



GUEST INFORMATION GUIDE

TSWALU KALAHARI RESERVE (Pty) Ltd.

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GUEST INFORMATION GUIDE

PAGE 1.

TSWALU THE KALAHARI

PAGE 2.

WHAT MAKES TSWALU UNIQUE

VASTNESS
PRIVACY AND FLEXIBILITY
MALARIA-FREE SAFARI

PAGE 3.

THE ELUSIVE FIVE
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY
ANCIENT SAN ARTWORKS

PAGE 4.

CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY

TSWALU FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY

PAGE 5.

ACCOMMODATION MOTSE

PAGE 6.

TARKUNI

PAGE 7.

LOAPI

PAGE 8.

MALORI SLEEP-OUT EXPERIENCE

PAGE 9.

ACTIVITIES SAFARI + NATURE PRIVATE GAME DRIVES IMMERSIVE BUSH WALKS BIRDING

PAGE 10.

MEERKAT ENCOUNTERS
HORSEBACK RIDING
STARGAZING

PAGE 11.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARIS
CULTURAL + HERITAGE
ROCK ART AND CULTURAL SITES
CONSERVATION + RESEARCH
RHINO NOTCHING

PAGE 12.

DINING + CULINARY BOSCIA BOSCIA HOUSE POP-UP

PAGE 13.

DUNE DINNERS
PRIVATE BUSH PICNICS
SUNDOWNERS + MOBILE BUSH BAR

PAGE 14.

WELLNESS + CONNECTION

SPA TREATMENTS
MOTSE GYM
FAMILY + LEARNING
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMME
CHILD-MINDING

PAGE 15.

THE SEASONS

SPRING: *SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER*
SUMMER: *NOVEMBER – MARCH*

PAGE 16.

AUTUMN: *APRIL – MAY*
WINTER: *JUNE – AUGUST*
WHAT TO PACK

PAGE 17.

HOW TO GET TO TSWALU

BY AIR
JOHANNESBURG
CAPE TOWN

PAGE 18.

DIRECTIONS TO FIREBLADE AVIATION
DIRECTIONS TO SIGNATURE AVIATION

PAGE 19.

BY ROAD
FROM JOHANNESBURG
FROM KIMBERLEY
FROM UPINGTON

PAGE 20.

PAYMENT + CANCELLATION TERMS + CONDITIONS

VAT
DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT POLICY
PAYMENT TERMS

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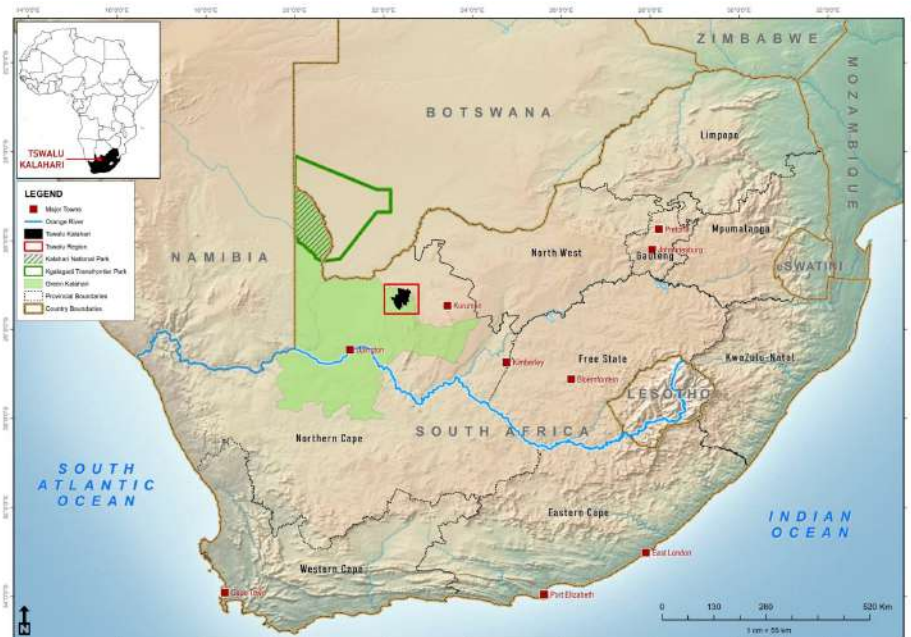


TSWALU

The word Tswalu means “a new beginning”, and this idea underpins everything the reserve stands for. Guided by a clear purpose — to leave the world better than how we found it — Tswalu operates at the intersection of conservation, research, community development, and responsible tourism.

From the outset, the ambition has been twofold: to restore the Kalahari to itself and to create an inspiring, meaningful experience for guests. These goals exist in balance. Nature-based tourism provides the long-term means to fund conservation at scale, while every guest who stays at Tswalu contributes directly to the protection and regeneration of this vast wilderness.

Tswalu's modern conservation journey began in the 1990s, when land restoration efforts were initiated across a number of farms. In 1999, the Oppenheimer Family was entrusted with continuing this work. Since then, indigenous species have been reintroduced, degraded land restored, and ecological processes revived across what is now South Africa's largest private game reserve.



THE KALAHARI

The name Kalahari is derived from the Tswana word *kgala*, meaning “the great thirst”, or *kgalagadi*, meaning “the waterless place”. Owing to its location and climatic conditions, the southern Kalahari receives more rainfall than the central Kalahari, which is why it is often referred to as the green Kalahari. From the air, Tswalu appears fairly uniform – a vast expanse of undulating red dunes. However, once on the ground, its remarkable diversity quickly becomes evident.

