



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## SOUTH AFRICA

### ANTS NEST & ANTS HILL 2024

#### RIDE INFORMATION

Ant's Nest and its sister lodge Ant's Hill, are in the Waterberg range of South Africa's Limpopo Province, about 3 hours drive north of Johannesburg and an hour from the Botswana border. They are small, privately owned safari lodges, set in their own game and nature reserve, offering a wonderfully personal, all-round experience of the African bush. Activities include game viewing by horse, by vehicle and on foot; there are mountain bikes, you can arrange optional outings to visit neighbouring game reserves, historic bushman paintings, the local village and school or just take 'time out' to bird watch, relax by the swimming pool or for an expert massage. The lodges can be booked exclusively and whether you do this or join other guests, the atmosphere is always relaxed and welcoming. If you are a couple, a small group of friends or a family looking for a holiday where activities and itineraries can be tailored to suit, where everyone from the fittest to those most in need of a rest will be personally catered for and where you will be welcomed as friends but also extremely well looked after, you will be hard pushed to find anything better.



#### DATES

Stays at Ant's Nest or Ant's Hill can be arranged on request for 2 to 14 nights, year round. The lodges sleep up to 14 / 16 respectively (occasionally more if children share or by arrangement for private bookings) and can also be booked exclusively on request. Please contact us at Ride World Wide to discuss dates and availability and (as the charging system at Ants is a little complex) to confirm rates for your proposed length of stay.

#### HORSES

The lodges share about 90 horses, all carefully selected for their temperament, aptitude and ability. They include locally bred TB and TB crosses of up to about 16.2hh, local South African Boerperd crosses and ponies of around 13hh and above for children. There is a good selection for riders of different abilities and all are well-schooled, reliable and sensible, but also responsive and fun to ride.

## TACK

Saddles are Maclellan style (a comfortable cross between a Western and English saddle) with some English saddles available on request.

## RIDING

The amount of riding you do during a stay at Ants is tailored to suit. Riding is one of a choice of game viewing activities on offer each morning and evening and the length and pace of rides is adjusted (as far as possible) to suit. Riding groups are generally a maximum of 6 guests, led by a qualified South African field guide and accompanied by a second back-up rider. Guests are generally (and as far as possible) split for riding according to ability - but with a guide and back-up rider on each ride, there is also plenty of scope for different abilities to ride out together if they wish. Basic lessons for novices and children are another option. Horses are prepared, tacked up and un-tacked by grooms. All riders are required to wear a hard hat when riding - there are some to borrow but we strongly recommend taking your own to ensure a good, secure fit.

## WEIGHT LIMIT

110kg (17st 4lbs) but please contact us if you are over 95kgs / 15 stone to check suitable horses are available.



## PACE & RIDING EXPERIENCE

The emphasis is on a riding pace and hours to suit and riders of all abilities can be well catered for. There are lots of well-maintained sandy tracks which allows fast, fun riding for the experienced rider, but equally, novice and young riders are well looked after, with short gentle rides on good going, outings on a lead rein and basic lessons an option. If you plan concentrated riding you will get the most from your visit if you are reasonably riding fit and we recommend regular practice in the months before you go.

## NON-RIDING ACTIVITIES

A variety of activities are always on offer making the lodges ideal for families, couples or groups with mixed interests. The activity choice each day is driven by guest needs and itineraries are carefully tailored to suit. On-site activities include game drives (both day and night with a spotlight), guided walks (from a leisurely stroll to an energetic hike) and mountain biking (relaxed on the plains or challenging trails up and down hill across the reserve). Archery targets can be set up on request (notice required and subject to availability of instructor), you can try fishing in one of the dams (seasonal) and the local snake handler is often available for a fascinating, educational talk on all things snake! Off site, game drives on a neighbouring 'Big 5' reserve can be organised for an extra charge as can visits to the local town, community church and primary school, whilst those in need of an extra adrenaline rush may like to try the Waterberg Ziplines on offer locally (there is an additional charge for all activities off the Ants Reserve). As well as this each lodge has a heated swimming pool - a 14m long natural pool at Ant's Nest and a lovely recently enlarged pool at Ant's Hill (where some rooms also have their own private plunge pool) - and massages by the pool or under the shade of your veranda with the in-house masseuse are always a real treat (extra charge).

