

A group of families and children are walking away from the camera on a wooden rope bridge in a forest. In the foreground, a boy in a blue shirt and a girl in a white shirt and a tan safari hat are visible. Behind them, a girl in a white shirt and a boy in a blue shirt are also visible. The bridge is made of wooden planks and ropes, and the surrounding area is filled with trees and foliage.

Families & Children

at Jaci's Private Lodge



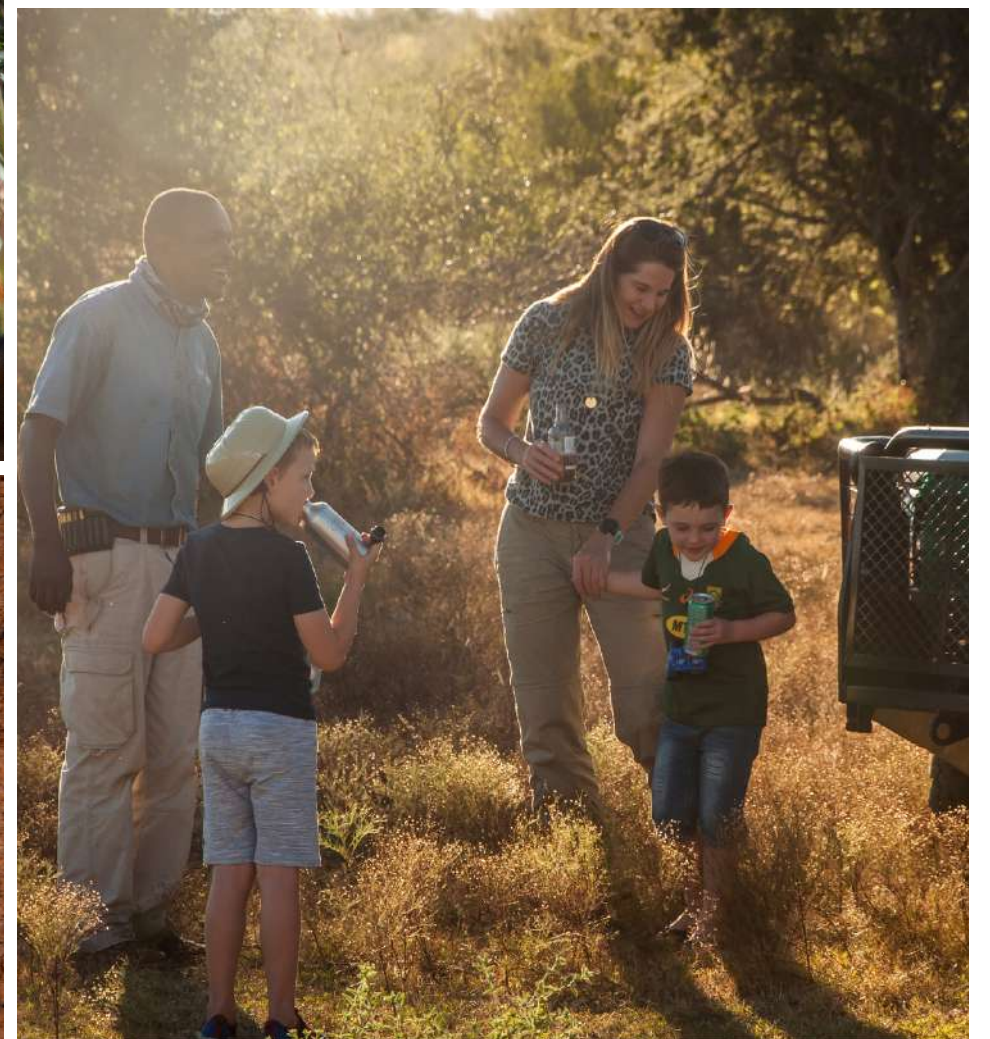
JACI'S
PRIVATE LODGE | MADIKWE

Overview

Children and families are warmly welcomed at Jaci's, where safari is something to be shared.

Whether travelling with young children, teenagers or the whole family, there is space and flexibility for everyone to enjoy the experience. Our private-use villas include a dedicated vehicle, while our Expedition Suites offer a comfortable option for families staying in the Main Lodge.

Children are encouraged to explore the bush in a fun and age-appropriate way, from learning about tracks and birds to discovering the smaller details that make Madikwe so special.





Pups Club Activity Bag

Upon arrival, young explorers are welcomed into our Jaci's Pups Club and receive a specially prepared activity bag filled with safari-inspired, child-friendly goodies. Designed to spark curiosity and engagement, the pack provides entertainment between game drives while encouraging children to observe, learn and interact with their surroundings.

The contents are thoughtfully curated to complement the Junior Ranger experience and help children feel like an important part of the safari adventure from the moment they arrive.

Safari Pups Club Activity Bags are included for children 12 years and under on all-inclusive full-rate bookings.

Jaci's Pups Ranger Course

The Jaci's Pups Ranger Course is a fun and educational checklist designed to transform each child into a confident Junior Ranger. Guided by our experienced field guides, children are encouraged to explore the bush through interactive learning and hands-on discovery.

Activities may include:

- Spotting and identifying animal spoor
- Learning basic Setswana phrases
- Identifying birds and recognising their calls
- Observing insects, trees and smaller wildlife

Each completed task is signed off by your guide, adding to the sense of achievement and adventure. Upon completion of the course, children receive their very own Jaci's bush certificate and Venture Hat.

Child Minding Service

For families staying in the Expedition Suites, we offer a dedicated childminding service for children aged 5 years and under who are not participating in the afternoon or evening game drive.

This service allows parents the opportunity to enjoy a relaxed safari drive or dinner experience, knowing their little ones are safely cared for within the lodge environment. Our team ensures children are comfortable and engaged during this time.