Running from north to south is the Korannaberg, an ancient mountain range that contributes to greater habitat diversity than anywhere else in the Kalahari. The reserve lies at a unique ecological junction between arid savannah and true Kalahari ecotypes, enhancing its biodiversity. In the Kalahari, water is essential for life. Summer rains transform the reserve within weeks, greening the parched landscapes and replenishing resources. Flowering plants, many of them endemic to the southern Kalahari, are a miracle of nature; some only bloom after rain, while others only appear when enough rain falls in the right place.

From the characteristic camel thorn and shepherd's trees of the bushveld to the iconic red dunes and sweeping grasslands, Tswalu offers access to this ecologically significant and unique landscape.



WHAT MAKES TSWALU UNIQUE

VASTNESS

Tswalu offers adventure and off-the-beaten-track remoteness on the edge of the southern Kalahari. Covering 1200 square kilometres (over 460 square miles), this is the largest private game reserve in South Africa.

This vast landscape is defined by sweeping red dunes, open savannahs, and the ancient Korannaberg Mountains, which create remarkable habitat diversity and an extraordinary sense of space. Here, the scale of the land allows for a safari experience that feels unhurried and deeply immersive. Guests move through wide, open spaces with uninterrupted time in nature, reconnecting with the ancient rhythms of the southern Kalahari.



PRIVACY AND FLEXIBILITY

Tswalu has the lowest ratio of beds to space in a privately protected area in South Africa, offering a level of privacy and personal freedom that is increasingly rare. Three exclusive safari camps — Loapi, Motse, and Tarkuni — share privileged access to 1200 square kilometres (over 460 square miles), with no more than 60 guests accommodated at any given time, equating to almost 2000 hectares (4900 acres) for each guest.

Every booking includes a private safari vehicle with a dedicated guide and tracker for the duration of the stay. This private guiding model allows guests to explore the reserve entirely at their own pace, without time constraints or competition from other vehicles.

Each day is shaped around individual interests and preferences. Guests may choose to linger quietly at a sighting, return to camp for a late breakfast, spend time with habituated meerkats, enjoy a spa treatment overlooking the Kalahari, or head out for a picnic in a remote corner of the reserve. Plans remain flexible and can shift naturally with the rhythms of the day, weather, and wildlife movements.

This combination of vast space, private access, and personalised planning creates a safari experience that feels unpressured, deeply immersive, and wholly individual.

MALARIA-FREE SAFARI

Tswalu is malaria-free, meaning guests do not need to take anti-malaria medication. This makes it an ideal safari destination for families with children, multi-generational travellers, and those seeking peace of mind along with exceptional wilderness experiences.



THE ELUSIVE FIVE

Tswalu is one of the few places in Africa where all members of the Elusive Five can be tracked. Although these shy, mostly nocturnal species are rarely seen in traditional safari regions, the diversity of habitats across Tswalu's 1200 km² of protected wilderness creates opportunities for sightings. Encounters with these species often become the highlights of a stay at Tswalu, brought to life by expert guides who understand the rhythms and behaviours of the Kalahari's most secretive inhabitants.

THE ELUSIVE FIVE

Aardvark, Aardwolf, Bat-eared fox, Brown hyena, Temminck's pangolin



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Across Tswalu's restored landscapes, a rich diversity of wildlife thrives. More than 80 mammal species and over 260 bird species have been recorded, supported by the reserve's varied habitats and conservation management. The openness of the landscape and exclusive access to the reserve mean that sightings are quiet, immersive, and entirely unrushed, with no competition from other vehicles.

SPECIES INCLUDE

Desert-adapted black rhinos — of which Tswalu protects approximately one-third of South Africa's remaining population — white rhinos, black-maned Kalahari lions, leopards, cheetah, African wild dogs, buffaloes, giraffes, roans, sable, and tsessebe antelopes, as well as three habituated meerkat colonies.



ANCIENT SAN ARTWORKS

The southern Kalahari is the ancestral home of the San people, and Tswalu protects numerous ancient engraving sites scattered across the reserve. Current research suggests some of these artworks may be among the oldest on Earth. These petroglyphs speak to the deep cultural and spiritual significance this landscape held for earlier inhabitants, offering guests a powerful sense of continuity between past and present — a reminder that Tswalu is not only a wildlife sanctuary but also a living cultural landscape.



CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY

Tswalu aims to contribute to conservation through three main goals: the restoration of the natural environment, the re-establishment and protection of biological diversity, and the maintenance of the natural ecological processes and characteristics of the Kalahari environment.

Conservation at Tswalu is holistic and long-term. It focuses on individual species but also on restoring entire systems: vegetation, water resources, predator-prey dynamics, and the subtle seasonal rhythms that sustain life in the southern Kalahari. Decades of careful land management have seen overgrazed farmland restored, indigenous species reintroduced, and biodiversity steadily increase.

Tswalu has been a labour of love for the Oppenheimer family since assuming responsibility for this significant swathe of the southern Kalahari in 1999. In so doing, they undertook to expand the vision of the previous owner, the late Stephen Boler, which was to return farmland to its original state. Since then, their commitment to conservation has seen indigenous species reintroduced, real strides made toward the restoration of the Kalahari, and the undoing of years of neglect. In its new incarnation as a private reserve, formally protected area and conservation success story, the entire Tswalu community is working towards bringing this ultimate ambition a little closer each day: To leave the world better than how it was found.

