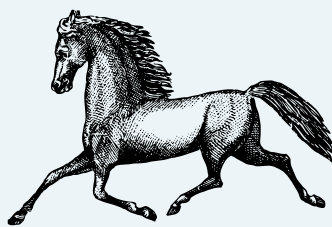
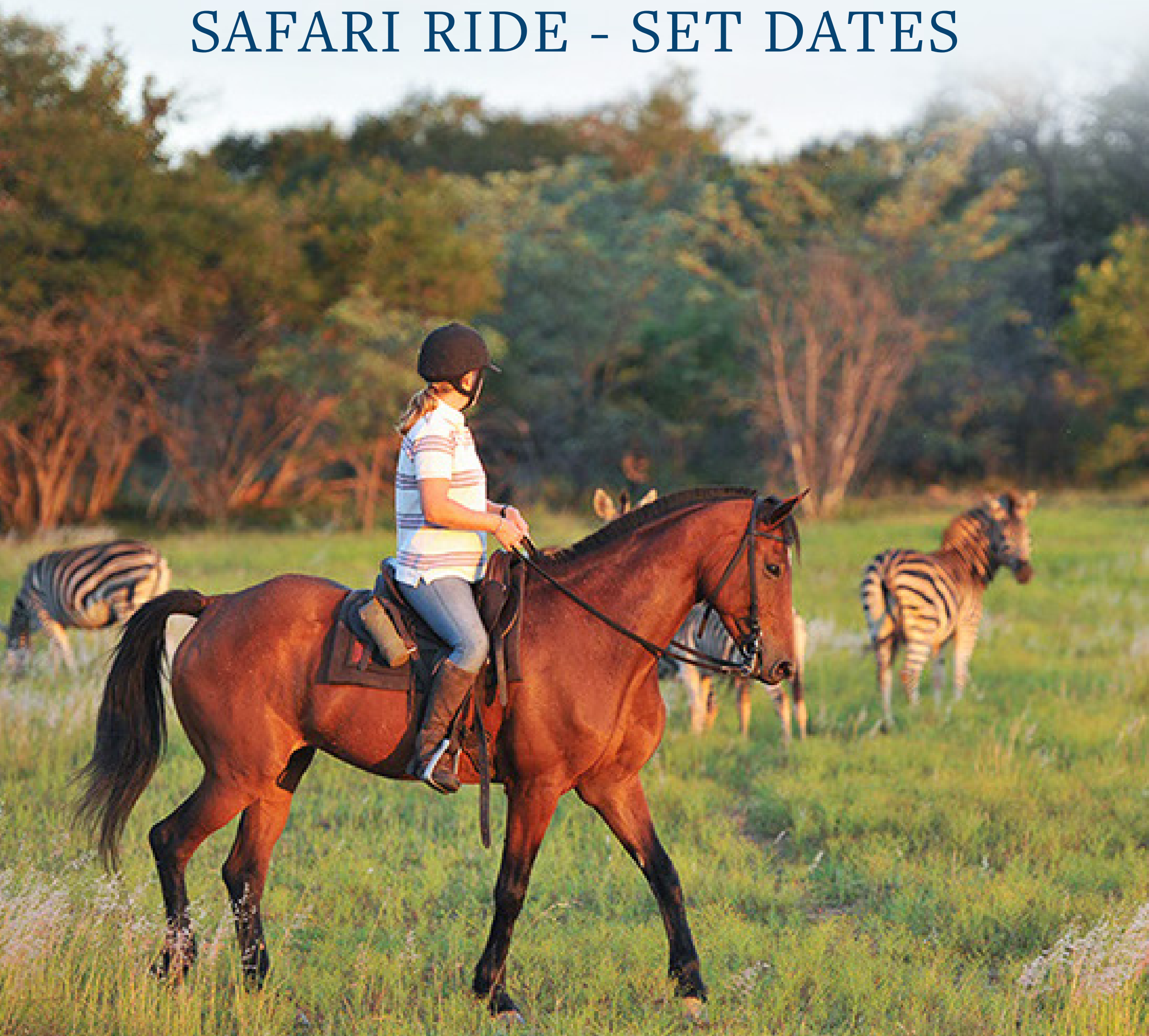


ACTIVE



RIDING TRIPS

SOUTH AFRICA'S SAFARI RIDE - SET DATES





This is the perfect holiday for those riders wishing to experience the pleasure of riding with African wildlife in the absence of dangerous game.

