

PREPARING FOR YOUR STAY

Ulusaba^{🐾🐾}

SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

MA AMUKERIWA!

(welcome in shangaan)

We are delighted that you have chosen to stay with us at Ulusaba, Sir Richard Branson's private game reserve in the Sabi Sand Reserve.

Whether it's your first time on safari or you are a seasoned expert, this document contains some important information to help you prepare for your stay with us. We hope to answer most of your questions, but please get in touch with us if you have any more.





Ulusaba 

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA

DURBAN

MONT
ROCHELLE

CAPE
TOWN



HOW DO I GET THERE?

South Africa is served by direct flights from the UK and other major European hubs, with flight times to Johannesburg between 10½ and 11½ hours depending on your point of origin. From the US there are direct flights from the east coast, with flight times of roughly 18 hours.

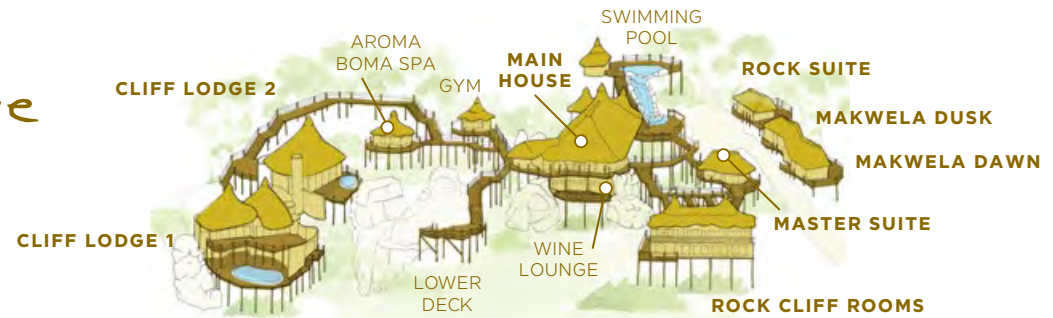
Ulusaba's private airstrip is approximately a 1 hour and 20 minute flight from the international airport in Johannesburg (OR Tambo International) or 30 minutes from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA)* which is situated in Nelspruit. Get a window seat - the view's terrific! You can also come by road too from KMIA, which will take about 2 hours. Try to arrive by 1pm - just in time for lunch!

Experience the heart of the African bush with daily direct flights with Airlink from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Nelspruit KMIA and Skukuza Airport gateway to the Kruger National Park and the private game lodges. A short, small aircraft transfer connects you onward to Ulusaba's doorstep on Airlink's Lodge Link service to the Ulusaba Airstrip.

A short air transfer from the lodge airstrip or Skukuza Airport to Nelspruit KMIA connects you conveniently to Livingstone (Zambia) and Vilanculos (Mozambique) gateway to the Bazaruto and Benguerre Islands.

** Times are based on direct flights to Ulusaba Private Game Reserve. Some flights may service all Lodges in the Sabi Sand Reserve so flight times for arrival may vary.*

rock lodge



safari lodge



WHERE IS EVERYTHING?

Rock Lodge and Safari Lodge are both extraordinary in their own way, and each aims to provide a unique and exceptional experience. Rock Lodge sits at the top of a 'koppie', or small mountain. This spot provided the ancient Shangaan warriors with the perfect lookout point, hence the meaning of Ulusaba – 'place of little fear'. Safari Lodge is a short drive away from Rock Lodge set in amongst the bush with swing bridges connecting some rooms. Regardless of which lodge you're staying at, our team will be happy to drive you to the other if you'd like to experience the bush from a slightly different viewpoint.

HEALTH

Ulusaba is situated in the Loveweld region of the the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa which is a malaria endemic area. Please speak to a health professional about appropriate anti-malarial precautions at least 21 days prior to departure. If Ulusaba is the only place in Mpumalanga that you are visiting, no other vaccinations or precautions will be required.