TSWALU FOUNDATION

The Tswalu Foundation was created in 2008 to develop a platform upon which local and international visitors could contribute and become involved in community work and environmental research on the reserve. Understanding is essential to conservation; therefore, the Tswalu Foundation supports research projects focused on biodiversity, climate change, and regenerative land management that deepens knowledge of arid ecosystems and informs practical land management decisions. Today, the Foundation is a world leader in research in the southern Kalahari, with scientists from South Africa and around the world based at Dedebe Research Centre, working on studies ranging from pangolin ecology and desert-adapted rhino to plant diversity and insect migration.

Guests may encounter researchers during their stay and are invited to engage with their work, adding an enriching layer to the safari experience.

In 2015, the Artists in Residence programme was initiated, further supporting research on Tswalu through the generation of income for research as well as providing artists an opportunity to be inspired by Tswalu and share this vulnerable landscape through their individual artistic disciplines.

COMMUNITY

Tswalu recognises that conservation is inseparable from people. The reserve is part of a wider Kalahari community, and long-term sustainability depends on meaningful investment in local livelihoods, education, and healthcare.

The Tswalu community consists of our team members and their families, researchers, visiting doctors that support the healthcare centre, and visiting artists in residence, alongside a wider community of neighbours, conservationists and partners who care about the restoration of the Kalahari.

The Tswalu Healthcare Centre provides vital medical services and health education to approximately 5,000 people each year from surrounding communities, as well as to Tswalu team members and their families. The on-site school supports early childhood education, while adult education and skills development programmes offer pathways to long-term employment and professional growth.

Together, conservation, research, community development, and tourism form a resilient, interconnected model — one designed to endure, adapt and create lasting impact for both people and planet.



ACCOMMODATION

Tswalu offers three distinct accommodation options — Motse, Tarkuni, and Loapi — each designed to reflect the character of the southern Kalahari while offering different ways of experiencing the reserve. All accommodation is defined by space, privacy and quiet luxury, with conservation and comfort in balance.



MOTSE

Meaning “village” in Setswana, Motse is the heart of Tswalu and where the reserve’s safari story began. The richly textured interiors of its nine *legae* (Setswana for ‘home’) are private sanctuaries for couples and families.

Motse accommodates a maximum of 18 adults in nine *legae*. Six *legae* are designed for two guests, while three family *legae* each comprise two separate bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and a shared living area. Children are welcome in all *legae* types.

Each *legae* features an en-suite bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers, a wood-burning fireplace, a sitting area, a study space, wireless internet, a safe, and a private shaded veranda with views across the Kalahari. A gourmet snack pantry, personalised minibar, bean-to-cup coffee machine and a selection of teas are also provided.

Generous shared spaces, including a photo studio, gym, spa, and swimming pool, form the sociable heart of this gracious camp.

- 9 *legae* — 6 with one bedroom; 3 with two bedrooms
- Ideal for solo travellers, couples, families
- Shared spaces include photo studio, gym, spa, swimming pool, fire pit





TARKUNI

Tarkuni is Tswalu's exclusive-use private homestead, set beneath the Korannaberg Mountains. Designed for families or groups of close friends, Tarkuni offers complete privacy and a shared experience under one roof.

The homestead accommodates up to 10 guests in five spacious suites, each with an en-suite bathroom and private outdoor deck. Children of all ages are welcome.

Tarkuni features expansive open-plan living and dining areas with a central fireplace, a mezzanine library, and a games room. Outside, a shaded veranda leads to a plunge pool, a sundowner fire pit, and a private *tsala* ("elevated place" in Tsonga). There is also a gazebo for game viewing or outdoor massages, an indoor spa treatment suite, and an intimate *boma* for evenings under the stars.



A dedicated host and personal chef take care of every aspect of the stay, alongside a private safari vehicle with a guide and tracker, allowing for complete flexibility and a highly personalised experience.

- Exclusive-use private homestead, accommodates up to 10 guests in 5 en-suite rooms
- Ideal for families, groups of friends
- Camp includes private plunge pool, fire pit, boma, spa suite, dedicated host, personal chef





LOAPI

In Setswana, Loapi means 'the space below the clouds', reflecting the camp's adventurous spirit inspired by camping. Set in a secluded valley within the Korannaberg Mountains, Loapi comprises six exclusive-use safari homes, each operating as its own mini-camp with no shared guest areas or services. This camp offers the ultimate private wilderness experience.



There are four one-bedroom homes and two two-bedroom homes, each positioned at least 50 metres apart to ensure total privacy. Designed with a light footprint, the homes blend contemporary design with the surrounding landscape, offering sweeping views across open savannah and distant mountains.

Each home is cared for by a dedicated *homathi* (house manager) and includes a private safari vehicle with a guide and tracker. A fully equipped kitchen and a private chef allow for flexible, personalised dining, complemented by a full bar stocked with South African wines.

Bedrooms feature indoor and outdoor showers, a dressing area and views of the wilderness, while a private study with wireless internet is available for guests who need to stay connected. Generous shaded decks provide space for dining, lounging, and game viewing, along with daybeds, a plunge pool, and a fire pit. In-room spa treatments can be arranged for added privacy and relaxation.

