

Horizon Horseback Mashatu - Tuli Trail Ride



The Tuli Trail is a seven night mobile safari, ending each riding day in comfortable accommodation with beds, cosy duvets, hot showers, and fine dining in lovely settings.



WATCH VIDEO

BOTSWANA | HORIZON HORSEBACK MASHATU – TULI TRAIL RIDE

Horizon Horseback Mashatu is located in the eastern tip of Botswana, in the northern Tuli Game Reserve. This huge and pristine tract of land is full of wildlife and guests have the chance to canter with zebra, wildebeest and giraffe in the open plains, to see huge numbers of elephant, and probably the elusive leopard, as well as lion and hyena within their natural habitat. Much of the riding takes place on the banks of the famous Limpopo River.

The Tuli Trail is a seven night mobile safari, ending each riding day in comfortable accommodation with beds, cosy duvets, hot showers, and fine dining in lovely settings. A highlight of the trail is two nights spent sleeping out under the stars in an old tribal court called the Kgotla; other nights are at various wilderness camps. The ride covers approximately 120 miles over the course of the week and is scheduled year round.

- Riding through the acacia veld and dry rivers of the Mashatu Reserve
- Experience the excitement of wildlife viewing from horseback
- Game Drives with Mashatu rangers
- First and last two nights at the comfortable Two Mashatus camp
- One night at the Tree Camp, sleeping in the bows of a mahogany tree house
- Two nights at the Kgotla camp "sleeping under the stars"
- One night back at Tree Camp
- Elephant, lion, leopard, hyena and cheetah country
- Luxury mobile tented accommodation, camping under shady mashatu trees
- Private guide
- Eight days/seven nights with a maximum group size of ten guests on set departure trips to ensure a highly personal experience.



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Please note this is a sample itinerary only and locations / camps may change depending on weather and wildlife movements.

Day 1 - Two Mashatus Camp

On arrival into Johannesburg today you make your way through immigration, collect your bags and then proceed to the arrivals hall. Head to the meeting point at counter A54 in the departures terminal (no later than 1045), where you are met by a representative from Angel Gabriel and driven approximately 45 minutes to Lanseria Airport. Your representative will then assist you with check in of your flight to Limpopo Valley.

Upon arrival into Limpopo you will be met by your guide and transferred to the reception area by the stables. After a light lunch it's time to head off to the stables to meet your horse for the week.

You then head out on a short introductory ride to make sure that you and your horse are well suited, arriving at Two Mashatus Camp. Supper and sundowners are served in the Lala Palm dining room before retiring for the night.

Two Mashatus is nestled in the shade of a Mashatu tree with two traditionally built Lala palm rondavel dining and lounge areas. Accommodation is in big A-frame walk-in tents pitched on teak platforms with en-suite bathrooms. Each tent is private and positioned in the shade of a tree with a small deck area in front on which to relax during the afternoons.

Day 2 - Tree Camp

The day begins at sunrise with tea/coffee brought to your tent, followed by a light breakfast. You will mount up and head off from the dense woodland along the Limpopo River towards the shallow rocky hills that mark the edges of the great river valley. You arrive at Tree Camp in time for lunch.

In the afternoon you have the choice of another ride or your first bush walk, exploring the area along the West of the Matabole River, returning to camp for sundowners on the deck before dinner is served.

Tree Camp is nestled in the bough of a giant Mashatu tree and two ancient Leadwood trees, with a deck built four meters off the ground. Overlooking the Majale River, it is possible to watch wildlife from above, coming down to drink at the river. Here in the heart of the Mashatu area the wildlife is plentiful. The Tuli area is home to one of the largest herds of free roaming Elephant south of the Zambezi and you are almost assured of great viewing of these incredible creatures.



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Days 3 and 4 - Kgotla Camp

An early wakeup call heralds a new day and tea/coffee and a delicious light breakfast is served around the log fire. Today your journey takes you through the heart of Mashatu to the ancient rock formations synonymous with the Limpopo valley. Giant Baobabs silently surveying the land as they have for centuries, ancient elephant trails stamped into the soil and wonderfully long canters around the open scrub. The ride brings you to the banks of the Motloutse River and amongst dense old Mashatu trees a leadwood Boma called Kgotla, your home for the next two nights.

The following day you spend time exploring the sandstone formations including the famed Solomon's Wall. Ancient civilizations harboured their wealth among these hills where two mighty rivers, the Limpopo and the Motloutse, meet. Your ride today will be about four to five hours, leaving time in the afternoon to head to the archaeologically rich Mmamagwa hills where a 360 degree view of the reserve can be enjoyed as well as another beautiful African sunset.

The Kgotla is an old tribal court from a nearby community, which was relocated to the banks of the Motloutse River on the western periphery of Mashatu. The boma is an open-air traditional African enclosure made up of Leadwood logs. Guests sleep on beds around a large log fire which sits on a hearth in the centre of the boma.

