

MACATOO CAMP – OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

SAFARIS

African Horseback Safaris were early pioneers of horse riding safaris in Africa and, nearly two decades later, we pride ourselves on offering one of the most unique and exciting horseback adventures in the world.



Led by talented guides, our guests have 450,000 acres of pristine wilderness of the Okavango Delta to explore on calm, experienced horses, offering exhilarating rides alongside big game, such as giraffe, zebra and elephant.

Combined with Macatoo, our luxurious tented bush camp accommodation in an exquisite African setting, we offer the riding adventure of a lifetime.

Macatoo

Our guests are accommodated in eight large and airy tents that blend seamlessly into their natural surroundings while still providing a luxurious, but authentic bush haven in which to relax. Each tent is set on its own large, raised platform, offering panoramic views of a flood plain that can be enjoyed from the bed or deck.

A variety of sleeping configurations offer flexible accommodation to suit every need: honeymooners, families or those who are new to or nervous in the bush can relax with peace of mind and privacy.



The newly-built honeymoon tent for couples celebrating any special occasion, has an additional deck for private dining as well as a raised double tub bath offering a view of the floodplain.

The 'family and friends suite' comprises two tents, directly linked by a raised walkway and viewing deck above ground, which provides direct, easy access for parents, children and single travellers who are anxious about sleeping alone.



AFRICAN *Horseback* SAFARIS

Between rides and activities, our swimming pool deck has a number of sun beds on which guests can read, relax and soak up the sun. As it also commands a wonderful view of the vast flood plain in front of camp, it is the perfect spot to view birds and game (don't forget your binoculars). Elephants and giraffe often come very close to the deck and the pool doubles as a popular watering hole for passing families of baboons. Well-lit pathways link up our communal mess tent and dining deck, pool and guest accommodation.



A fire burns in front of the mess tent, whatever the time of year, around which we gather to eat under the sun and stars, drink fresh coffee and fine wines and swap stories of the day.

A short drive away, and at the top of a long, sturdy ladder is our magical tree platform where we enjoy lunches, drinks and even the occasional sleepover under the African night sky.

Our Horses

Macatoo's string of horses are as well looked after as their guests. Each horse – they are all boys – is recognised and appreciated for his unique ability and personality and every effort is made to match him with the most suitable rider. Our guests rotate between two or three horses during their time with us to ensure that each animal is given time to recover between rides. We have Thoroughbreds, Namibian Hanoverian, Percherons and Kalahari-Arab crossbreeds ranging between 14hh and 18 hh (140-180cm).



Riders need to be over 12 years old, be riding fit, confident at all riding paces and weigh no more than 95kgs (210lbs or 15 stone). We take a maximum of eight people in each group to ensure the best possible standards of safety and enjoyment. Be prepared to spend up to six hours a day in the saddle. This holiday is not suitable for novice or beginner riders.



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With nearly 50 horses in the barn, all schooled and well-mannered, we are able to ensure every one is fully fit and rested with downtime out in the paddocks to give our guests the best possible ride.



One of the most popular spectacles at Macatoo is the sight of the resting horses galloping home from their mobile paddocks each afternoon.

All Welcome

An African safari adventure at Macatoo does not have to involve horses and we can easily cater for non-riding spouses, partners, friends and children. Indeed, many of our riding guests like to have time away from the saddle and take advantage of the wide range of other activities on offer.

Game drives offer the opportunity to track and photograph birds and big game in stunning settings. Going out in our open top safari vehicles at dawn or dusk provide the best chances of seeing wildlife on the move, hunting, feeding, drinking or roosting.



The arrival of the floods, usually in May, brings with it the unique chance to explore the Delta by water, and many guests are lucky enough to arrive in camp from the airstrip by motorboat. The mokoro, a traditional dugout canoe which is navigated through the waters by a skilled poler, offers the most romantic way to view the Delta at this special time of year. The tranquillity and silence of the journey enables guests to feel at one with nature and see at close quarters how the animals and birds adapt to their ever-changing environment.

Fishing, from boat or land, is a hugely popular pastime with both riding and non-riding guests. We have access to a wide range of beautiful fishing spots where guests cast between water lilies and wallowing hippos. The challenge is not only to get a fish to bite, but land it before it is snatched from the line by swooping fish eagles and kingfishers.