## TERRAIN

The reserve at Ants comprises low-lying bush and scrub, with patches of rough open grassland, scattered rocks and rocky 'kopjes' (hills). There are also areas of thick, taller woodland and a network of sandy tracks that provide great going for long canters. In places the terrain is rocky and rough but the horses are sure footed and adapted to this.



## GAME

There are over 40 game species on the Ant's Reserve, including 'big' game such as white rhino, always wonderful to see at close quarters, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest and many smaller species. The reserve is privately stocked and although relatively small at 12,000 acres and fenced, expert management and a careful breeding programme over several years, mean it offers some excellent, varied game viewing. Resident game includes zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, buffalo, antelope such as kudu, eland, impala, waterbuck, steenbok and the rare oryx, roan and sable, warthog, bushpig, caracal, hyena and of course white rhino. Animals can often be seen close to the lodges and at close quarters drinking at waterholes and, with no elephant or lion to worry about, the reserve is a great place for a relaxing riding, walking or all-round family safari. For those who wish to see more 'big' game, outings to local reserves where there is big game such as elephant and lion are easy to organise. As well as game, over 300 species of migrant and indigenous birds have been recorded in the area so it is ideal for keen birders. One of the aims of Ants has also been to create comfortable 'bush homes' where visitors can become part of a 'working' reserve and there are often opportunities to join management activities, such as game capture and census.



## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is very comfortable. Ant's Nest (part of which was the original farm homestead) has 7 bedrooms or suites. There is a lovely large suite (Sable) on the upper floor of the main lodge with a double bedroom with en-suite bathroom, an adjoining twin bedroom, large sitting room and private thatched veranda overlooking the lawns. Downstairs are four twin / double bedrooms (Davidson Suites, Kingfisher and Flycatcher) each with private bathroom and there are two further en-suite bedrooms, one large room with a double and single bed and large private veranda (Weaver) and another room set a little by itself in a separate 'rondavel' a short step from the main lodge. All bedrooms are furnished with individually designed furniture, handmade from local timber and most have large, elegantly draped four-poster beds. The main house has a comfortable sitting and dining room, with open fireplace, a large covered stone veranda with sitting and dining areas running along the front of the house and a heated swimming pool with thatch-covered veranda where meals are often served. **cont. over**



## ACCOMMODATION cont.

Ant's Hill is a little bigger (5 rooms / cottages sleeping up to about 16) and is spectacularly situated on the edge of a hill with lovely views across the Waterberg. Built of traditional stone and thatch, it was designed by the Ant's team and is a stunning, well-thought-out 'bush home' with individual touches that include doorways framed in ancient, gnarled olive wood, 7ft by 7ft carved teak beds and comfortable sofas and chairs scattered with cushions on each of the open verandas. Accommodation here includes two family 'cottages', one with double, twin and loft bedroom and one (Worldsview) with a double and triple bedroom (both with en-suite bathrooms), an open veranda, dining area and its own small plunge pool. Two further individual cottages (Hideaway & Lookout) are set by themselves and have en-suite bedroom and large veranda and there is a lovely upstairs bedroom (Eagle's Nest) in the main building with en-suite bathroom and fabulous views. The main lodge also has a comfortable sitting and dining room with open fireplace, bar area and large heated swimming pool.



## MEALS

Stays include all meals, generously produced from fresh local ingredients and always delicious! Cooked English breakfasts are served in the lodge or at tables set up in the bush, substantial brunches and three course dinners are supplemented by snacks and afternoon tea with freshly baked cakes. Barbecues or 'braais', a great South African tradition, are a favourite in the evening often featuring superb home produced beef or game. Dinner is preceded by drinks on the veranda and local wines are served with lunch and dinner. Vegetarians are well catered for, with plenty of fresh salads and vegetables always served, but please let us know in advance of any special dietary requirements. Meal times are flexible and can be varied to suit, for example with earlier mealtimes for children if required.

