



PAFURI
COLLECTION
BY RETURN AFRICA



PAFURI *Camp*





RETURN AFRICA





A WILD SANCTUARY

where soul & safari meet

Deep within the Makuleke Contract Park, the most biodiverse corner of Kruger, lies Pafuri, a collection of experiences by RETURN Africa that invite you to RETURN to something deeper: silence, connection, and the rhythms of an ancient wildness.

Far from the crowds, this is where Africa reveals its raw, untouched beauty: towering baobabs, luminous fever tree forests, sweeping floodplains, and the living pulse of the bush.

Though it covers just 1% of Kruger, Pafuri holds over 75% of the park's biodiversity. From elephants, nyala, and great herds of buffalo to elusive leopards, wild dogs, and Pel's fishing owl, every walk, drive, and river view brims with possibility. For birders, photographers, and nature lovers, it is a rare kind of heaven, one where nature still sets the pace.

Our safaris are unhurried. Rather than chase from sighting to sighting, we linger, listen, and allow the bush to reveal itself. Magnificent places, predators, herds, and moments of wonder emerge naturally when given time. We respect the wildlife that roams freely across open frontiers, and we honour the ancestors whose traces remain in this land since the dawn of time. We know we too are only passing through, with a duty to care for the life it sustains.

Pafuri is more than a safari. It is a pioneering conservation partnership with the Makuleke people, who own this land and guide its future. Your visit supports jobs, education, and the protection of this remarkable ecosystem. Whether you come to walk, to learn, or simply to exhale and listen, Pafuri offers something rare: a sense of coming home. No wonder guests leave asking, "When can we come back?"



PAFURI Collection



Pafuri Camp

4

Mozambique

PAFURI Camp

Cradled beneath towering trees along the banks of the Luvuvhu River, where the Makuleke Contract Park meets the northern Kruger, Pafuri Camp offers an enchanting retreat into untamed southern Africa. Whether you begin your day with the thrill of a morning game drive or a peaceful, guided bush walk (by prior arrangement), here, the rhythm of nature leads the way.

Our 19 luxurious tented suites, linked by raised wooden walkways, offer sweeping river views, elegant en-suite bathrooms (with both indoor and outdoor showers), and private decks from which to soak in the sights and sounds of the wild.

Spend your afternoon cooling off in the pool or sipping something refreshing at the bar, all to the soundtrack of birdcall and rustling leaves.

Every detail at Pafuri Camp is designed to offer serenity, connection, and the simple pleasures of safari living.

What to EXPECT

- The highest biodiversity of any region in Greater Kruger National Park
- The best South African walking safaris
- Extraordinary scenery including Lanner Gorge, the Fever Tree forest, Ramsar Wetlands, Mountains and Baobabs
- 450 species of birds, making it the premier birding hot-spot in the country
- A historical and cultural richness, including the ancient citadel of Thulamela and the Makuleke story
- Crooks corner and the Limpopo river, where three countries meet





THE BAOBABS *of Pafuri*

Baobab trees majestically dot the landscape in Pafuri, standing as timeless sentinels of nature's grandeur and resilience. Their ancient presence and towering beauty inspire a profound sense of wonder and connection to the land, inviting all who behold them to marvel at the enduring spirit of the natural world.

Baobab trees are often called "upside-down trees" because of their unique appearance, but they are also known as "trees of life" due to their enormous capacity to store water. Their thick, trunk-like stems can hold thousands of litres of water, which is crucial for survival in the arid regions of Africa where they predominantly grow. During the dry season, this stored water is essential for both the tree and the local wildlife, providing a vital resource when other water sources are scarce.

Baobab trees are some of the oldest living organisms on Earth. Many baobabs are estimated to be over 1,000 years old, with some even reaching an astonishing age of over 3,000 years. These ancient giants have witnessed countless generations and have become central to many African myths and legends. Their longevity is attributed to their resilience and ability to regenerate bark, making them symbols of endurance and timelessness in the natural world.