PASSPORTS AND VISAS

UK and US passport-holders do not require a visa to enter South Africa for tourist purposes for fewer than three months. You will however need two full blank pages (four for US citizens) in your passport; without these you will be denied entry. There are also special rules relating to the paperwork required for parents travelling with children so please check with your nearest South African Embassy or Consulate before travelling. All foreign minors intending to visit South Africa are required to be accompanied by an original unabridged birth certificate issued by their country of birth. Rules for visas for citizens from other countries may vary, so again please check with the nearest South African Embassy or Consulate.

WHAT TO WEAR

For game drives you should wear neutral colours that will blend in with the landscape. In summer these should be lightweight, but take a windbreaker or light jacket for evenings and early mornings. In winter take a jumper (sweater), fleece or warm jacket too. Trainers (sneakers) are fine for safari walks, and it's a good idea to bring a hat, sunglasses and sun block for all seasons. You can wear whatever you like around the lodge and dining rooms. Formal wear isn't always practical, but of course it's up to you. We recommend that you bring a couple of smart-casual outfits for dinner, however jacket and tie are never required!



WHAT TO PACK

- We have a few pairs of binoculars at each lodge and one per game vehicle; however we recommend bringing your own if you are especially interested in birdlife and other creatures that are hard to spot with the naked eye!
- A camera is obviously essential! We sell memory cards and batteries in our gift shop, but it is always a good idea to bring your own just in case
- To really capture those once in a lifetime moments whilst out on a game drive, we have partnered with Africa Photographic Services in order to take the hassle out of hiring any camera equipment. Visit their website to place your order and your equipment will be ready for you on arrival at Ulusaba. www.africaphotographicservices.com/ulusaba
- All beds are equipped with mosquito nets and we supply an insect repellent called Peaceful Sleep in your room, however most guests find it convenient to have their preferred brand to carry around with them at all times. A roll-on or stick repellent are handy to have as you can apply it on game drives without accidentally spraying it on the other guests!
- In your room you will find bottled water, a safety deposit box, a fully-stocked complimentary mini-bar with drinks and snacks, hairdryer, plug adapters, an umbrella, tea and coffee making facilities, a selection of Africology guest amenities and insect repellent

PACK FOR A PURPOSE

- We are proud members of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travellers like you to make a lasting impact in the community at your travel destination. If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and bring supplies for area schools or medical clinics in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families. A full list of items you are encouraged to bring can be found on our website

at the lodges

SAFETY AND ORIENTATION AT THE CAMP

On arrival at Ulusaba you'll be taken on an orientation tour of the lodge where you're staying. Both lodges are unfenced and in the heart of one of the world's best game viewing areas. This means that animals can and sometimes do walk through and around the lodge complexes. Lodge staff will give you safety advice that relates to moving around, and this advice should be followed at all times for your safety and the safety of others. It also ensures that we have as little impact as possible on the environment and the native wildlife. You will receive full safety briefings and advice that relates to safety in and around the Lodges.

GAME VIEWING

Game drives depart in the early-morning and late-afternoon. Each lasts around 3 hours. Safari walks depart after breakfast and last about an hour. During game viewing you will always be accompanied by an experienced Ranger and Tracker. The Ranger's job is to ensure you have the best game viewing experience possible, to tell you all about everything you are seeing and to drive the game vehicle. The Tracker's job is to find the animals and to help guide the vehicle through the Bush. If there is anything specific you want to see or learn about then please let your Ranger know. Also talk to your Ranger if you have any particular fears of insects or animals that you think may affect your enjoyment of game viewing, and if there is anything at all you feel uncomfortable with.

Your Ranger, Tracker and all staff at Ulusaba will always put your safety first, however to keep you safe they do need your full cooperation! We carefully select highly experienced and fully qualified staff so please trust them and follow their instructions at all times. Before you embark on your first game drive, your Ranger will give you a full safety briefing, including how to behave at animal sightings and so on. These instructions are for the safety of you, other people in your vehicle and for the welfare of the animals and the environment you have come to see. On safari walks it is also very important to listen to instructions given by your Ranger and to follow these at all times.

Typically, game walks depart after breakfast, however the Ranger may opt to take a short walk during game drive if the situation is appropriate. Game walks focus more on the little things easily overlooked on game drive such as plants, insects and aim to educate guests about signs and tracks the animals leave behind. Walks are subject to favourable weather conditions and if for any reason our Rangers feel that to do a safari walk is unsafe it will be cancelled.



