

Life on the edge of the Waterberg

Narataba
GAME LODGES

MORE
COLLECTION



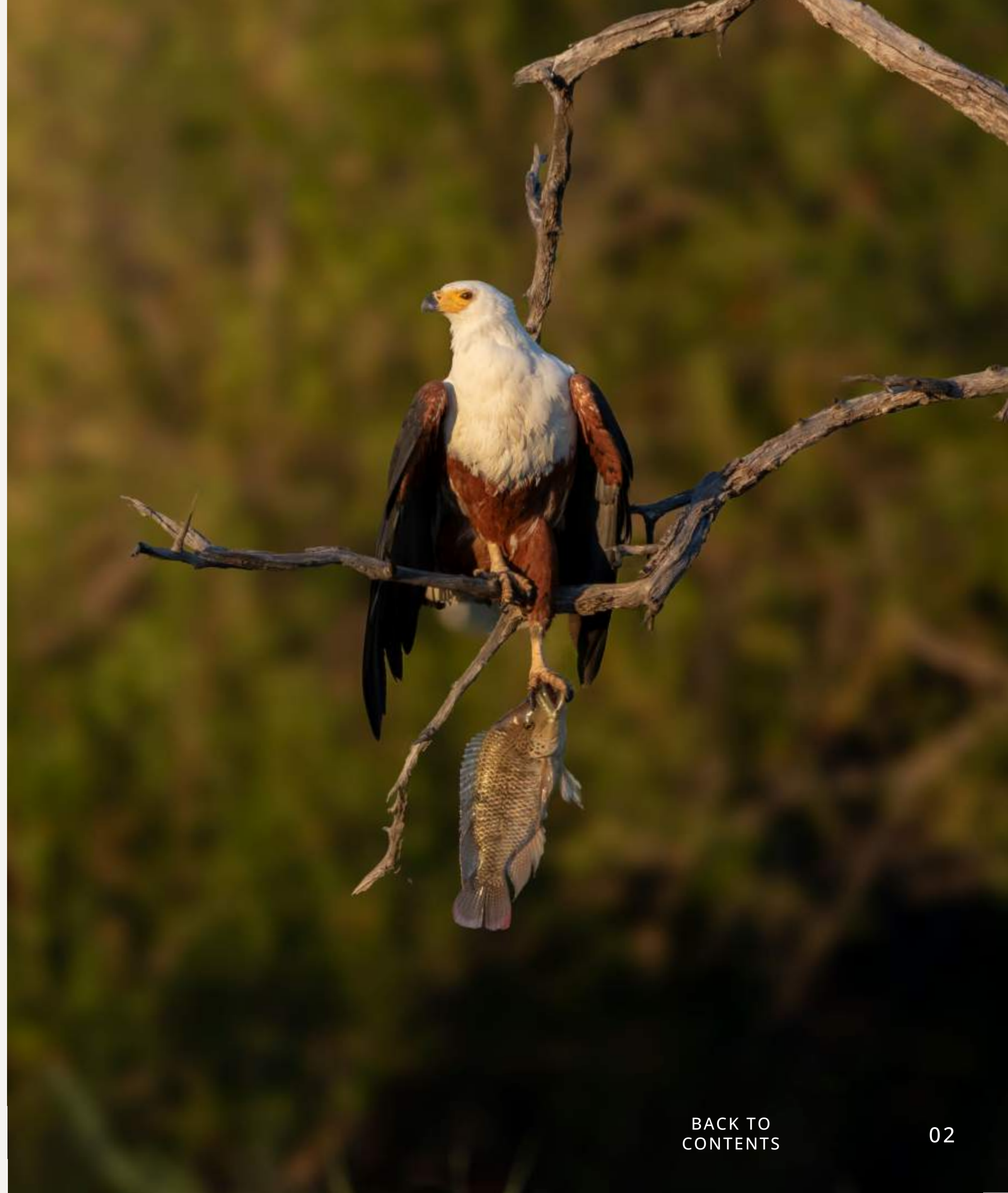
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