The Signature Safari is the original Horizon Horseback riding holiday, which is based on the historic family estate. We run a herd of over 100 free roaming horses and can cater for all levels of riders from experienced to complete novice.

Wildlife to be seen on the reserve include hippo, giraffe, zebra, antelope, leopard, caracal, brown hyena, jackal, crocodile, cape buffalo, ostrich, baboon, impala and aardvark. There are also over 300 bird species on the reserve.

This riding holiday has two versions. The one in this brochure has set dates and is fine for strong intermediate or advanced riders. It offers the opportunity for other activities in addition to game viewing, in particular great outrides over excellent riding country and also polocrosse, jumping, western games and swimming with your horse.

The other is a flexible itinerary and suitable for all levels of rider. Details happily provided on request.



duration:
8 DAYS



1-16
MEMBERS



country
SOUTH AFRICA



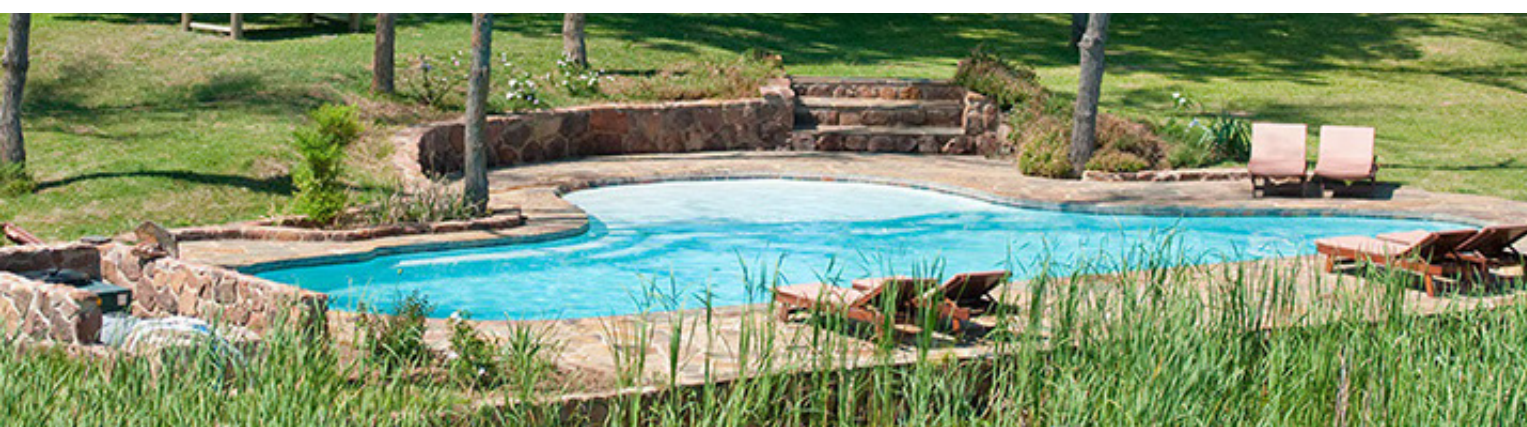
airport
JOHANNESBURG



accommodation
LODGE



all meals
INCLUDED



Sample ITINERARY

There are two outrides or riding activities a day. Morning rides last 3-4 hours (or less if requested) and afternoon rides are somewhat shorter. Jumping is also available on request. Rides are tailor-made to suit the needs of our guests and we try to be as flexible as possible. Route or days may be amended due to weather or items otherwise out of our control.



We strongly recommend that guests should fly into Johannesburg the day before the start of their safari and overnight at an airport hotel to avoid any problems caused by flight delays and to rest up before the start of their adventure.

If guests cannot fly in the day before then we would ask that they book their flights to arrive as early as possible before 09h30.