WATER

Our tap water comes from a bore hole and is safe to drink, but isn't always to everyone's taste. We provide bottled water in your rooms and there is also an unlimited supply available from the bar.



DINING



At Ulusaba dining is a very important part of your stay, and our chefs work hard from morning until night to provide the freshest and tastiest meals possible. All meals and drinks are included in your rates, and with at least six opportunities per day to eat, we promise you won't go hungry!

Breakfasts and lunches are organised 'restaurant style', but in the evenings you'll dine together at communal tables, comparing notes on the animals spotted that day. We also promise you won't be parched with all drinks including a top quality wine list and fine champagne included in your rates.



We thought we would give you a little taster as to what you can expect on a typical day at Ulusaba. You can do as little or as much as you like, it's completely up to you.

5AM - Rise and shine!

The early morning game drive sets off at 5.30am, but before you depart we have early morning teas, coffees and refreshments served on the main terrace.

5.30AM - Off we go!

We will depart on the morning game drive in an open 4 x 4 safari vehicle, stopping for refreshments in the heart of the South African bush.

9AM - Breakfast

Retreat back to the lodge for breakfast with your Ranger, giving you an opportunity to chat about what you've seen that morning and to compare sightings with other guests. Breakfast is served buffet style so you can help yourself, but there is also an à la carte menu so you can order hot dishes from our kitchen.

1.30PM - Lunch...

...is served often on one of the sundecks and tables are set up restaurant style. All dishes are made to order and there is a range of options – our Rangers favour the Kudu burger!

4PM - Afternoon Tea

Before heading off on the evening game drive we will tempt you with our afternoon tea served on the patio.

4.30PM - Game on!

It's time to depart for the evening game drive. Search for those elusive nocturnal animals after sundowner drinks served in the bush.

8PM - Dinner is served

Enjoy a pre-dinner drink at the bar while our chefs explain the evening's menu choices. Everyone makes their selection and then the meal is served communally at the large tables at each lodge. We often serve dinner in the heart of the bush under the African skies around a blazing log fire. You can expect tribal dancers and singers for a truly authentic African experience.

If all that wasn't enough, there are snacks and treats in your room along with a fully-stocked complimentary minibar.



PRIVATE DINING

Many of our guests choose to visit us for special occasions, be it an anniversary, landmark birthday, or honeymoon, so if you're after a more intimate dining experience we'd be delighted to organise this for you. Dinner can be served on a secluded deck with views over the bush at Rock Lodge, on the deck at Safari Lodge's wine cellar, in the cosy wine lounge back up at Rock Lodge, or somewhere else a little bit more secluded. Just let us know in advance and we can certainly ramp up the romance (if that's what you are after!)

WINES

Wine lovers won't go thirsty with our well-stocked wine cellar at Safari Lodge and lounge at Rock Lodge and our tailored wine tastings are a must. The Ulusaba wine experience starts with us establishing your own personal tastes. If you prefer hearty reds we won't delay your enjoyment by showcasing our best rosés, and likewise if you can't wait to sip a refreshing glass of chilled white we won't hold you back. South Africa has an excellent reputation for wine worldwide and naturally we're keen to showcase some of the best local vintages on offer. The wines speak for themselves, and we want you to feel at home, so we don't have a lengthy wine list full of 'winespeak'.

About our selection: You'll find wines from tiny family owned cellars that put so much passion into their craft because they want people to love their wine as much as they do. The traditional bigger names are also present along with some newer, equally impressive small producers, with wines from organic and biodynamic producers. There's something to suit everybody: a dry rosé for lunchtime, a beefy Cabernet Sauvignon with your game dish as well as South Africa's very own Pinotage and local specialty Chenin Blanc. You'll also find exquisitely oaked and unoaked Chardonnays and delicate Pinot Noirs for lighter dishes.



things to do...

at Ulusaba (when your'e not on game drive!)



