



RIDE WORLD WIDE SOUTH AFRICA

ANT AFRICA SAFARIS - THE ANTS COLLECTION 2026

RIDE INFORMATION

Ant's Nest and its sister lodges, Ant's Hill and Ant's Bushwillow, 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 with Ant Africa Safaris can be arranged on request for 2 to 14 nights, year round. There are now 3 lodges to choose from, Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill which sleep up to 14 / 16 respectively and Ant's Bushwillow which sleeps up to 10 (all 3 lodges can occasionally sleep more if children share or by arrangement for a private whole lodge booking - all can be booked exclusively on request). For 2026 stays at Bushwillow are for 7 nights from set dates and include a set itinerary / riding programme. Please contact us at Ride World Wide to discuss dates and availability and (as room rates vary with the individual room booked) to confirm rates for your proposed lodge and 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, Arab crosses, locally bred Friesian crosses and ponies of around 13hh and above for children. There is a good selection, with a pool of horses based at each lodge, for riders of different abilities. All are well-schooled, extremely well looked after, 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. Saddle bags are provided where necessary.

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 and wishes - but with a guide and back-up rider on each ride, there is also scope for a group of different abilities to ride out together if preferred. Basic lessons for novices and children are an option if required and lead rein riders for children can be organised if required. Horses are prepared, tacked up and looked after by grooms. All riders are required to wear a hard hat when riding - there are some to borrow if necessary but quality is not guaranteed and we **strongly** recommend taking your own to ensure a good, secure fit.

WEIGHT LIMIT

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



RIDING EXPERIENCE & PACE

Riders of all abilities can be well catered for at the Ants lodges, with a good choice of horses, adaptable riding hours, pace and the emphasis overall on a riding experience to suit. There are lots of well-maintained sandy tracks (which are cleared of branches and regularly checked for holes) which allow fast, fun riding for experienced riders, but equally, novice and young riders will be well looked after with short gentle rides on good going, as well as lead rein outings and basic lessons, an option. It is always important for any guest wishing to ride to be reasonably fit and if you plan concentrated riding, please ensure you put in plenty of regular practice in the months before you go to get used to hours in the saddle.

NON-RIDING ACTIVITIES

As well as riding, a variety of other activities are on offer making the Ants lodges ideal for families, couples or groups with mixed interests. During each stay there will be a choice of a morning and afternoon optional activity, with the activity choice driven by guest needs and interests as far as possible. On-site non-riding activities include game drives (both day and night with a spotlight), guided walks (from a leisurely stroll to an energetic hike) and (for those over 12 years) mountain biking (- relaxed on the plains or following 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) or depending on the season, you can fish in one of the dams. 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 local Waterberg Ziplines (there is an additional charge for all activities off the Ants Reserve). As well as this you can arrange wine tastings, an evening of guided star gazing (extra charge), each lodge has a heated swimming pool (and some rooms at Ant's Hill 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 lodges are spread across two private nature and game reserves; the main Ant's Reserve, which is about 5,000 hectares and surrounds Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill, and a separate 1,100 hectare Ant's Bushwillow **cont. over**

TERRAIN cont.

site that was incorporated into the Ants collection in 2024. Both areas comprise low-lying bush and scrub, with patches of rough open grassland, scattered rocks and rocky 'kopies' (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 well adapted to this.



GAME

There are over 40 game species across the reserves, including 'big' game - buffalo and white rhino (currently on the main Ant's Reserve only) - that is always wonderful to see at close quarters. The reserves are privately stocked and although fenced and limited in size, expert management and a careful breeding programme over several years, means there is often excellent, varied and excitingly close-up game viewing. Resident game on the main Ant's Reserve includes zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, buffalo, antelope such as kudu, eland, impala, waterbuck, steenbok and the rare oryx, roan and sable antelope, warthog, bushpig, caracal, hyena and of course white rhino. You may also be lucky and spot nocturnal species such as leopard, porcupine, bat eared fox or civet cat. Animals can often be seen close to the lodges – perhaps a rhino grazing 10 yards from your sun bed at Ant's Nest - and at close quarters drinking at waterholes. Without the worry of riding or walking into elephant or lion, Ants really 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 you might see elephant and lion are easy to organise. As well as game, over 300 species of migrant and indigenous birds have been recorded in the Waterberg region so the lodges are a wonderful choice 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' game reserve and there are often opportunities to join management activities, such as game capture or monitoring, with an exciting game census safari also run annually.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is very comfortable at all three lodges with each offering its own unique charm and character. Ant's Nest (part of which was the original farm homestead) has 8 bedrooms in all. 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. **cont. over**



ACCOMMODATION cont.