Camp FACILITIES

Number of Tents

- Riverview Tent
- Riverview Family Tent

WiFi

Children

Massages

Check-in

Check-out

Bar

Camp Communication

Fire Pit

Solar Powered

Swimming Pool

Power

Fenced

19 Tents

12 Tents

7 Tents, maximum 2 children sharing

Yes, in main areas

All ages

Yes, in-tent treatments

14:00

11:00

Yes

Radio

Yes

Yes

Yes

220v, Plug Types C, D, M, N, USB

No

- Raised wooden walkways between tents and facilities



PAFURI CAMP

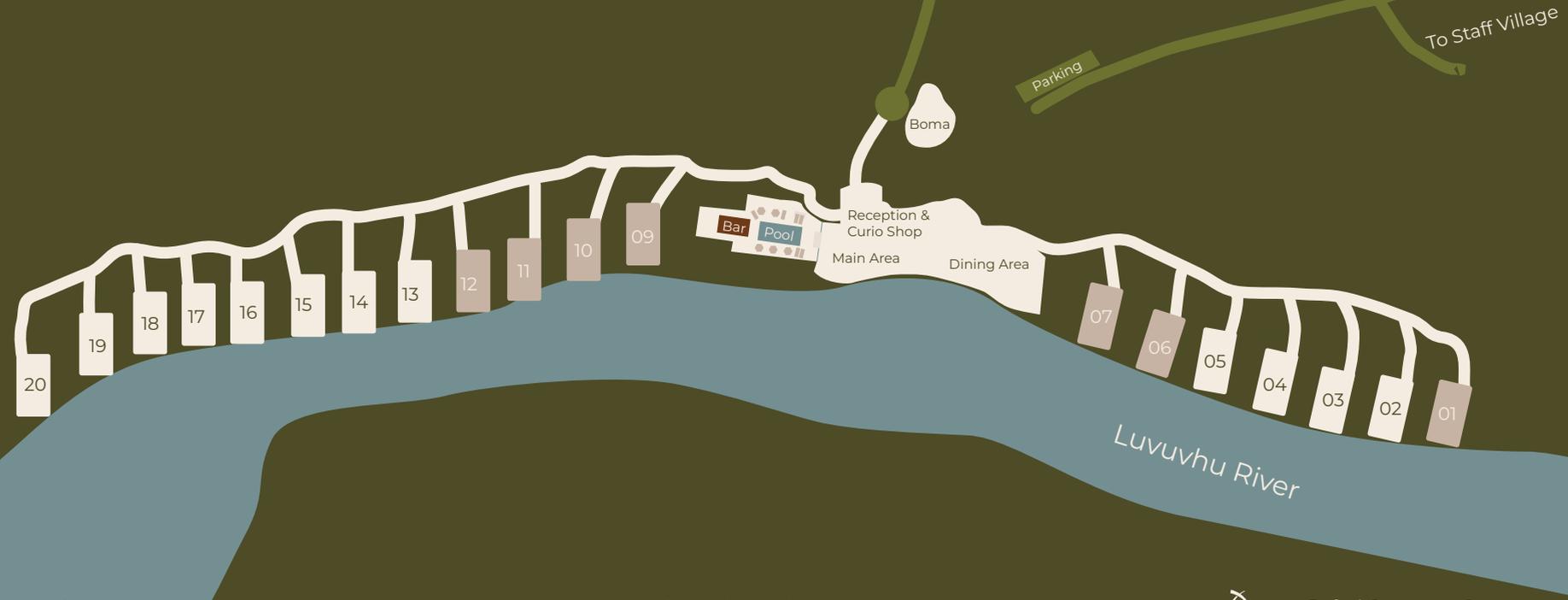
Layout

- Pafuri Camp Access Road
- to Pafuri Airstrip
 - to Pafuri Gate
 - to Punda Maria Gate
 - to Kruger National Park
 - to Lanner Gorge
 - to Thulamela Ruins
 - to Hutwini Walking Camp
 - to Nkula Walking Camp
 - to Baobab Hill House

- Luvuvhu East
- to Crooks Corner
 - to Fever Tree Forest

Makuleke Contract Park

- 01 Family Tent
- 01 Standard Tent



Please note: layout is indicative. Not to scale.