- 6 exclusive-use safari homes — 4 one-bedroom, 2 two-bedroom homes
- Ideal for couples, families
- Camp includes private plunge pool, fire pit, in-room spa treatments, dedicated host, personal chef





MALORI SLEEP-OUT EXPERIENCE

Malori, meaning 'dreamer' in Setswana, is Tswalu's under-canvas experience, providing panoramic views of rolling dunes and the vast veld stretching to the horizon. Guests typically arrive in the late afternoon after a game drive. This allows time to settle in, enjoy drinks and snacks, and watch the sunset. Dinner at Malori offers a choice between a four-course tasting menu with a chef and waiter in attendance or a relaxed tapas-style menu for a more private experience. If staff are present, they will leave after serving dinner, allowing guests to fully enjoy the romance and privacy of the setting.

A night spent at Malori provides the perfect opportunity to reconnect with nature, marvel at the night sky, and enjoy an authentic camping experience at Tswalu. The accommodation consists of a classic safari tent elevated above the dunes. The tent is illuminated by soft, romantic lantern light, as there is no electricity. It features two comfortable twin beds. For families, two smaller camp stretchers suitable for children can be added. No more than two adults and two children can be accommodated. Behind the tent, a walkway leads to an outdoor bathroom that is open to the sky. Facilities include a flush toilet, a basin, and a hand-held shower.

- Available at an additional cost per night (only to guests with a booking at Motse, Tarkuni or Loapi)
- Advance booking is preferred
- Bookings are subject to availability
- Experience is weather dependent





ACTIVITIES

At Tswalu, activities are shaped around the interests, energy, and curiosity of each guest. There is no fixed schedule and no prescribed way to experience the reserve. Instead, days unfold naturally, guided by wildlife movement, the weather, and personal preference.

Every booking includes a private safari vehicle with a dedicated guide and tracker, offering complete flexibility throughout the stay. Plans can change easily — whether lingering at a sighting, returning to camp for a late breakfast, or setting out for an afternoon walk — without pressure or interruption.

A consultation on arrival allows guests to choose their daily activities, which include:

SAFARI + NATURE

PRIVATE GAME DRIVES

Game drives are tailored to each guest and led by highly skilled guides and trackers trained in the ecology of the southern Kalahari. Exclusive access to the reserve ensures sightings are quiet and unrushed, with no competition from other vehicles. Guests are free to spend as much time as they wish observing animal behaviour, tracking movements, or simply absorbing the vastness of the landscape.

IMMERSIVE BUSH WALKS

Immersive bush walks offer a slower, more intimate way to experience the Kalahari. Led by expert field guides, these walks focus on observation and interpretation — what guides describe as “reading the newspaper” of the reserve.

Tracks in the sand, the scent of a tree in seasonal change, and subtle changes in the land reveal stories of movement, interaction, and survival. These walks invite guests to engage with the environment through all the senses, discovering how much life and meaning is held in every detail.

For safety reasons, immersive bush walks are available to guests aged 16 years and older.

Younger guests are invited to participate in specially designed, age-appropriate nature experiences as part of the Junior Ranger Programme. These include guided children’s walks, spoor identification, track casting and hands-on learning activities — offering a safe and engaging introduction to bush skills and wildlife interpretation.



BIRDING

Tswalu’s vast semi-arid landscape supports a remarkable diversity of birdlife, with more than 260 species recorded across the reserve. Guided birding experiences — from early-morning walks to focused drives — reveal iconic Kalahari species such as sandgrouse, bee-eaters, sociable weavers, and a variety of raptors and desert specialists. Birding at Tswalu offers both rewarding sightings and a deeper understanding of the southern Kalahari’s unique ecosystems, making it a compelling addition to the safari experience.



MEERKAT ENCOUNTERS

Tswalu is home to three habituated meerkat colonies, offering exceptional opportunities to observe these charismatic animals at close range. Early-morning visits to their burrows allow guests to watch daily routines unfold naturally without disrupting their behaviour.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Exploring Tswalu on horseback offers a rare sense of freedom and connection with the landscape, allowing riders to move quietly through the Kalahari and experience the reserve from a different perspective.

Horseback riding at Tswalu is offered to intermediate and advanced riders only. Each ride is led by an experienced horse guide and supported by a backup rider, both equipped with a radio and a comprehensive first aid kit. Riders must be comfortable at trot and canter and able to control a horse independently. The weight limit is 100 kg. Trail saddles are used as standard, with a limited number of English saddles available on request.



STARGAZING

With minimal light pollution and dry, crystalline air, the southern Kalahari offers some of South Africa's clearest night skies. Stargazing may take place from a private deck, during an evening pause on a game drive, or from a chosen lookout in the dunes.

Guides help identify constellations and share stories linked to the stars, from Southern Hemisphere astronomy to cultural interpretations rooted in local Kalahari tradition.



PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARIS

Tswalu's photographic safaris offer a highly tailored way to capture the wildlife, landscapes and light of the southern Kalahari. Each booking includes a purpose-adapted photographic safari vehicle and a specialist photographic guide providing practical field assistance and tuition, supported by a tracker. Two hours of informal, classroom-style tuition and assistance with post-editing in Adobe Lightroom in Motse's Photographic Studio.

This experience caters to photographers of all levels, from enthusiastic begin-ners to seasoned professionals, and offers a rare opportunity to refine skills in an exceptional wilderness setting.

