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## Tuli Safari

Weight limit: 95 Kgs / 209Lbs

Nearest airport: Johannesburg (South Africa)

8 days / 7 nights / 6 full days of riding

The Tuli Safari is an adventure that covers a distance of over 120 miles and enjoys long extended canters across the open land. Traversing the Mopane savannah and stunning river valleys, with accommodation in three unique and beautiful camps, each with distinct design and character. This journey embraces the true definition of a safari: an expedition to observe animals in their natural habitat. From horseback, the beauty of the African topography, fauna and flora will unfurl, and be complimented by a touch of classic safari luxury: hot showers, mouth-watering food, and memorable camps. As the wildlife in this area are not seasonal, wonderful game viewing experiences are possible throughout the year.



## The Riding

As you'll be riding in the area of wild game, this holiday is for experienced, confident and calm riders with a sense of adventure. The guests should ride regularly and be comfortable at posting trot, light seat canter and gallop, as well as, be able to control a horse independently at all paces and jump small natural obstacles. You should be able to mount and dismount unaided. Good riding fitness is expected as you'll be spending 4-7 hours in the saddle each day.

Before each safari, every rider will take a short riding test to ensure they are competent enough for the safari and fall into the above guideline. The decision of the manager conducting the test is final.

Hard hats are mandatory.



## Guide & Group sizes

The guides have many years of experience in leading the safaris and they have grown up in the area. They know the bush like the back of their hand and are qualified by the Botswanan Qualifications Authority.

Maximum number of riders in a group is 10. Groups over 8 are split into two groups for rides, unless one ride is specifically requested by a private group.

## Horses & Tack

The horses have been carefully chosen for their temperament, courage, endurance and responsiveness. They are tough and used to coping with extreme conditions. They are of various breeds including for example Boerperd, Shire cross Thoroughbreds, Appaloosas and South African Warmbloods, ranging from 14.3h to 17h.

The saddles used are South African McClellans. They are designed for the cavalry and ideal for long hours of riding. Small saddlebags are provided.



## Accommodation & Dining

### Two Mashatus Camp

Nestled in the shade of two large Mashatu trees, the heart of the camp has two traditionally built Lala palm rondavels for dining and lounge areas. Guest accommodation is in large A-frame walk-in tents set on teak platforms each with en-suite bathrooms. Each tent is private and positioned in the shade of a tree in the bush, not far from the main area. Each tent has a small deck area in front where guests can relax privately during the afternoons. Two Mashatu also has a small swimming pool under a Mashatu tree for guests to enjoy.

### The Kgotla

The 'Kgotla' is an old traditional court enclosure from a nearby community. This open-air enclosure, made of leadwood logs, provides a secure location for a camp. The camp has hot running water, beautiful open-air showers and flushing toilets: the perfect combination for comfort and an authentic bush experience. Guests sleep under the stars on single beds

around a large log fire in the centre of the enclosure listening to the resonance of an Africa evening.

### Tree Camp

This is a very unique camp; any childhood dream of sleeping up in the arms of a tree, will be completely fulfilled here. Nestled in the bough of a giant Mashatu tree and two ancient Leadwood trees, this Seligna deck, 4 metres off the ground, will be your retreat for the night. Two guests each share an airy and cool sleeping pod. Along a short walkway, shared showers and toilets are under the Leadwood trees. The spacious dining and lounge area flow from the sleeping pods and overlook the Majale River. This truly extraordinary camp is one that will be remembered and spoken about for years to come.



### Itinerary

#### **Day 1:** Arrival & first ride to Two Mashatus Camp

Meet your guide at the border. Short transfer to the reception area overlooking the Limpopo river, in time for a light lunch. Enjoy an introductory ride to check you are suited to your horse, before embarking on your first ride out to the Two Mashatus Camp. Mashatu Game Reserve is home to the largest herd of wild free-roaming elephants on private land in Africa, and, although not a guarantee, it is almost assured that there will be great viewing of these incredible creatures. Relax at camp before enjoying a three-course dinner and getting to know your fellow adventurers for the next seven days.

