



RIDE WORLD WIDE

South Africa 2012

Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill

Information Sheet

Ant's Nest and its sister lodge Ant's Hill, are in the Waterberg in South Africa's Limpopo Province, about 3 hours drive north of Johannesburg and 2 hours south of the Botswana border. They are small, owner-run safari lodges, situated in their own private game and nature reserve. The lodges are owned and managed by Anthony and Tessa Baber and their team of carefully chosen staff. Anthony was born and grew up in this part of South Africa and is a professional guide, as well as an experienced horseman. He is passionate about the bush and his relaxed good humour and infectious enthusiasm make him a superb guide, host and companion. Tessa was born in Kenya and grew up in England before moving to South Africa in 1996. Her family background is in tourism and her tremendous energy and style have made these lovely 'bush homes' the comfortable, stylish and welcoming retreats they are today. As well as offering an all-round experience of the African bush, the atmosphere at the lodges is welcoming and friendly with an emphasis on flexibility. If you are looking for a holiday where activities and itineraries can be tailored to suit, where everyone from the fittest to those most in need of a rest will be personally catered for, where you will be welcomed as friends but also extremely well looked after, you will be hard pushed to find anything better.



Dates Dates are arranged to suit and the length of stay is flexible. Each lodge sleeps 12 comfortably in twin / double rooms, although numbers (except for private groups) are usually restricted to 10 guests at any time, sometimes less if riding abilities and interests vary considerably. Both lodges can be booked exclusively and private bookings of more than 12 can be taken by arrangement. Please contact us to discuss dates and availability (and, as the charging system at Ants is a little complex to confirm rates for your proposed group and length of stay).

Horses The lodges share about 60 horses, all carefully selected for their temperament, aptitude and ability. They include thoroughbreds and thoroughbred crosses of up to about 16.2hh, local South African crossbreeds and ponies of 13hh and above for children. There is a good selection for riders of different abilities and all are well-schooled, reliable and sensible, but also responsive and fun to ride. Saddles are Maclellan style (a comfortable cross between a Western and English saddle) with some English saddles available on request. The rider weight limit is 120kg / 18 stone 12lbs but please contact us if you are close to this to check suitable horses are available.

Riding The amount of riding you do during a stay at Ants is entirely up to you. Riding is one of a choice of game viewing activities on offer each morning and evening and the length and pace of rides is adjusted as far as possible to suit. Rides are generally lead by a main guide (qualified South African field guide) accompanied by a second back-up rider so groups can be split allowing riders of different abilities to ride together if they wish. Basic lessons for novices and children are also an option. Horses are prepared, tacked up and un-tacked by grooms. You will be asked to wear a hard hat when you ride - there are some to borrow but we strongly recommend taking your own to ensure a good fit.

Pace and Riding Experience The emphasis is on a riding pace and hours to suit and riders of all abilities can be well catered for. The terrain allows fast, fun riding for the experienced rider, but equally, novice and young riders are well looked after, with short gentle rides and basic lessons an option. If you plan concentrated riding you will get the most from your visit if you are reasonably riding fit and we recommend regular practice in the months before you go.

Terrain The reserve at Ants comprises low-lying bush and scrub, with patches of rough open grassland, scattered rocks and rocky 'kopies' (hills). There are also areas of thick, taller woodland and a network of sandy tracks that provide great going for long canters. In places the terrain is rocky and rough but the horses are sure footed and well adapted to this.



Game There are over 40 game species on the Ant's Reserve, which is privately stocked and managed. The reserve is relatively small at 1200 acres and fenced, but expert management and a careful breeding programme mean it offers some excellent, varied game viewing. Game includes zebra, eland, giraffe, kudu, wildebeest, buffalo, warthog, bushpig, rare antelope such as oryx and sable, waterbuck, steenbuck, caracal, hyena and white rhino. Animals often wander close to the lodges and can be seen close-up drinking at local waterholes and with no resident elephant or lion to worry about, it is a great place for a relaxing riding, walking and all-round family safari. As well as game, over 300 species of migrant and indigenous birds have been recorded in the area and it is a wonderful spot for keen birders. One of the aims of Ants has been to create comfortable bush homes where visitors can also become part of a 'working' reserve and you will be welcome to join management activities, such as game capture and game census. There are several other large game reserves within easy driving distance and visits to another 'Big 5' reserve for a chance to see game such as elephant and lion can easily be organised.