Childminding is included for guests on all-inclusive full-rate bookings.



Children at Mealtimes

For families staying in the Expedition Suites, dinner for children aged 5 years and under is served at approximately 18h00 at the main lodge.

For families staying in Nare Villa, Kubu Villa or Jaci's Madikwe House, each Villa includes a dedicated chef and private dining environment. Mealtimes are therefore completely flexible and tailored to your family's individual holiday schedule, allowing you to dine at times that best suit you and your children.

Our chefs offer child-friendly menu options, which can be discussed and confirmed upon arrival and adjusted daily according to preferences and dietary requirements.

Bumble Drives

For younger explorers staying in the Expedition Suites, shorter Bumble Drives of approximately 45 minutes are available for children aged 5 years and under.

Morning and afternoon drives are offered, subject to the day's schedule. Each drive is designed as a fun, age-appropriate introduction to the bush, with a focus on birds, smaller wildlife, tracks and interactive learning.

Families staying in Nare Villa, Kubu Villa or Jaci's Madikwe House have their own private vehicle and dedicated field guide. This allows safari times and drive lengths to be tailored to the family, including shorter outings for younger children.

Bumble Drives are included for guests on all-inclusive full-rate bookings and are subject to operational availability.

Games for Children

A selection of board games and family games is available in the Main Lodge and private-use villas, giving children something fun to enjoy during quieter moments between safari activities.

Whether it is a relaxed afternoon indoors, time together before dinner or a little friendly family competition, the games offer an easy way for children and parents to unwind together during their stay.





River Walk

Enjoy a guided or self-paced stroll along the Marico River. The scenic river path runs within the fenced boundaries of Jaci's property, as the lodge borders the river, allowing guests to safely enjoy the surrounding riverine forest and natural environment.

The area supports abundant birdlife and occasional wildlife sightings, including elephants visiting the river to drink or bathe. It is a peaceful way to experience the bush at a slower pace while enjoying the shade of the riverine trees.

Should guests wish to be accompanied by a guide or member of management, this may be arranged on an ad hoc basis, subject to availability.

Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Swimming Pools

Time in the bush can be wonderfully active, and our swimming pools offer the perfect space for families to unwind together between safari adventures.

At the Main Lodge, the beautifully positioned pool provides a shaded retreat during warm bushveld afternoons - an inviting place for children to cool off while parents relax nearby with a book or refreshing drink.

For those staying in Nare Villa, Kubu Villa or Jaci's Madikwe House, each Villa features its own private pool, allowing families complete flexibility and privacy. Here, children can swim at their own pace while parents enjoy the comfort of a dedicated family space.

For safety, children must be supervised by an adult at all times.



Greenhouse Visits

Children are invited to visit our on-site greenhouse for a hands-on look at how we nurture and grow some of our own produce.

During these visits, young explorers can learn about recycling practices, water-wise gardening and the importance of caring for natural resources in a bush environment. From understanding how plants grow to seeing where ingredients begin their journey before reaching the table, the experience offers a simple yet meaningful introduction to sustainability.

Children must be accompanied at all times.

Thutlwa Lookout Game Count

Our elevated Thutlwa Lookout deck overlooks an open grazing area, offering sweeping panoramic views across the bushveld. Positioned above the landscape, it provides a peaceful vantage point to observe wildlife moving through the area below.

Children are encouraged to spend time here spotting birds, animals and insects from this unique perspective - seeing the landscape from what feels like “giraffe height.”

Access is available to all guests of Jaci's Private Lodge. Guests staying at Jaci's Madikwe House require a guide escort. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.





Child Policy

Safari Suite Expeditions

Children aged 0–12 years

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed in our Safari Suite Expeditions, with up to two children sharing a suite with their parents.

Children aged 6–12 years may join the scheduled morning and afternoon game drives. For younger children aged 5 and under, shorter Bumble Drives are available in the morning and afternoon, offering a gentler, age-appropriate introduction to the bush. Early dining and childminding during scheduled drive times also help families enjoy a relaxed and flexible stay.

At bedtime, the sunken lounge converts into two specially designed Little Expedition Beds for children aged 6–12, while a cot can be provided for younger children.

Villas

Children aged 0–12 years

Nare Villa, Kubu Villa & Jaci's Madikwe House

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed in our private-use villas. Each villa includes a private game-viewing vehicle and dedicated field guide, allowing safari times and drive lengths to be tailored around the family. From shorter outings for younger children to longer drives for older explorers, everyone can enjoy the bush at a pace that suits them.

With flexible dining, private spaces and a dedicated hospitality team, the villa experience makes it easy for families to spend time together while shaping each day around their own routine.



Important Notes

Persons 12 years and younger are considered children. Persons 13 years and older are considered adults and charged accordingly. Nare Villa, Kubu Villa and Jaci's Madikwe House each include a private game viewing vehicle. Children of all ages may join regular safari drives in these Villas.

Expedition Suites operate on shared game drive vehicles, with a maximum of 8 guests per vehicle. Families staying in the Expedition Suites may share a vehicle with another family or guests. Children 5 years and under staying in the Expedition Suites are not permitted on scheduled morning and afternoon / evening game drives.

Children should be supervised by an adult at all times. Terms and conditions apply.

Contact

Reservations

(Monday – Friday | 08h00 – 17h00 SAST)
reservations@jacis.co.za | +27 (0)83 700 2071

General Management

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tristan@jacis.co.za | +27 (0)63 728 1491

Please note: Due to intermittent signal at the lodge, we recommend sending a WhatsApp message to the numbers above should you wish to contact lodge management. Our reservations department is contactable telephonically or via email during office hours.



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www.jacis.co.za

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