## FAMILY POLICY

Children of all ages are welcome, families are particularly encouraged and the lodge staff will do what they can to ensure flexibility in accommodation, activities and meals arrangements. At Ant's Hill, the family cottages are ideal for a group with younger children (and as other bedrooms are situated well away, and separately from one another, peace and privacy for all is assured). At Ant's Nest, the Davidson rooms (two adjoining rooms each with en-suite bathroom) and Sable Suite (which can comfortably sleep 5) are ideal for families, although other rooms also work well for parents sharing with a younger child. Separate / earlier meal times can be arranged for children with a special children's menu if required and / or children are welcome to come to dinner in dressing gowns; both lodges have cots and high chairs, child minding can be organised and experienced (although not professionally qualified) staff are available to bath and feed babies if requested. Children of any age are welcome to join their parents in any activity, special child-oriented activities are laid on, and 'standard' activities such as riding, guided walks and game drives can all be tailored to suit. There is always much to keep children occupied and their stay will be educational as well as great fun. At Ant's Nest the swimming pool has a shallow paddling area, ideal for toddlers, at one side and can be fenced off with a removable fence if required.

## WEATHER

The area's climate makes it a wonderful destination year round. Summer is mid November to March when midday temperatures are usually 24 to 35 degrees C and nights around 16 to 18 degrees C. This is also the rainy season and showers or afternoon thunderstorms are possible (although rarely intrusive). Autumn is April and May when days are usually pleasantly warm and dry with temperatures in the 20s C. It begins to cool down, particularly at night, in May. June to September is winter, the dry season, and although usually warm with clear skies and daytime temperatures around 15 to 20 degrees C, it gets quite cool when the sun goes down. Night-time temperatures in winter average around 5 degrees C although occasionally can drop to zero. It is very pleasant in spring, October to November, when new leaves and blossom starts to appear.

## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

## ITINERARY

Itineraries are individually tailored to suit. When you arrive your hosts will explain what is on offer and will discuss the choice of activities with you. The following is an example itinerary for a week's stay:

**Day 1** - Met on arrival at Johannesburg airport and driven 3 hours or so to Ant's Nest / Ant's Hill in the Waterberg. Settle into your rooms and meet your hosts over lunch. Then time to meet the horses for a first ride if you wish, or for an evening game drive or walk to see the area. Return to the lodge for drinks around the fire, dinner and the night. (D)



**Days 2 to 6** - Five full days at the lodge with a choice of activities including morning and / or afternoon rides, guided walks and game drives to explore, perhaps stopping for breakfast or lunch out in the bush. There are also mountain bikes for those who wish, you might like to spend an afternoon fishing in one of the dams or go off-site (extra charge) one day for a morning's game drive and chance to see 'Big' game such as elephant or lion on one of the neighbouring private reserves. Your hosts will do all they can to tailor your stay to suit, whilst also leaving you time to simply relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings and swimming pool. Dinner & nights at the lodge. (B,L,D)

**Day 7** - Final morning activity and then a driver will collect you and drive you back to Johannesburg perhaps stopping en-route at the local town of Vaalwater or at the Beadle craft workshop where you can buy wonderful locally made souvenirs. Arrive Johannesburg airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

### **Note: Special Game Census Week**

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a genuine game monitoring and counting experience. Game on the Ants Reserve is carefully monitored and managed to conserve the area and promote and support different species. In May / June there is an annual game count and some animals may be re-located or caught for checking, de-horning or other treatment. Most reserves use helicopters for game counts but horses are used as much as possible on the Ants Reserve, causing less disruption for game and the environment.

Please contact us for itinerary and prices.



## **DATES & RATES 2024**

**Valid 10th January 2024 to 9th January 2025**

**Rates depend on the room(s) booked.**

**Note: A compulsory Conservancy Fee is included in the prices below. This is used to fund work to protect and manage game, particularly rhino, on the reserve.**

