RIDE WORLD WIDE
SOUTH AFRICA
WAIT-A-LITTLE SAFARIS 2027

RIDE INFORMATION

Wait-A-Little Safaris is owned by Philip and Gerti Kusseler and operates from a lovely private camp in a 35,000 hectare unspoilt conservation area close to South Africa's Kruger National Park and about 320 miles north east of Johannesburg. The camp is on an 8,500 hectare private game reserve which has the Drakensberg Mountains as a magnificent backdrop and most safaris also spend time on the adjacent 24,000 hectare Makalali Reserve. With ecosystems that range from open plains, woodland and rocky 'kopjes', to gullies and riverine bush the area is home to a variety of plant, bird and animal life, including the 'Big 5' and provides wonderful close up game viewing opportunities. Add to this top quality guiding, comfortable accommodation and Gerti's cherished and beautifully schooled horses and you have an exciting, highly personal small group safari.



DATES

Safaris are run year-round with 7 night Big 5 Safaris from Saturday to Saturday throughout the year (departures subject to a minimum of 2 participants) and 5 night Big 5 Camp Safaris and 9 night Ride & Dine safaris on request for 4 or more or from occasional set dates. Safaris are for a maximum of 7 participants. Please contact us to discuss dates, plans and availability.

HORSES

There are about 40 horses at the Wait-A-Little base, all between about 14.3hh and 17hh. They include local South African breeds such as Boerperds and Boerperd crosses, as well as Warmbloods, Thoroughbred and crossbreds. All are experienced safari horses, responsive to ride, extremely good-natured, well schooled and well mannered. Gerti, an excellent dressage rider, personally schools all the horses regularly ensuring they are fit, supple and responsive to ride. The horses are also used to the bush, spending much time grazing loose in the reserve and are very sure footed, coping easily with the sometimes rough and rocky terrain. There are helpers and grooms on hand at the Wait-A-Little base who travel with you to the different camps and lodges, to tack up, untack and look after the horses.





TACK

Excellent quality, English style with mainly Stubben saddles or Bates dressage saddles. Most horses are ridden in snaffles (some in pelhams). Saddle-bags are provided and sheepskins / seat savers are available if required.





RIDING

Usually between 4 and 7 hours a day, broken up with refreshment stops and a break for lunch. Rides are generally limited to a maximum of 7 or 8 guests and are lead by Philip or his co-guide Jo, both FGSA (field guide association of South Africa) qualified, experienced, enthusiastic and hugely knowledgeable guides, accompanied by a back-up rider. Riding is English style with horses encouraged to walk out actively and remain alert. You'll be asked to ride on a relaxed rein at the walk, to allow the horses to walk out freely, to keep constant close leg contact and use a forward seat at the canter. Please note that for safety reasons you will be asked NOT to video with GoPro, iphones etc whilst riding.



WEIGHT LIMIT

95 kgs (15 stone) - riders are also expected to be fit with weight in proportion to height as the riding can be quite energetic!

PACE

Varied and depends on the terrain, but overall moderate to fast. In places the bush is thick and there are ascents and winding descents to negotiate so you have to ride slowly one behind the other, but there are also open areas and long sandy tracks that are good for fast canters and gallops. There are also often energetic, sporty canters weaving in and out of fairly thick bush - it is important to be fit and well balanced in the saddle.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

The rides are aimed at reasonably experienced riders who are fit, well balanced and secure in the saddle. To participate you must be a reasonably competent rider, who is comfortable, secure and able to independently control a well-schooled horse in open country and on different ground at all paces, including a fast canter. You should also be happy handling a horse from the ground and able to get on and off and to lead your horse without help. Although you don't need to be an ‘expert’ rider, you must be used to riding over varied terrain at a varied pace, including long energetic canters, with a group of horses. You also need a reasonably good level of riding fitness as hours can be fairly long and the pace often ‘sporty’. Some of the horses are also quite young and sensitive requiring an independent balanced seat and soft hands.

TERRAIN

The Karongwe and Makalali Reserves are in South Africa’s 'lowveld', an area of varying ecosystems and a natural habitat for a wide range of flora, fauna, birds and game. Much of the region is covered in quite dense bush and thorn scrub, there are riverine gullies, huge fig and Jackal berry trees and lush, exotic vegetation along the banks of the rivers. Rocky ‘kopjes’ - small hills that are very typical of Africa - are dotted across the plains and provide wonderful viewpoints. Sandy tracks, old fence lines and in the dry season, river beds, all provide good going for fast riding. In places the terrain is rough as you climb in and out of rocky gorges but the horses negotiate this with ease.