**Day 2: Two Mashatus Camp – Tree Camp**

Sunrise and the dawn chorus, with tea or coffee which is brought to your tent, sounds the start of your first day. Following a light breakfast, it's time to mount and depart from the dense woodland that hugs the Limpopo River, and head towards the rocky hills that delineate the edges of the great river valley. As the ride traverses the heartland of Mashatu, you will encounter plentiful game. Having meandered across the hills with vast views back towards South Africa, the ride arrives at Tree Camp in time for lunch. That afternoon enjoy your first Mashatu game drive in hunt of sightings of the big cats (lion, leopard and cheetah) and returning to Tree Camp for sundowners. Dinner is served in the on the deck under the branches, overlooking the Majale river.

**Day 3: Tree Camp – Kgotla Camp**

The safari passes through the centre of Mashatu to the ancient rock formations synonymous with the Limpopo Valley. Giant Baobab trees continue to scatter the landscape as they have for centuries. Whilst riding alongside the banks of the Motloutse River, discover the old Leadwood '**Kgotla**' (or enclosure used for the traditional law court of a Botswana village). This open-air enclosure forms the perfect, secure camp for the night. In the afternoon, embark on a game drive and draw the day's adventures to a close with sundowners at the ancient "Amphitheatre" rocks. At camp, dinner is enjoyed around a log fire. The night is spent with a ceiling of stars and Africa's nighttime melody to sing you to sleep; a veraciously rare experience which is just about as far away from city life and the modern world as anyone can imagine.

**Day 4: Kgotla Camp**

The sandstone formations, including the famed Solomon's Wall, one of the numerous dolomite dykes in the area, are explored on horseback. Some of the oldest civilisations in southern Africa settled in this valley and the topography here is ancient and timeless, and combined with marvelous wildlife sightings, it makes for an incredible riding experience. This afternoon enjoy the most visually stunning and ethereal sundowner, visit the Mmagwa

hills. After a short climb, enjoy sundowners beneath a beautiful baobab tree with a breathtaking view of the area.

**Day 5: Kgotla Camp – Tree Camp**

Today the safari roves through the open bush from the western side of Mashatu.; winding along ancient trails, stamped into the soil by centuries of migrating elephants, and enjoying wonderfully long canters. After an exhilarating ride through this timeless countryside, a relaxing lunch in the eaves of the Tree Camp is very welcomed. An afternoon ride or, subject to availability, game drive with Mashatu Main Camp vehicles may be possible to enjoy the central area of the reserve (additional cost \$75pp). This is a great chance to photograph big cats and hyena up close.

**Day 6: Tree Camp – Two Mashatus Camp**

Today the ride roams through the Pitsane River Valley. The river is fed by a spring high in the hills and its regular watering holes attract the wildlife, guaranteeing excellent sightings. The area is steeped in history: the Zeederberg Trail, a stagecoach line that connected the towns of the Transvaal (South Africa) to the newly forged settlements of southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), once traversed these open plains. Our day's journey comes to a close at Two Mashatu camp, where there is opportunity to relax by the swimming pool. A guided bush walk to one of the nearby koppies for sundowners is the afternoon excursion.

**Day 7: Two Mashatus Camp**

Today's riding promises abundant game and spectacular views into the Limpopo River Valley. En route, explore the remains of an old Boer fort on a rocky outcrop, and drop down into the wetland area, which is always a bit cooler and is usually host to plentiful game enjoying the lush grasses. In the summer months, this is also a great opportunity to enjoy cantering through the shallows of the Limpopo River and watch the elephant taking a bath. There is time to relax in camp, have a cooling swim in the pool, before either an afternoon bush walk or short ride, and a crowning sundowner.

**Day 8: Last ride & departure**

The last ride in the Limpopo Valley is a great opportunity to take one last picture of elephants and enjoy a long and winding canter through the scattered mustard bush back to the stables. Arriving back at the stables and reception mid-morning, there is plenty of time for a hot shower and a tasty brunch, before bidding farewell to your new-found friends.



## The price includes

- 6 full days of riding
- Shorter rides on arrival and departure days
- Shared accommodation
- All meals
- Drinks
- Game drives (excluding Mashatu Main Camp drive, an extra \$75pp)
- Bush walks
- Sundowners
- Laundry
- All arrangements for duration of holiday
- Services of guides

## Not included

- Conservation Levy of \$10pp per night
- Flights
- Airport transfers
- Tips



## International flights

Do NOT book flights until you have received the 'Booking Confirmation Email' from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flight to arrive at Johannesburg airport (South Africa) by 9:00am on Day 1 of your holiday.

