

BOTSWANA | AFRICAN HORSEBACK SAFARIS
7 NIGHT (8 DAY)

African Horseback Safaris

7 night



African Horseback Safaris offers riding safaris in the wilderness of Botswana's Okavango Delta. This is open country with very good ground for riding alongside zebra, giraffe or buffalo, offering a great opportunity to see wildlife at close range.



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African Horseback Safaris offers riding safaris in the wilderness of Botswana's Okavango Delta. The riding is fast paced, and you can trot, canter and gallop through the Delta's wetlands and woodlands while taking in the stunning scenery. The open country has good ground for riding alongside zebra, giraffe or buffalo, offering a great opportunity to see wildlife at close range. The operation is owner-run by John Sobey, a highly experienced horseman and guide with over 16 years' experience guiding in the Delta.

Non-riders are as welcome as riders and there are plenty of activities to keep any equiphobe happy with wildlife drives, boat trips, walking and fishing on offer. Non riding guests meet up with the riders for all meals and have guided wildlife drives to the same location.

The Riding

There are over 51 horses to choose from including Thoroughbreds, Namibian Hanoverians, Arabs and Kalahari-Arab crosses. The horses are all well-schooled and range in size between 14hh and 17hh, and are suitable for competent riders of 12 years and above. The horses are immaculately cared for and beautifully mannered, and each rider is matched to a horse with the temperament to suit them. African Horseback Safaris itineraries are flexible with a minimum stay of three nights and a recommended stay of seven nights to take full advantage of the experience. Expect to spend between four and six hours in the saddle each day; riding in the morning, with a long lunch break and siesta and then back out again if you choose to for an early evening ride.

- Riding safaris led by talented guides
- 145,000 acres of pristine wilderness to explore
- Exhilarating riding alongside wildlife on calm, experienced horses
- Luxurious tented accommodation
- Non-riders well catered for with a wide range of safari activities
- Nearly 50 horses to choose from



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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

On arrival into Maun, you are met and escorted onto a small plane (either a Cessna 206 or 208) for your short flight to Macatoo camp, giving you a fine view of the Okavango Delta.

Camp is a short drive and (depending on the time of year) an exciting boat ride from the airstrip. You will arrive in camp just in time for afternoon tea which is followed by an evening ride to get to know your horse. You return to camp for a hot shower and candle-lit safari supper.

Day 2

Wake up with a cup of tea or coffee in bed, followed by light breakfast of homemade toast and muesli, then a ride out from camp to stretch the legs and explore. Depending on the season this may involve some galloping, or even swimming, through the flood waters or pushing-on through seas of tall grass following giraffe, zebra, antelope, elephant, buffalo; whatever is out there. Back to camp for a brilliant lunch outside with the guides, if you're lucky it might be their famous chicken pie, and there's usually some wine to encourage a little nap before tea.

The evening ride (by now you might be on a different horse) is deliberately slower-paced for safety reasons and it's a good opportunity to ask questions and take photographs. Leopard sightings are not infrequent, the bird-life is some of the best in the world and towards sunset there is often elephant or hippo interaction to enjoy. A sundowner gin and tonic can be enjoyed out in the bush before riding back to camp to freshen up. There's no guarantee that dinner is always eaten in the same place...

Day 3

Wake up as normal with freshly-brewed coffee or tea and depending on your whim, either ride out again, perhaps to find the rare semi-aquatic antelope, the red lechwe, or join a guided walk, wildlife drive or perhaps enjoy a spot of fishing for bream from the boat. Riders and non-riders can meet up for a delicious champagne breakfast under one of the large baobab trees.

After lunch take the opportunity to relax and either swim in the pool or sort out your digital photos. Homemade tea and cake is followed by the sunset ride, exploring the lower flood plains where elephant often gather at a pool. As dusk closes in, it is fascinating to watch them interact in the wild and being on horseback brings you that much closer.



