



## EXPERIENCES FACT SHEET

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

A stay at Madikwe Safari Lodge unfolds across two distinct rhythms – time **out in the reserve**, immersed in the wilderness and its wildlife, and time **back in camp**.

Set within the malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve, the lodge is a one-of-a-kind safari for **every age, every stage, every occasion** – equally well-suited to families travelling with children, couples, solo travellers, multi-generational gatherings, and groups of friends.

Above all, **the experience is shaped around the guest**. No two stays look the same – the lodge flexes its rhythm, its pace, and its detail to the people travelling, the season, and the occasion.

### 1.1 OUT IN THE RESERVE

The wilderness is at the heart of every stay. Madikwe Safari Lodge's location within the malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve offers consistent year-round game viewing across a diverse landscape – and a portfolio of experiences that are intentional, unhurried, and deeply personal.

#### GAME DRIVES

Morning and afternoon game drives in **open 4x4 safari vehicles**, each lasting **approximately three hours**. Drives are led by experienced guides with deep knowledge of the reserve and a calm, low-pressure approach to wildlife viewing. The pace is unhurried – guests are never rushed from one sighting to the next, and drives are adapted to the people on board, whether photographers, families, birders, or guests seeking quiet immersion.

#### A typical drive shape:

- **Morning drive** – departing at first light; cool air, soft light, and active wildlife
- **Mid-morning return** – coffee on the deck, breakfast waiting
- **Afternoon drive** – departing mid-afternoon, returning after sunset, including sundowners and an after-dark return leg where brown hyena, aardwolf, armadillo, bat-eared fox, leopard, and owls may be spotted with a spotlight

Drive times shift slightly between summer and winter to align with sunrise and sunset, but the experience remains the same: a long, immersive morning drive and a long, atmospheric afternoon-to-evening drive.

#### Guiding philosophy:

Madikwe Safari Lodge's guides balance education, storytelling, and silence – confident in their knowledge of the reserve, intuitive about when to speak and when to let the bush speak for itself. The lodge follows Madikwe's collaborative guiding culture, prioritising low-pressure viewing, avoiding overcrowding at sightings, and following natural behaviour as it unfolds.



#### On the vehicle:

- **Canopied vehicles** for shade in summer; canopies removed in winter for clearer views and better photography
- **Warm blankets and hot water bottles** for cool morning and evening drives
- **Waterproof ponchos** available during unexpected weather
- **Individual bucket seats** with pouches for phones, water bottles, and binoculars

#### GUIDED WALKS

For guests aged **16 years and older**, walking safaris offer a slower, more sensory encounter with the bush – focused on tracks, plants, and the smaller details that drives often pass by. Walks take place close to camp or in carefully selected areas, always led by a fully qualified trails guide.

***Note:** Madikwe Game Reserve requires guests aged 60 and older to provide a doctor's note confirming good physical health for participation – a reserve-wide regulation applied consistently across these Big Five walking areas.*

#### CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Conservation isn't an abstract concept at Madikwe Safari Lodge. The reserve itself is a **living conservation success story** – created from former farmland through Operation Phoenix, one of the largest wildlife translocation projects in history, with more than 8,000 animals reintroduced to rebuild an entire ecosystem. Every stay at Madikwe Safari Lodge contributes directly to the protection of the reserve through the **guest conservation levy**, which funds anti-poaching teams, ecological monitoring, habitat management, species protection, and community programmes linked to conservation.

#### Guest Conservation Safaris:

For guests who want to experience conservation in action, the lodge offers Conservation Safaris – accompanying trained specialists on active conservation missions.

#### These may include:

- **Rhino notching and microchipping**
- **Wildlife collaring operations**, such as lions, cheetahs, or wild dogs

*Conservation Safaris are strictly subject to reserve needs and availability, and cannot be guaranteed at the time of booking.*

#### STARGAZING

Madikwe's remote setting and dark skies make for exceptional stargazing. With virtually no light pollution, the reserve's night skies are a spectacle in their own right, and stargazing moments can be arranged at all camps on request.

#### KIDDIES ON SAFARI

Younger children join their own dedicated **kiddies' "bumble" game drives** close to camp – short, age-appropriate excursions designed to introduce children to the bush. Madikwe Safari Lodge's family offering also extends well beyond safari, with the Eco-House Kids' Activity Centre, family-friendly dining, babysitting on request, and Family Suites designed for parents travelling with children.