Your departure flight on Day 8 of your holiday should be after 8pm.

## Airport transfers

### By Air

Transfers to and from Johannesburg are by a charter flight. Meeting point is at the OR Tambo Intercontinental hotel lobby (at Johannesburg airport) at 10:00am, with a strict departure at 10:30. Short road transfer to Lanseria Airport. From there the charter flight (duration approx. 1,5 hours) will take you to Limpopo Valley airfield, just a short drive away from the stables. Meet your guide upon landing.

Return transfer arriving back at Johannesburg OR Tambo by approx. 17:30.

### By Road

Road transfers can in some cases be arranged to and from Johannesburg airport. Please get in touch for more details. Transfer time approx. 6 hours.

All transfers are an additional cost.



## What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

When packing please do bear in mind that a full laundry service is included in the price. They can normally turn laundry around within 24-48 hours. Fresh linen and towels are provided at each camp. We recommend wearing neutral colours during this safari as the best way to get close to the wildlife is to blend in with your surroundings. Different tones khaki, brown, grey and natural bush green are ideal. Don't bring any bright colours or white as the animals will be able to spot you from afar.

- Your own well-fitted hard hat – Hard hats are mandatory
- Comfortable riding clothes. Wear everything a couple of times before bringing it on safari.
- Short boots and half chaps, ride/walking boots are perfect. Long leather boots are also good but long rubber boots are not advised.
- Riding gloves
- Bumbag
- Light weight long sleeved shirts
- Warm layers
- Light weight coat
- Waterproof clothing (during wet season October – April)
- Casual clothes for evening
- Light weight shoes for evening
- Lip balm
- Sun cream factor 30 or higher
- Swimming costume
- Sun hat
- Camera + spare batteries
- A good head torch
- Power bank
- Books / eReader for when you are relaxing between rides
- Insect repellent & bite cream
- Personal medication

## At camp

There is a Wi-Fi at the stables on the arrival and departure day of your trail. Phone signal coverage in the area where you are riding is very limited.

There are small solar chargers that can charge most mobile phones and other devices with a USB port at some of the camps. Please note that charging your gadgets may not be possible every night so bringing a power bank is a good idea.

## Climate

May-September (winter, dry season)

Winters are generally mild and dry. Night-time and morning temperatures can be cool, dropping down to 5°C during the coldest times. During the day it's warm with temperatures reaching up to 25°C.

October-April (summer, wet season)

The weather during summer can be very hot with fairly low humidity. Temperatures are at 17°C during the night and can reach 30°C and above during the day. Showers in the afternoon are common, but it rarely rains all day. The main rainy months are from December to February when the temperatures are also the hottest and can reach 40°C during the hottest part of the day.



## Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Although Botswana is a Malaria area, the Tuli Block is low risk (especially in the winter months May-October). Chemoprophylaxis (use of anti-malaria drugs) is optional for those that live there as the risk of adverse drug effects outweigh the advantage of the very small chance of acquiring malaria in the Tuli Block. However, it is important to take mosquito preventative measures. If you get flu-like symptoms on your return home do ask your health care provider to exclude the possibility of malaria and tick bite fever.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

### Travel documents

You must be in possession of a passport that is valid for at least six months after your return date and has at least 3 blank pages.

For entry requirements to Botswana for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/botswana/entry-requirements>

**Note:** You are travelling to Botswana via South Africa so please familiarize yourself with the entry requirements to South Africa. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.



## Currency & Tipping

**Upon arrival there is a \$10 per person per night Conservation Levy payable locally in cash.** Please bring the correct amount as there is sometimes a lack of change.

We suggest you don't change too much money as your holiday is fully inclusive. We suggest you bring dollars to avoid inflated exchange rates of the local currency. Other costs, like souvenir shopping and gratuities, can also be done in dollars.

Gratuities are at your discretion and can be paid in £, € or \$. Normally R75 – R150 per person per night is recommended (which is approx. £5 - £10pppn).

## Riding declaration

"I am an experienced rider and able to mount & dismount unaided. I have a firm seat and I'm confident and in control at all paces over rough terrain (including rising trot, light seat canters and gallops) and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others."

## Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

[saddletravel.com](http://saddletravel.com)

Holidays are confirmed with 20% non-refundable deposit.  
The full balance is due 56 days before start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

## Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during booking process.

## Contact details

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