Kruger National Park





EXPLORE, WALK *and wonder at Pafuri*

At the Pafuri Collection, every moment is an invitation to explore, reflect, and connect with a land of extraordinary diversity.

Walk the ancient paths of Thulamela, where stone ruins whisper stories of human history, or wander beneath the luminous canopy of fever tree forests, alive with birdlife and the gentle rhythm of the bush.

Step off the beaten track with guided walking safaris, where footprints and stories alike trace the lives of both people and wildlife.

Stand at Crooks Corner, where three countries meet along the meandering rivers, and feel the vastness of this borderless wildness.

From intimate birding excursions to immersive cultural tours, Pafuri offers experiences that awaken the senses and deepen your connection to this remarkable corner of Kruger.



THE ELUSIVE

Pel's fishing owl

Pafuri remains one of the best destinations in South Africa to witness the Pel's Fishing Owl. It inhabits the riverine forests along the banks of the Luvuvhu river and fishes at night from fallen logs in the shallows.

Many guests have been fortunate enough to see the owls from Pafuri Camp's main decks, but they also frequent other favoured fishing spots along the course of the river, and can sometimes be seen at dusk and dawn flying to or from their roosts. A sighting of this rare and elusive bird feels like a magical encounter, one that will never be forgotten.

The Pel's Fishing Owl is one of the few species of owl that specialise in catching fish. They hunt primarily at night, using their exceptional night vision to spot fish and other aquatic prey. With powerful talons adapted to grip slippery fish this majestic bird silently swoops down to pounce on its meal, making it a skilful and fascinating nocturnal hunter.

Pel's Fishing Owls are found in well wooded flood plains and riverine forests in sub-Saharan Africa. They are rare and sensitive, and prefer wild and remote areas like Pafuri. Even in Pafuri they remain elusive because they are active only at night and rest during the day in large densely branched trees. The owl's distinctive low deep hoots, or the juveniles' eerie cat-like wails echo through the night and can often be heard from the tents at Pafuri.





ACTIVITIES

Game drives in open safari vehicles.

Game walks with experienced guides, subject to arrangement before arrival.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Tea/Coffee
- Two activities daily

EXCLUSIONS

- Flights/travel costs
- Transfer costs (unless otherwise stated)
- SANParks fees
- Government taxes
- Personal/travel insurance
- Beverages
- Gratuities
- Cultural tours