Day 5 - Tree Camp

After a hearty breakfast this morning the ride takes you through open bush from the western side of Mashatu, winding along ancient trails and enjoying wonderfully long canters. After an exhilarating ride you enjoy a relaxing lunch in the eaves of the Tree Camp once again, before heading out on an afternoon ride, bush walk or game drive exploring the northern banks of the Majele, Matabole and Jwala rivers.



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Days 6 and 7 - Two Mashatus Camp

Today's riding promises great wildlife viewing from horseback as you explore the Pitsane River Valley. The Pitsane has a spring high in the hills which provides regular drinking holes along its course to draw thirsty herds of wildlife. An area where history has it there was a skirmish during the Boer war which destroyed Bryce's store, an old British supply post. There used to be a stagecoach line, called Zeederberg's, that ran from the towns of the Transvaal in South Africa to the newly forged settlements of Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. Those coaches crossed the broad Limpopo and followed the Pitsane river, crossing into Zimbabwe. You arrive back at Two Mashatu Camp in time for lunch and a cooling swim in the pool. In the afternoon, you have the option of a bush walk for your African sundowner.

Day 7, your ride meanders its way through the beautiful plains between the Majale and Pitsane rivers, with abundant wildlife and spectacular views into the Limpopo River Valley. You explore the remains of an old Boer fort on a rocky outcrop and drop down into the wetland area, which is always a bit cooler and usually host to plentiful wildlife enjoying the lush grasses. In the summer months this is also a great opportunity to canter through the shallows of the river and watch the elephant taking a bath. Then it's back to the camp to relax and enjoy the pool before either an afternoon bush walk or short ride.

Day 8

Today is your last day in the bush and begins with your final early morning tea/coffee and breakfast snack over the open fire. The morning is spent riding along the Limpopo River. You head back to the stables where fond farewells are made to your steed. This is a shorter ride of about two hours, allowing you to get back to Two Mashatus with enough time to enjoy a hearty brunch and to get ready for your departure back to the airstrip.

From here you will take a flight back to Johannesburg, or continue with another African adventure.

BOTSWANA | HORIZON HORSEBACK MASHATU
– TULI TRAIL RIDE**TWO MASHATUS CAMP**

Nestled in the shade of a centurion mashatu tree, two traditionally built lala palm rondavels serve as dining area and lounge.

Accommodation is in big A frame walk-in tents pitched on teak platforms, with en-suite enviro loo and running hot water shower and hand basin. Each tent is private and positioned in the shade of a tree with a small deck area on which to relax during the afternoons.

TREE CAMP

This is any child's fantasy: literally a camp in a tree. A unique camp built 4 metres above the ground, around the boughs of an ancient Mashatu tree and two lead wood trees. Overlooking the banks of the Majale River, this spot offers a spectacular panoramic view of the adjacent cliffs and flood plain opposite where Mashatu's legendary elephant herds roam. Five beautiful, spacious canvas roofed areas house four poster beds and classic antique furniture. There is a spacious dining and lounge area on the elevated platform for relaxing. This truly extraordinary camp is one that will be remembered and spoken about for years to come..

KGOTLA CAMP

The Kgotla is an old tribal court from a nearby community, which was relocated to the banks of the Motloutse River on the western periphery of Mashatu. The boma is an open-air traditional African enclosure made up of leadwood logs. Guests sleep on beds around a large log fire which sits on a hearth in the centre of the boma.

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2023 TRAVEL DATES

Running Sunday to Sunday throughout the year

2023 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE COSTS (GBP £)

*Per person sharing a tent (December, January)
£2,450 (Single supplement £613)*

*Per person sharing a tent (February, March)
£2,905 (Single supplement £1,017)*

*Per person sharing a tent (April, May, June, July, August,
September, October, November) £3,437 (Single
supplement £1,203)*

Excludes flights or road transfers

THE ITINERARY INCLUDES

Accommodation and all meals as stated

Drinks as stated

Laundry as stated

Activities as stated

National Park and concession fees

THE ITINERARY EXCLUDES

International and regional flights

Passenger and airport taxes

Airport transfers

Other transfers

Visas

Travel insurance

Tips and gratuities

Other personal spending

BOTSWANA | HORIZON HORSEBACK MASHATU
– TULI TRAIL RIDE



Horse type

Boerperds, South African warmblood, appaloosa and other cross breeds

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Saddles used

South African McClennan

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Maximum number

8 riders

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Hours in the saddle per day

Between 4 and 5

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Standard of riding required

Experienced riders, no beginners

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Children accepted

Minimum age 16 years.
(Over 12s considered if highly skilled riders)

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When to go

All year round

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Non-riders welcome

No (unless mountain bike riders)

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Activities other than riding

Cycling