

## ***BEST OF BOTSWANA RIDE***

Join us on safari and ride with a herd of giraffe or zebra across the plains, track elephant or buffalo from island to island. Be part of this unique herd, cantering and splashing through lagoons of the Okavango Delta with Lechwe or simply watch the setting sun whilst listening to the calls of lion and hyena.

**Day 1:** Upon arrival at the Pont Drift Border Post or Limpopo Valley Airfield, you will be met by your guide and transferred to our 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 will embark on a short introductory ride to make sure that you and your horse are well suited (If time permits we will ride directly to Two Mashatus Camp otherwise back to the stables again). A refreshing drink at the stables, then you will head back to camp for a warm shower and a delicious dinner served in the Llala palm dining room of the Two Mashatus Camp.

**Day 2:** The day begins at sunrise with tea/coffee brought to your tent, followed by a light breakfast. Mount up and head off in a north-westerly direction for Jwala Camp on the banks of the Jwala River. Six to seven hours are spent in the saddle enjoying the abundance of game and the magnificent scenery synonymous with the Land of the Giants. After arriving at Jwala Camp, lunch is the order of the day followed by a guided afternoon walk, examining the bush around you in detail. Dinner is prepared over an open fire by Martha or Grace – our truly brilliant chefs whose “bush cuisine” is renowned far and wide. Retire to your spacious tent where you will experience the “music” of the African bush as it gently serenades you to sleep.

**Day 3:** An early wakeup call heralds a new day and tea/coffee and a delicious light breakfast is served around the log fire. Test the amazingly sure-footed Boerperde as we cross over basalt ridges following age-old elephant trails and enjoy long sustained canters to make up for the lost time traversing the ridges. This ride will be about six to seven hours, arriving at Kgotla Camp for a late lunch. This is an old tribal court from a nearby community that was relocated to the banks of the Motloutse River on the western periphery of Mashatu. The open-air traditional African enclosure is made of leadwood logs in the shade of a century old Mashatu tree. In the afternoon we have the option of visiting the local village to buy hand-crafted Llala palm curios, viewing Bushmen paintings and then enjoying a sundowner looking out over the Motloutse River. Back at the Kgotla, dinner is enjoyed around a large log fire after which the night is spent sleeping under the stars while listening in on the cacophony of sounds generated by the African bush orchestra.

**Day 4:** We spend another night at Kgotla Camp, enjoying a full day exploring the sandstone formations including the famed Solomon's Wall. Ancient civilizations harbored their wealth among these hills where two mighty rivers, the Limpopo and the Motloutse, meet. This days riding 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.





# AFRICAN *Horseback* SAFARIS

**Day 5:** Another early rise and a good breakfast around the log fire will set the morning off to a good start. Today you wind your way through the mopane bush before reaching the more open plains. This will probably be your longest day of riding of about seven hours. On arrival at camp you will be welcomed by a well-deserved drink and a refreshing lunch. Tonight is your opportunity to explore Mashatu from a game drive vehicle and try to locate the elusive leopard, wild dog, cheetah and lion the area is well known for.

**Day 6:** Today is your last day in the Tuli 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. We 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 the stables with enough time to enjoy a hearty brunch and to get ready for departure as you board the light aircraft flight onwards to the magical Okavango Delta from a birds eye view. Macatoo camp, that overlooks a seasonal flood plain lagoon, is a short game drive or (depending on the time of year) an exciting boat ride from the airstrip. After a quick look around camp and lunch under the trees, there is usually time for a siesta before tea, and the evening ride where you can get to know your horse. You return to camp for a hot shower and candle-lit safari dinner.

**Day 7:** Wake up with a cup of tea or coffee in bed, followed by a light breakfast with homemade toast and muesli, then a ride out from camp to stretch our legs and explore. Depending on the season this may involve some galloping, swimming through the flood waters or pushing-on through seas of tall grass following giraffe, zebra, antelope, elephant, buffalo, whatever's out there. Back to camp for another brilliant open air lunch with the guides, if you're lucky it might be our famous chicken pie, and there's usually some wine to encourage a little nap before tea. The evening ride is deliberately slower-paced 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 sun downer 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 8:** 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 one of our guided walks, game drives or perhaps a spot of fishing for bream from the boat? The 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 read a book or organise your 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.