Non-Riding Activities A variety of activities are always on offer making the lodges ideal for families, couples or groups with mixed interests. The choice of activity each day is driven by guests needs and itineraries are carefully tailored to suit. On-site activities include game drives (both day and night with a spotlight), guided walks (from a leisurely stroll to an energetic hike) and mountain biking (relaxed game viewing on the plains or challenging trails across the reserve). Game drives on neighbouring 'Big 5' reserves can be organised for an extra charge as can guided visits to sites of interest in the Waterberg - bushman paintings and archaeological sites – visits to the local town and school, elephant back safaris and guided farm tours to see how a typical working farm in Africa runs (there is an extra charge for all activities off the Ants Reserve– please ask for the separate rate sheet). There is also shooting range, with rifle and clay pigeon shooting available year round and bird shooting and stalking offered May to October (please enquire for details and cost), each lodge has a heated swimming pool - a 14m long natural pool at Ant's Nest and a smaller pool set amongst rocks at Ant's Hill - and an in-house masseuse for massages by the pool or under the shady thatch of your veranda. For 2011, a stay at either lodge can be combined with 2 or more nights at a comfortable tented Bush Camp, about an hour's drive away on Lapalala Wilderness, a 100,000 acre wilderness reserve. This private 6 bed tented camp (3 double walk-in safari tents, set on teak decking) is situated in a stunning position overlooking the Palala River gorge. The area around the camp is best explored on foot, with gentle walks or more strenuous hikes arranged to suit and picnics, swimming in the pools and rapids, fishing (September to April) and game drives are also possible.



Accommodation Accommodation at Ant's Nest is in the original homestead, which has been thoughtfully remodelled, extended and refurbished to make a very comfortable and stylish 'bush home'. There are 6 suites - a lovely honeymoon suite on the upper floor of the main lodge with double bedroom with en-suite bathroom, another twin bedroom, large sitting room and private thatched veranda overlooking the lawns. Downstairs are two twin / double bedrooms each with private bathroom and there are two further en-suite bedrooms, each with a double and single bed and a large private veranda, a little way from the main lodge. All bedrooms are furnished with individually designed furniture, handmade from local timber, and most have large, elegantly draped four-poster beds. The main house has a comfortable sitting and dining room, with open fireplace, a large stone veranda and a swimming pool with thatch-covered relaxation area furnished with sofas and brightly coloured cushions. Ant's Hill is spectacularly situated on the edge of a hill with lovely views across the Waterberg. Constructed of traditional stone and thatch it is a stunning, well-thought-out base with individual touches that include doorways framed in ancient, gnarled olive wood, 7ft by 7ft beds hand carved in teak and comfortable sofas and chairs scattered with cushions on each of the open verandas.

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Accommodation cont The lodge includes one family 'cottage' (double bedroom with en-suite bathroom, a twin bedroom and loft bedroom sharing a bathroom and its own sitting/dining room and open veranda), two individual cottages each with en-suite bedroom and large veranda, and an upstairs bedroom with en-suite bathroom and fabulous views. It also has a comfortable sitting and dining room with open fireplaces and veranda.



Meals Stay at either lodge include all meals which are produced from fresh local ingredients and always delicious! Cooked English breakfasts served in the lodge or at tables set up in the bush, substantial brunches and three course dinners are supplemented by snacks and afternoon tea with freshly baked cakes. Barbecues or 'braais', a great South African tradition, are a favourite in the evening and often feature superb home produced beef or game. Dinner is preceded by drinks on the veranda and local wines are served with lunch and dinner. Vegetarians are well catered for, with plenty of fresh salads and vegetables always served, but please let us know in advance of any special dietary requirements. Meal times are flexible and can be varied to suit, for example with earlier mealtimes for children if required.



Family policy Children of all ages are welcome and families are particularly encouraged. Accommodation, activities, meals and so on are all very flexible and staff will go out of their way to accommodate particular needs. At Ant's Hill, the 'family cottage' is ideal for a group with younger children and with other bedrooms situated well away from this, and from one another, peace and privacy for all is assured. At Ant's Nest families are usually accommodated in the main house (adjoining rooms each with en-suite bathroom) although the honeymoon suite and separate chalet also work well for parents sharing with a younger child. Separate / earlier meal times can be arranged for children with a special children's menu if required. Children are also welcome to come to dinner in dressing gowns. Both lodges have cots and high chairs, child minding can be organised and experienced (although not professionally qualified) staff are available to bath and feed babies if requested. Children of any age are welcome to join parents in any activity, special child-oriented activities are laid on, and 'standard' activities such as riding, guided walks and game drives can all be tailored to suit. Children also often enjoy getting involved in the day-to-day activities that are part of running a game farm, game counts, game monitoring and so on and there is much to keep them occupied and to ensure their stay is educational as well as great fun. At Ant's Nest the swimming pool has a shallow beach area that is ideal for toddlers at one side and can also be fenced off with a removable fence if required.

