



PROGRAMFÖRSLAG LODGESAFARI
(Med reservation för ändringar)

Lodge Safari Dinaka

Take everything you expect from a riding safari in Africa, exceptional game viewing, endless horizons, good company, great food and exceptional horses. Put all of this into a 20,000 acre game reserve hidden amongst the majestic Waterberg mountain range and you have the Dinaka safari.

About the the experience:

This is unquestionably for “lovers of luxury” and those who want a guaranteed game viewing experience. This 20,000 acre reserve was one of the first to reintroduce game into the Waterberg, starting in 1976. Dinaka now offers unsurpassed game viewing in South Africa. The reserve contains literally thousands of animals. Species on the reserve include; not only rhino, hippo, buffalo, giraffe, leopard, ostrich and two species of zebra, but also over 20 species of antelope, including the impressive eland and sable and the exquisite steenbuck and springbuck. Dinaka is unique in the Waterberg due to its high carrying capacity and the resulting heavy concentrations of game.

Situated along the Waterberg escarpment, its views are mountainous whilst its environment consists mainly of extensive plains. This gives riders the opportunity to view larger herds of game not normally seen in montane bushveld. On Dinaka it is not uncommon to see herds of a few hundred antelope, together with 8 or 9 rhino all in the same view. Each visit provides a truly magical game experience.

During your stay at Dinaka you will ride through beautiful mountains where the rare and endangered Cape Griffon nests; gallop across open sandy tracks; canter for miles looking at the wonder of nature surrounding you; take your horse for a refreshing swim in the cool water of one of the many lakes; jump the natural obstacles and enjoy hacks through thick woodlands taking you on a mystical ride.

Guest accommodation is in twin-bedded, luxury thatch lodges, with en-suite bathrooms. The lodges are situated high on a ridge overlooking a picturesque lake below and have spectacular views across the plains. This is a prime spot to relax whilst observing the activities of passing wildlife, or the occasional antics of the hippo in the water below. As rides are taken during the cooler hours of the day, when the game is more active, there is plenty of time to relax and cool off in the plunge pool.

Dinaka is owner-operated, boasting warm hospitality and personal attention to detail. Meal times are an event in themselves and provide an impressive array of dishes. Daily afternoon tea is an irrefutable delight!

Your Guides; Kobus and Saskia Havemann

Kobus grew up in Namibia riding bush ponies along the Kavango river, he studied nature conservation in South Africa and has been guiding horse safaris in big five game areas for the last 10 years, his gorgeous wife Saskia started her riding career on a friend's Hanovarian stud at age 6 in Germany and continued to develop her riding skills in numerous disciplines such as endurance, western riding and show jumping. She has been working as a horse safaris guide in Southern Africa for the last 4 years. Together they will share with you their love for horses and passion for the African wilderness.

The Horses

The horses are all handpicked for their temperament and ride-ability. They are impeccably schooled to ensure riders a safe and comfortable ride across open and uneven terrain. Breeds include the SA Boerperd, Thoroughbreds, Arabs, Appaloosa and Crossbreeds. Our horses are our pride and joy and we are sure by the end of the week you will love them as much as we do.

Example Itinerary

Day 1: 11.00 am. Guests are met at the Johannesburg Intercontinental Hotel, (see appendix 1) Here guests can enjoy a choice of full English or continental breakfast and can relax whilst their fellow companions arrive. Our driver will then transfer all guests to the Dinaka lodge in time for a late lunch. The afternoon ride will introduce guests gently to the awesome riding country of Dinaka and will be used to assess the riders with their chosen mounts. It will give everyone the chance to ensure the perfect match before the more challenging riding begins.

Day 2 Will be a ride along the foothills of the Seven Sisters mountain range, through thick woodland areas to the western boundaries. Here you will have your first experience of the unending sandy tracks and glimpse the unending views of the Dinaka plains and the abundant herds. You will arrive back at the lodge in time for a late brunch and a chance to siesta by the pool. The afternoon ride will be a fast and exhilarating ride along the Sand river, this area is prime waterbuck and hippo viewing territory.