- *Available at an additional cost per day*
- *Advance booking is essential*
- *Minimum commitment of two days required*
- *Best suited for 1-2 guests per vehicle*

CULTURAL + HERITAGE

ROCK ART AND CULTURAL SITES

Guests may visit ancient San engraving sites protected within the reserve. Tswalu provides protection for many valuable rock art sites, featuring rock engravings (petroglyphs), cupules and paintings of people, animals, birds, and abstract shapes that document the culture and history of the San and other early inhabitants of Tswalu.

Guided visits reveal the cultural and spiritual significance of this landscape, offering a powerful reminder of the deep human history embedded in the Kalahari.



CONSERVATION + RESEARCH

RHINO NOTCHING

Tswalu offers a privately booked rhino notching conservation experience between April and September, supporting the long-term protection and genetic integrity of desert-adapted rhino populations in the southern Kalahari.

This specialised intervention is conducted by an experienced wildlife veterinarian and trained conservation team. Selected rhino — typically between two and three years old — are temporarily immobilised under strict veterinary supervision. Each animal is notched for visual identification, fitted with microchips for security purposes, and DNA samples are collected and submitted to a global database that assists in combating the illegal trade in rhino horn.

Guests participate as part of the supervised ground support team, assisting with monitoring the rhino's temperature and breathing under veterinary guidance. Animal welfare remains the highest priority at all times.

- *Very limited availability and at an additional cost*
- *Advance booking is essential*
- *Experience takes place on weekdays only, subject to conservation scheduling and operational conditions*



DINING + CULINARY

BOSCIA

Dining at Tswalu has evolved in step with the reserve — responsive to the land, its seasons and moments of change. That evolution is now taking form in Boscia, a multi-functional culinary space shaped by place, seasonality and produce inspired by the southern Kalahari.

Boscia will open later this year as a series of interconnected spaces. The bakery marks the beginning of each day, and freshly baked breads and goods are prepared to nourish the reserve — shared across Tswalu and woven into moments from early-morning game drives to life at the camps. The restaurant will anchor the dining experience for guests, celebrating the region's diversity and surprising abundance against the vastness of the Kalahari.

Grounded in Tswalu's regenerative ethos and respect for provenance, Boscia is named after the *Boscia albitrunca*, or shepherd's tree — a symbol of resilience and sustenance in the Kalahari. Like the tree itself, Boscia is rooted, purposeful, and designed to sustain the reserve.

As this next chapter takes shape, guests are invited to experience Boscia House Pop-up.



BOSCIA HOUSE POP-UP

The Boscia House Pop-up is a heritage-inspired dining experience located in a restored early-1900s farmhouse.

Interactive and intimate, guests are welcomed by the front-of-house team and are invited to enjoy a cocktail on the verandah of Boscia House before dinner. The seven-course tasting menu is inspired by the surrounding landscape, made using hyper-local, seasonal ingredients and paired with carefully selected wines.

The dining room comfortably accommodates 12 guests, and reservations are inclusive for guests staying two or more nights at Tswalu.





DUNE DINNERS

One of Tswalu's unique experiences is starlit dune dining, set atop one of the reserve's quiet red sand dunes. As the sun sinks behind the Korannaberg mountains, guests gather for an open-air dinner shaped by seasonal ingredients, local flavours and the warmth of a wood-fired barbecue. Lantern light, star-studded Kalahari skies and the surrounding silence create an atmosphere found nowhere else, making each dune dinner an intimate celebration of place.



PRIVATE BUSH PICNICS

Tswalu Bush picnics are designed around complete flexibility. Picnics can be enjoyed as a romantic interlude, a family experience, or as part of a day's exploration of the reserve and are often arranged in scenic, remote locations tailored to individual guest preferences.



SUNDOWNERS + MOBILE BUSH BAR

Tswalu's vintage Land Rover converted into a fully mobile bush bar is stocked with everything from crystal glasses and a spare water tank to a fold-out counter and lights. With your own private vehicle, guide, and tracker, a guest can transform any corner of the reserve into their sundowner spot — though guests especially love it perched atop the red dunes at sunset, where curated snack boards and the luxury of complete solitude meet the vastness of the Kalahari.



WELLNESS + CONNECTION

SPA TREATMENTS

Wellness at Tswalu is shaped by the restorative power of the Kalahari and the healing properties of indigenous African botanicals.

Using Terres d'Afrique products, our spa treatments draw on ethically sourced, plant-based ingredients rich in antioxidants, essential fatty acids, and anti-inflammatory compounds. A curated range of facials, body therapies and signature massages is offered across all three camps, with treatments available at Motse's spa, in the privacy of Tarkuni, or as a mobile spa experience at Loapi. Guided by skilled therapists and inspired by the land, each treatment is designed to restore balance, encourage deep relaxation and reconnect the body and mind with nature.

- Available at an additional cost per treatment
- Advance booking is preferred

MOTSE GYM

Motse's air-conditioned gym offers a comfortable space to maintain your fitness routine while on safari. Equipped with Technogym equipment, free weights and a dedicated mat area, the gym is well suited to strength training, stretching, Pilates, or yoga — whether you're easing into the day or unwinding after time spent exploring the reserve.

FAMILY + LEARNING

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMME

Tswalu's Junior Ranger Programme invites children of all ages to discover the natural world through hands-on exploration and guided adventure. On arrival, each young ranger receives a specially prepared backpack with tools and a training guide, setting the stage for an immersive learning journey. The reserve becomes an open-air classroom, where guides and trackers act as teachers and conservation comes to life through play and discovery.