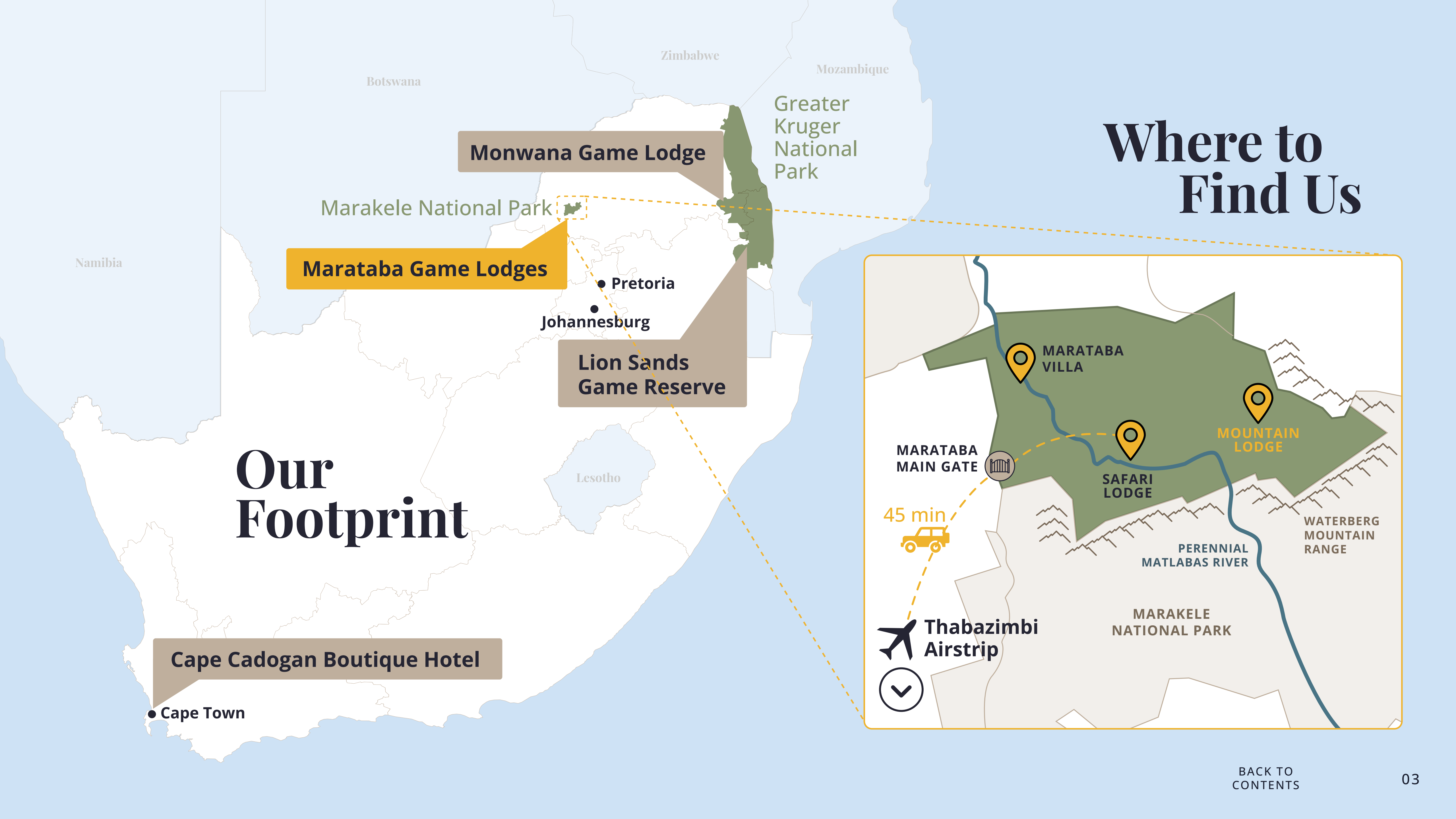
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An invitation to stillness

