



KWANDWE  
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A Conservation Safari

SHAPED BY PURPOSE | DEFINED BY SPACE | COMMITTED TO PRESERVATION

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Heatherton Towers, Fort Brown, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, Eastern Cape, 6140, South Africa

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## FAQ'S KWANDWE

### Why choose Kwandwe?

If you are searching for a safari with exceptional wildlife, meaningful conservation, genuine exclusivity and space to breathe, Kwandwe offers all of this within a malaria-free reserve in South Africa. Spanning 74,000 acres (30,000 hectares) and welcoming fewer than 50 guests at full capacity, Kwandwe combines remarkable biodiversity, including both Black Rhino and White Rhino, with highly personalised guiding, diverse landscapes and one of the highest land-to-guest ratios in African safari travel. What truly sets Kwandwe apart, however, is the way it brings these elements together. Vast, ever-changing landscapes. Wildlife encounters that unfold without crowds. Guides and trackers who know the reserve intimately and love sharing it with guests. A lodge team whose warmth and generosity leave a lasting impression long after the safari has ended. Often described as offering the best of both the Kruger and the Kalahari, Kwandwe is home to the Big Five, cheetah and more than 300 bird species, while also supporting species such as meerkat, oryx, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, brown hyena and caracal. The result is a safari experience defined by wildlife, wilderness, people and purpose, one that feels deeply personal from beginning to end.

### How do I book my safari?

You are welcome to book directly through our reservations team, online via our website, or through your preferred travel advisor. If you are working with a travel planner, we recommend booking through them so they can assist with the finer details of your journey. Should you require a recommendation, our team would be delighted to connect you with one of our trusted travel partners. For direct bookings and enquiries, contact our reservation team.

### Is Kwandwe a malaria-free destination?

Yes. Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is located in South Africa's Eastern Cape, a malaria-free safari region spanning 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of privately protected wilderness. This makes it ideal for families, multi-generational travel and guests who prefer not to take anti-malaria medication.

### Where is Kwandwe Private Game Reserve located?

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is located in the heart of South Africa's Eastern Cape, approximately a two-hour drive from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), across vast and diverse wilderness landscapes.

### How to get to Kwandwe?

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is easily accessible via a number of travel options, including helicopter transfers, scheduled flights, private charters, and self-drive journeys. Most guests fly into Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) before transferring to the reserve by road or air. View our various access options and travel routes.

### I am self-driving to Kwandwe, is there anything I need to know?

Yes. We recommend reviewing our self-drive directions before travelling to the reserve, as certain routes and navigation systems may suggest roads that are not suitable for guest access. Please refer to our self-drive guide [here](#), which includes recommended routes, driving times and arrival information to help ensure a smooth journey to Kwandwe.



## How far is Kwandwe from Port Elizabeth?

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is approximately 160 km from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), with a road transfer time of around two hours through the Eastern Cape landscape. Private charter flights and helicopter transfers can reduce travel time to approximately 40 minutes.

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## What is included in a stay at Kwandwe?

All stays at Kwandwe include accommodation, all meals, a selection of South African house and sparkling wines, local and premium spirits, beers, soft drinks, teas and coffees, refreshments and snacks on game drives. Guests also enjoy twice-daily game drives led by expert guides, guided bush walks, laundry, emergency medical evacuation insurance, transfers within the reserve and complimentary child-minding. With a maximum capacity of just 52 guests across the reserve, Kwandwe offers a deeply personalised safari experience shaped by space, biodiversity, exclusivity and exceptional guiding.

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## What is excluded in a stay at Kwandwe?

The Conservation, Community & Reserve Levy is excluded from accommodation rates. Additional exclusions include:

- Transfers to and from Kwandwe
  - Imported champagne and select wines
  - Specialist safari activities
  - Wellness treatments
  - Safari shop purchases
  - Gratuities and personal expenses
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## What makes Kwandwe different from other safari reserves?

Kwandwe combines scale, biodiversity and exclusivity across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of privately protected wilderness in South Africa's Eastern Cape, with a maximum capacity of just 52 guests across the reserve. Positioned between the climatic extremes of northern and southern South Africa, Kwandwe offers an exceptional year-round safari experience, avoiding both the heavy summer rainfall typical of the Kruger region and the intense winter rainfall of the southern Cape. Kwandwe's ecological diversity is exceptionally rare. Six of South Africa's seven recognised biomes converge across the reserve, creating a remarkable mix of landscapes, habitats and wildlife seldom found within a single destination. Guests can encounter species typically associated with the Kalahari, including oryx, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, brown hyena, caracal, Blue Crane, ostrich, meerkats and red hartebeest, alongside iconic Big Five wildlife, cheetah, and leopard, more commonly associated with the Kruger, including exceptional sightings of both Black Rhino and White Rhino. This overlap creates a safari experience that combines the biodiversity and scale of the Kruger with the openness, rarities and landscape diversity of the Kalahari, all within a malaria-free private reserve known for low vehicle density, meaningful conservation and highly personalised guiding.

