



madikwe  
SAFARI LODGE

## FAMILY FACT SHEET

*For broader information on the reserve, access, and the full Madikwe Safari Lodge offering, please refer to the comprehensive fact sheet.*

Madikwe Safari Lodge is one of South Africa's leading family safari destinations – a malaria-free Big Five reserve, a year-round wildlife experience, and a collection of camps and a private villa designed to welcome guests of every age, every stage, and every season.

Whether you're travelling with a baby, a teenager, or three generations under one roof, the lodge offers the flexibility, facilities, and family-led hospitality to make a safari feel effortless for everyone.

### 1.1 WHO THIS IS FOR

**Madikwe Safari Lodge caters to a wide range of family travel styles:**

- **Families with young children**, including babies and toddlers
- **Families with older children and teens**
- **Multi-generational families** travelling across two or three generations
- **Larger family groups** gathering for milestone occasions – birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, or special celebrations
- **Blended and extended family groups** travelling together but valuing privacy and flexibility

### 1.2 WHY MADIKWE SAFARI LODGE FOR FAMILIES

- **Malaria-free** – a Big Five safari without prophylactics, ideal for young children and travellers with health considerations
- **Year-round destination** – non-migratory wildlife means consistent game viewing across all seasons
- **Purpose-designed family spaces** – Family Suites, the Eco-House Kids' Activity Centre, and family-friendly camp layout
- **Age-appropriate safari experiences** – including kiddies' "bumble" drives for younger children
- **Flexibility across the collection** – from individual family suites to fully exclusive-use camps and a private villa
- **Family-led hospitality** – a warm, intuitive service style that treats every guest, big or small, like family



## 1.3 WHERE FAMILIES STAY

The lodge offers four distinct accommodation options for families. The right fit depends on group size, children's ages, and the type of experience the family is looking for.

### LELAPA CAMP | THE FAMILY HOME BASE

Lelapa Camp is the most family-oriented camp within Madikwe Safari Lodge and serves as the main hub for the entire family offering. All Lelapa Camp facilities are open to families staying anywhere within the collection, except where Kopano or Dithaba is booked exclusively.

#### Accommodation

- **All ages welcome**
- **4 Family Suites** – designed for parents travelling with up to two children, accommodated in a separate bedroom with bunk beds
- **8 additional Luxury Suites** – suitable for couples, single travellers, and members of the wider family group
- Suite size: 100 m<sup>2</sup> (both Luxury and Family Suites)

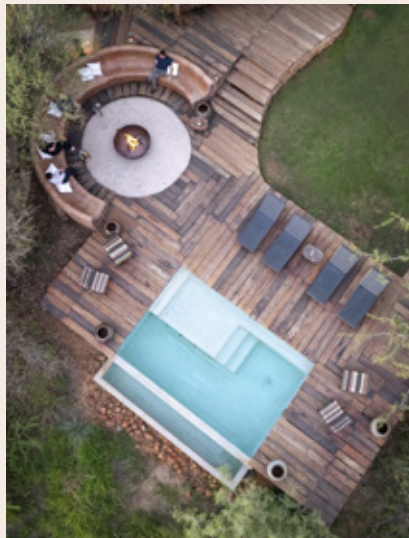
#### Family-friendly facilities at Lelapa Camp

- **Eco-House Kids' Activity Centre** – a dedicated children's space within the camp
- **Signature waterhole** – front-and-centre wildlife viewing from the main camp areas and pool
- **Swimming pool** overlooking the waterhole, plus private plunge pools in every suite
- **Expansive deck** with indoor and outdoor lounge and dining areas
- **Boma, bar area, and fire pit**
- **Wellness Spa** with three treatment rooms, relaxation deck, steam room, and dipping pool – the largest dedicated spa facility within Madikwe Game Reserve
- **Gym**
- **Safari Boutique**

### ELELA VILLA | THE PRIVATE FAMILY SANCTUARY

Elela Villa is Madikwe Safari Lodge's fully private villa – well-suited to families who want exclusive use, a dedicated team, and complete flexibility.

- **All ages welcome**
- **Always booked on an exclusive-use basis**
- **3 bedrooms** (sleeps up to 6 guests)
- **Dedicated villa team**, including a private field guide and safari vehicle
- **Flexible meal and game-drive scheduling** to suit the family's rhythm
- **Private infinity pool, shaded deck, fire pit, and lounge spaces**
- Villa size: 210 m<sup>2</sup>
- Children under 16 may not use Kopano Camp's facilities but are welcome at Lelapa Camp at any time





## EXCLUSIVE-USE CAMPS | FOR LARGER FAMILY GROUPS

For larger families wanting an entire camp to themselves, **Kopano Camp** and **Dithaba Camp** can each be booked on an exclusive-use basis. Both camps ordinarily accommodate guests aged **16 years and older**, but **children of all ages are welcome when either camp is booked exclusively**.

