



RIDE ZIMBABWE HWANGE EXPLORERS SAFARI

- 1st night – Iganyana Private Tented Camp**
- 2nd night – semi-mobile bush camp**
- 3rd night – semi-mobile bush camp**
- 4th night – semi-mobile bush camp**
- 5th night – semi-mobile bush camp**
- 6th night – semi-mobile bush camp**
- 7th night – Iganyana Private Tented Camp**

Level of riding ability:

- Strong intermediate to advanced riding skill required.
- Being a confident rider with being riding fit is a big advantage.

Activities are going to be:

- Horse riding
- Bush walks
- Safari driving

Services are going to include, but not be confined to:

- Very good level of comfort with both the permanent and mobile tented accommodations.
- Fully catered with a reasonable supply of cold drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Strong French Press coffee is available.
- Staff and groom supported camps and horse services.
- Small groups up to 8 guests only.
- Professionally guided by qualified guides carrying first aid kit and certified firearms.
- Horses in excellent safari condition for bush riding.

DAY ONE:

Arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, meet and greet by a road transfer company, followed by a two-hour drive to Iganyana Private Tented Camp.

Afternoon high tea, briefing, indemnity signing, intro to the horses, and then onto the horses for a short ride. Back to camp, sundowners, showers, dinner, and peaceful sleep under canvas.

DAY TWO:

Horses will be trucked early to Main Camp with all tack etc.

Guests early morning wake up, tea and coffee around the campfire, pack, breakfast and game drive to Main Camp in Hwange National Park.

This is only a short drive of half an hour to perhaps an hour depending on sightings of wildlife.

Check-in and payments at the Tourism office, then mount up and ride into the park.

Will either ride with a picnic lunch to Caterpillar waterhole – or be met there by a vehicle – and ride on to Camp Dopi, or ride to Caterpillar for lunch at Camp Baikiaea.

This area is typical Kalahari sands with superb Teak and Acacia woodlands. Waterholes here attract wildlife that moves to and from for drinking and can provide some excellent sightings and interactions.

The afternoon may either be riding from lunch at Caterpillar to Dopi or riding out from Camp Baikiaea and exploring the Caterpillar area.

Overnight with sundowners, hot showers, and dining under the stars.

DAY THREE:

Early start with tea coffee and light breakfast around the fire.

Onto the horses for exploration in the region, heading off in whatever direction the guide chooses. Walking, cantering, jumping, wildlife tracking, and viewing. Back to camp for brunch, siesta, resting horse's then afternoon tea followed by another ride or perhaps even a walk.

Sundowners, hot showers and dinner again under the stars, or canvas if it's raining.

DAY FOUR:

Another early morning start – of which time does vary according to the seasons, mid-year being very cold first thing in the morning and thus starts being a bit later around 06h30; October, November, and December being very hot days and therefore wake up calls at 04h30 being required.

Onto the horses and out to explore the area again. There are no set routes and the ride is conducted according to what sounds were heard during the night, animal tracks, weather conditions, and many other factors.

The day may be a half-day or a full day out with a picnic lunch near a waterhole for wildlife viewing.

If lunch is at camp, then it is also an opportunity in the afternoon to do a safari walk or drive.

There are a few other waterholes that are worth visiting if guests have good cameras and lenses or are interested in birding.

Also, the guide may decide that an early morning walk or drive is going to be better and may then switch the order of the day to a non-riding activity in the morning and a ride in the afternoon.

This also depends on the need for horses to rest before a long day tomorrow.

Whatever happens, there will be cold drinks around the campfire and a hearty dinner in camp.

DAY FIVE:

Today we ride from Camp Baikiaea for a full day out to Kennedy Camp. This is a ride of approximately 30 or so km. It will be through the teak and acacia woodlands, passing waterholes which may or may not have water in, with a picnic lunch on route.

Arrive late afternoon to Camp Vachellia, settle in with sundowners, and welcome hot showers followed by yet again a delicious dinner.

