



Motswari

AFRICAN RETREAT
& WALKING SAFARIS



Step off the beaten path and into the untamed wilderness on a walking safari. Follow ancient animal trails, feel the grounding connection with the earth beneath your feet, and let the soothing rustle of leaves calm your mind. Each step immerses you in the healing energy of nature, rejuvenating your soul and deepening your connection to the heart of the wild.

KEY REASONS WHY A WILDERNESS WALKING EXPERIENCE IS FOR YOU:

Immersive Wilderness Experience – Walk through untouched landscapes, experiencing nature up close.

Peace & Tranquillity – Disconnect from technology and embrace the solitude of the wild.

Wildlife Encounters – A chance to see the Big 5 on foot, creating a thrilling sense of anticipation.

Physical & Mental Well-being – Improve fitness while enjoying fresh air and stunning scenery.

Adventure & Discovery – Explore hidden gems like ancient rock formations and secret river pools.

Guided Learning – Expert FGASA - qualified guides share insights on wildlife, bird calls, and survival skills.

Bonding & Storytelling – Create lasting memories around the campfire with shared stories from the wild.

Personal Growth – Stepping out of your comfort zone fosters confidence and resilience.

Exclusive Wilderness Access – Explore the Umbabat Wilderness Area adjacent to Kruger, a vast Big 5 territory

Unique, Non-Demarcated Trails – Every walk is different, guided by wildlife activity and tracking signs.

Walks typically last 4-5 hours in the morning session (which starts at sunrise). In the afternoon we will conduct a nature-based game drive with a sundowner which will be between 2-3 hours long (another walk is also optional, to be discussed with your ranger).



MEET OUR EXPERIENCED TEAM

Jeremy Schreiner

Jeremy discovered his true calling as a Trail Guide after starting his career in Physiotherapy. Drawn by the untamed beauty of the African bush, he left the Netherlands to deepen his knowledge and pursue his passion for guiding. With experience in Primitive Trails and a keen interest in tracking and trailing, time spent with Jeremy is always insightful and rewarding. For him, the best moments are what he calls 'Dirt Time'—fully immersed in the wilderness.



Marius Renke

Marius is a seasoned Wilderness Trails Guide with nearly 30 years of experience, including a distinguished career at South African National Parks, where he last served as a Section Ranger. With a background in Nature Conservation and as a Professional Trails Guide, he carries a deep well of knowledge and expertise. But more than anything, Marius is at his best when he's on foot in the African wilderness—where he truly feels at home.

Lola Seeber

Lola's journey from the streets of Paris to the untamed wilderness of Africa is nothing short of remarkable. Born in Johannesburg, her heart has always belonged to the wild, drawing her back to spend more time in remote, untamed landscapes. After extensive training and countless hours on foot under the African sun, she has flourished as a rising star in walking safaris. Passionate about botany—especially trees—Lola brings a deep understanding of nature's interconnectedness and the vital role it plays in human well-being. For her, the wild isn't just a place to explore—it's where she truly belongs.



Josh Radloff

Nicknamed Xakubasa after the legendary white lion of the Timbavati, Josh brings a sense of calm and serenity to every walk through the African bush. Known for his impressive beard and exceptional Trail Guiding expertise, he offers guests not just knowledge, but a deeper, more immersive understanding of the natural world.

MOTSWARI AFRICAN RETREAT & WALKING SAFARIS EXPERIENCES

Discover the untamed beauty of our wildlife reserve, where every moment brings you closer to nature. From immersive walking safaris to quiet moments surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, each experience is crafted to connect you with the heart of the wilderness.

Motswari African Retreat & Walking Safaris pairs luxurious accommodation with the freedom to design your perfect stay. The beautifully appointed lodges offer a seamless blend of comfort and nature, with breathtaking views of the surrounding wilderness. Whether you're venturing out on a walking safari or relaxing on your deck, every moment is tailored to your adventure.

WALKING SAFARI

Immerse yourself in nature

Step into the heart of the African wilderness, where wildlife moves freely around you. Experience the thrill of heightened awareness paired with a deep sense of calm. Walk with purpose, let the sights, sounds, and scents of nature captivate your senses, and feel a profound connection to the land. Trust in your expert safari guide to lead you safely on this unforgettable walking trail.



YOGA

Experiences designed around you

Whether you're curious about yoga or a seasoned practitioner, our sessions offer a peaceful way to unwind. Each experience is tailored to your preferences and pace, allowing you to participate as much—or as little—as you like.

MASSAGE DECK

Surrender to your senses

Set on a secluded massage deck overlooking the untamed beauty of the Timbavati, Motswari African Retreat & Walking Safaris invites you to reconnect with nature through deeply restorative spa treatments. From soothing massages to revitalising wellness rituals, every experience is designed to harmonise body and mind—accompanied by the gentle sounds of the bush. A serene escape where luxury meets the wild.



