

## *CLASSIC RIDING SAFARI*

African Horseback Safaris were early pioneers of horse riding safaris in Africa and, two decades later, we pride ourselves on offering one of the most unique and exciting horseback adventures in the world. Similarly the Barber Family history has always been intertwined with horses and five generations later in 1996, Ant and Tessa Barber established their game reserve in the Waterberg region of South Africa and have been running horse safaris ever since. Together we have teamed up to offer you an unforgettable big five combination ride.

**Okavango Delta** - The Delta is one of the world's largest inland river systems and one of its most incredible wildlife sanctuaries. Perhaps most remarkable of all, is that this 17,000km<sup>2</sup> wetland paradise is located deep within the Kalahari Desert. Each year, an influx of water from Angola, 1000km to the north, floods into the Delta to create this natural miracle, a patchwork of river channels, lagoons, islands and floodplains. The area is a magnet for birds and animals and sustains a vast variety of fauna and flora, making it the ideal safari destination at any time of the year.

There is no better way to savour the Okavango Delta and experience its unparalleled wildlife population than on horseback. The annual flooding of the area leaves vast swathes of the Delta inaccessible to vehicles, making horses the most natural and exciting means to explore.

The pace of riding is varied; in between fast and thrilling gallops alongside giraffe, zebra and buck, in water and on land, we quietly stalk bigger game such as buffalo and elephant and take time to indulge in some of the best bird watching in the world.

Our experienced guides are full of fascinating stories about the ever-changing landscape, its trees and plants, and have an incredible ability to spot even the best-camouflaged wildlife. Our horses also have finely-tuned senses - keep an eye on their ears to see where animals are hiding. Once comfortable, our horses calmly drop their heads to graze, sending a signal to other animals in the area to relax and go about their normal daily routines.

With nearly 50 horses of all shapes and sizes in our barn, and a choice of western or English saddles, the Macatoo team are experts at putting together the best possible riding partnerships.

In order to ensure the safest and most enjoyable horseback adventure for everyone, riders must be riding fit and confident at all paces. Days in the saddle can be long, and daytime temperatures can vary, so it is worth the effort to arrive prepared.



However an African safari adventure at Macatoo does not have to involve horses and we can easily cater for non-riding spouses, partners, friends and children. Indeed, many of our riding guests like to have time away from the saddle and take advantage of the wide range of other activities on offer.

**Waterberg** - Our reserve is one of diverse topography and vegetation ranging from wide-open plains to beautiful mountainous areas, enabling us to naturally sustain the widest variety of game possible. It boasts with over 40 species of game including the rare sable antelope, Livingstone eland, Nyala, Oryx, Giraffe, Buffalo, White Rhino and well over 300 species of resident and migrant birds. In addition to game drives, the reserve offers a safe and secluded environment to allow guests of all ages to enjoy guided bush walks, horse rides and cycling.



Ant's have a herd of over 90 horses and can cater for riders of all riding abilities and have fit, reliable and responsive horses, providing a choice for both the professional rider and absolute beginner including children. The riding is over varied terrain and you can canter along open sandy tracks or traverse high ridges with spectacular vistas. The pace can be as fast or relaxed as the rider is comfortable with.



When you come across game you can often get so close the experience is unforgettable. The reserve is home to a vast variety of flora and fauna including buffalo, rhino, sable, roan, Livingstone eland and a host of other plains game not forgetting the incredibly variety of bird life.



We take great pride in our sumptuous home cooking, dining in a variety of places and outside whenever possible. We often end morning game activities with a bush lunch, whilst at night we sit around open fires under the stars. The chefs can cater for all dietary requirements and we serve excellent South African estate wines.

**We are sure you will never forget the true sense of freedom which you will experience on your horse with us in Africa.**



### Ant's Hill and Ant's Nest

Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill are two unique bush homes located on a private game reserve, set in the beautiful and diverse malaria free, Waterberg region of the Limpopo province of South Africa. Specialising in a home from home experience, both lodges can either be booked exclusively, to one group at a time, or you can book just one room, making it a wonderful destination for families, riders, honeymooners or just good friends travelling together.



### Macatoo Camp

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.