DAY SIX:

This day will be spent in the Kennedy 2 area of the Park in some very beautiful Acacia groves. The camp is set along the Kennedy Vlei which is a renowned area for wildlife viewing.

Options here are riding, walking, or a safari drive in the morning. Much will again be dependent on possible wildlife sightings and activity and time of year as to what riding we will do.

A good option is to take a drive to the Ngweshla area not far from Vachellia as it is generally a very productive wildlife area.

DAY SEVEN:

Final early morning wake up to enjoy the dawn in the African bush around the fire.

Light breakfast and onto the horses for a 10 to 20km ride (dependent on the time of year and early morning wildlife activity) to a point where the horse truck will meet us.

There we will end the ride, load the horses, and have a safari drive out of the Park back to Iganyana for the night.

Sundowners will be a special affair reminiscing upon the past few days of being in the real African bush on fine steads enjoying the wildlife and big spaces.

DAY EIGHT:

Depending on departure times, the last morning may include a very short walk out to stretch the legs before a sumptuous breakfast and departure on the transfer vehicle back to VFA (or wherever the next destination is.) Sad farewells to the camp, but knowing that a Hwange return is definite!

TO NOTE ABOUT THE RIDE ITINERARY AND LOGISTICS:

This is representative of what the itinerary will be like.

Many factors will influence the day to day order of these rides.

Weather conditions – cold, heat, rain, cloud, etc.; – wildlife activity and movements; rider abilities and interests; climatic conditions i.e. good wet season or very dry conditions; logistics, and many other factors will determine how the riding and other activities will be conducted.

The guide will always ensure to maximise the wildlife experience.

No night drives allowed in the National Park but we can do night drives on the Iganyana concession.

There is 220V AC electricity provided by solar and generator at Iganyana but not on the mobile section. Charging of gadgets and cameras will be through a 12V DC vehicle inverter or accessory plug.

Guests need to confirm with us about what charging plugs they need to bring.

Iganyana has both 16Amp round pin South African plug sockets, and multi-socket adaptors for UK, European and USA plugs. There are also standard USB ports in the main living area of Iganyana.

There will be a small swimming pool for those lovely hot summer mid-days

There are no fences or barriers at any of the camps as these are wildlife zones so any wildlife can be moving through. A safety briefing will be done by the Professional Guide at the camps.

Water is borehole water that is filtered and very clean and safe to drink.

There is limited WiFi at Iganyana and none at all in the National Park, nor any mobile-phone service in the Park.

It is very wise to bring a couple of good interesting paper novels to read or a Kindle for those moments of peace and quiet time or if there is rain or one just wants to take some time out in the camp.

A small torch such as a Petzel/LedLenser style head torch is an absolute must for the bush camping and indeed any accommodation in Zimbabwe. Electricity is not a given!

Laundry can be done at both Iganyana and the bush mobile camps so no need for very extensive wardrobes.

Dietary requirements – VERY important for Ride Zimbabwe to be notified very well in advance i.e. at least a couple of months - about any dietary requirements of food allergies.

Vegetarians, vegans, gluten/lactose intolerant, celiac disease, etc. can be catered for *IF all information about the diets and needs are received in time.*

Please note that not all highly specific foods for these very specific diets are available in Zimbabwe.

It is easy to prepare meals without certain foods i.e. red meat, chicken, tomatoes, onions, peanuts, shellfish, etc., but not always easy to supplement with highly specific items found in many specialist food stores in Developed countries.

Also, note that the safaris are done in remote bush locations and access to health and medical facilities can be some hours away. All medicines required by guests MUST be brought that will cover the entire stay.

This is also why health insurance and emergency medical evacuation insurance cover is a pre-travel requirement.

Being bush camps it is likely to encounter animals such as elephants, buffalo, lion, hyena, baboon, snakes, spiders, scorpions, mosquitoes, flies, and many other types of insects in these natural bush locations. No guest should be surprised that these creatures exist as part of the daily experience of being in the Zimbabwean wilds.