Activities may include crafting a bow and arrow, identifying and casting animal spoor, and tracking wildlife on foot. Led by experienced field guides, bushwalks follow the traces of creatures both large and small, often ending with a relaxed picnic where parents are welcome to join — creating shared moments that inspire curiosity, confidence, and a lasting connection to the Kalahari.



CHILD-MINDING

A children's menu is available, with individual dietary requirements accommodated. Dining times and locations can be tailored to suit family routines, while babysitting services may be arranged, allowing parents the freedom to enjoy private or more formal dining experiences when desired.





THE SEASONS

The seasons in the southern Kalahari can be described in traditional terms (spring, summer, autumn and winter), but their nature and duration are very different.

SPRING: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

The weather begins to warm, with pleasantly mild days and cooler evenings, particularly in September.

- Although spring is generally settled, the occasional cold front can still sweep through, so it's best to pack a few warm layers.
- Out in the bush, blackthorn and honeybush come into blossom, scenting the evening air, and the three-thorn thickets are dotted with soft, tissue-like flowers.
- "Dry storms" may build on the horizon, signalling the approach of the rainy season.
- As temperatures rise, the distinctive chorus of barking geckos begins, and meerkat pups start to emerge from their dens in anticipation of the rains.



SUMMER: NOVEMBER – MARCH

Summer in the Kalahari brings hot days, mild evenings, and the possibility of afternoon thunderstorms.

- Migrant birds arrive in numbers during this season, making birding very rewarding.
- Many antelopes calve early in the summer, and signs of new life are everywhere.
- After the first rains, jackals and foxes often bring their pups above ground to enjoy the abundance of insects.
- Rain remains unpredictable in the Kalahari, but if you are fortunate enough to experience it, the transformation is remarkable. Within days, the landscape shifts into a lush green expanse dotted with carpets of golden flowers.





AUTUMN: APRIL – MAY

Autumn brings mild days and cooler evenings, with the possibility of some late-season rain.

- This is the greenest time of year: the savannahs take on a silky, shimmering appearance as grasses send out seeds.
- Many Kalahari fruits ripen during this season, providing food for birds preparing for long migrations.
- May is also when much of Tswalu's wildlife work takes place, such as translocations.
- Autumn marks the rutting season – a period when antelope are in peak physical condition, defending territories and seeking mates.
- As the nights begin to cool, animals that will soon enter winter dormancy, such as leguaans and tortoises, become particularly active, feeding as much as possible before the first frost arrives.

WINTER: JUNE – AUGUST

Daytime temperatures are cool, and evenings become cold, with the first frost often falling early in the season.

- Night-time temperatures can drop below freezing, and humidity falls, creating very dry conditions across the reserve.
- As the grass and bushes dry out, sightings of rarer, smaller mammals often increase.
- These shy nocturnal animals may emerge in the late afternoon to enjoy the warmth of the winter sunshine.
- Raptors begin building their nests, while large flocks of sandgrouse gather at the waterholes in the mornings.
- Clear evening skies offer exceptional stargazing, and dust devils – small, swirling columns of sand – drift across the dunes.



WHAT TO PACK

Packing for Tswalu is simple — let comfort and practicality guide your choices. During the day, lightweight, casual clothing in neutral tones is ideal. Natural fabrics such as cotton or linen are recommended against the heat of the Kalahari sun. In summer, pack shorts, light shirts or T-shirts, and a lightweight jacket or long-sleeved layer for cooler mornings and evenings. A sun hat or cap is essential, and styles with a chin strap are useful on open safari vehicles.

Winter mornings and evenings can be cold, so warm layers are important. Long trousers, sweaters, scarves, and a warm jacket will ensure comfort on early game drives, while daytime temperatures often rise significantly — making lighter safari clothing equally necessary.

Comfortable footwear is essential. Walking shoes or light hiking boots are recommended for bush walks, while sandals or comfortable shoes are suitable for time around camp. The dress code at Tswalu is relaxed throughout the day and evening; for dinner, guests tend to favour casual elegance. A shawl or light wrap is always useful on cooler nights.

Sun protection is important, so pack sunscreen, sunglasses, and a swimsuit for time spent at the pool. We recommend avoiding strong perfumes on game drives, as wildlife has a highly developed sense of smell. If you are planning a horseback safari, all essential equipment — including helmets and riding boots — will be provided. Binoculars and a camera will enhance your safari experience.





HOW TO GET TO TSWALU

BY AIR

Tswalu offers a direct scheduled service to the reserve's private tarred airstrip.

Scheduled charter flights operate from dedicated private terminal facilities in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, ensuring a seamless and efficient travel experience.

Both terminals offer streamlined check-in procedures, direct access to the aircraft and private lounge facilities with refreshments. Guests may also make use of wireless internet, meeting rooms, porter assistance and luggage storage.

Customs and immigration services are available at Fireblade Aviation in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG

Departures from Fireblade Aviation, O. R. Tambo International Airport.
1.5-hour flight. Check-in 1-hour prior.

Scheduled times:

13H00 depart Johannesburg for Tswalu

14H30 arrive at Tswalu from Johannesburg

10H20 depart Tswalu for Johannesburg

11H50 arrive in Johannesburg from Tswalu

CAPE TOWN

Departures from Signature Aviation, Cape Town International Airport.
2-hour flight. Check-in 1-hour prior.

