

# Horse + Pony

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## 'I went on horseback safari!'

**Big cat crazy and pony mad, Ines Alves, 12, went on the safari holiday of a lifetime with her family.**

**M**y family and I love horse riding, so this year we decided to travel to South Africa to spend our holiday on a Big 5 Horseback Safari with 'Wait A Little Safaris' in the private Karongwe Game Reserve, close to Kruger Park. The Big 5 refers to the different animal species we hoped to see - elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and cape buffalo. Here is my diary of what happened!

### Arrival

When we arrived we unpacked and settled into our safari tents. The bathrooms were open-air! We were then given an important safety talk and some tips on what to do when out on safari - like letting our horses graze while watching the animals to help them stay calm. Shortly afterwards we set off on an orientation ride to prepare us for our first proper day, I rode Giraf, a 14hh Arab.

### Day 1

We set off at 7.30am. I rode Giraf again. We saw warthog and kudu, a herd of elephants and even a giraffe. On our second ride of the day I rode a 15.3hh Boerperd horse called Murphy. We found a male lion on



Ines got to see elephant on her holiday.



The team ready to set out on safari.

his own, which was lucky because if his lionesses had been with him it would have been too dangerous for us.

### Day 2

I rode Murphy to a dam where we saw a family of hippos and a huge crocodile! After tea and cakes, with monkeys watching hopefully from the trees, we went out to see some buffalo. We had to do this in a vehicle, as the buffalo were far away.



Ines spotted this huge crocodile on the second day.



This hippo family were warming up in the sunshine.

### Day 3

This morning I rode Tenacity, a Thoroughbred mare, who had recently returned to work after having a foal. Amazingly we spotted two rhino - a mother and her almost fully-grown calf. That afternoon we set off on our ride to Beacon Rock, where we would spend the night sleeping under the stars.

### Days 4-6

We went on a game drive and saw a leopard just after it had made a kill! On the ride we also saw wildebeest and fresh lion tracks, before spending the night at Makalali in a thatched African cottage. After some time spent resting the next day, we found ourselves galloping alongside giraffes - the faster they went, the more in slow motion they

seemed! But more excitement was to come - we rounded a bend and came across three cheetahs tucking into a fresh kill.



Ines rode Giraf on the first safari.



A giraffe emerges from the bush.

### Day 7

Our last morning with 'Wait A Little!' Fortunately there was time for one last ride on Tenacity before we left. Just as we were leaving, we came across a group of giraffe and were also lucky enough to see the rhinos again. We all had such a great time it was so sad to say goodbye to everyone there, I just really hope I can do something like this again - one day!

Our Big 5 Horseback Safari was booked through 'Ride World Wide Limited', Staddon Farm, North Tawton, Devon, EX20 2BX  
www.rideworldwide.com  
and we stopped with Gerti & Philip Kusseler, Karongwe Private Game Reserve, P.O. Box 126, Ofcolaco 0854, South Africa.