DAY 1 - Sunday:

Guests will be personally met at Johannesburg International Airport (3 hours road transfer). After a light lunch in the gardens of the lodge and later a sumptuous tea, guests will be introduced to their horses. The first ride is a gentle introduction to the reserve and an excellent opportunity for first encounters with species such as zebra, giraffe and hippo. The riding ranges from purposeful walking to easy cantering along sandy tracks and culminates with sundowner drinks on the open plains.

Highlights: Meet your horse.

Day 2 - Monday:

The route on this day goes deep into the reserve to parts with a real wilderness quality. After an early start, riders arrive at a giant wild fig tree for a delicious bush breakfast prepared on an open fire. After this hearty meal the route back to the lodge passes through a dense forest area where some of the shyer species like to shelter. Swimming with your horse in front of our Horizon Lodge is the perfect end to this special morning ride. The afternoon ride heads east following the river past a series of dams where encounters with hippo the truly magical experience of riding close to the wild animals, which have become completely relaxed in the presence of the horses. Highlights: Bush breakfast and swimming with your horses.

Day 3 - Tuesday:

An early start is needed for the long ride from the Horizon Lodge to either Savannah Lodge in the far southwest of the reserve, or Seringa Lodge in the southeast. The first part of the route covers country that riders will now be somewhat familiar with, but soon enters new terrain. In places the bush is thick but after a while the scenery opens up to grasslands with sweeping views to the south and west. Riding through this landscape gives riders a sense of the vastness of the African plains. The area boasts a very high concentration of game with herds of over 300 blesbok, or 80 eland, often sighted. Other species which are home to the plains include red hartebeest, tsessebe and ostrich. There are plentiful zebra, wildebeest, impala and giraffe, and smaller groups of sable, roan and waterbuck. The final stretch to Savan-

nah Lodge is along a wooded stream where kudu and bushbuck are likely to be seen. After a relaxing time around the pool and within the sophisticated lodges, it is time to ride to the southern most areas of the reserve in search of Cape buffalo. These are members of Africa's famous "Big Five" and deserve their formidable reputation. Riders therefore need to be alert and responsive to the guides' instructions. This area is known for its spectacular sunsets as the sun sets over the distant headlands of the Waterberg escarpment – a fitting end to an eventful and memorable day in the African wilderness.

Highlights: Longer ride to Bellevue Lodges and searching for buffalo

Day 4 – Wednesday:

Another long ride through game rich country returns riders to the heart of the operation, Horizon Lodge. The route taken is different from that on the outward leg, turning this part of the safari into an exciting journey passing through diverse landscapes and ecosystems. Game species typically prefer different habitats, with nyala and bushbuck for instance occupying dense forestlike sections of the reserve while blesbuck and hartebeest stick to the open plains, and waterbuck and reedbuck, unsurprisingly, are normally seen close to streams and other waterways. The route provides excellent opportunities to see giraffe, which is always a highlight. through the farm's village of Boschdraai. After several hours in the saddle, the afternoon activity is a game drive in the nearby game reserves. This is a great opportunity to see lion, elephant and rhino in their natural environments.

Highlights: Boschdraai village visit and Big Five game drive.



Sample ITINERARY

Day 5 – Thursday:

This morning we head towards Camp Davidson for an exciting night under canvas. The camp is perched high on a ridge overlooking a vast wilderness area to the east. Wildlife often encountered in the area includes baboon, bushpig, kudu and klipspringer. Porcupines are frequent nocturnal visitors to the camp and leopard spoor outside the tents is not uncommon. Today's route to Camp Davidson covers the north-eastern areas of the reserve, tracking through untouched bush to the upper reaches of Sunset Lake. This lake is a favourite haunt of the hippo on the reserve and home to crocodile, otter, fish eagle and other waterfowl, such as the beautiful African jacana. Guests ride along the water's edge and must be constantly on the lookout for the hippo. These animals, while having a reputation for being some of the most dangerous in Africa, are not a threat during the day but will often honk and blow as they observe the riders go by. The route offers an opportunity for exciting splashy canters and extended canters, off-piste riding with very scenic views across the highlands of the Waterberg.