SPA TREATMENTS

The Aroma Boma at Ulusaba is the perfect antidote to all the excitement of being out on the game drives. Book in for a relaxing treatment, from facial rituals to massage to essential grooming. The Aroma Boma at Rock Lodge is located 800 feet above the African Savannah with truly stunning views over the Bush and offers complete privacy. At Safari Lodge, The Aroma Boma is built on the banks of the dry Mabrak riverbed amongst the trees and away from the main lodge area, so the only likely disturbance is perhaps the odd elephant wandering past!

Spa treatments are available for an additional charge. You can of course book your treatment on arrival, but to guarantee your preferred time you can pre-book a treatment. Please contact our reservations team.

STARGAZING

Guests can enjoy a star gazing evening as part of their game viewing experience at our Observatory in the Bush. Our Rangers will teach all there is to know about the constellations you can see from points in the southern hemisphere!

SHOPPING

The gift shop situated at Safari Lodge is filled with a selection of arts, crafts, small gifts and clothing ranging from caps, shirts and beanies to gloves. It's the perfect place to buy a little something for your friends, family or even yourself, and has all the bits and pieces you may need when on holiday.

TREEHOUSE VIEWING DECK

The Treehouse Viewing Deck overlooking the Xikwenga Dam is a fantastic place to sit quietly and really take in the surroundings and serenity of the African Bush. Xikwenga is the largest natural water source in the Sabi Sand so there is lots of animal activity and even if nothing is visiting, the hippos and abundant bird life will keep you entertained. The Treehouse is a stunning

15 minute walk amongst the trees along the elevated walkway from Safari Lodge.

WALKING IN THE BUSH

The daily Safari walk usually commences after breakfast. This is a fascinating activity as it allows you to observe the smaller animals that you would usually not see while out on the game vehicles. Our knowledgeable Rangers and Trackers will enthral you with stories about the medicinal properties of plants, local beliefs regarding the wildlife and fascinating facts.

WORKING OUT

There are gymnasiums situated at both Rock Lodge and Safari Lodge, available for guests to use 24 hours a day.

TENNIS IN THE BUSH?

Fancy a spot of tennis? We have two floodlit tennis courts for you to play on during your stay. Don't worry about tennis racquets and tennis balls - we have everything you need as well as a fully stocked bar to entertain an audience!

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two outdoor pools- one at each lodge, and these are solar heated in the winter months (*May to September*)



families at ulusaba

Children (or Cubs, as we call them) of all ages are very welcome at Rock Lodge (including Cliff Lodge)...

which is ideal for families with children, however we unfortunately don't allow Cubs under the age of 12 to stay at Safari Lodge. As long as your Cub is aged 6 or over he or she is more than welcome on the safari game vehicles.

Because Rock Lodge is intimate we do not operate a set programme, but rather a range of great activities for your cubs to choose from. On arrival each cub will receive a backpack filled with fun and educational safari goodies. Cubs have their very own amenities in the room, just like their folks do, and in every Cub's room there will be a personal welcome letter and a special introduction to their stay with a health and safety briefing specifically aimed at younger guests.

As of 1 June 2015 some changes came into force concerning all visitors to South Africa travelling with children under 18 years of age. Visitors are now required to provide unabridged birth certificates at immigration on arrival. Further information can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website or the UK Foreign and Commonwealth website.

CUB'S CLUBS MEALS

We have a great range of child-friendly meals. Your Cubs (*that's the children*) can choose from a selection of tasty, well balanced, healthy and fun meals keeping both the parents and the Cubs happy!

WHAT CAN CUBS GET UP TO AT ULUSABA?