**Day 9:** We ride through different country, making our way through clouds of bushman hair grass to plains dotted with fig trees. We might encounter giraffe or shy antelope while passing through Mophane woodlands.





# AFRICAN Horseback SAFARIS

Our pace increases as we break out onto the flood plains, often disturbing troops of baboons. Return to the camp for an afternoon spent at 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 night drive by spotlight, where the resident clan of hyena are often spotted. Bushbabies leap from branch to branch through the terminalia and acacia trees – only seen by the brights of their eyes. If lucky, the spotlight will pick up the glint of a leopard's sultry stare...

**Day 10:** This morning we ride deeper into the heart of the delta, along some of the high palm islands which offer great sweeping views of the Delta plains. After tea we'll do a slower ride to our magical tree house where you will have the option to spend the night out, sleeping high up in the tree tops under the stars. To be out in the wilderness so freely in the Okavango bush like this is a wonderful experience and one that few people experience.

**Day 11:** After waking up amongst the trees to the call of the African Fish Eagle, the next morning we splash through water on the vast open plains, home to blue Wildebeeste and Burchell's zebra. The riding may be fast as we approach deep reedy areas full of bird life including Open-billed storks, Squacco herons, Slaty egrets, Egyptian geese and many more. We return to Macatoo along the myriad of waterways lined with large trees. Once back there will be time to pack and say goodbye before we drive you to the airstrip with a picnic lunch. We are sure you will never forget the true sense of freedom which you will experience on your horse in the African bush.

*Please note this Horseback Safari is exciting but not strenuous. This itinerary only serves as a guide; all scenarios are dependent on the season and water levels. African Horseback Safaris and Limpopo Valley Horse Safaris reserve the right to alter the itinerary in any way and leaves this to the discretion of the guides. Local weather conditions may also affect game movements.*

## Details:

Included: 5 Nights Accommodation Tuli, 5 Nights Accommodation Macatoo Camp, all activities, meals, selected local beverages and laundry service, all internal transfers and charter flights and VAT

Excluded: Travel and medical insurance - which is essential, International flights, Gratuities and purchases for the Curio Shop

- ✚ Minimum of 4 guest are required for this safari to run
- ✚ Charter flight from Johannesburg to Tuli is about 1 hour
- ✚ Charter flight from Tuli to Macatoo is about 3½-4 hours
- ✚ Charter flight from Macatoo to Maun is about ½ hour
- ✚ Non riders welcome (game drives, boat trips, fishing, cycling and walking available)
- ✚ Riding option is for experienced riders only
- ✚ Children under 16 not permitted



## ACCOMMODATION

**Tuli:** Wilderness/Satellite Camps - Satellite campsites are set up in specific locations throughout the Mashatu Reserve. Accommodation is in A frame tents on comfortable beds with sheets and duvets. Facilities include a bucket shower and "bush-WC". Meals are cooked over a camp fire.

**Tuli:** The Kgotla - The Kgotla is an old tribal court from a nearby community that 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 blazes at the centre.



**Tuli:** 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 hot water shower. Each tent is private and positioned in the shade of a tree with a small deck area on which to relax during the afternoons.



**Okavango:** Macatoo Camp is situated on the western side of the Okavango Delta. Covering 17,000 km sq, the Okavango is the largest inland delta in the world, a mix of labyrinth channels, palm fringed islands and fertile floodplains. Our stunning camp features eight large luxury en-suite safari tents on raised wooden platforms overlooking floodplains where elephant, zebra, buck and the birdlife can be seen by visitors from their private verandahs or even bed! Centrally there is a large well-appointed mess tent and tucked away, a private pool.