[Highlights: Camp Davidson, splash canters and extended canters.](#)

DAY 6 - Friday:

Ride through the neighbouring conservancy to search for sable. These magnificent antelope have striking markings and long sweeping horns. If conditions allow, we end the ride with another chance to enjoy

a splashy canter along the edge of the Horizon Lodge dam. After the morning's exertions, guests can relax around the swimming pool and enjoy the beautiful unspoilt surroundings. The afternoon activity is polocrosse, an amalgam between polo and lacrosse. The game is highly addictive and is sure to bring out competitive passions! Horses which are used to playing the game are used and no previous experience of playing polocrosse is required. What is guaranteed is a great deal of fun. Tonight's dinner starts with a wine tasting, each wine is paired with a complimenting amuse-bouche.

[Highlights: Searching for sable polocrosse and wine tasting.](#)

Day 7 – Saturday:

This morning, we offer guests the chance to ride into another of our neighbour's conservancies, where Cape buffalo and specialist breeds of antelope can be spotted in large grazing camps. An early start is required for this longer morning ride. After the thrill of trying to spot these rare breeds, the land opens up to offer long, extended canters along broad tracks that skirt through pristine bush. In the afternoon, riders follow a route interspersed with optional cross country jumps on the way to sundowners in a stunning spot with views over the rolling hills. A slow ride back to the Lodge at dusk completes the day's adventure.

[Highlights: MGB Ride and jumping lane to sundowner spot](#)

Day 8 – Sunday:

Final ride and Transfer to Airport.

By now riders are well versed in all aspects of the safari experience, and in consultation with their guides can suggest a favourite ride for their final experience. This is a last opportunity to ride amongst Africa's incredible antelope species through a beautiful environment on superb horses. Following lunch in the garden it is time to embark on the road transfer back to the airport in Johannesburg.

[Highlights: Favourite ride for their final experience.](#)



Flights on departure day must be booked to depart after 20h00.



Lodging & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Lodging

All rooms are en suite with either shower or bath or both facilities. Seven double rooms are separate from the main lodge; three suites overlook the lake and have a small veranda area, the rondavels are a traditional African dwelling adjacent to the lodge with its own charm. There is a large living area, dining room and large stoep (or verandah) for guests to enjoy. Three delicious meals are served a day with afternoon tea before an afternoon ride. All drinks are complimentary. Special diet requirements can also be catered for on request.