Hidden deep in the Waterberg, where dramatic mountains carve into the sky and valleys are shaped over millennia, Marataba Mountain Lodge is a retreat encouraging you to slow down, look closer, and reconnect. Choose from five private rooms, where it's just you, the wild, and a team that knows when to be present and when to step back and let the surroundings work their quiet magic.

Marataba is set within the malaria-free Marakele National Park (meaning “place of sanctuary” in Setswana), with nearly 165 560 acres (67 000 hectares) of protected wilderness, including overlapping savanna and mountains supporting astonishing diversity.





Where to Find Us

Our Footprint

Monwana Game Lodge

Marataba Game Lodges

Lion Sands Game Reserve

Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel



What makes Marataba so unique?

A male lion with a thick, light-brown mane stands on a large, flat rock in the foreground. He is facing right, looking out over a vast, hilly landscape. The background is filled with dense green bushes and trees, and the sky is a warm, golden-orange color from the setting or rising sun. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

**For travellers drawn to the heights
and the hush of true wilderness**

Marataba Mountain Lodge stands apart as a remote, solar-powered hideaway above Waterfall Valley. A handful of luxury rooms, rooted in the hillside, blur the line between inside and the wild. Scandinavian lines and natural textures frame each king-size bed, wood-burning fireplace, rain shower, and viewing deck, every room a quiet space for rest and perspective.

Field guides are quick to sense your rhythm. The pace here is as individual as your own curiosity, whether you crave wide-open days alone on the deck, bush walks that heighten the senses, or relaxed fireside conversations that stretch late into the evenings.

*You'll share moments
and stories with like-minded
adventurers – or simply lose
yourself while watching the
valley shift with the light.*



Our Environmental Commitment

TREADING LIGHTLY, LIVING FULLY

Marataba Mountain Lodge is designed to sit lightly within its surroundings, bringing guests closer to the landscape while reducing operational impact.

From solar energy and water-wise systems to considered sourcing and low-impact design, daily operations are shaped by the environment in which the lodge operates.

This long-term approach to conservation and responsible tourism forms part of a broader commitment across MORE Collection to protect the landscapes, people, and communities connected to our properties.



Remarkable wildlife

Marataba is a privately managed section of 56 834 acres (23 000 hectares) within the malaria-free Marakele National Park conserving 165 560 acres (67 000 hectares) of the Limpopo Waterberg's biodiversity, as well as Iron Age sites of great historical significance. The park falls within the UNESCO-recognised Waterberg Biosphere.

The game here is impressive in number and diversity due to Marataba's location in a transition zone between the dry western and the wetter eastern regions of South Africa. Rare plant species of yellowwood and cedar trees, ancient cycads, and fern trees flourish here.

BIG FIVE

- Elephant
- Rhino (black and white)
- Buffalo
- Lion
- Leopard

NOTABLE AND SIGNIFICANT SPECIES

- African wild dog
- Cheetah
- Brown hyena
- Porcupine
- Warthog
- 300+ bird species
- Cape vulture (world's largest breeding colony)
- Sable antelope
- Cape pangolin
- Hippo

Experiences and Adventures

BUSH WALKS

After breakfast, your field guide will tailor an immersive walk in the wild to your interests, be it mammals, birds, plants, geology, or insects. Engage all five senses: feel the crunch of leaves, listen for the crack of a distant branch, and spot big game at eye level. (For guests 16 and over)



GAME DRIVES

Twice daily, field guide-led game drives head out at sunrise and again in the late afternoon, exploring Marataba’s diverse wilderness in open safari vehicles. Here game drives are intimate and unhurried. Animals here are accustomed to the vehicles, allowing responsible encounters with some of Africa’s most impressive wildlife. Expect photographic opportunities, with a pause for a scenic hot beverage or sundowner in the bush.

MISS MARA WATER SAFARI

A morning or sunset water safari along the Matlabas River, guided by an experienced Marataba field guide. Look out for hippo, prolific birdlife, and land animals like elephants coming to drink and forage. Includes snacks and beverages served en-route.

CONTINUES →





WILDLIFE LECTURES

Field guides present informal nature talks when the weather keeps you indoors. Topics range from elephant behaviour to the ecology of the reserve, and talks are inspired by guest curiosity and questions.