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## Is Kwandwe suitable for families?

Yes. Kwandwe is exceptionally well suited to families and multi-generational travel, offering a malaria-free safari experience with flexible accommodation options and highly personalised experiences tailored to younger travellers. Family-friendly accommodation options include Ecca Lodge, Uplands Homestead, Melton Manor and Fort House, where children of all ages are welcome, as well as Great Fish River Lodge, which welcomes children aged 12 years and older. Kwandwe also offers child-focused safari activities, complimentary child-minding, flexible dining and personalised safari experiences tailored to younger guests and families.

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## Which Kwandwe lodge is best for families?

Ecca Lodge, Uplands Homestead, Melton Manor and Fort House are particularly popular with families thanks to flexible accommodation layouts, family suites, exclusive-use options and space for children to experience safari in a relaxed setting.

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## Which Kwandwe lodge is best for couples?

Great Fish River Lodge is particularly well suited to couples seeking privacy, expansive wilderness views and a more secluded safari experience with exceptionally low guest density.

## What do I need to pack?

We recommend packing light, comfortable clothing in neutral colours, a hat, sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes and a camera. A warm layer is essential year-round, particularly for morning and evening game drives. If you are flying to Kwandwe by light aircraft or helicopter, soft-sided luggage is recommended where possible. Daily laundry is included, allowing guests to travel with fewer items and lighter luggage. For a complete packing guide, including seasonal recommendations, view our [packing list here](#).

## Which credit cards are accepted?

Kwandwe accepts Visa and Mastercard for payments on the reserve. American Express (AMEX) cards are accepted via our secure online payment portal; however, they cannot currently be processed through the manual card facilities available on the reserve. Should you have any questions regarding payment methods, deposits or settlement of accounts, please contact our reservations team prior to your stay.

## What plugs or adaptors will I need?

Kwandwe's suites and villas are equipped with both South African three-pin plug points and two-pin sockets suitable for many international chargers. A universal travel adaptor is provided in each villa and lodge suite for guest convenience. If you are travelling with specialised equipment, we recommend bringing any dedicated adaptors or charging cables you may require.

## YOUR SAFARI EXPERIENCE AT KWANDWE

### Can you see the Big 5 at Kwandwe?

Yes. Kwandwe is home to the Big Five: lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, Black Rhino and White Rhino, alongside cheetah, giraffe, hippo, plains game and more than 300 bird species across diverse habitats and landscapes.

### What animals can you see at Kwandwe?

Guests regularly encounter Black Rhino, White Rhino, elephant, lion, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, cheetah, leopard, hippo, various antelope species and prolific birdlife across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of protected wilderness. Kwandwe's remarkable biodiversity is shaped by the convergence of six of South Africa's seven recognised biomes, creating habitats for both Big Five wildlife and species more commonly associated with the Kalahari, including oryx, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, brown hyena, caracal, meerkats, Blue Crane and red hartebeest. You can explore the full mammal and bird lists.

### Are rhino sightings common at Kwandwe?

Kwandwe is internationally recognised for its rhino conservation work, with both Black Rhino and White Rhino protected across the reserve.

### What are game drives like at Kwandwe?

Game drives take place in open safari vehicles accompanied by experienced guides and trackers. Drives focus on wildlife viewing, tracking, birding, photography and understanding the reserve's diverse ecosystems, often without encountering another vehicle.



## How long are game drives?

Morning and afternoon game drives generally last between three and four hours, depending on sightings, weather and guest preferences.

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## Are safari vehicles shared?

Guests staying in suites at Ecce Lodge and Great Fish River Lodge share safari vehicles, with a maximum of six guests per vehicle. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted on shared safari vehicles. Guests staying in Ecce Lodge Private Vehicle Suites, Uplands Homestead, Melton Manor and Fort House enjoy a dedicated private safari vehicle and guide, allowing for a more flexible and personalised safari experience across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of privately protected wilderness. Private vehicles can also be arranged at an additional cost and are subject to availability. Contact us to enquire.

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## How many safari vehicles are at sightings?