*For full details on the family safari experience, please refer to the Madikwe Safari Lodge Family Fact Sheet.*





## 1.2 BACK IN CAMP

The lodge is designed for time well spent between game drives – long meals, slow afternoons, and moments that linger after a stay. As with the safari, time back in camp is shaped around the guest: where to eat, when to eat, where to relax, and what to do is always a choice, never a schedule.

## 1.3 DINING

Meals are a defining part of the Madikwe experience. The kitchen's approach is generous, seasonal, and attentive to dietary preferences and requirements – with no two meals served in the same setting.

### Where guests dine:

- **Boma dinners** – under the stars, around the fire
- **Private dining setups** – for couples, families, or special-occasion moments
- **Deck dining** – overlooking the waterhole and the reserve
- **Bush breakfasts and bush dinners** – out in the wilderness, away from camp (*weather and operations permitting*)
- **In-suite dining** – available on request
- **Poolside dining** – informal, sunlit, and unhurried
- **High tea** – a mid-afternoon ritual served in the main camp areas

### Dietary requirements

All dietary requirements are accommodated with advance notice – including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, kosher, and halaal (*details and cost confirmed at time of booking*). For families, **kid-friendly options** are always available – including early meals, custom plates, and familiar favourites alongside healthier choices.

## 1.4 THE LELAPA POOL

The Lelapa Camp pool is more than a place to swim – it's a central gathering point of the lodge, designed to be enjoyed throughout the day.

- **Cooling off** during the heat of an African day
- **Watching wildlife** at the signature waterhole, visible from the pool deck
- **Poolside meals and drinks** – informal dining or a long lunch in the sun
- **A cooling drink at the bar** before or after a drive

The combination of swimming pool, waterhole viewing, deck dining, and bar service makes the Lelapa pool one of the lodge's most-loved spaces – quietly anchoring the in-camp experience.



## 1.5 WELLNESS & SPA

The Spa is a quiet, restorative space designed for complete rest between drives. Treatments are carried out by intuitive therapists using an African botanical skincare range that blends traditional plant wisdom with modern scientific formulation

### THE SPA

- **Three treatment rooms**, including a dedicated couples space
- **Relaxation deck**
- **Steam room**
- **Dipping pool**
- **Located between Kopano and Lelapa Camps**, and easily accessible to guests of all camps and villa

### THE GYM

A fully equipped, **air-conditioned** gym at Lelapa Camp, open to guests across the collection. The gym looks out onto the **open plains and waterhole** – the best view to motivate a good workout!

- **Cardio and strength equipment**
- **Free weights and mats**
- **Change room and shower**

For guests who prefer to move in their own space, each suite includes a yoga mat for stretching or light exercise on the private deck.

## 1.6 ROMANCE

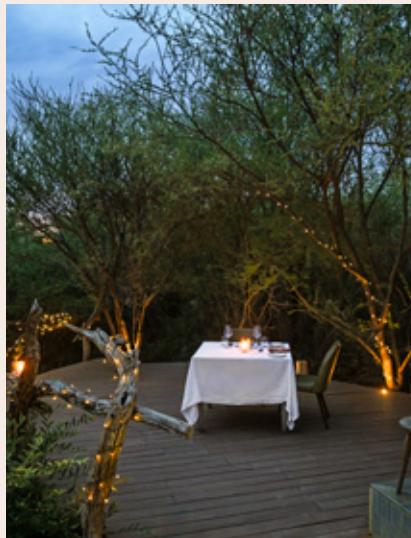
### HONEYMOONS, ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS & PROPOSALS

Madikwe Safari Lodge is well practised at hosting milestone moments – whether a proposal, wedding, elopement, honeymoon, anniversary, or birthday.

#### A sample of the special experience we design includes;

- **Private dining** – staged in a setting that suits the moment, from boma to deck to bush
- **In-suite dining** – for the simplest pleasure of an evening alone together
- **Couples treatments at the Wellness Spa** – side-by-side massages and treatments in a dedicated couples space
- **Special turndowns** – small, personal touches arranged in advance
- **Quiet corners across the lodge** – the suite's private deck and plunge pool, sundowner moments at Dithaba's Star Deck

Arrangements may be made in advance with our reservations team (we're adept in the art of discretion for secrets), allowing the lodge team to bring the right detail to the right moment.



## RESERVATIONS & KEY CONTACTS

### Reservations



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### 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](#)

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