



POLOAFRICA

A weathered sign with the text "UITGEDACHT" in blue capital letters. The sign is mounted on a rusty metal post. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sign itself is rectangular with rounded corners and is held in place by several small metal fasteners. The text is slightly faded and there are some dark spots on the sign's surface, suggesting it has been outdoors for a long time.

UITGEDACHT

POLOAFRICA BRINGS YOU UITGEDACHT FARM

Uitgedacht farm is set in the foothills of the spectacular Maluti mountains in the Eastern Free State of South Africa. The location is stunning, at the head of a picturesque valley, surrounded by mountains and fed by local springs. The farm is a working farm, caring for cattle and ponies. The farmhouse is approached by a tree lined drive and the views from it are magnificent. As night falls the sunsets are inspiring and with many clear nights it is the perfect place for star gazing.

Walking or riding up into the hills on the farm affords breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. Along the way paintings left by earlier inhabitants are hidden away in the caves in the rocks. It is a tranquil haven to enjoy riding, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, fossil hunting or just relaxing into life on the farm.



LIVING

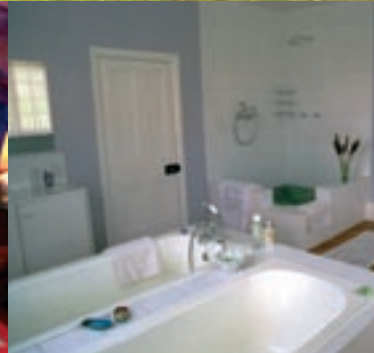


The sandstone farmhouse was built in the early years of last century and has recently been lovingly restored to provide contemporary accommodation while maintaining its original charm. Guests can stay either in the farmhouse itself, or in charming rustic cottages in the grounds.

Visitors tell us that dining is one of the highlights of their stay on the farm. Most of our food comes from an organic vegetable garden where pigs, chickens, ducks and geese are also raised. With a selection of excellent wines from our cellar, eating at Uitgedacht is an experience to savour.

The farmhouse's beautifully appointed library, study and sitting room, with treasures collected from around the world, make Uitgedacht a perfect place to relax whilst enjoying one of the fires, browsing the books or chatting to friends. A sundowner on the stoep is always a joy.





PLAYING POLO



Central to life on the farm is the game of polo and the polo pony. Guests of all abilities enjoy polo at Uitgedacht, whether beginners just entering the game or more experienced players looking to hone their skills.

Uitgedacht's polo facilities are world-class. They include two full sized polo fields, an arena polo field and a stick and ball field. The A field is set at the head of a valley affording both players and spectators fabulous views of the bass-filled lake at its southern end and the mountains to the north. The B field, situated a little further down the valley, is currently under construction and will be playable in 2006. The arena field is one of a handful in the country and offers the excitement of the smaller enclosed arena and an excellent facility to tune your riding skills. The arena field is also where Uitgedacht introduces young ponies to the game. The stick and ball field, set high above the exercise track, and the wooden horse, set under a thatched roof overlooking the arena field, are invaluable aids to perfecting your stroke play.



PONIES



Uitgedacht maintains a string of ponies suitable for all levels of player. We are constantly expanding the string and always have a line of young ponies being brought slowly into the game. Some of our ponies are homebred, the majority we bring straight from the racetrack to the farm. We find that on average it takes us two years to transform an ex-racehorse to a well-rounded polo pony.

We have used local materials to build extensive horse care facilities including a charming pony yard and stable complex and an enclosed schooling ring for lunging the youngsters. We also have a 1.5 kilometre exercise track positioned on the side of a steep hill for conditioning the playing ponies.

We are proud of our reputation for pony care and for our ability to develop good ponies.



YOUR POLO DAY



We aim to give you a complete polo experience while you are with us. We tailor the programme to suit guests' requirements and skill levels. A typical day starts with tuition in the morning led by one of our polo coaches. This includes a combination of stick and balling with the ponies, learning schooling techniques, honing hitting skills with foot mallets or on the wooden horse and absorbing the finer points of the game in theory sessions. After a rejuvenating lunch, we put the lessons into practice during instructional or practice chukkas. Local players often come and join in our afternoon practice chukkas. Then it is time to wind down over a drink and look forward to dinner. To broaden the experience we sometimes take guests to play chukkas at nearby polo clubs.