GAME

The Karongwe Private Game Reserve is home to the 'Big Five' - lion, elephant, leopard, rhino and buffalo - and you are likely to see all of these during your stay. You may also see cheetah, hyena, wild dog, jackal, warthog, mongoose, crocodiles, hippo and herbivores such as wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, kudu, eland, impala, bushbuck, steenbok, duiker and waterbuck. Nocturnal game sometimes seen includes aardvark, civet, caracal, serval, porcupine and spring hare. The Reserve is quite small and compact and, although the bush is thick in places, the game is used to riders and game drive vehicles so you have a very good chance of seeing many different species amazingly close up. Makalali Reserve also boasts similar game including the Big Five and is known as one of finest private game reserves in the world so there is always plenty of wildlife to see. Philip qualified to the South African Field Guides Association highest level (SKS, special skills / dangerous game), he is Wait-A-Little's answer to Indiana Jones. His enthusiasm for tracking is infectious and he displays a deep knowledge and understanding of the wildlife and environment, with a tale to tell about every animal that crosses your path.




ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Wait-A-Little's base is in large walk-in canvas safari tents with thatched roofs, set on wooden platforms with verandas overlooking the Makhutswe river. There are 4 rooms - the 3 tented rooms can be either super king size double beds or large twin beds made up with cotton sheets, pillows and duvets. The last room is twice the size, with two king size double neds and a large veranda and seating area. Tents are set away from each other for privacy and are all equipped with mosquito nets and insect repellent. They have an en-suite bathroom with a flush loo, an outside shower (with hot and cold running water) and a bath overlooking the Makuthswe River. All rooms have a ceiling fan, hairdryers, and different plug options including USB. Toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, vanity kits and sewing kits are supplied. There is also a central lodge, the original farmhouse, with sitting room, dining area and well stocked bar. The house overlooks the river and with a small swimming pool close by, is an ideal spot for R&R after an exciting ride. There is also a small gift shop and a massage room.





On the 7 night Big 5 Safari 3 different accommodations are used. 4 nights are spent at the main base camp, one night is at Beacon Rock Camp and 2 nights are in the very comfortable XiDulu Lodge on Makalali Reserve.

Beacon Rock is a simple camp situated on a rock formation, the highest point in the surrounding area, with a magnificent view. When staying here riders sleep on mattresses set up on the rocks under the stars or under a shelter, enjoying the night sounds of the bush. In complete contrast XiDulu is a beautiful privately owned lodge with lots of creature comforts. The lodge has 5 comfortable king size double rooms; 3 chalets (1 can be a twin), a honeymoon suite and 1 room close to the main lodge (there would be no single supplement for this room). All have their own inside and outside hot showers, a bath (except the room close to the main lodge), flush loo, air conditioning and private veranda.





There is also has an amazing infinity swimming pool with built in Jacuzzi, overlooking a dam where elephants often come to bathe. The 5 night Big 5 Camp Safaris miss out the 2 nights at XiDulu. Ride & Dine Safaris use Wait-A-Little base, XiDulu and also Clive's camp - another privately owned luxury camp on the Makalai reserve. Clive's camp has 5 private rooms with thatched roofs. All rooms have a wooden deck with wonderful views over the waterhole, en-suite bathroom as well as a private outside shower, air-con and ceiling fans. There are 2 outside seating areas with a campfire & barbeque, a large pool and stunning views over the open plains and the night-illuminated waterhole ensures a unique experience. Safari rates are based on double accommodation and a single supplement is charged if you are not prepared to share with another (same sex) guest **if** the safari is full.

MEALS

You will be extremely well fed on safari with three delicious home cooked meals a day. There is usually a light breakfast before your morning ride, for instance tea or coffee with cereal and toast, butter and jam. Lunches are usually a combination of fresh salads, home made bread, pizza or quiche, together with a selection of cold meats or fish. A three-course dinner is served in the evening, a carefully thought out menu with a main course of something like venison, fish if available or pasta and often a delicious barbeque cooked over an open fire. Menus are varied and all the food is freshly prepared from good local ingredients. There are plenty of vegetables and salads as well as excellent local meat and meals are usually eaten at the long central dining table or on chairs seated around the camp-fire. On the Ride & Dine safaris you have the added benefit of two excellent chefs who accompany the Makalali part of the safari. All drinks (except champagne, premium wines and spirits) are included on safari and there is a well stocked bar with a selection of good quality South African wine, beer, spirits and cold drinks available.





SAFETY

There will be an introductory talk on the routine in the camp and safety when riding, explaining how to handle big game situations, when you first arrive. The guide carries a radio and also a rifle. All camps and vehicles on the Reserve also have radio contact and there are research teams monitoring the big game who also carry radios in case of emergencies. A back up rider accompanies each group and a first aid kit is carried on all rides. There is also a comprehensive first aid kit and stretchers at the main base camp (the nearest hospital is 45 minutes drive).