Tent FACILITIES

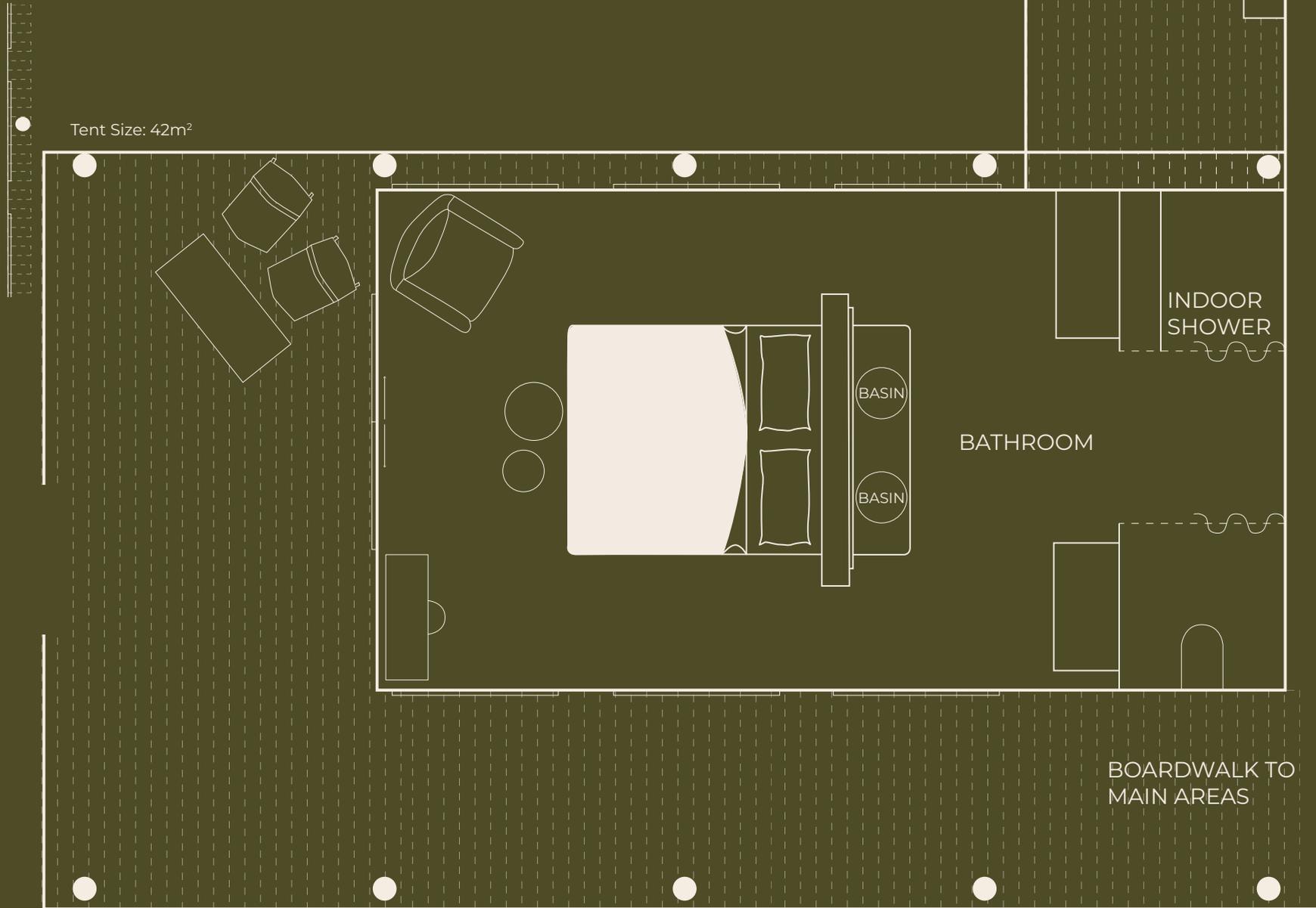
Standard Beds	King Double or Twin
In-room safe	Yes
Family Beds	2 additional single bed, cot available on request
Aircon	No
Mosquito Nets	Yes
Fans	Yes
Indoor & Outdoor Showers	Yes
Hair Dryer	No, due to solar power
Tea & Coffee Station	Yes
Laundry	Yes, included

EXTRA INFORMATION

Rainfall	Most rain falls from November to March
Birding	Best between November & March
Season	Open all year round
Malaria	Moderate malaria area