As one of South Africa's largest private game reserves with exceptionally low guest density, Kwandwe limits sightings to a maximum of two vehicles at a time. This approach prioritises guest exclusivity while also respecting animal behaviour, protecting sensitive ecosystems and preserving the integrity of the wildlife experience across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of privately protected wilderness.

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## Are safari vehicles covered?

All safari vehicles at Kwandwe are open vehicles, designed to provide the best possible wildlife viewing, photography and immersion in the landscape. Blankets, ponchos and weather protection are provided when needed to ensure guest comfort during changing weather conditions and seasonal temperatures. Safari timings and drive durations are also flexible and can often be adjusted around heat, rainfall and guest preferences where possible.

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## Can children go on game drives?

Yes, although minimum age guidelines may apply for certain activities and walking safaris. Family-friendly safari experiences can be tailored to younger guests.

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## What experiences are offered at Kwandwe?

Kwandwe offers a variety of experiences ranging from game drives and bush walks, to rhino conservation experiences and fishing. For more details on our experiences, you can find them [here](#).

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## Is Kwandwe good for Birdwatching?

Yes. Kwandwe's diverse landscapes and ecosystems support more than 300 bird species, making it one of the leading birding safari destinations in South Africa.

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## WEATHER & SEASONS

### What is the best time of year to visit Kwandwe?

Kwandwe offers year-round safari experiences. Winter months provide excellent visibility and wildlife tracking conditions, while summer brings greener landscapes, migratory birds and dramatic skies across the reserve's varied terrain.

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### How cold does it get on winter game drives?

Winter mornings and evenings can be cold, particularly on open safari vehicles. Warm jackets, scarves and layers are recommended.

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### What should I pack for safari at Kwandwe?

Guests are encouraged to pack neutral-coloured clothing, comfortable walking shoes, sun protection, swimwear, warm winter layers and camera equipment. See our 'what to pack' list.

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### What is the weather like in the Eastern Cape?

The Eastern Cape enjoys a relatively moderate climate year-round, with warm summers and cooler winter mornings and evenings. Rainfall is mostly expected over October to April.

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## ACCOMMODATION & LODGE EXPERIENCE

### How private is the safari experience at Kwandwe?

Kwandwe is known for its exclusivity and exceptionally low guest density. With a maximum capacity of just 52 guests across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres), the reserve offers a highly private safari experience with vast open landscapes and limited vehicle traffic.

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### How many guests stay at Kwandwe?

With a maximum capacity of just 52 guests across the reserve, spread between five lodges and villas within 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of privately protected wilderness, Kwandwe offers a rare sense of space, privacy and exclusivity on safari.

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### What is the difference between Ecca Lodge and Great Fish River Lodge?

Ecca Lodge and Great Fish River Lodge each offer a distinct style of safari experience, allowing guests to choose the setting and atmosphere best suited to their stay. Ecca Lodge feels airy, open and deeply immersed in the landscape, with private vehicle options and a relaxed flexibility well suited to couples and families, while Great Fish River Lodge offers a more secluded experience elevated above the Great Fish River, with expansive wilderness views, generous space and a stronger sense of retreat.

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### Does Kwandwe have private villas?

Yes. Fort House, Melton Manor and Uplands Homestead are exclusive-use safari villas and homesteads ideal for families, groups and multi-generational travel seeking privacy and flexibility.

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### Are the suites air-conditioned?

Yes. All suites are air-conditioned.

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### Is the tap water drinkable?

Purified drinking water is provided throughout the lodges and villas, along with bottled mineral water in guest rooms and on safari activities. While the tap water is safe for general use, we recommend drinking the purified or bottled water provided during your stay.



### Is there WiFi at Kwandwe?

Yes. WiFi is available throughout the lodges and villas.

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### Is there cell phone signal at Kwandwe?

Mobile connectivity is available in certain areas of the reserve, although signal strength may vary depending on location and network provider. Wi-Fi is available at all lodges.

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### Are all the villas and lodges fenced?

Yes. All three exclusive-use properties, Uplands Homestead, Melton Manor and Fort House, are enclosed by discreet perimeter fencing, providing a safe space for children to play and families to relax. Of the two lodges, Ecca Lodge is fully fenced, while Great Fish River Lodge is protected by an elephant exclusion fence. As with any safari destination, wildlife may still occasionally be encountered around the lodges and villas, and guests are encouraged to remain aware of their surroundings and follow staff guidance at all times.