Non-riding activities

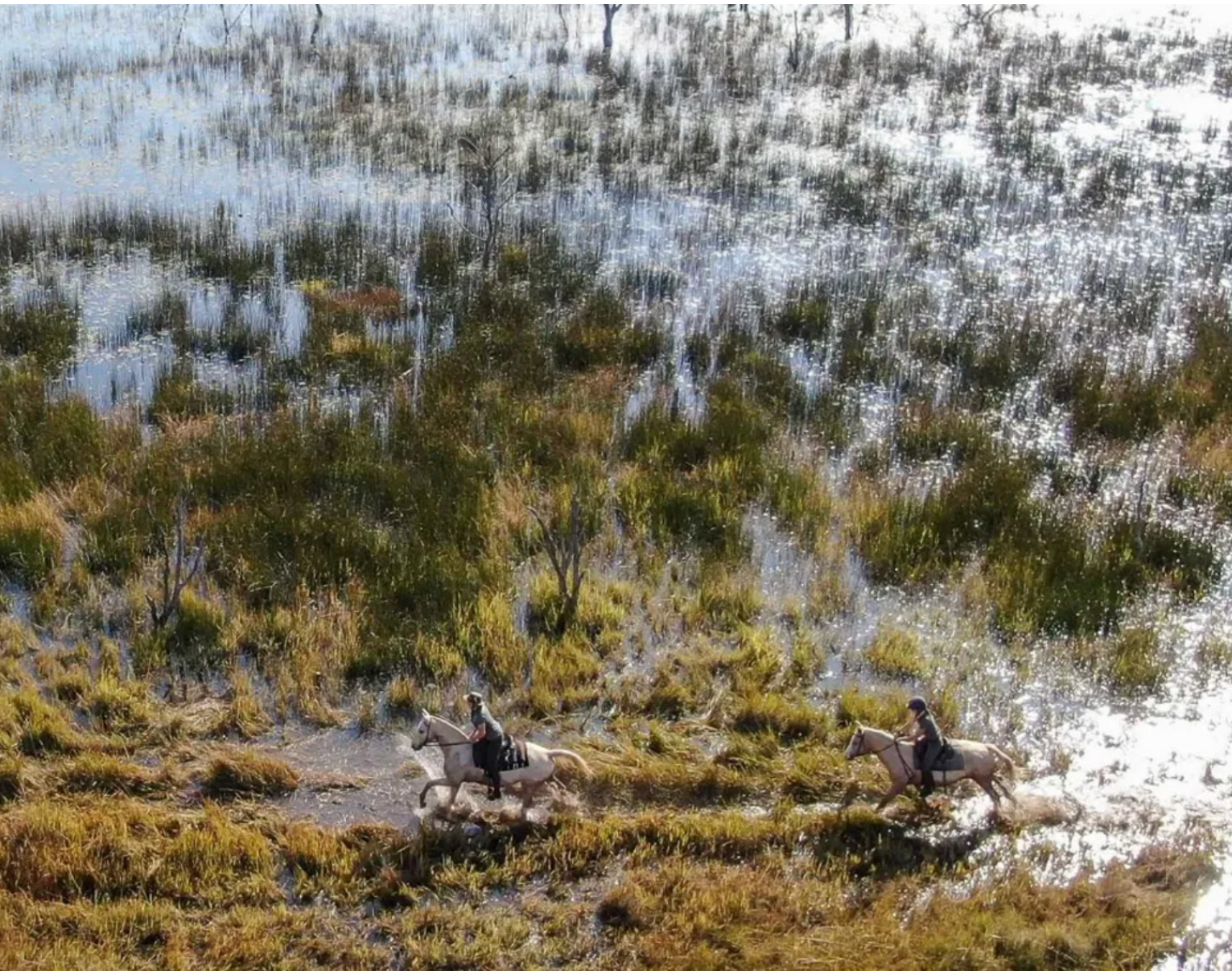
During your holiday at Horizon's Signature Safari lodge, there are a number of non-riding activities on offer: sundowners, bush walks, game drive, cheetah experience Big Five Game drive, elephant interaction and swimming, fishing, cultural, historical and environmental aspects of the Waterberg can be explored.

The Waterberg is also currently hosting a pack of endangered wild dog, which you can visit with the Endangered Wildlife Trust upon arrangement. The wild dogs are only available between June and August when they pass through the area for 'nesting'.

Otherwise, just relax with a massage with or enjoy the African bush.



Additional INFORMATION



INCLUDED:

7 nights accommodation
8 days of riding/activities
All meals
Horse and all tack
Guiding services

NOT INCLUDED:

Airfare
Travel Insurance
Gratuities for the team
at the end of your stay
Airport Transfers



Rider REVIEWS



The facilities on this trek are just as lovely as the pictures. I had a gorgeous rondavel bedroom with a big comfortable bed and my own bathroom. The food is plentiful (is it ever!) and so delicious and fresh. I'm a pretty confirmed carnivore so I enjoyed trying the game meats we had (eland is delicious) but they had plenty of filling options for non meat lovers.

The horses are well-behaved and energetic – there's rarely a need to thump them to keep up – and the guides quickly learn good horse and rider match ups. The Maclellan saddles took some getting used to – so different from a dressage saddle! Definitely bring boots that are comfortable for walking in when not riding, as well as a seat saver – because you will be in the saddle for hours every day.

I traveled solo but was fortunate to join a group of three ladies who were super fun, great riders, and often did trips together so we got lots of chances to gallop and “kick some dust”.

We saw SO MANY animals! Regular sightings in South Africa were impala (who make the most ridiculous pig noises in mating season), springbok, kudu, wildebeest, eland, blesbok, steenbok, gemsbok, zebra, warthogs, duiker, ostriches and the resident giraffes. Lots of monkeys, baboons and birds of every color as well.

In South Africa all of the land is pretty much fenced game preserves so the rides take you to multiple reserves. One ride took us by a children's school and they sang a lovely song for us – so cute in their uniforms! We also did an overnight trip to a neighboring reserve and beautiful lodge on a watering hole where we watched animals for hours over a lovely dinner. And every evening brought the option of a soda or “sundowner” gin and tonic often on the ride! I highly recommend this trip! **Alix J.**