Downstairs is the two bedroom Davidson Suite (two separate bedrooms each with private bathroom), there are three cottages a short step from the main lodge, with an individual bedroom (with private bathroom) in each (Kingfisher, Flycatcher and the Rondavel), and a further large en-suite bedroom, with a double and single bed and large private veranda (Weaver) upstairs to the front of 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 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. 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 a 'wow' factor when you arrive and individual touches that include doorways framed in ancient, gnarled olive wood, 7ft by 7ft carved teak beds, sunken outside baths 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) sharing a large open veranda, dining area and their own small plunge pool. Two further cottages (Hideaway & Lookout) are set by themselves and have en-suite bedroom and large veranda whilst Eagle's Nest is a lovely bedroom upstairs 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, outdoor bar area and large heated swimming pool. Ant's Bushwillow sleeps a maximum of 10 guests in 4 stand-alone chalets, 3 with a twin / double bedroom (each air conditioned) and en-suite shower room and loo and a family cottage with 2 twin / double en-suite bedrooms that share a small meeting / kitchen area. There is also a main lodge, with dining / living room and deck that overlooks the swimming pool. Overall it is a simpler lodge that was converted from an original farmstead, but it is in a lovely private position looking-out over open bush with a feeling of being close to and out in the bush environment.



MEALS

Stays include all meals, generously produced from fresh local ingredients and always delicious! Cooked English breakfasts are served in your lodge or sometimes at a table set up in the bush, substantial brunches and three course dinners are supplemented by snacks and after an afternoon siesta, there is 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 lodge veranda or around a fire and local wines are served with lunch and dinner. Vegetarians are very well catered for, with plenty of fresh salads and vegetables always served, but please let us know in advance of any special dietary requirements. Mealtimes are flexible and can be varied to suit, for example served earlier for children if required.

FAMILY POLICY

Children of all ages are welcome with families particularly encouraged. The lodge staff will do what they can to ensure flexibility in accommodation, activities and meal arrangements for families but also for adults travelling alone - couples are not, for example, required to go out for sundowners, or to have dinner with children under 12yrs and separate arrangements will be made. 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 Suite (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.

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FAMILY POLICY cont.

Separate / earlier mealtimes 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 highchairs, 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 (although children under 5yrs will only be able to ride on a lead rein close to the lodge and not on longer rides), 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 mid 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 22 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 usually very pleasant in spring, October to November, when new leaves and blossom starts to appear, although there can also be some very hot days and a chance of early rain.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Itineraries are individually tailored to suit although at Bushwillow for 2026 a standard 7 night itinerary is run from set dates. When you arrive your hosts will explain what is on offer and will discuss the choice of activities with you. Below is an example itinerary for a week's stay at Ants Nest or Hill - please ask for Bushwillow set itinerary:

Day 1 - Met on arrival at Johannesburg airport and driven 3 hours or so to the Waterberg. Settle into your rooms and meet your hosts over lunch (lunch is included on your arrival OR departure day) or tea. 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)



Five full days at your chosen 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. The daily routine varies with the season but usually breakfast is served at around 07.00, and there is a morning activity from about 07.30 or 08.00 returning to the lodge mid-morning. After lunch at around 12 noon there is time to relax until tea at about 15.30 and then a late afternoon ride or other activity before dinner at about 19.30 and the night at your lodge.

(B,L,D)

EXAMPLE ITINERARY cont.

Day 7 - Final morning activity before packing up and an early lunch (included on your departure **OR** arrival day). Then a driver will collect you and drive you back to Johannesburg airport in time for your onward flight. (B,L)

Note: Special Game Census Week - 30th May to 7th June 2026

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 each year there is an annual game count with some animals caught for vet checks, de-horning or other treatment and perhaps for re-location to new areas. Most reserves use helicopters for game counts but horses are used as much as possible by Ant Africa Safaris to minimise disruption for game and the environment. Please contact us for prices. This week books up well ahead so get in touch early if you are interested.