STARGAZING

Clear mountain air and minimal light pollution make Marataba ideal for stargazing. Join evening drives or bush dinners and let your field guide share southern constellations – an unforgettable astral safari.



A NIGHT IN A TREEHOUSE

Spend a night in Thabametsi Treehouse, a solar-powered, two-level hideout. Arrive at sunset for a picnic dinner and Waterberg views, then fall asleep safely under the open sky, with radio contact to a field guide always available. (Must be booked at additional cost in conjunction with lodge accommodation.)

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SPA AND WELLNESS

In the quiet between safaris, wind down with a spa treatment at the spa sala. Choose from massages, facials, and more, using herbal-infused, ethically sourced products from TheraNaka™. Yoga mats are available from reception.



LOCAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Visit Heuningvlei Primary School and the Itsoseng Daycare Centre in the Sentrum Community. This guided experience offers a meaningful connection with the people shaping young lives and directly supports the communities you visit - turning your stay into lasting impact.

RHINO CONSERVATION SAFARI

Gain insight into the ongoing conservation work supporting critically endangered black rhinos and near-threatened white rhino populations alongside specialist veterinary teams during key wildlife interventions. (Additional costs apply.)



Accommodation

Five luxury rooms, each designed
for contemplation and comfort.





2 guests per room



King-sized bed



Private viewing deck



En-suite bathroom with rain shower



Solar power



Air conditioning



In-room safe, personal bar,
hairdryer, Wi-Fi



No children under 16

Marataba Villa

An exclusive-use retreat
along the Matlabas River,
with dedicated hospitality
at every turn.



Exclusive Luxury



Four luxury tents
(up to 8 adults and 2 children)



Private pool and fire deck



Villa chef, butler, and housekeeping team



Private field guide and safari vehicle



Central living area: open-plan lounge,
dining room, interactive kitchen,
and fireplace



Practical information

GETTING HERE



BY AIR

- Scheduled flights or private charters to Thabazimbi Airstrip
- Helicopter arrivals to the Marataba Safari Lodge helipad by arrangement; spectacular fly-in over the Waterberg



TRANSFERS

- Approximately 1 hour by road from Thabazimbi Airstrip to Marataba Safari Lodge
- Guests travelling to Mountain Lodge check in at Safari Lodge before a 45-minute safari vehicle transfer



BY ROAD

- Approximately 4 hours (320km/200 miles) from Johannesburg to Marataba Safari Lodge via well-maintained roads

WHAT TO PACK

- Neutral clothing for game drives and bush walks
- Warm layers for mornings and evenings – yes, even in summer
- Comfortable hiking boots/shoes
- Swimwear
- Sun protection, including a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Camera/binoculars
- Yoga mat (or ask at reception – provided for guest use)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Marakele National Park is malaria-free – no anti-malarial medication required
- Closest hospital: Mediclinic Thabazimbi Hospital (1 hour)

CONNECTIVITY

- Free Wi-Fi throughout the lodge
- Mobile coverage may be limited, allowing you to be truly present
- International power outlets and USB charging points



An aerial photograph of Marakele National Park at sunset. The landscape is covered in dense, green and yellowish-brown bush. In the background, there are large, flat-topped mountains (mesetas) under a warm, orange-hued sky. A small, rustic wooden building is visible in the lower-left foreground, nestled among the trees.

Weather and seasonal highlights

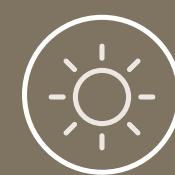
Marakele National Park is a year-round destination, with temperatures ranging from 70°F (21°C, winter min: 38°F/ 3°C) to 95°F (35°C, summer); rainfall peaks from December to February. Each season brings its own character and wildlife moments to Marataba.