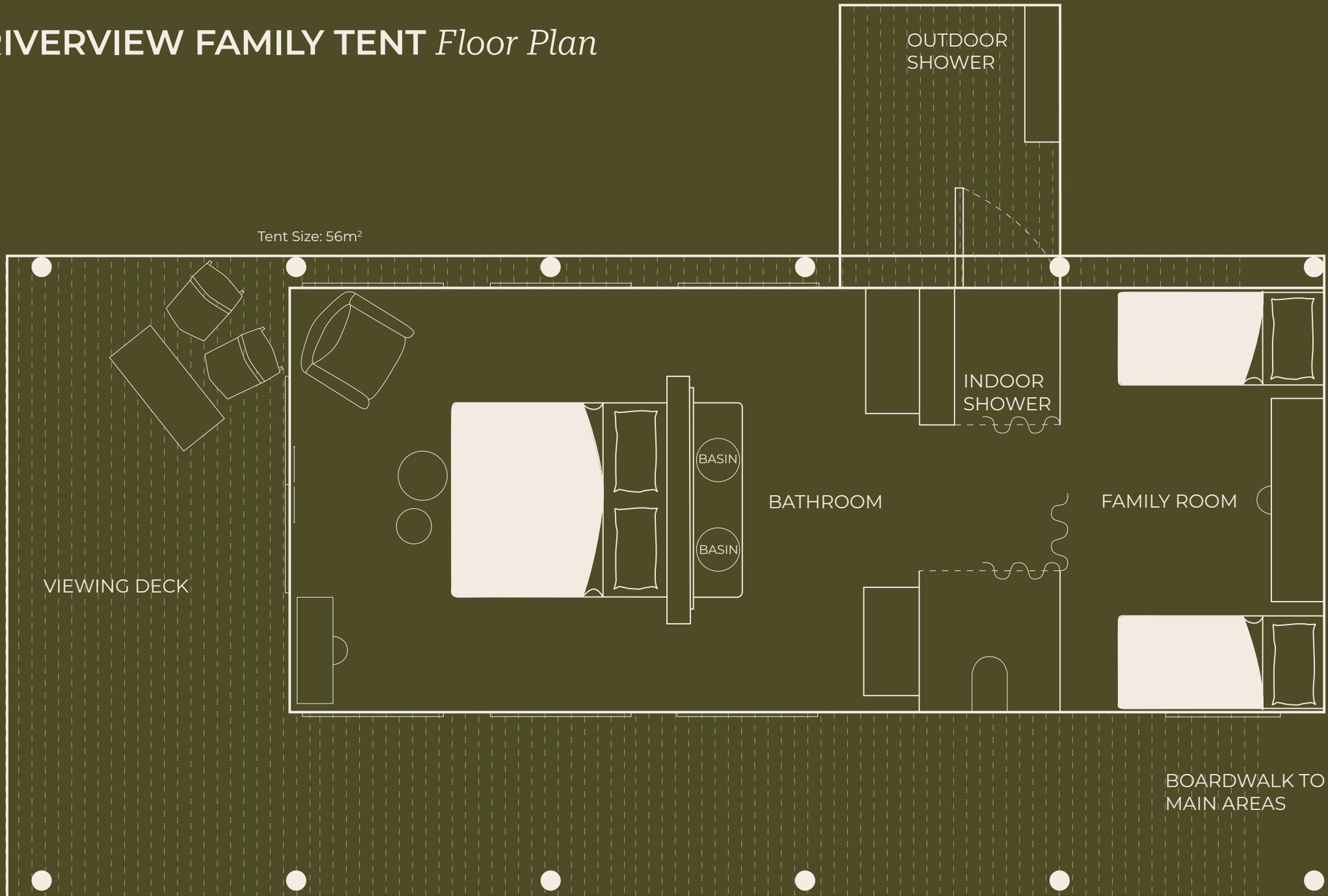
RIVERVIEW TENT *Floor Plan*



Please note: the floor plan is indicative. Not to scale.



RIVERVIEW FAMILY TENT *Floor Plan*



Please note: the floor plan is indicative. Not to scale.





DIVERSE *wildlife*

Our 26,500-hectare concession in northern Kruger is a living tapestry, ever-shifting with the seasons. Though it covers just 1% of Kruger National Park, Pafuri holds an astonishing 75% of its biodiversity, making it one of the richest corners of this wildness.

Along the rivers, hippos wallow in pods, crocodiles drift silently, and birdlife gathers in extraordinary numbers. The valleys shelter the park's highest densities of nyala and eland, while great herds of elephant and buffalo move through when the land calls them.

Morning safaris pulse with life, impala, kudu, zebra, wildebeest, baboons, warthogs and more, while rare sightings like Sharpe's grysbok or the yellow-spotted rock hyrax feel almost commonplace here.