Weather The area's climate makes it a wonderful destination year round. Summer is mid November to March when midday temperatures are usually 24 to 35 degrees C and nights around 16 to 18 degrees C. Summer is the rainy season and showers or afternoon thunderstorms are possible. Autumn is April and May when days are usually pleasantly warm and dry with temperatures in the 20s C. It begins to cool down, particularly at night, in May. June to September is winter, the dry season, and although usually warm with clear skies and daytime temperatures around 15 to 20 degrees C, it gets quite cool when the sun goes down. Night-time temperatures in winter average around 5 degrees C although occasionally can drop to zero. It is very pleasant in spring, October to November, when the blossom starts to appear.

What to bring We will send you suggestions of what to bring when you make your booking.



Example Itineraries Itineraries are individually tailored to suit and you are free to choose which of the activities offered you do each day. When you arrive your hosts will explain what there is to do and you can discuss with them your choice of activities for each day. The following is an example itinerary for a week's stay:

Day 1 - Met on arrival at Johannesburg airport and driven the 3 hours or so to Ant's Nest / Ant's Hill in the Waterberg, arriving in time for lunch. Settle into your rooms and meet your hosts over lunch. Time to meet the horses and for a first ride if you wish, or for an evening game drive or walk to see the area. Return to the lodge for drinks around the fire, dinner and the night. (L,D).

Days 2 to 6 - Five full days at the lodge with a choice of activities including morning and / or afternoon rides, guided walks and game drives to explore, perhaps stopping for breakfast or lunch out in the bush. You might also choose to visit a neighbouring game reserve for a chance to see elephant and lion, local archaeological sites or take a farm tour (encompassing everything from anecdotes and sites from the Boer war, to a visit to the oldest dwelling in the area, still preserved in its original state) with Anthony's father Charles Baber, a fascinating, knowledgeable and entertaining guide. There are various activities on offer and your hosts will do all they can to tailor your stay to suit, whilst also leaving you time to simply relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings and swimming pool. Dinner and nights at the lodge. (B,L,D).

Day 7 - EITHER Your final morning activity and then, after lunch, a driver will collect you from the lodge and drive you back to Johannesburg perhaps stopping en route at the local town of Vaalwater for some last minute shopping. Arrive Johannesburg airport in time for your onward flight. (B,L).

OR Day 7 - After breakfast transfer by vehicle about an hour to the Bush Camp at Lapalala Wilderness. Set in a dramatic position overlooking the Palala River Gorge the camp is wonderfully secluded with fantastic far-reaching views. Lunch on the deck, then an afternoon walk, climbing down to the river and following it downstream past rapids and enticing pools. You may see bushman paintings on the rocks overhanging the river and can try fishing for yellow fish or bass in some of the pools, before climbing back up to camp for hot showers, dinner and the night (B,L,D).

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Itinerary cont.

Day 8 - Second day at the Bush Camp with an early morning walk to explore, before a BBQ picnic lunch by the river. In the late afternoon, a game drive to track rhino, using a spotlight as night falls. Dinner and night in camp (B,L,D).

Day 9 - Breakfast in camp and an early morning activity before packing up for your return transfer to Johannesburg airport (B,L)

Note: Special Game Census Week - 9th to 16th September 2012

(please enquire for itinerary)

RATES 2012 (valid 15th December 2011 to 14th December 2012)

NB. Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, rates are quoted in South African Rand. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the Rand / sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Rates are seasonal. There is a Minimum Charge to book the lodges exclusively. Single room supplements only apply on certain dates.