- 4 suites per camp; up to 8 adults per camp
- Tailored dining, dedicated service, and private use of all camp facilities
- Ideal for milestone family occasions and extended family groups travelling together
- Full access to Lelapa Camp's shared facilities, including the Eco-House Kids' Activity Centre (when applicable)

## CAMP COMBINATIONS | FOR LARGE FAMILY GATHERINGS

For multi-generational and extended family parties, all camps can be combined within a single booking, accommodating up to **46 adult guests plus 8 children in the Lelapa Camp Family Suites**.

### Quick Fit Guide:

Families with young children →	Lelapa Camp (Family Suites) or Elela Villa
Multi-generational with mixed ages →	Lelapa Camp, Elela Villa, or exclusive-use camp combination
Families with older children/teens only (16+) →	Any camp in the collection, including Kopano and Dithaba
Large family gatherings (16+ guests) →	Camp combinations across the collection

## 1.4 ON SAFARI WITH THE FAMILY

### GAME DRIVES & AGE POLICY

- **Children aged 6 and older** are welcome on scheduled adult game drives
- **Children under 6** may not join scheduled drives unless parents book a **private safari vehicle** (additional cost; included as standard at Elela Villa). Alternatively, parents may arrange childminding at an additional cost.
- **Private safari vehicles** are available at all camps and offer the flexibility to set the pace, duration, and timing of drives around the family

### KIDDIES' "BUMBLE" GAME DRIVES

For younger children, **kiddies' "bumble" game drives** are offered close to camp – short, age-appropriate excursions that introduce children to the bush through engaging, sensory-led activities. Madikwe Safari Lodge guides are experienced at hosting families, with drives paced and pitched to the children on board and content adjusted naturally to their ages and interests.

Bumble drives typically take place **after morning breakfast**, once the scheduled-drive vehicles have returned to camp. Timing shifts seasonally – summer drives are scheduled as early as possible to make the most of the cooler hours, while winter drives are moved slightly later to allow for the chill to lift.



## 1.5 BACK IN CAMP | FAMILY EXPERIENCES



Madikwe Safari Lodge offers a range of in-camp experiences designed to keep all ages engaged between game drives – most centred on Lelapa Camp, the family hub of the lodge.

### THE ECO-HOUSE KIDS' ACTIVITY CENTRE

A dedicated children's space at Lelapa Camp, designed to keep young guests engaged with nature-led, age-appropriate activities.

- Tracking
- Craft sessions
- Spoor casting
- Games

### WATER & WILDLIFE FROM CAMP

- **Lelapa Camp's signature waterhole** – visible from the main camp areas and pool deck; attracts wildlife throughout the day and evening
- **Swimming pools** at each camp, plus **private plunge pools** in every suite and an **infinity pool** at Elela Villa
- Quiet wildlife-watching from the comfort of camp is one of the lodge's most-loved family pastimes

### DINING WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

- Flexible menus with options suited to younger and older palates
- Dietary requirements accommodated with advance notice
- Earlier kids' dinner sittings can be arranged on request

### CHILDMINDING & PARENT TIME

- **Childminding is available at an additional cost**, allowing parents to enjoy a game drive, a spa treatment, or simply some quiet time.

## 1.6 PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

### MALARIA-FREE PEACE OF MIND

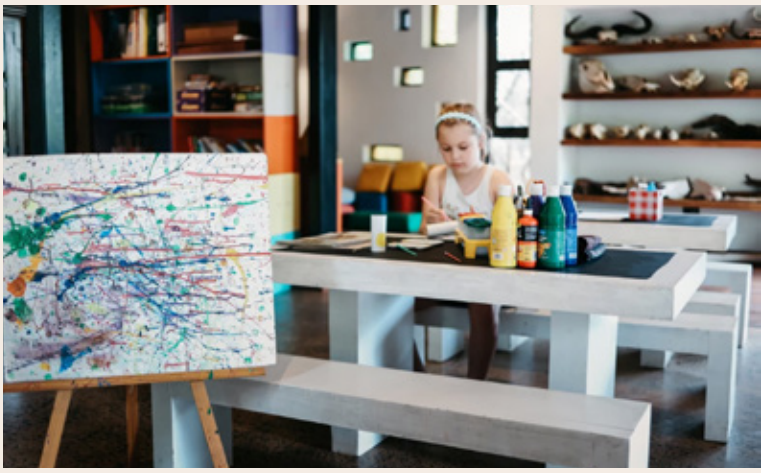
Madikwe Game Reserve is a designated malaria-free zone. No prophylactic medication is required to visit – a significant advantage for families travelling with young children, anyone with health sensitivities, or guests who simply prefer to avoid taking medication.