OUR POLO TEAM



We have an exceptional team who are dedicated to bringing on the ponies and improving your play. Overall responsibility for polo on the farm lies in the hands of our polo manager, Helgard du Preez, a local farmer and a two-goaler. Polo has been a way of life for his family since the game began in South Africa. Flippie Fourie, a two-goaler, is a frequent visitor to the farm. Flippie is well known in South Africa both as a coach and for his ability to choose and make polo ponies. Johann du Preez, a one-goaler, also comes from a local farming family and is a third generation polo player. He focuses on bringing on our young ponies. We also have a network of other polo professionals who look forward to coming to coach at Uitgedacht and play in tournaments with guests. Our grooms have been around horses almost since they were born. Some of them are players in their own right and all are used to assisting players of all levels either while learning on the farm or competing in tournaments.



MORE ABOUT POLO



Ploafrica is fully equipped to support guests who want to compete in tournaments, whether individual players or teams. Depending on your requirements (and the constraints of the South African polo tournament schedule) we can organise your tournament entry, a professional polo player to lead the team, other team members, ponies, transport to the tournament, and your accommodation. A few days practice on Uitgedacht farm before the tournament for you and your team mates to get to know the ponies is the ideal way to prepare for it.

Most polo equipment is for loan or sale on the farm. Nestling amidst pilchards and condensed milk in the farm shop you will be able to find different styles of locally made polo boot, short paddock boots, chaps, kneepads, clothing, whips, gloves, stick and boot bags and a wide range of polo mallets.

We ask that guests bring their own polo helmets.



OTHER ACTIVITIES



There is plenty to do, other than polo, whether on the farm itself or in the surrounding area.

There are spectacular walking trails for both the energetic hiker and the casual Rambler. Outrides are another way to see the farm, whether a gentle jog or a bit of a race over our cross country course. The farm is a haven for birdwatchers, as, in part due to the many streams and dams, birdlife is unusually prolific for the region. You can canoe and fish in the main lake or even swim in it on hot days. There is also a farm pool (a spring water filled reservoir) with spectacular views over the mountains. As for fishing – your catch will be welcomed in the kitchen!

Neighbours also offer interesting things to do for Uitgedacht guests – whether game drives, scenic flights over the Maluti mountains, boat trips on the beautiful Meulespruit dam, steam trains and working oxen at Sandstone or African drumming and permaculture courses at nearby Rustlers Valley.





GENERAL INFORMATION



DAY VISITING

We are happy for people to come and enjoy the Uitgedacht polo experience and stay elsewhere. There are plenty of charming places to stay within a 10 km radius of the farm, whether pretty self catering cottages or comfortable lodges, all of which offer very different living experiences. There are also lovely places to stay further afield. We can advise you about accommodation off the farm.

ENQUIRIES

For further information about PoloAfrica or Uitgedacht farm please look at our website:

www.poloafrica.com

For enquiries please email:

info@poloAfrica.com

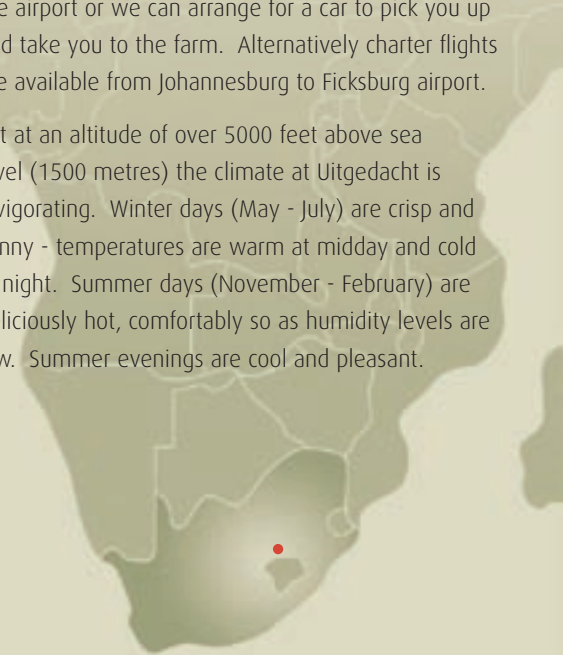
or call:

(+27) 83 434 6372

LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Uitgedacht farm is situated in the Eastern Free State of South Africa, close to the northern Lesotho border, between Ficksburg and Fouriesburg. The closest international airport is Johannesburg which is three and a half hours drive away. Cars can be hired from the airport or we can arrange for a car to pick you up and take you to the farm. Alternatively charter flights are available from Johannesburg to Ficksburg airport.

Set at an altitude of over 5000 feet above sea level (1500 metres) the climate at Uitgedacht is invigorating. Winter days (May - July) are crisp and sunny - temperatures are warm at midday and cold at night. Summer days (November - February) are deliciously hot, comfortably so as humidity levels are low. Summer evenings are cool and pleasant.





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