



HORIZON HORSEBACK



FAMILIES ITINERARY

DAY 1: After a sumptuous lunch, ride out from the lodge and explore the private game reserve. This will be a gentle ride to acquaint horse or pony with rider and to adjust to the rhythm of the African bush. The many game species that could be encountered, for example zebra, giraffe, kudu, impala, eland, hartebeest, waterbuck, hippo, the funny warthog and other small antelope, give a taster of what is in store for the rest of the holiday. As the African sun begins to set and the day draws to a close, enjoy a 'sundowner' perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the peaceful veld.

DAY 2: The morning ride can be split, with active and adventurous children trying their hands and riding talents at cattle mustering on the greater ranch. Both challenging and fun, anyone who can ride really should have a go at being a cowboy at least once in their life! For the more sedate, the morning ride ventures across the ranch, through the traditional Sotho village, to the historic family homestead. Meet the children of the farm on a tour of the farm crèche and school. For the afternoon ride, meander along the hippo pools in search of wildlife.

DAY 3: Something completely different; polocrosse. This fun and addictive game, which is a mixture of polo and lacrosse, is a wonderful way to engage the whole family. After a competitive and hilarious few hours, enjoy cooling yourselves and the horses off in an unconventional way...swimming together with them in the dam. After an exciting morning, the afternoon ride is more relaxing and visits Beadle, the farm community-linked project and shop, where locals hand make exquisite beaded leather products, including browbands and made to fit riding chaps.

DAY 4: Journey through the bushveld on horseback for the start of the wilderness safari. The following two days are spent exploring the bush and discovering its wildlife and secrets, from bushlore to medicinal plants. Away from cell phones, sms's, emails, computers and TVs, this is a wonderful experience for the whole family. It enables children to discover nature and its beauty and just to be children again. This night will be spent at a bush camp along the banks of the Melk river.

DAY 5: It is said that breakfast is the best meal of the day, and if it is in the bush over a camp fire that is certainly true! The morning is spent exploring the bush on horseback, and tracking some of the many antelope, giraffe and white rhino. After a picnic lunch and refreshing swim in the river, ride back to Horizon before sunset.

DAY 6: For those who feel a little saddle sore, either a morning game drive on one of the few Big 5 game reserves in the area or an elephant-backed safari can be arranged. It may also be possible to squeeze in a trip to the local town of Vaalwater to visit the local curio shop en route back to Horizon. In the afternoon, it is back in the saddle for a session of Western games. Pole bending, barrel racing and the water carrying race will all bring out the competitive spirits and test the whole family's riding abilities.

DAY 7: A morning of EQ, a bushveld sport that involves not only orienteering across the expanse of the ranch, but also a set of challenges along the way such as river crossings and target shooting. It really is good fun for everyone and the entire family's talents will be needed for the event. In the afternoon enjoy either a wilderness ride in the reserve or a faster ride along the some of the ranch's kilometres of sandy tracks.

DAY 8: Decipher the clues on the mounted treasure hunt and be rewarded with a champagne bush breakfast. This is followed by a short ride back to the lodge, and another chance to swim the horses. In the afternoon, ride out to the plain for a last photograph of a zebra, giraffe, kudu or hippo.

DAY 9: A final favourite ride of choice, before departing after lunch.