WEATHER

The area is blessed with sun almost year round making it a wonderful place to ride throughout the year. Summer is October to March and midday temperatures are between 25 and 35 degrees C - so it can be hot, particularly in mid-summer (bear in mind that it is at around 3,000ft lower altitude than Johannesburg). At this time of year you will ride when it is cool in the early morning or late afternoon, with a traditional African siesta in the middle of the day. This is the rainy season and heavy cloud build up followed by showers or short sharp afternoon thunderstorms are possible. Autumn is April and May when days are usually warm and dry with temperatures in the 20's C. The bush can be very pretty at this time of year as the leaves change colour. It begins to cool down, particularly at night, in May. June to September is winter, the dry season, usually warm with clear skies and daytime temperatures around 20 -25 degrees C, but it gets quite cool when the sun goes down and night-time temperatures can drop to 4 or 5 degrees C.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARIES

The following is an example of the itinerary planned for the 7 night Big 5 Safari. The Big 5 Camp Safari is the same as the standard Big 5 Safari but excluding the visit to the Makalali Reserve / nights at XiDulu. The Ride & Dine Safaris include 5 nights at Wait-A-Little, 2 nights at Clive's camp and 2 nights at XiDulu. Please note that it is only an example and the day by day arrangements may be altered by your guides in their absolute discretion if the weather, movement or game or other local conditions require.

Day 1 You will be met at Hoedspruit (or Johannesburg) airport and driven to the Wait-A-Little base, about a 45 minute drive from Hoedspruit, or about a 5 hour drive from Johannesburg International. Meet your hosts Philip & Gerti when you arrive at the camp and after being shown to your tent and time to settle in before a light lunch or afternoon tea in camp. There will then be an introductory talk about camp and safety procedures when riding and after this, you will meet the horses for a short orientation ride, taking you through the area surrounding the camp and giving you a chance to get used to your horse and the riding style. Perhaps see your first giraffe or zebra before returning to camp for sundowners looking out towards the Drakensberg Mountains. After a hot shower, a delicious dinner with handpicked South African wines. Your first night listening to the night sounds of the bush at Wait-A-Little base camp. (L,D)





Day 2 Woken with tea or coffee in the morning, then, after a light breakfast, set off riding in search of game! The day's route and timetable will vary with the weather and game, but you might ride out today with a picnic carried in saddle-bags, to visit Croc Dam. **cont. over**

Cont. Crocodiles, fish eagles, hippos and many species of water bird are often seen at the dam which is the biggest on the reserve. Spend some time watching hippo wallowing and fish eagles swooping down into the water before returning to camp for lunch or, if it is not too hot, stopping for a picnic lunch and siesta under a large shady tree). In the cool of the afternoon mount-up again, looking for animal tracks as you ride and perhaps detouring to track and watch game on the way. Dinner and night at Wait-A-Little. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Breakfast and an early morning ride, perhaps searching for leopard or wild dog that have been heard calling in the night. After an exciting morning ride, return to base for a leisurely lunch on the terrace and the afternoon free to unwind by the pool, or for a session with Mandi, the resident aromatherapist (additional charge). After tea, in the late afternoon, there might be a game drive, setting off by vehicle to search for buffalo. The buffalo on the reserve are disease free and are kept in a separate fenced area for breeding and research purposes. Perhaps stop for a sundowner close to the herd - the buffalo are curious about visitors and often come very close! Return to the Wait-A-Little base for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)



Day 4 Set off early when game viewing is best. Whatever tracks Philip finds he will try to follow so you may end up watching elephant feeding on the huge palm trees and tall reeds found on the banks of the Kufunyame River or watching a cheetah hunt or relax on a giant termite mound. Return to base for lunch and then in the afternoon set off riding to a ‘fly’ camp set up at Beacon Rock, a huge rock formation which gives a superb view of the whole Lowveld escarpment. The luggage will be taken by vehicle and the route you follow takes you south between twin rock formations of lion and leopard hill and along gently undulating roads which are perfect for a long, rhythmic canter. Dinner is simple but delicious - perhaps steak or chops cooked over the open fire and served with baked potatoes, salads and good wine! The night is spent under the stars, around a campfire, surrounded by the horses, listening to the call of the hyenas and jackals. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Breakfast in camp before setting off on the longest ride of the week, riding into the Greater Makalali reserve, dominated by open plains and where you might find yourself cantering next to giraffe, zebra or wildebeest. Ride on to XiDulu, home for the next two nights, a lovely private lodge set up overlooking a large dam. Lunch followed by a welcome siesta before meeting again for tea and perhaps a late afternoon game drive on Makalali in search of lion and other cats. On the return a spot light will help you see nocturnal species such as bushbabies, owls and perhaps even leopard. A delicious dinner outside by the dam or in the dining room and the night at XiDulu. (B,L,D)