At night, a different world stirs: leopard and hyena, honey badger and bushpig, civet, genet, and the elusive African wild cat.

And sometimes, lion, cheetah or wild dog pass through, a reminder that in Pafuri, anything is possible.



Getting to PAFURI

PAFURI CAMP is situated in the Makuleke Contractual Park in the far north of the Kruger National Park.

GPS Co-ordinates: 22°25'15.81"S / 31°13'45.81"E

SELF DRIVE

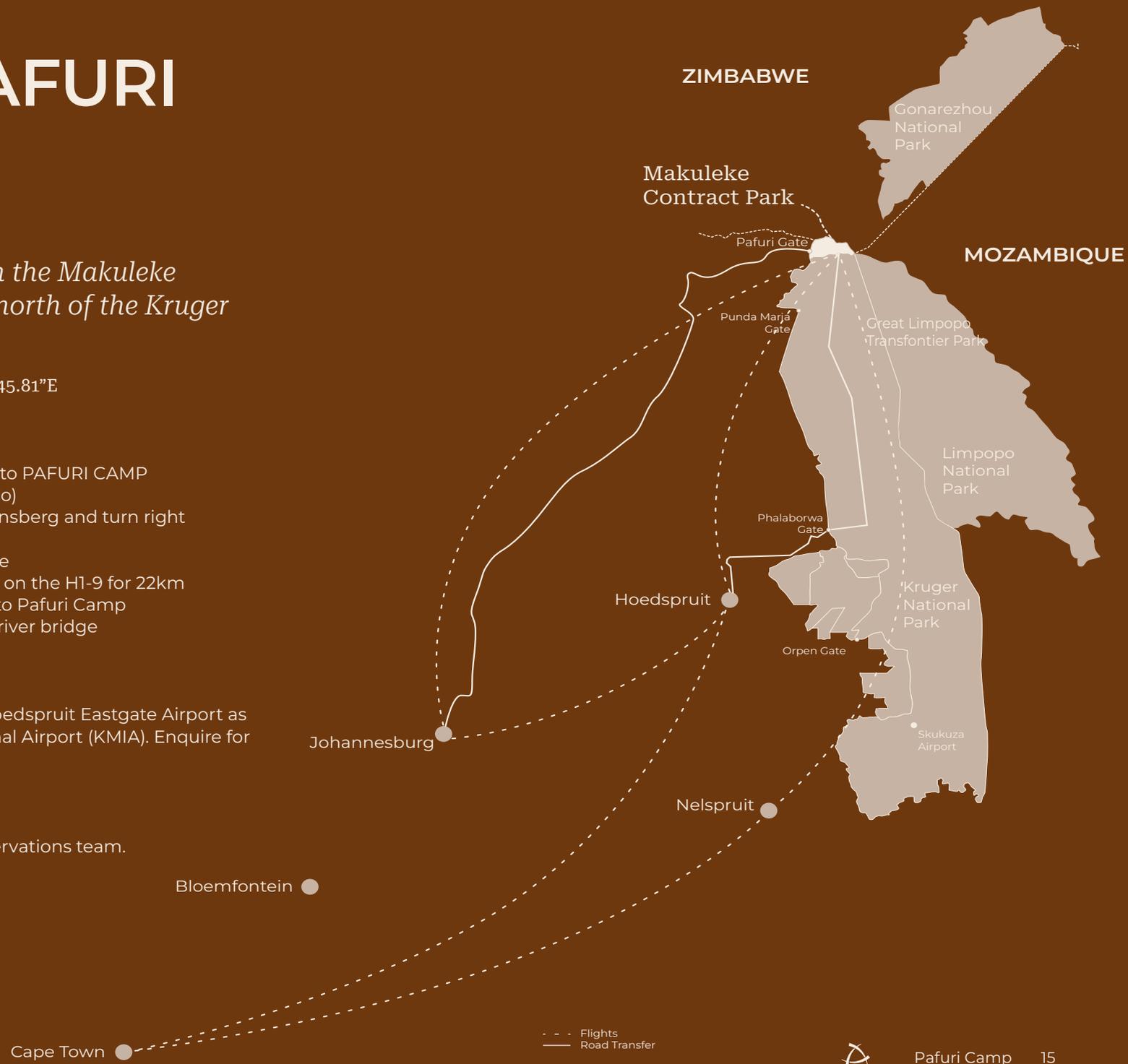
- 640km / 7H00 from Johannesburg to PAFURI CAMP
- N1 North to Louis Trichardt (Makhado)
- Continue on the N1 over the Soutpansberg and turn right onto the R525 towards Tshipise
- Continue past Tshipise to Pafuri Gate
- Enter the Kruger Park and continue on the H1-9 for 22km
- Look out for a left turn, signposted to Pafuri Camp
- 150m before reaching the Luvuvhu river bridge