DATES & RATES 2026

Valid 10th January 2026 to 9th January 2027

Rates depend on the room(s) booked and are per person, per night, on a twin / double share basis.

For single room occupancy, the single supplement applies (except in certain rooms if on Long Stay Special - please ask).

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

Adult rates apply to children aged 12 years and over.

Long Stay Special rates, approx 10% discount, apply for stays of 7 nights or more (except during peak Christmas, New Year and Easter holiday times).

Note: A compulsory Conservancy Fee (£85 per adult / £60 per child under 12yrs per night) is included in the prices below. This Fee funds work to protect and manage game, particularly rhino anti-poaching patrols, on the reserve.

Deluxe Rooms at Ant's Hill (Lookout), at Ant's Nest (Weaver suite)

Adult: £485 Child: £330

Extra 3rd bed (adult /child) in the room: £210 / £185

Single supplement: £250

Deluxe Suite at Ant's Nest (Sable Suite - 2 rooms)

Sable 1 (double room): Adult: £485

Sable 2 (double or twin room): Adult £485; Child: £400

Extra bed (3rd bed in twin room / 5th person in suite): Adult £210 / Child £185

Single supplement: £250 (but minimum 4 people usually required to book suite in peak times)

Deluxe Family cottage at Ant's Hill (2 rooms with mezzanine loft)

Adult: £485 Child: £400

Extra child bed in loft (maximum 3 extra beds): Child £185

Single supplement: £250 (but minimum 4 people required to book cottage in peak times)

Cont. over

DATES & RATES 2026 cont.

Superior Deluxe Room at Ant's Hill (Hideaway - with private plunge pool)

Adult: £530

Child sharing with adult: £330

Extra bed (child only): £185

Single supplement: £265

Superior Deluxe Cottage at Ant's Hill (Worldsview - with private plunge pool)

Adult: £530

Child sharing with adult: £460

Extra bed (3rd bed in room / 5th person in cottage): Adult £210 / Child £185

Single supplement: £265 (but minimum 4 people required to book cottage in peak times)

Standard Rooms (Ant's Nest - Davidson twin, Kingfisher & Flycatcher):

Adult: £375

Davidson twin: Child (2 min occupancy) / child sharing with adult: £245

Single supplement in Flycatcher and Davidson twin: £185

Kingfisher is a single room and Flycatcher is double bedded; no child rates.

Superior Standard Rooms (Ant's Nest - Rondavel, Davidson Double; at Ant's Hill - Eagles Nest):

Adult: £425

Child sharing with adult: £260

Single supplement: £215

Extra bed (adult / child - extra child bed only in Davidson Double): £185

Bushwillow all rooms (Standard level): Adult: £375

Child: £245

Single supplement: £185

Set 7 night Bushwillow stay, from set dates:

Adult: £2,475 Child sharing with adult: £1,635

Both including return transfers from / back to Johannesburg airport

Children under 2 years (all lodges, includes child minding during activities):

£90 per night

Exclusive use (Ant's Nest usually up to 14 guests, Ant's Hill up to 16 guests, Bushwillow usually up to 10 guests): Please ask for a quote based on the size of the group

Rates **INCLUDE** meals from dinner on first day to breakfast on the last (and lunch on arrival *or* departure day), all drinks (except champagne & cellar wines), riding, guiding and equipment, game drives and guided walks on site, use of mountain bikes, Conservancy fee and laundry service. Activities are on a 'shared' basis; private guides / safari vehicles can be booked for £215 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, extra activities (eg night sky safari), cellar wines & champagne, visa fees, personal insurance (compulsory), personal items and staff tips.





FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The nearest international airport is Johannesburg. 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 Lufthansa 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 £850 to £1300 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.

Transfers Car transfers to the lodges from Johannesburg 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 (£35 per way) or additional vehicle required. If you wish to arrange a transfer please let us know. We will book although costs will be billed to you at the lodge so shared transfers can be organised if possible. Transfers are included in Bushwillow set itinerary rates above.

NOTE also that **transfer rates are subject to change without notice and fluctuate with fuel prices.** There will also be a surcharge for transfers requiring pick up after 16.30 and before 08.00 (no night transfers for safety - earliest pick up 06.00).

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

General visa and 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. The lodges are in an area that is minimal risk for Malaria 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 04/11/2025)