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Day 4

You ride through different country this morning, making your way through clouds of bushman hair grass to plains dotted with fig trees. You might encounter giraffe or shy antelope while passing through mopane woodlands. The pace increases as you break out onto the flood plains, often disturbing troops of baboons. Return to camp for an afternoon of leisure, or the possibility of hiring a helicopter for an hour to gain access to remote and otherwise totally inaccessible parts of the delta with spectacular photographic results. Finish off the day with a spot-lit night drive.



Day 5

Today you have the option of going on a long morning wildlife drive in the Sand Tongue. On this drive you might intersect the fresh spoor of a pride of lions. After following the spoor for a while you come across a family of seven young lions feasting on a freshly killed buffalo. The vehicle allows guests to get much closer to dangerous game than you would on horseback, presenting many memorable photographic opportunities. Return to camp for a late lunch, followed by an afternoon siesta and ride.



Day 6

This morning you splash through water on the vast open plains, home to blue wildebeest and Burchell's zebra. The riding may be fast as you approach deep reedy areas full of bird life including open-billed storks, squawker herons, slatey egrets, cattle egrets, pygmy Egyptian geese and many more. You return to Macatoo along the myriad waterways lined with large trees.



Day 7

Today's riding in this magical place takes you cantering through the shallow flood plains, admiring the deeper pools of lilies. Here, cape buffalo can gather in large numbers (anything between a dozen and 2000 individuals) and you have to creep up on them using the islands as cover. The evening offers a quiet ride with memorable smells of wild sage and the warm African dust as the sun goes down on your chilled Savannah Dry or Sauvignon Blanc. Your dinner will be a memorable one with another surprise location in store.



Day 8

Sadly it's time for your last wake up call and morning ride before returning to the airstrip to meet the short flight back to Maun.

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Accommodation is in eight classic style twin bed Meru tents. Each has an adjoining bathroom, and a spacious verandah with armchairs overlooking the flood plain. The newly built honeymoon tent has an additional deck for private dining as well as a raised double bathtub offering a view of the flood plain. At the heart of the camp there is a large furnished dining tent. Tucked away in the trees is a small plunge pool on its own deck. A short drive from the main camp is a tree platform used for lunches and drinks and the occasional sleepover.

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2023 TRAVEL DATES

Departures throughout the year to suit guests' itinerary. Minimum stay of three nights.

2023 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE COSTS (GBP £)

1 Jan – 31 Mar & 1 Dec – 31 Dec
£545 per person per night sharing

1 April – 14 June & 15 Oct – 30 Nov
£710 per person per night sharing

15 Jun – 14 Oct
£870 per person per night sharing

Honeymoon suite surcharge of
£200 per couple per night

Single supplement of 50% (waived if willing to share twin-bedded accommodation)

THE ITINERARY INCLUDES

Airport and other transfers
Accommodation and meals as stated
Drinks as stated
Laundry as stated
Activities as stated
National Park and concession fees

THE ITINERARY EXCLUDES

International and regional flights
Visas for British Citizens; these are currently free of charge in Botswana
You are visiting areas with malaria; please seek advice.
Travel insurance
Tips and gratuities
Other personal spending
If you weigh over 100kg (or 220lbs for USA clients) then you may be charged for a second seat on light aircraft flights, please let us know if this is likely to affect you.

RIDING SAFARIS

Please note that African Horseback Safaris have a maximum weight limit of 15 stone / 95kgs / 210lbs, please let us know if you are close to this.

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Horse type

Thoroughbreds, Namibian Hanoverians, Percherons,
Kalahari- Arab crossbreeds.

Saddles uses

English, Western style trail saddles

Maximum number

Eight

Hours in the saddle per day

Up to six hours

Standard of riding required

Competent

Children accepted

Minimum age 12 years

When to go

Year round

Non-riders welcome

Yes

Activities other than riding

Wildlife drives, boating, mokoro excursions and fishing
(all water based activities are subject to water levels)