SPRING

(September – November)

- **Temperature:** 52–72 °F | 11–22 °C
- **Rainfall:** 5.9 in | 150 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Newborn wildlife begin to appear, early migrants join residents
- **Landscape:** First rains spark wildflowers and lush green landscape
- **Seasonal appeal:** Flowering plants, bird activity at its brightest



SUMMER

(December – February)

- **Temperature:** 70–95 °F | 21–35 °C
- **Rainfall:** 13.7 in | 350 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Excellent birdwatching; young Big Five members appear frequently
- **Landscape:** Warm, dramatic thunderstorms; vibrant landscape and vivid sunsets
- **Seasonal appeal:** Lush, landscapes and abundant birdlife



AUTUMN

(March – May)

- **Temperature:** 59–77 °F | 15–25 °C
- **Rainfall:** 6 in | 150 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Resident raptors remain active; Big Five easier to spot
- **Landscape:** Calm, golden light; excellent for photography
- **Seasonal appeal:** Clear game viewing as bush recedes; wildlife rallies around water sources



WINTER

(June – August)

- **Temperature:** 39–68 °F | 4–20 °C
- **Rainfall:** 0.4 in | 10 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Animals concentrate at waterholes, making for easier sightings
- **Landscape:** Sparse bush makes animal sightings exceptional
- **Seasonal appeal:** Clearest skies for evening stargazing; crisp mornings, mild days, cosy fires in the evening



Suggested Itinerary



Day One

ARRIVAL AT MARATABA MOUNTAIN LODGE

- Morning flight from Johannesburg to Thabazimbi Airstrip (45 minutes)
- Transfer to Marataba Safari Lodge before continuing to Mountain Lodge by safari vehicle
- Lodge welcome and orientation
- Light lunch
- Meet your dedicated field guide
- Afternoon game drive with sundowner experience
- Dinner under the stars

Day Two

A DAY OF WILD ABUNDANCE

- Coffee and a light breakfast selection
- Morning game drive
- Guided bush walk
- Return to the lodge for a hearty brunch
- Leisure time for activities such as spa treatments
- Lunch available
- Miss Mara water safari with sundowners
- Dinner at the lodge
- Evening stargazing

CONTINUES —>



Day Three

ARRIVAL AT MARATABA MOUNTAIN LODGE

- Coffee and a light breakfast selection
- Morning game drive and bush breakfast
- Leisure time spent at the pool or simply relax and take in the mountain views
- Lunch
- Depart for afternoon safari
- A night under the stars at Thabametsi Treehouse



Day Four

DEPARTURE AND ONWARD JOURNEY

- Sunrise game drive
- Breakfast in the main lodge
- Check out and transfer to Thabazimbi Airstrip
- Flight departure for onward journey