### GETTING THERE WITH KIDS

- **By air** – scheduled Federal Air flights from Johannesburg (OR Tambo) to Madikwe Eastern Airstrip; approximately 1 hour. The quickest and most family-friendly option, with a short open-vehicle transfer to the lodge.
- **By road** – approximately 4 to 4.5 hours from Johannesburg, plus 30 to 40 minutes within the reserve. Private road transfers can be arranged.

*For full travel and access details, please refer to the comprehensive fact sheet.*

*A complete list of FAQs is available on the Madikwe Safari Lodge website: [madikwesafarilodge.co.za/faqs](http://madikwesafarilodge.co.za/faqs)*



## 1.7 FAMILY REFERENCE TABLE

REFERENCE	LELAPA CAMP	ELELA VILLA
<b>Children Allowed</b>	All ages	All ages
<b>Children's Rates</b>	<5 free / 6–15: 50% adult rate	Exclusive-use villa rate per night
<b>Children on Safari</b>	Scheduled adult drives: 6+; private vehicles available (extra cost)	Private game drives with dedicated vehicle
<b>Children's Activities</b>	Yes (on-site Eco-House)	Yes (at Lelapa)
<b>Childminding</b>	Yes (additional cost)	Yes (additional cost)
<b>Triple/Sleeper Configuration</b>	Yes (for children u/12 sharing with parents). Family Suite only – infant cot on request; Luxury Suite not applicable	No
<b>Family Suites</b>	4 Family Suites	–
<b>Maximum Guests</b>	24 adults + 8 children	6
<b>Private Plunge Pool</b>	Yes	Private infinity pool
<b>Private Safari Vehicle</b>	Optional (additional cost)	Included
<b>Eco-House Access</b>	Yes (on site)	Yes (at Lelapa)

REFERENCE	KOPANO CAMP	DITHABA CAMP
<b>Children Allowed</b>	16+ only (all ages if booked exclusively)	16+ only (all ages if booked exclusively)
<b>Children's Rates</b>	Adult rates apply	Adult rates apply
<b>Children on Safari</b>	16+ on scheduled drives; all ages if camp booked exclusively	16+ on scheduled drives; all ages if camp booked exclusively
<b>Children's Activities</b>	Yes (at Lelapa)	Yes (at Lelapa)
<b>Childminding</b>	Yes (additional cost)	Yes (additional cost)
<b>Triple/Sleeper Configuration</b>	No	Yes (only for children in exclusive-use)
<b>Family Suites</b>	–	–
<b>Maximum Guests</b>	8	8
<b>Private Plunge Pool</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Private Safari Vehicle</b>	Optional (additional cost)	Optional (additional cost)
<b>Eco-House Access</b>	Yes (at Lelapa)	Yes (at Lelapa)

## RESERVATIONS & KEY CONTACTS

### Reservations



**Natalie Sokolich**  
res@madikwesafarilodge.co.za



**Lucy Graham**  
lucy@madikwesafarilodge.co.za

### Sales:



**Kim Beyers** | SADC  
sales@madikwesafarilodge.co.za



**Ailsa Tavares** | UK & Europe  
ailsa@travelpromoters.co.uk



**Johan Vanzyl** | North America  
johann@farcountrycollection.com

### Operations:



**Emery Hassall** | COO  
emery@madikwesafarilodge.co.za



**Ronnie Borrageiro** | Operations Director  
ronnieb@madikwesafarilodge.co.za

### BRAND ASSETS, IMAGES & INFORMATION (TRADE ROOM):

Access to the Madikwe Safari Lodge brand library, including high-resolution imagery, logos, fact sheets, and supporting collateral:

[ACCESS LIBRARY](#)

**Reservations.** +27 (0) 64 852 5304

**After-hours assistance.** +27 (0) 78 038 6240

**E.** res@madikwesafarilodge.co.za

**W.** madikwesafarilodge.co.za