Scheduled times:

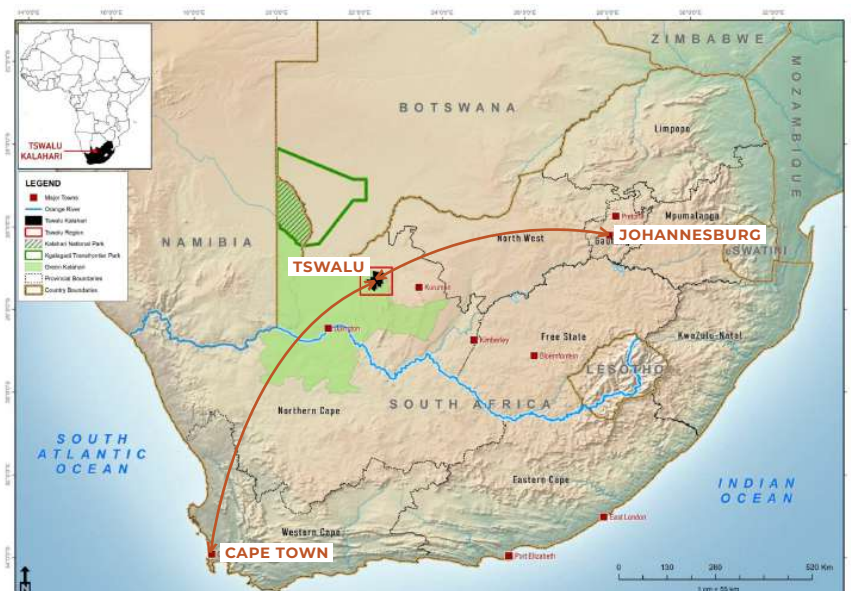
12H00 depart Cape Town for Tswalu

14H00 arrive at Tswalu from Cape Town

14H50 depart Tswalu for Cape Town

16H50 arrive in Cape Town from Tswalu

- Luggage allowance is 20 kg / 44 pounds per person (including hand and cargo luggage) in soft-sided bags on Tswalu scheduled flights. Extra seats may be purchased, at standard rates, should guests wish to travel with excess luggage (will allow for 50 kg / 110 pounds in a soft-sided bag per seat).
- Alternatively, guests can store luggage at the respective hangar until their return from Tswalu at no charge. Tswalu's runway lies within the reserve and is of the highest standard.





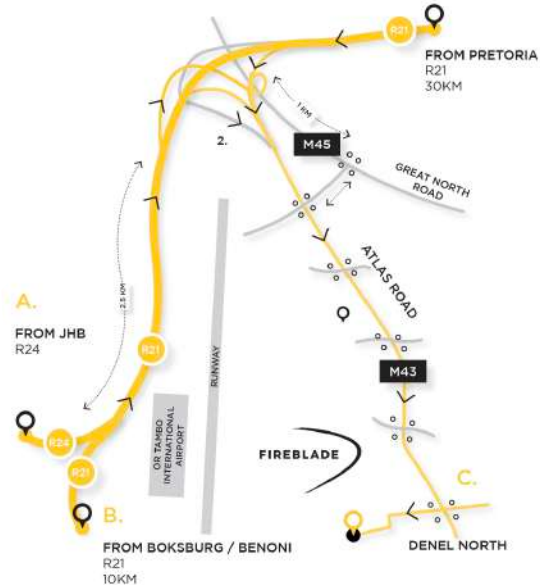
HANGAR DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS TO FIREBLADE AVIATION

Johannesburg O.R. Tambo International Airport

- From R24 Johannesburg, take the R21 North (Pretoria/Kempton Park).
- From the R21 North, take the M43 Atlas Road off-ramp.
- From (Pretoria) R21 South, take the M43 Atlas Road off-ramp.
- Proceed to the traffic light and turn right. The signboard reads: M45 Benoni (left), M43 Boksburg (straight), Bonaero Drive (right). Proceed to the security gate.
- Turn right at the traffic lights onto Denel North Road (there is a Toyota Warehouse on the left) and follow the signboards to Fireblade Aviation.

Should you have any difficulties, please call +27 10 595 3920

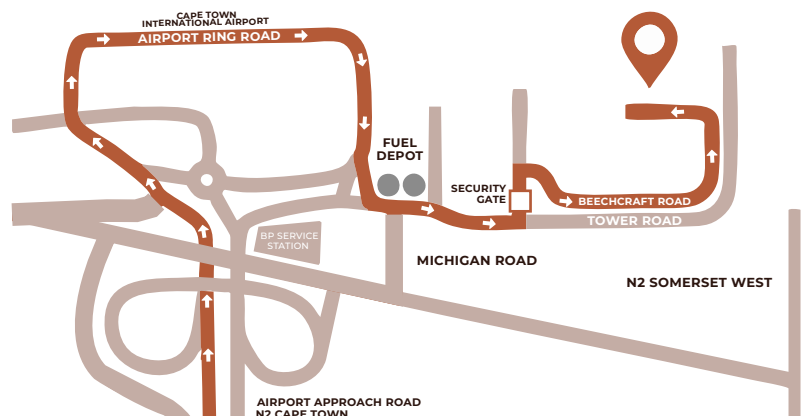


DIRECTIONS TO SIGNATURE AVIATION

Cape Town International Airport

- Take the airport turn-off from the N2 highway – Exit 16.
- Proceed toward the airport, and before the bridge, take the Borchers Quarry road turn-off to the left.
- Turn right at the traffic lights toward the N2 and proceed over the bridge.
- At the first set of traffic lights, turn left into Michigan Road.
- At the T-junction, turn right into Tower Road.
- Continue along Tower Road until you enter the airport perimeter and reach the General Aviation / FBO area.
- Once in the General Aviation area, look for signboards indicating Signature Flight Support (Signature Aviation).
- The hangar is on Beechcraft Road – West Hangar, General Aviation Area, Cape Town International Airport, 7525.