- A welcome treasure hunt to help Cubs familiarise themselves with their surroundings
- Cubs will explore their Arts and Crafts ability with coloured sand art and an afternoon of rock painting
- We have a great range of new and classic children's DVDs, CDs and a Nintendo Wii to keep your Cubs busy
- Cubs are able to enjoy the swimming pool with an experienced swimmer to supervise afternoon pool activities and enjoy ice-cream to re-energise
- A wide variety of educational board games, puzzles and 'Big 5' playing cards, all with a safari theme
- Traditional South African kids' games which they can teach their friends when they get home
- A mini Ranger's course where your Cub's Ranger will teach them about the African bush and how to track and identify animal footprints and dung droppings
- All Cubs will be invited to join the Pen Pal Club
- Safari walks around Rock Lodge to spot birds, insects, lizards and anything else your Cub may find
- Bedtime story-telling complete with milk and cookies, or whatever normally helps get your cubs ready for bed!
- Allow your cubs to become a safari master chef with a morning of creating and cooking homemade pizzas for lunch and cupcakes for guests to enjoy at tea
- Cubs and their folks are encouraged to visit the community so kids can learn about giving back and to see how different the lifestyles are in the community
- The Ulusaba Cub's spa treatments will ensure that your Cub is able to unwind after a busy day with a variety of specially designed treatments for children



pride 'n purpose



Pride 'n Purpose is our charitable arm committed to helping disadvantaged communities living adjacent to the Sabi Sand Reserve. All of Pride 'n Purposes's expenses are funded by Ulusaba and Virgin Unite, the group's entrepreneurial foundation, so 100% of donations go directly toward much needed projects. Donations of all sizes are very welcome and you can donate in two ways. Monetary donations can be made online, or when you visit Ulusaba, please speak to a member of the team about adding a donation onto your bill. However, donations don't just need to be monetary. Clothing and other supplies are welcome all year-round to ensure that people in the nearby community are kept warm and comfortable. If you would like to help, donations such as jumpers, beanies, socks and blankets will be sincerely appreciated. If you would be interested in making a donation at any time please send us an email to pnpadmin@ulusaba.virgin.com.

For more information about any of community tours or excursions please contact our reservation team

COMMUNITY TOURS & EXCURSIONS

Travel is always richer when you get an opportunity to connect with the local people. If you're in the mood for an authentic Shangaan experience, we organise Community Tours of the local villages. The Community Tours and Excursions are organized by Pride 'n Purpose, Ulusaba's charitable arm.

DAY IN THE LIFE

This tour looks into some of the charitable projects and schemes Ulusaba is actively involved with. We tailor this tour's itinerary according to your interests.

IT'S CHILD'S PLAY

This tour has more hands on activities. You will have the opportunity to share your skills and teach children anything from new songs to the school numbers and alphabet.

JUSTICIA VILLAGE TOUR

The Justicia Village tour has more of a cultural emphasis and it is a bit of a show and tell. Local Dancers are excited to entertain you and you may even get a taste of the local cuisine!

CANYONS, CULTURES & CONTRASTS PANORAMA DISCOVERER

A day out on the famed 'Panorama Route' along the Drakensberg Escarpment: this tour features visits to the Victorian Town of Pilgrims Rest, the infamous Robber's Grave, Blyde River Canyon, The Three Rondavels, God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and Lisbon Waterfalls.

You'll get up close and personal with some of the region's natural beauty, and we'll tell you about

the history of the area's hardy pioneers. Lunch is enjoyed at Harries Original Pancake Restaurant in Graskop, where sweet, freshly prepared, pancakes and fresh salads and other country fare are served. This is a full day excursion.

CASCADES AND CANYONS SPECTACULAR

Take an exhilarating helicopter flight that swoops over deep and mysterious gorges and through lush valleys bursting with vegetation and colour. Linger above cascading waterfalls for some brilliant photo opportunities. The flight will continue to God's Window, which offers awesome panoramic views of the bushveld below. Then it's on to the fascinating and dramatic rock formations of the 1 000-metre-deep, 30-kilometre in length, Blyde River Canyon. The Blyde is considered the third deepest and greenest Canyon in the World. You will have a bird's eye view of the curious Three Rondavels! We will then land at a site with magnificent views of the Mpumalanga Lowveld, while you tuck into a delicious picnic.

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CONTACT

South Africa

0800 056 343 (South Africa toll free)
+27 (0) 11 325 4405
enquiries@virginlimitededition.co.za

United Kingdom

0800 716 919 (UK toll free)
+44 (0) 208 600 0430
enquiries@virginlimitededition.com

United States

877 577 8777 (USA toll free)
+1 (212) 994 3070
enquiriesusa@virginlimitededition.com

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www.ulusaba.virgin.com