Day 3: Guests will ride to an area renowned for its abundant and varied species, known as 'Small Serengeti' here you will be able to watch and interpret the behavior of the Springbok and Blesbok that always occur on these plains. Riding back to the lodge your guides will introduce you to some of the bush skills essential to those living in the African wilderness. Lunch time brings another chance to siesta or perhaps a chance to view the hippo at play in the dam in front of your bedroom window. The afternoon ride will be into a Terminalia woodland with the added challenge of jumping natural obstacles, this area is known to be a favorite habitat of the giraffe as well as being home to what we call the "zebra race track"!

Day 4 The morning ride will take you out with the explicit purpose of tracking the majestic white rhino, these prehistoric animals are one of the incredible success stories of the Dinaka reserve which holds one of the oldest breeding herds in the country. Being next to these magnificent creatures is a highlight of any safari but being with them on horseback is a truly unforgettable experience. After lunch at the lodge you will pack your toothbrush and few chosen items before departing on your overnight wilderness experience, this camping expedition will take you to an ancient refuge used by Mizilikatse as he and his people fled the wrath of the warlord Shaka. This will be a true African experience taking you up into the remote mountain pass with minimal equipment and no vehicle backup with your canopy being simply a star filled night.

Day 5 After waking up to the smell of coffee boiling on an open fire and the sound of your horse munching contentedly beside you, your route off the mountain follows a valley that leads deep into the Waterberg escarpment. The trail follows the game paths made by the giant eland and mountain zebra, it is a most taxing, but also a most rewarding ride, in terms of the normally inaccessible terrain and stunning scenery. The ride brings you back to the lodge in time for lunch and a hot shower. The afternoon gives a chance to rest weary bones and experience game from a whole new perspective with a guided bush walk.

Day 6: Today the group will have a chance to explore the Waterberg further, this time in a vehicle and join a big five game drive. Guests will be given the option of visiting a nearby game reserve (about a 45 min drive from Dinaka) this beautiful reserve is home to The Big 5 and offers wonderful opportunities to view

lions and if we are lucky elephants from the safety of a vehicle. Back at Dinaka the afternoons ride is delightful opportunity for photography. A visit to 'jackal dam', which is a particularly attractive spot in the late-afternoon light, where the horses splash amongst the water lilies.

Day 7: Today brings a full days ride to another area of the reserve, where Dinaka runs its highly successful breeding programme of rare species, which include white blesbok, red wildebeest, and bontebok.. A packed lunch is enjoyed en-route at the reserves only known hippo free lake giving riders a chance to experience the thrill of swimming with their horse in the African bush. After lunch the ride crosses a particularly fertile plain where riders can experience the exhilaration and thrill of cantering amongst large herds of game, with many different species galloping together across the plains. You then make your way back to the lodge in time for afternoon tea and a welcome break to both horse and rider in the form of a game drive. A Dinaka guide will escort you on an informative drive, where you will visit another area inhabited by yet more rare species such as buffalo, sable and black impala. This drive ends with a surprise dinner in the bush where guests relax around the fire, enjoy the African night sky and toast their experiences whilst a feast is served.

Day 8: One last opportunity to enjoy riding on this stunning reserve with its amazing array of wildlife. A final gallop on your favorite mount along the endless sandy tracks, before returning to the lodge to enjoy another of their infamous brunches. Guests then depart after brunch.

Things to bring:

As well as comfortable riding clothes we recommend the following; Your well fitting hard hat. A wide brimmed hat also is advisable as protection against the sun. Bumbag, Lipsalve, Sun protection cream factor 20 or higher, Short boots and chaps. Long rubber boots are not advised. Swimming costume. Light weight long sleeved shirts. Light weight raincoat. Extra film and camera batteries. A good book.