FLIGHTS

RETURN Africa operates flights from Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport as well as Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA). Enquire for rates with our reservations team.

ROAD TRANSFERS

Transfers can be arranged with our reservations team.







THE APEX PREDATOR, *the Spotted Hyena*

Often misunderstood as mere scavengers, spotted hyenas are actually skilled hunters, capable of bringing down large prey such as wildebeest and zebras.

Their powerful jaws and digestive systems allow them to consume almost every part of their prey, including bones, making them one of nature's most efficient recyclers. This dual role as both hunter and scavenger plays a crucial part in maintaining the ecological balance by keeping populations in check and cleaning up carcasses from the environment.

Spotted hyenas in Pafuri live in large, complex social groups called clans. These clans are female-dominated, with a strict hierarchy led by a dominant female. The social structure is highly organised, with females usually being larger and more aggressive than males, ensuring their dominance within the group.

In Makuleke culture, the spotted hyena holds significant spiritual and symbolic meanings. The Makuleke people, like many indigenous African communities, often view hyenas with a mix of respect, fear, and reverence. Hyenas are frequently featured in folklore and stories, where they are depicted as cunning and intelligent creatures. In some tales, they are seen as tricksters or symbols of transformation, reflecting their scavenging behaviour and ability to survive in harsh conditions. The Makuleke's spiritual beliefs include the notion that hyenas possess supernatural powers, and encountering one is often considered a message from the ancestors.





RETURN *Africa's Impact*

At Pafuri, RETURN Africa's impact is woven into every moment, from the quiet presence of local guides to the restoration of ancient wildlife corridors. In partnership with Makuleke leadership, RETURN Africa supports conservation, employment, and cultural heritage in one of South Africa's most biodiverse landscapes. Every stay contributes to long-term stewardship and community-led protection of this extraordinary place.

Read our full impact story at returnafrica.com



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The river flows from the bottom center towards the left, reflecting the sky. The surrounding land is a mix of green trees and reddish-brown earth with scattered bushes. In the distance, low hills are visible under the twilight sky.

