a half-day or a full day out with a picnic lunch near a waterhole for wildlife viewing. If lunch is at camp, then it is also an opportunity in the afternoon to do a safari walk or drive.

There are a few other waterholes that are worth visiting if guests have good cameras and lenses or are interested in birding. Also, the guide may decide that an early morning walk or drive is going to be better and may then switch the order

of the day to a non-riding activity in the morning and a ride in the afternoon. This also depends on the need for horses to rest before a long day tomorrow.

Whatever happens, there will be cold drinks around the campfire and a hearty dinner in camp.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Camp Baikiaa

Day 5: Ride to Kennedy Camp

Today we ride for a full day out to Kennedy Camp. This is a ride of approximately 30-40 or so km. It will be through teak and acacia woodlands, passing waterholes which may or may not have water in, with a picnic lunch on route. Arrive late afternoon to Kennedy Camp, settle in with sundowners and welcome hot showers followed by vet

Arrive late afternoon to Kennedy Camp, settle in with sundowners, and welcome hot showers followed by yet again a delicious dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Kennedy Camp

Day 6: Kennedy Vlei

This day will be spent in the Kennedy 2 area of the Park in some very beautiful Acacia groves. The camp is set along the Kennedy Vlei which is a renowned area for wildlife viewing.

Options here are riding, walking, or a safari drive in the morning. Much will again be dependent on possible wildlife sightings and activity and time of year as to what riding we will do.

A good option is to take a drive to the Ngweshla area not far from Vachellia as it is generally a very productive wildlife area.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Kennedy Camp

Day 7: Last Ride

Final early morning wake up to enjoy the dawn in the African bush around the fire.

After a light breakfast, onto the horses for a 15 to 25km ride (dependent on the time of year and early morning wildlife activity) to a point where the horse truck will meet us.

There we will end the ride, load the horses, and have a safari drive out of the Park back to Iganyana for the night.

Sundowners will be a special affair reminiscing upon the past few days of being in the real African bush on fine steeds enjoying the wildlife and big spaces.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Iganyana Private Tented Camp

Day 8: Departure

Depending on departure times, the last morning may include a very short walk out to stretch the legs before a sumptuous breakfast and departure on the transfer vehicle back to Victoria Falls Airport (or wherever the next destination is.)

Meals included: Breakfast

Non-Riders

Non riding companions are welcome to join this trip (same rates as riders). Please inquire for non riding activities.

Other Info

Meeting: Victoria Falls Airport

Airport: Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA)

Train station: --

Transfer: Victoria Falls Airport

Pick-up/ drop-off from Victoria Falls International airport (VFA).

The Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) is charging a departure tax on all internal and international flights. The cost is 50 USD per person for international flights.

Tack: English Trail Saddles & Australian Stock Saddles

Horses: Boerpedes, Shire X, Friesian X and Thoroughbreds.
Heights range from 15-16.3 hh.

Pace:

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop | Jumps |

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

Age: Min 14

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 8 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ZMRT02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals with drinks (including Beers, South African Wine, Whiskey, Gin and tonics, Vodka and a variety of sodas), Activities as described in itinerary & Transfers

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US\$
A 2024	8 day safari (High)	\$5390
	Single supplement	\$1750
B 2024	8 day safari (Low)	\$4165

Rates Note:Please note we have no control over National Parks fees, camping fees and transfers and as such rates for parks fees, camping fees, air charters and transfers are subject to change

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Pick-up/ drop-off transfers from Victoria Falls airport or hotel, pp (min 2 pax)	\$195
2024	Hwange National Park Fees (mandatory) - paid in USD cash only	\$200

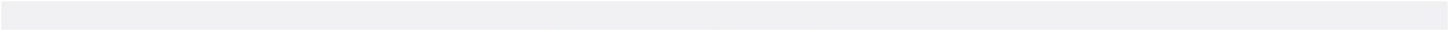
Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2024	04/20/2024 - 04/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (Low)
B 2024	05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (Low)
B 2024	05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (Low)
B 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (Low)
B 2024	06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (Low)
A 2024	07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	08/17/2024 - 08/24/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	11/02/2024 - 11/09/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	11/16/2024 - 11/23/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)
A 2024	12/07/2024 - 12/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day safari (High)

Min/Max: 2/8

Shorter trips can be arranged on demande from April to December

Rates do not include:Parks fees, camping fees, conservation fees, CAAZ departure taxes, Travel insurance (mandatory) & 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	Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: _____

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long 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 airport/station: I would 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 participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) _____

Street _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Date _____ Signature (mandatory) 1. _____

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: _____

Card # _____ 3 digit Security # _____

Exp.Date: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial _____

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141

Hidden Trails

659A Moberly Road
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5Z 4B2

Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS
(1-888-987-2457)

Phone: 604-323-1141

FAX: 604-323-1148

From the U.K.:

Phone 020-323-96201

Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

E-mail info@hiddentrails.com

Website www.hiddentrails.com

Office hours:

Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm

Pacific Standard Time