**Rates are per person, per night, on a sharing basis.**

**Child rates apply to children aged 2 to 11 years sharing with one adult.**

**Adult rates apply to children aged 12 years and over.**

**Special rates, approx 15% discount, apply for stays of 7 nights or more during the low season.**

### **Deluxe Rooms at Ant's Hill (Lookout), at Ant's Nest (Sable & Weaver suite):**

Adult: £450

Child: £305

Extra bed (adult /child): £170

**Single supplement: £230**

### **Deluxe, Sable Suite at Ant's Nest**

Sable 1 (double): Adult: £450

Sable 2 (double or twin): Adults or Children: £370

Extra bed (5th person adult /child): £170

**Single supplement: £230**

### **Superior Deluxe Adult Room at Ant's Hill only (Hideaway - has private plunge pool) Adult: £490**

Child sharing with adult: £305

Extra bed (child only): £170

**Single supplement: £245**

### **Standard Rooms (Ant's Nest - Davidson Suites, Kingfisher & Flycatcher):**

Adult: £350

**Single supplement: £175**

Davidson only: Child (2 min occupancy) / sharing with adult: £225

Davidson only: Extra bed (possible for children only): £131

### **Superior Standard Rooms (Ant's Nest - Rondavel; Ant's Hill - Eagles Nest):**

Adult: £395

Child sharing with adult: £240

**Single supplement: £200**

Rondavel only: Extra bed (possible for children only): £170

**Children under 2 years**, applicable at both lodges (includes child minding):

£90 per night (applies to both seasons)

**Exclusive use of Ant's Nest (up to 12 guests) or Ant's Hill (up to 16 guests):**

Please ask for a quote based on the size of the group



## DATES & RATES 2024 cont.

### **Ant's Hill Family Cottage (rate valid up to 5 adults): £1825**

Extra bed (adult /child): £170

(Maximum 2 extra beds allowed)

### **Ant's Hill Superior Cottage (Worldsview)**

**with private pool (rate valid up to 4 adults): £1970**

Extra bed (adult /child): £170

(Maximum 1 extra bed allowed)

Rates **INCLUDE** meals from lunch on first day to breakfast on the last, all drinks (except champagne & cellar wines), riding, guiding and equipment, game drives and guided walks on site, use of mountain bikes, compulsory Conservancy fee, and laundry service. Activities are on a 'shared' basis; private guides / safari vehicles can be booked for £140 per day.

Rates **EXCLUDE** International flights to Johannesburg and taxes, transfers to the lodge, lunch on first or last day, local excursions and off-site activities (eg visits to other game reserves), massages and extra activities (such as night sky safari), cellar wines & champagne, any visa fees, personal insurance (which you must have), personal items such as telephone calls etc. and staff tips.



## FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Flights and Travel** - The nearest international airport is Johannesburg and British Airways and Virgin have direct daily flights from London to Johannesburg, normally departing London in the evening (around 18.00 / 21.00) and arriving Johannesburg early the next morning (around 07.00 / 10.00). You can also fly via Europe e.g. with Air France, KLM or Al Italia but we strongly recommend a direct flight to minimize the risk of delays etc. Airfares vary depending on the airline and season but expect to pay around £800 to £1000 per person for a London / Johannesburg economy return.

**We would be happy to advise on flights and to quote and book flights for you (our ATOL number for flight bookings is ATOL 6213). Please contact us for a flight inclusive quote.**



## FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont

**Transfers** - Car transfers between Johannesburg and Ant's Nest or Ant's Hill can be arranged on request. Transfer rates are approximately £310 each way for a car taking 1 to 3 people, £355 each way for a car taking 4 to 7 people, £370 for a minibus taking 8 to 10 people. To accommodate luggage there may be an extra trailer charge approx £25 per way. **NOTE** that **transfer rates are subject to change without notice and can fluctuate with fuel prices**. There will also be a surcharge for transfers required between 16.30 and 08.00. Exact rates should be confirmed when you book.

## GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking)

**Visas** If you hold a full British Passport and are visiting South Africa for a holiday only and staying less than 90 days you do not need to arrange a visa in advance. Please note that there are special requirements for those travelling with children, requiring provision of birth certificates and other documents, which are strictly enforced, particularly if only one parent is accompanying.

**Health** No inoculations are legally required for entry to South Africa from Europe but the TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are up to date with inoculations against Tetanus and Hepatitis A and also against Typhoid, Cholera and Yellow Fever in some circumstances. Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill are in a Malaria free area but if you are travelling on in South Africa after your stay you might need additional inoculations or to take Malaria tablets - you should always consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice.

(DRAFT 10/10/2023)