DINING AT AFRICAN RETREAT & WALKING SAFARIS

Savour the flavours of the African bush with a dining experience that blends tradition, atmosphere, and warm hospitality. Enjoy a fresh, buffet-style continental breakfast and a generous selection of cooked meals at The Lounge, our outdoor lounge, where you can take in the crisp morning air and watch wildlife gather by the river.

Evenings bring a touch of magic with open-air boma dinners, framed by lantern-lit trees and the warmth of a crackling fire. The rhythmic beat of drumming signals the start of an unforgettable meal under the stars. For a more intimate experience, bush dinners in remote wilderness settings offer a truly immersive way to dine in nature.

Pre-dinner drinks, nightcaps, or a quiet coffee can also be enjoyed at The Lounge, making it the perfect spot to unwind or grab a light snack before setting off on an early morning walking safari.



SERVICES & FACILITIES

- **Immersive Micro-Experiences**
Tailor your stay with wellness micro-experiences and share your preferences with us at the start of your booking journey. These experiences have to be planned and booked prior to your arrival.
- **Walking Safaris**
Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of the untamed African landscape.
- **Infinity Pool and Relaxation Area**
An intimate, reflective space with uninterrupted views of the African bush.
- **The Lounge**
Our lounge haven in the bush overlooking the riverbed.
- **Massage Deck and Outdoor Relaxation Area**
A space for you to savour the natural surrounds, find peace, and enjoy multiple holistic treatments, including estorative and rejuvenating massages.
- **Our Fire Pit**
Star-gazing and the beauty of being in the bush.
- **The Boma**
The boma dinner is an unforgettable experience. An outdoor dining area overlooking the tranquil riverbed, offering guests a mesmerising backdrop as they dine under the blanket of stars. Here, amidst the rustle of the bush and the whisper of the night breeze, guests are treated to a culinary journey under the vast African sky.



ACCOMMODATION

BUNGALOWS

All luxury bungalows have access to

- River-facing infinity pool with relaxation area/sun lounges
- Designated Wi-Fi hotspots
- Open-air Boma (River facing)
- Outdoor lounge deck and relaxation area overlooking the riverbed
- Yoga, meditation, and relaxation area (Equipment provided & indoor space with an air conditioner and ceiling fans)
- Massage deck with views of the riverbed
- Open air fire pit ideal for stargazing and storytelling
- Room service twice daily
- Secure parking (at Motswari main camp)
- Guided bushwalks with trained and qualified professional guides
- Game drive in the Umbabat area
- Boma dinner
- Outdoor dining table for breakfast and evening dinners under the stars
- Intimate library nook
- Kitchen

SUPERIOR PRIVATE BUNGALOWS

Both our Superior Bungalows enjoy magnificent views of the river. Nestled under trees, these are designed to harmoniously blend with nature, transitioning seamlessly from interior to exterior. The architectural details are unusual and original, showcasing innovative design and craftsmanship.

MARULA

- 30m2 | Sleeps 2
- Large bathtub with indoor and outdoor shower
- River-facing outdoor deck
- En-suite bathroom with double vanity area
- Luxury bathroom amenities
- Separated dressing room
- Bathrobes
- King and Hollywood twin
- Luxury cotton linen (300TC)
- Hair dryer
- Luggage rack
- Bottled water
- Tea and coffee station
- Air-conditioning
- Ceiling fan



TAMBOTI

- 40m² | Sleeps 2
- Indoor shower
- River-facing outdoor deck
- En-suite bathroom with double vanity area
- Luxury bathroom amenities
- Separated dressing room
- Bathrobes
- King and Hollywood twin
- Luxury cotton linen (300TC)
- Hair dryer
- Luggage rack
- Bottled water
- Tea and coffee station
- Air-conditioning
- Ceiling fan



LUXURY PRIVATE BUNGALOWS

These bungalows are slightly larger than the Superior Bungalows and are gently nestled within the natural vegetation. The Mopani Bungalow offers glorious views of the bush, while Ebony Bungalow is river-facing. The harmonious blend with nature is amplified by unusual, original architectural details that showcase innovative design and craftsmanship.



EBONY

- 40m² | Sleeps 2
- Indoor shower
- Outdoor river-facing viewing deck
- Private patio area overlooking the bush
- Desk
- En-suite bathroom with double vanity area
- Luxury bathroom amenities
- Separate dressing room
- Bathrobes
- King and Hollywood twin
- Luxury cotton linen (300TC)
- Hair dryer
- Luggage rack
- Bottled water
- Tea and coffee station
- Air-conditioning
- Ceiling fan

MOPANI

- 45-50m² | Sleeps 2
- Inside and outside shower
- Enclosed outside area with a daybed
- Private patio area overlooking the bush
- Desk
- En-suite bathroom with double vanity area
- Luxury bathroom amenities
- Separate dressing room
- Bathrobes
- King and Hollywood twin
- Luxury cotton linen (300TC)
- Hair dryer
- Luggage rack
- Bottled water
- Tea and coffee station
- Air-conditioning
- Ceiling fan





GENERAL INFORMATION

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT TIMES

Check-in: 13H00
Check-out: 11H00

DISTANCES

70 km from Hoedspruit

CHILD POLICY

Persons must be 12 years or older to visit Motswari African Retreat & Walking Safaris.