## DINING & HOSPITALITY

### Can dietary requirements be accommodated?

Yes. Kwandwe caters for a wide range of dietary requirements, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and lactose-free preferences, with highly personalised dining experiences across the reserve.

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### Are meals included at Kwandwe?

Yes. All meals are included during your stay at Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, along with safari refreshments, bush stops and afternoon tea.

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### What kind of food is served at Kwandwe?

At Kwandwe, we have just three rules when it comes to food: fresh, local and delicious. Our chefs draw inspiration from the seasons, the region and guest preferences, creating memorable dining experiences that range from relaxed family meals to fireside dinners and bush breakfasts. Dietary requirements are happily accommodated, and menus are tailored wherever possible to ensure every guest feels at home.

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### Are children meals available?

Yes. Child-friendly meals are available.

## CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

### What conservation work does Kwandwe support?

Kwandwe supports large-scale conservation, biodiversity restoration, rhino protection, habitat rehabilitation and community development across 30 000 hectares (74 000 acres) of restored wilderness.

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## Does Kwandwe offer rhino conservation experiences?

Yes. Guests can participate in specialist rhino conservation experiences focused on the protection of both Black Rhino and White Rhino at selected times of year. View our range of rhino conservation experiences.

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## Is Kwandwe involved in community projects?

Yes. Kwandwe supports the Ubunye Foundation, which supports neighbouring communities through education, healthcare and skills development, strengthening the link between conservation and community through work in 58 Early Childhood Centres and positively impacting the lives of more than 26 000 people.

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## Why is conservation important at Kwandwe?

Kwandwe was established through large-scale land restoration and rewilding, with conservation remaining central to the reserve's purpose, biodiversity protection and safari experience.

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## Do you have an impact report?

Yes. Kwandwe publishes an annual impact report outlining the conservation, community and biodiversity outcomes achieved across the reserve and through associated initiatives. The report provides insight into projects ranging from rhino protection and habitat restoration to education, employment and community development, demonstrating how tourism directly contributes to conservation and positive impact on the ground. View the latest impact report.

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## What is the Conservation, Community and Reserve (CC&R) Levy, and what does it support?

The Conservation, Community & Reserve (CC&R) Levy is a nightly contribution that supports the long-term protection and sustainability of Kwandwe Private Game Reserve. The levy directly funds conservation initiatives, rhino protection, habitat restoration, biodiversity management and community development programmes, helping to safeguard both the landscape and the people connected to it for future generations. The levy is charged at: R1,500 per adult, per night and R750 per child (under 19 years), per night. The CC&R Levy applies to all guests staying at Kwandwe, including infants and children. To learn more about the projects and initiatives supported by the CC&R Levy, click [here](#).

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## FAMILIES & CHILDREN

### Is Kwandwe good for children?

Yes. Kwandwe offers family-friendly accommodation, child-focused safari activities and flexible safari experiences within a malaria-free private reserve well suited to younger travellers.

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### What age can children go on safari?

Minimum age policies vary depending on lodge and activity.

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### Does Kwandwe offer child-minding?

Yes. Complimentary child-minding is included for families staying at Kwandwe. Our team is experienced in caring for younger guests, allowing parents to enjoy safari activities with peace of mind while children are looked after in a safe, engaging and welcoming environment.

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## Are there family safari activities?

Yes. Kwandwe offers a range of family-focused experiences designed to inspire curiosity, adventure and a deeper connection with the natural world. Activities may include shorter game drives, wildlife bingo, learning about the Tiny Five, baking with our chefs, nature-based activities, catch-and-release fishing at Galpin Dam and child-friendly bush experiences tailored to different ages and interests. Our guides, trackers and lodge teams are passionate about sharing their knowledge with younger guests and excel at adapting the safari experience to keep children engaged, entertained and learning throughout their stay. Many families find that these personal interactions become some of the most memorable moments of their safari.

## TRAVEL LOGISTICS

### Which airport is closest to Kwandwe?

Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) is the closest major airport.

### Does Kwandwe offer airport transfers?

Yes. Kwandwe can arrange a variety of transfer options, including road transfers from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), private charter flights and helicopter transfers. For more information on travel options, transfer arrangements and costs, please view our [Access Guide](#) or contact our reservations team.

### Can helicopters or charter flights land at Kwandwe?

Yes. Kwandwe can accommodate private charter flights and helicopter arrivals by prior arrangement.

### Is Kwandwe near Cape Town and Johannesburg?

Kwandwe is accessible from Cape Town and Johannesburg via a short domestic flight to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) followed by a road, fixed wing or helicopter transfer.