Day 6 The morning ride may take you to explore some wilder areas of the Makalali reserve, with chances for some fun canters, twisting, turning and changing direction at every stride between the trees. The horses are nimble and sure-footed and enjoy this as much as riders and here and there a tree felled by elephant, might provide an irresistible jump or perhaps an eland or kudu might pop out of the bush to show the way ahead. Climbing a small hill you will find mile after mile of unspoiled Africa stretching away before you and there is time to pause for thought before returning to XiDulu for lunch on the veranda, watching antelope such as nyala and waterbuck roaming the river system. After lunch and a siesta, there may be another game drive, or ride to a nearby dam where hippo rest during the heat of the day and where there may also be crocodile resting on the sandbanks. Perhaps enjoy a sundowner whilst watching them play, then return to XiDulu for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Breakfast and leaving XiDulu, begin the long ride back to Wait-A-Little. There should be plenty of game around and you may encounter elephant, rhino, lion or giraffe on the way, following the tracks of whatever game you find. Lunch when you arrive at the main camp, then a siesta. In the evening, perhaps ride out for a last sundowner on one of the open 'flays'. Return to camp for hot showers and then a special farewell dinner - perhaps game such as kudu or ostrich with pasta and a sherry sauce. Final night at Wait-A-Little. (B,L,D)

Day 8 An early start and the chance for a short, sporty ride before your transfer back to the airport for your onward journey. (B)



DATES & RATES 2027

Safaris operate most of the year with the itinerary is usually decided by the first booking.
Big 5 Safaris (7 nights) **- £4760 per person**
Saturday to Saturday most weeks.
Big 5 Camp Safaris (5 nights) **- £3400 per person**
On request, starting or ending on a Saturday.
Ride & Dine Safari (9 nights) **- £6120 per person**

There is a 20% discount on the above rates for children 10 to 16 years (minimum age 10 years)

These rates **INCLUDE** all riding, guiding and equipment, two game drives during the safari, twin accommodation (single only if supplement paid or if otherwise available), all meals, drinks (except champagne, premium wines and spirits), gate fees, conservation fees and laundry service at the Wait-A-Little base camp.

They **EXCLUDE** international flights to Johannesburg and taxes, onward connections to Hoedspruit and taxes, transfers between airports and the Wait-A-Little base, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), supplements for a single room, champagne and any premium drinks, any visa fees, extra game drives / non-included activities, massages and aromatherapy treatments (these can be pre-booked) and any tips you may wish to leave staff.

Single rooms - The above safari rates are based on two people sharing a room / tent. If you are travelling alone and are not prepared to share with another guest of the same sex then you can request a single. One tent is set aside for this each week. This is booked on a first come, "first come, first served" basis and if it is not available then you will need to pay a 50% supplement to guarantee a single tent. Please note that this is not compulsory for single bookings, but it will normally be charged if you are NOT prepared to share if necessary.

FLIGHT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The nearest international airport to Wait-a-Little is Johannesburg. British Airways and Virgin have direct daily flights from London to Johannesburg, normally departing London in the evening (around 20.00) and arriving Johannesburg early the next morning (around 08.00). You can also fly via Europe (eg with Air France, KLM, Al Italia) although we strongly recommend a direct flight to minimize the risk of delays. Airfares vary depending on the airline you choose and the season, but expect to pay around £750 to £950 per person for a London / Johannesburg economy return.

From Johannesburg you need to connect with a flight to Hoedspruit airport in South Africa.
South African Airlink and Cemair have daily flights from Johannesburg to Hoedspruit, usually adding about £120 to £130 (return) to the international airfare. For an economy return flight London to Hoedspruit, via Johannesburg you should therefore budget about £900 to £1050 (varies with the season and availability).

From Hoedspruit we will arrange a vehicle transfers to the main Wait-A-Little camp for you. From Hoedspruit transfers take about 45 minutes to an hour and are charged at £100 per person return assuming 1 or 2 passengers. We can also arrange an overland transfer all the way from Johannesburg - this take about 5 hours and the cost for a car taking 1 to 3 passengers is about £320 each way - prices confirmed on booking. Please enquire for larger vehicle / other transfer prices.
Or you may like to hire a car and drive yourself from Johannesburg to Wait-A-Little.

Please note that transfer rates are subject to change and should be confirmed when you book.
We would be very happy to advise further about flights (our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213).

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. Wait-A-Little is in an area that is considered low risk for Malaria, however it is usually recommended that you take malaria tablets. You should always consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice

(DRAFT 07/11/2026)