Impact that ripples

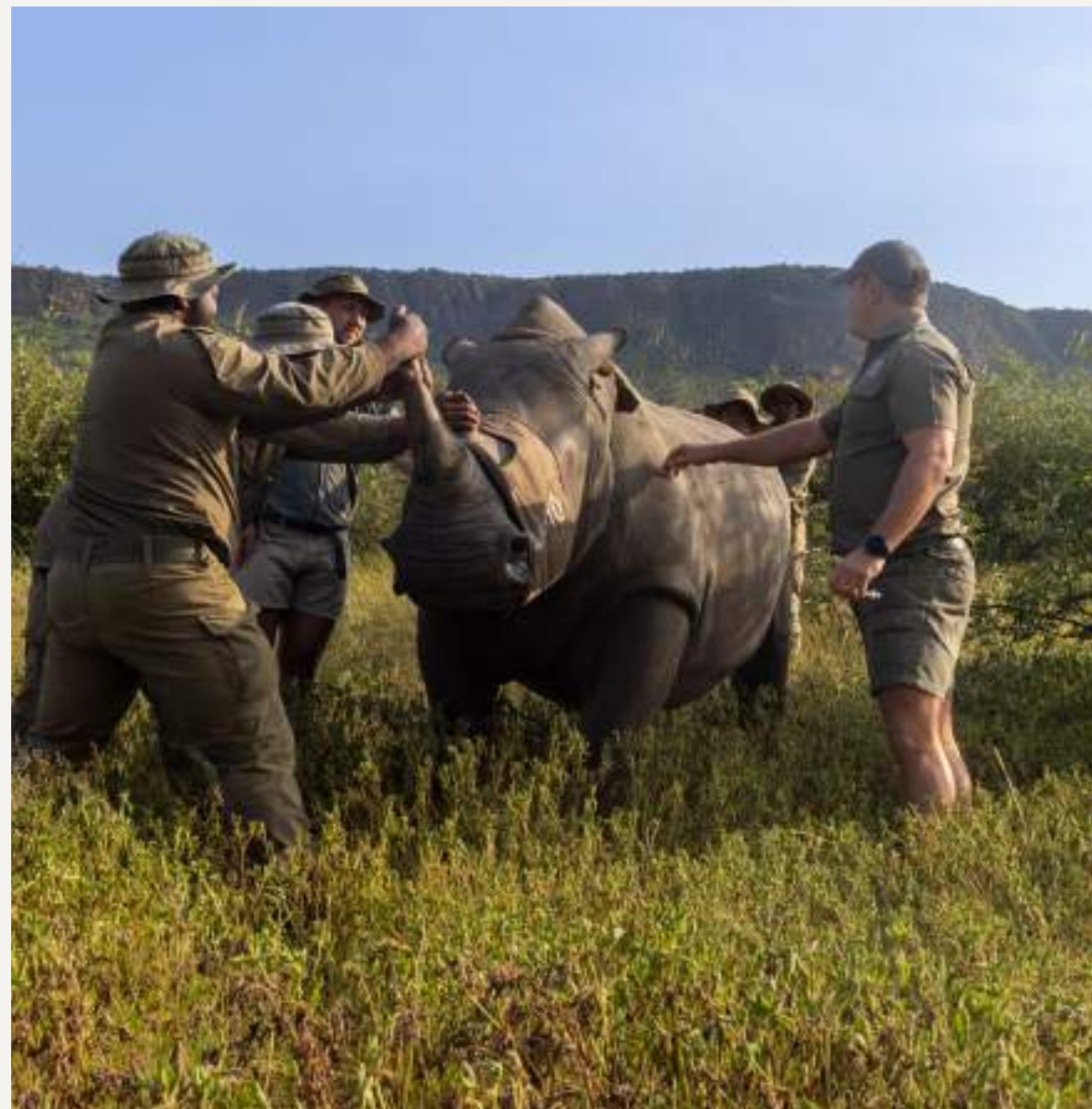
COLLECTIVELY CREATING POSITIVE, MEANINGFUL, AND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Through the MORE Collection Impact Fund, every guest stay contributes to four key areas: Health and Wellbeing, Resource Sustainability, Education and Training, and Investing in Local Communities.

Across Marataba Game Lodges, this work supports local employment, conservation initiatives, responsible sourcing, and long-term investment in the people and communities connected to the Waterberg region.



MORE Collection



MORE Collection, led by custodian and CEO Robert More, is a fourth-generation family business with roots dating back to 1933.

What began with one family's connection to the Sabie River has grown into a collection of safari lodges, a boutique hotel, and private villas across South Africa - from the Sabi Sand and Greater Kruger to the Waterberg and Cape Town.

Although the collection has grown over time, it remains grounded in the relationships, places and the care that have shaped it from the beginning.

Wherever you join us, you'll find thoughtful hospitality, a deep sense of belonging, and people who genuinely care about making every stay feel personal.

We look forward to sharing these remarkable parts of South Africa with you.



Robert More
CUSTODIAN AND CEO

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY WITH
MORE
COLLECTION

Discovering *South Africa*

Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

IVORY LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
Refined safari living shaped by the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

RIVER LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A safari lodge connected to the rhythm of the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

NARINA LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A quieter safari experience in the trees above the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

TINGA LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A classic safari shaped by connection, discovery and the Sabie River



CAPE
Cadogan
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

CAPE CADOGAN BOUTIQUE HOTEL

KLOOF STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD
Your stylish city stay in the heart of Cape town



Marataba
GAME LODGES

SAFARI LODGE

MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK
A family-friendly safari in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains



monwana
COMING HOME

MONWANA LODGE

GREATER KRUGER
An unhurried safari experience shaped by stillness and connection



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