RETURN *to what matters*

RETURN *Africa*

Cape Collection

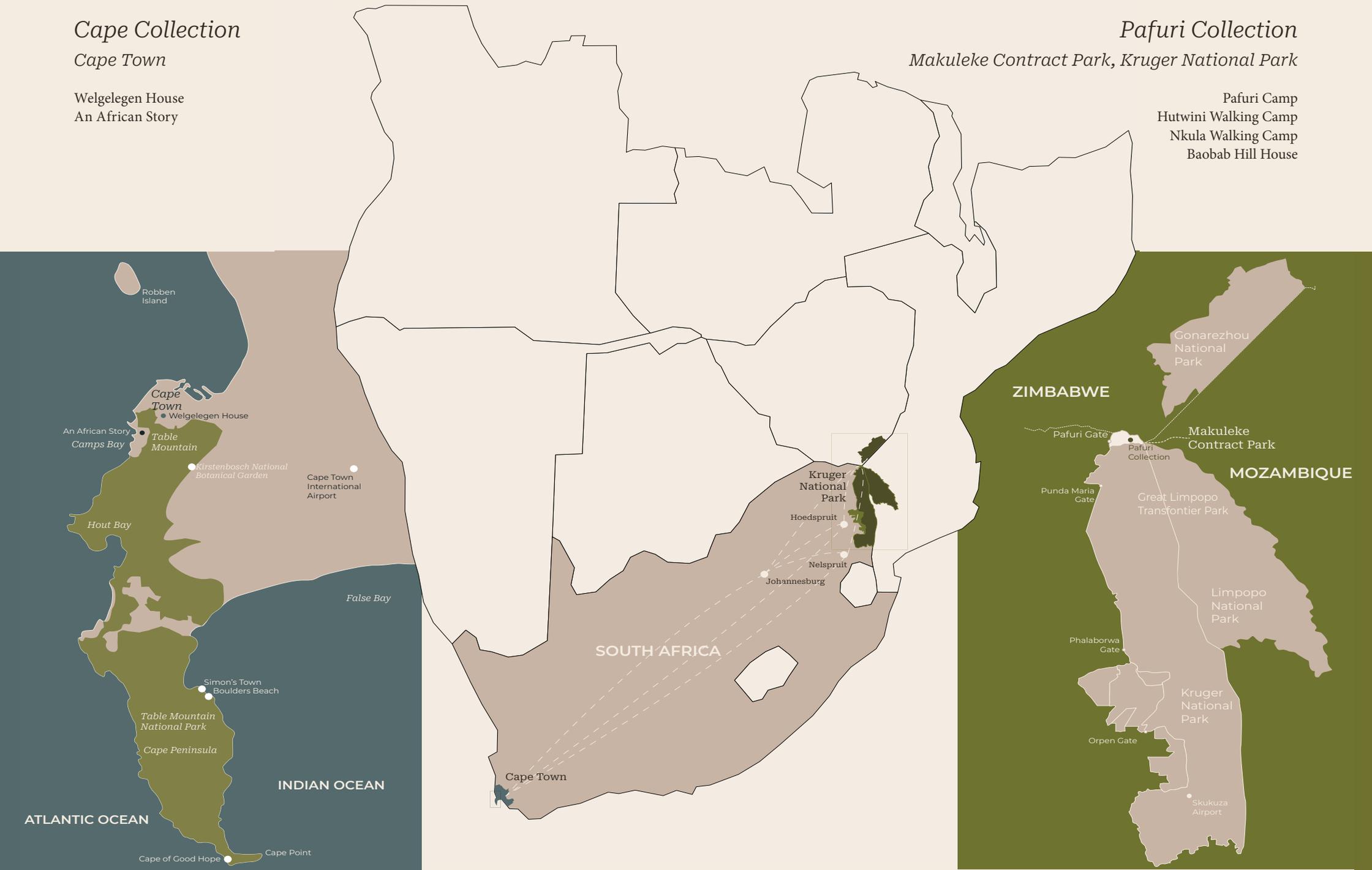
Cape Town

- Welgelegen House
- An African Story

Pafuri Collection

Makuleke Contract Park, Kruger National Park

- Pafuri Camp
- Hutwini Walking Camp
- Nkula Walking Camp
- Baobab Hill House



Robben Island

Cape Town

• Welgelegen House

An African Story
Camps Bay

Table Mountain

• Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

• Cape Town International Airport

Hout Bay

False Bay

• Simon's Town
• Boulders Beach

Table Mountain National Park

Cape Peninsula

ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

Cape of Good Hope

Cape Point

SOUTH AFRICA

Kruger National Park

Hoedspruit

Nelspruit

Johannesburg

Cape Town

ZIMBABWE

Pafuri Gate

Pafuri Collection

Makuleke Contract Park

MOZAMBIQUE

Punda Maria Gate

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park

Limpopo National Park

Phalaborwa Gate

Kruger National Park

Orpen Gate

Skukuza Airport



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Book Now

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