LOCATION

Physical Address:

Motswari Private
Game Reserve
Limpopo
South Africa

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 2
Hoedspruit
1380
South Africa

GPS Co-ordinates:

24O 11.036' South 031 23.347' East

CONTACT

Reservations:

Tel: +27 21 427 5901
Email: reservations@newmarkhotels.com
www.newmarkhotels.com

Lodge:

Tel: +27 15 793 1718
reception@motswari.co.za
www.newmarkhotels.com

LOCALITY

TEMPERATURE

Average Day Temperatures:

31°C (December to March)
28°C (April to May)
26°C (June to September)
30°C (October to November)

ELECTRICITY

220 V
A selection of international adaptors are available

CURRENCY

Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)
Accepted Credit Cards: Mastercard and Visa
No cheques accepted

HEALTH

Motswari African Retreat falls within a malaria area.
It is recommended that guests contact their local travel clinic for advice on the necessary precautionary measures for visits to this region.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

To ensure that you have a comfortable and memorable safari experience, we recommend that you include the following items when packing:

- Comfortable walking boots.
- Neutral-coloured clothing for camouflage.
- A hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- A small backpack with water and binoculars.
- Water and Snacks will be provided for the walks.
- The rangers will carry all the safety required items (e.g. First Aid kit & Radio)

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need further info.

WALKING SAFARIS FAQs

BEST TIME FOR WALKING SAFARIS

- Dry season (April–October) is ideal because vegetation is lower, and animals gather around water sources. Wet season (November – March) is not ideal with chances of rain showers, thicker vegetation and high temperatures (and humidity).
- Cooler mornings are preferred for walking before the heat builds up.

PACE & DURATION

- Walks typically last **4-5 hours** in the morning session (which starts at sunrise). In the afternoon we will conduct a nature-based game drive with a sundowner which will be **between 2-3 hours** long (another walk is also optional, to be discussed with your ranger).
- Distances of the walks are between 5 and 10 km but can vary considering tracking opportunities. No set trails are followed as the most constant thing in the wilderness is change.
- The pace is slow, allowing for observation and learning.
- The fitness level needs to be moderate. There will be some distance covered, but all will be done at the groups own pace. The walks are not a A to B mission, but rather an engaging experience.

SAFETY & EXPERT GUIDANCE

- You'll always be accompanied by two highly trained guides and armed rangers.
- Guides will teach you how to read animal behaviour and stay safe.
- Walks are usually conducted in areas where dangerous encounters can be managed.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

- You may see big animals like elephants, giraffes, buffalo, and even predators from a safe distance.
- Expect closer encounters with smaller creatures like birds, insects, and plant life.
- Tracking animals by their footprints, dung, and other signs is a big part of the experience.

DESTINATION UMBABAT

- The Umbabat Private Nature Reserve (UPNR) is an 18,000 ha private nature reserve in Mpumalanga, South Africa. It is situated in an area bordered by Timbavati, Klaserie and Kruger National Park. Collectively, the private nature reserves are called the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR). It is known as the Heart of the Greater Kruger, as it is located in the middle of the APNR and Kruger National Park.
- The UPNR was proclaimed in 1969 and at that stage was only a 7500 ha reserve. Since the minimum size of 15,000 ha was required to be a member of the APNR, the reserve was expanded in 1991 to include the share-block reserves upon request from the Klaserie and Timbavati reserves. The original 7500 ha Umbabat became known as Group 13, and much later, Group 13 changed its name Umbabat Wilderness Conservation Association (UWCA). Motswari is part of the Group 13 and is the only lodge with commercial access in this vast wilderness area.



ABOUT THE TIMBAVATI AND UMBABAT PRIVATE NATURE RESERVES

The breathtaking Timbavati and Umbabat Private Nature Reserves form part of the Associated Private Nature Reserves region, which borders on the Kruger National Park. The Timbavati and Umbabat Private Nature Reserves share an unfenced border with the Kruger National Park, which allows animal species to move freely between these expansive parks. Guests can therefore look forward to exceptional game viewing moments. The region is easily accessible by air or road and is a six- to seven-hour drive from Johannesburg. The climate in this area is subtropical and rains fall during summer. The warmer months of the year roll in from October to March, whereas winter is from April to September.

Generally speaking, daytime temperatures are pleasant, but mornings and evenings can be cool.