Low Season is: 1st May to 30th June

Mid Season is: 9th January to 24th March & 1st September to 14th December

High Season is: 15th December 2011 to 8th January 2012 & 25th March to 30th April & 1st July to 31st August

Sharing basis:**Deluxe Rooms at Ant's Hill or Nest**

Adult (or child aged 12 or over):

High season 4150 R / Mid season 3600 R / Low season 2900 R / per person per night

Children aged 2 to 11 years in own room (2 min):

High season 2750 R / Mid season 2400 R / Low season 1900 R per child per night

Extra bed / person in Deluxe room:

High season 1900 R / Mid Season 1650 R / Low season 1200 R per child per night

Children under 2 years - Free

Superior Deluxe Adult Room with pool (Ant's Hill only)

High season 4450 R / Mid season 3900 R / Low season 32900 R / per person per night

Rates cont over



RATES 2012 cont**Standard Rooms**

Adult (or child aged 12 or over):

High season 3200 R / Mid season 2800 R / Low season 2500 R / per person per night

Children aged 2 to 11 years in own room (2 min):

High season 2200 R / Mid season 1800 R / Low season 1500 R per child per night

Extra bed / person in Standard room:

High season 1500 R / Mid Season 1200 R / Low season 1000 R per child per night

Special rate 2900 R pppn for minimum stay of 6 nights applicable mid season; applies to Game Census week

60yrs and over special package (minimum 4 guests for 4 nights) in deluxe room / superior cottage

High season 3900 R / Mid season 3300 R / Low season 3000 R / per person per night

Includes private guide, farm / cultural tour on one day in addition to inclusions below.

Single supplements - 2250 R per night deluxe room (only charged during high & mid season), 1250 R per night

Standard room (only charged during high season)

Exclusive use of Ant's Nest (up to 12 guests)

High season 37500 R / Mid season 33000 R / Low season 29500 R / per night

Exclusive use of Ant's Hill (up to 16 guests)

High season 48000 R / Mid season 43500 R / Low season 38200 R / per night

Family Cottage with private pool at Ant's Hill (up to 5 guests):

High season 16750 R / Mid season 14400 R / Low season 13200 R / per night

All rates quoted **INCLUDE** full board, all drinks, riding, guiding and equipment, on site activities such as game drives and guided walks, and laundry service. Off-site activities are charged extra. Activities are on a 'shared' basis; private guides safari vehicles can be booked for 1200 R per day

Rates **EXCLUDE** international flights to Johannesburg and taxes, transfers to the lodge, local excursions, off-site activities and extras (eg visits to other game reserves, farm tours, massages, baby sitting), overnight stays at the Ants Bush Camp, cellar wines & champagne, any visa fees, personal insurance (which you must have) and personal items such as telephone calls etc. and staff tips.

Bush Camp Rates

The Bush Camp can be booked for a minimum of 2 people for 2 nights. Rates are on a sliding scale:

2 guests - 4600 Rand per person per night; 3 guests - 3600 Rand pppn; 4 guests - 3400 Rand pppn; 5 guests - 3000 Rand pppn; 6 guests - 2900 Rand pppn. Extra beds 1900 Rand pppn.



Flights and Travel - The nearest international airport is Johannesburg and British Airways, South African Airways and Virgin all have direct daily flights from London to Johannesburg, normally departing London in the evening (around 19.00 / 21.00) and arriving Johannesburg early the next morning (around 07.00 / 09.00). You can also fly via Europe e.g. with Air France, KLM or Al Italia but we strongly recommend a direct flight to minimize the risk of delays etc. Airfares vary depending on the airline and season but expect to pay around £650 to £900 per person for a London / Johannesburg economy return.

We would be happy to advise on flights and to quote and book flights for you (our ATOL number for flight bookings is ATOL 6213). Please contact us for a flight inclusive quote.

Transfers - Car transfers between Johannesburg and Ant's Nest or Ant's Hill can be arranged on request. Rates are currently approximately 2000 Rand each way for a car taking 3 people, 3000 Rand each way for a car taking 4 to 7 people, 4100 Rand for a minibus taking 8 to 13 people. Please note that transfer rates are subject to change without notice and can fluctuate with fuel prices. There will be a surcharge for transfers required between 18.00 and 06.00. Exact rates should be confirmed when you book. Transfers between Horizon and Ant's Nest / Ant's Hill are approx. 1400 Rand per car each way.

General visa and 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.

Health No inoculations are legally required for entry to South Africa from Europe but inoculations against Tetanus and Hepatitis A are recommended and also against Typhoid, Cholera and Yellow Fever in some circumstances. Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill are in a Malaria free area but if you are travelling on in South Africa after your stay you might need additional inoculations or to take Malaria tablets - you should always consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice.

(Draft 02/01/12)