Should you have any difficulties, please call +27 21 934 0350





BY ROAD

Travel to Tswalu by road is possible; however, road upgrades and realignments in the area mean that most GPS systems and printed maps are unreliable. Guests are advised to follow the written directions provided by Tswalu rather than relying on GPS navigation.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE FROM JOHANNESBURG

Distance approximately 675 km (+/- 7 hours)

- Stay on the N14 and proceed through Ventersdorp, Coligny, Sannieshof, Delareyville and Vryburg until you reach Kuruman.
- In Kuruman, turn right at the second traffic lights into Voortrekker Street and continue straight out of town on the R31. (Kuruman is the last fuel stop before Tswalu. We recommend refuelling at the Puma & OK Express Service Station shortly after leaving Kuruman.
- When you reach Kuruman, please contact the camp to provide an updated estimated time of arrival. Tel: +27 53 781 9317. Mobile phone coverage is available from Kuruman all the way to the Tswalu gate.
- Approximately 56 km from Kuruman, you will pass a sign on the left to Kathu and Deben (R380). Shortly afterwards you will cross a railway bridge, followed by a sign on the right to Hotazel.
- Approximately 72 km from Kuruman, just before reaching Black Rock, turn left onto the tarred R31, following the signs to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and Van Zylsrus.
- After about 42 km, you will see a turnoff to your left (indicated as Sonstraal on maps and GPS). This is signposted Tswalu Kalahari Reserve (D3335).
- Turn left onto the gravel road and pass through an open gate marked Sonstraal Complex on your right.
- There is good mobile phone reception in this area. Please call to advise where you are.
- After 10 km on the gravel road, you will see an airstrip on your left and, just beyond it, the Tswalu staff housing complex on your right.
- A further 1 km along, you will see signage for Tswalu Admin, the Health Care Centre and the Staff Complex.
- You will be met at this gate by your guide, who will escort you the rest of the way.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE FROM KIMBERLEY

Distance approximately 375 km (+/- 4 hours)

- From Kimberley Airport, travel on the R31 for 35 km to Barkly West.
- From Barkly West, continue for 96 km to Danielskuil.
- From Danielskuil, travel a further 71 km to Kuruman.
- In Kuruman, drive through the first traffic lights and continue straight out of town on the R31. (Kuruman is the last fuel stop before reaching Tswalu. We recommend refuelling at the Puma & OK Express Service Station shortly after leaving Kuruman.)
- Continue as described above for the Johannesburg route.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE FROM UPINGTON (EX CAPE TOWN)

Distance approximately 380 km (+/- 4.5 hours)

- From Upington, take the N14 to Olifantshoek (approximately 165 km).
- In Olifantshoek, please contact the reserve to provide an estimated time of arrival. Tel: +27 53 781 9317.
- From Olifantshoek, continue on the N14 towards Kathu.
- After approximately 27 km, you will reach a T-junction; turn left towards Kathu.
- Continue past Kathu (on your left) and proceed to Kuruman.
- In Kuruman, turn left at the first traffic lights and continue straight out of town on the R31. (Kuruman is the last fuel stop before reaching Tswalu. We recommend refuelling at the Puma & OK Express Service Station shortly after leaving Kuruman.)
- Continue as described above for the Johannesburg route.



PAYMENT + CANCELLATION TERMS + CONDITIONS

VAT

All tariffs include Value Added Tax (VAT) at 15%. Tswalu reserves the right to amend the quoted tariffs should the government change the VAT rate or introduce an additional tax or levy during the duration of this contract.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT POLICY

Your booking confirmation is required 14 days from making the provisional reservation.

PAYMENT TERMS

- Confirmation of booking: 20% non-refundable deposit
- The deposit goes directly towards Tswalu's regenerative efforts to ensure habitat and biodiversity restoration for the benefit of planet and people.
- 60 days prior to arrival: Balance of payment

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Current – 61 days prior to arrival: 20% cancellation fee (non-refundable deposit applied)
- 60 days prior to arrival: 100% cancellation fee will apply.

Please note:

- Our reservations team is on hand to assist with all enquiries or questions on a case-by-case basis.
- Our cancellation policy applies to all reservations, regardless of whether a payment has or has not been received by Tswalu.
- Our deposit and payment policy excludes trade partners with pre-approved credit facilities or negotiated payment terms.
- Flight bookings are included in the definition of "booking" for the purposes of these terms and Tswalu's cancellation policy.
- Spa reservations cancelled on the day of the scheduled treatment will incur a 100% cancellation fee.
- In the unlikely event of cancellation, travel insurance must cover our Cancellation Terms and Conditions.
- Tswalu reserves the right to change these terms and conditions at any time. If any changes are made, the revised terms will be communicated and shared on our website.
- More than one itinerary may be created during the booking process; it is the client's responsibility to check that all details in the final version are correct.