

FACT SHEET

Baluleni
SAFARI LODGE



AFRICAN RETREATS

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INTRODUCTION

“Welcome at Baluleni... where the river always flows”. Baluleni is a tranquil retreat for safari lovers in Balule Nature Reserve, inside greater Kruger National Park. The beauty of Baluleni Safari Lodge lies in its prestigious location on the banks of the Olifants River, while its wide range of activities and expertly arranged safari packages make it the ideal wildlife getaway.

Accommodation is classic and comfortable in the form of both thatched chalets and safari tents, all with similar amenities and varying views of the surroundings. Elke and Evert are your warm hosts with years of experience in owning and running seamless safari operations in the Kruger.

South Africa's Lowveld region is one of the country's most sought after destinations, with a range of scenic attractions and unforgettable safari experiences to offer. Baluleni designs all-encompassing activity packages, conducted from its tranquil riverside Kruger location.

AT A GLANCE

- 7 Bedroom safari lodge located in Balule Nature Reserve, inside greater Kruger National Park
- Fully-catered
- Owner-run and managed
- Safari activities including 3 hour safaris and bush walks in the Balule Reserve and along the Olifants River
- Activity packages encompassing safaris in the Balule Nature Reserve, Kruger National Park, Panorama Route tours, and the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre
- Safari lodge accommodation in 5 thatched chalets and 2 safari tents (1 chalet is Honeymoon Suite)

- Located on the banks of the Olifants River, and chalets positioned under riverine trees facing an 'animal walkway' and a waterhole frequented by wildlife
- Unfenced lodge with free-roaming wildlife throughout the lodge grounds
- Affordable getaway in South Africa's safari hub
- Road transfers from Hoedspruit, Eastgate Airport, and Phalaborwa Airport
- Located 65km from Hoedspruit and 30km from Phalaborwa

FACILITIES

- 5 Thatched chalets have tiled floors, air conditioning, ceiling fans, mosquito nets at windows, private verandahs, lounge area, en suite bathrooms (showers only)
- Chalets have 2m long queen size beds and sleeper couches, and bedrooms are secured by unique mosquito screens comfortably enclosing entire bedroom area
- Every chalet has a dressing table with mirror and hair dryer, built in wardrobe, mini-bar fridge, coffee facilities with homemade rusks, and complimentary bath products
- 1 Chalet is the 'Honeymoon Suite'
- 2 Luxury safari tents with tiled floors, two extra long 3/4 beds, facebrick en suite bathrooms (bath and shower), mosquito net windows, and private verandahs
- All safari tents have mini-bar fridge, coffee facilities with homemade rusks, a standing fan, dressing table with mirror and hairdryer, built in wardrobe, and complimentary bath products
- Open-air boma for alfresco dining around a fire
- Restaurant, with two lounges in the main lodge area
- Free WiFi available in the main lodge
- Swimming pool with sun loungers located on



- lodge grounds, freely visited by elephants
- Waterhole in the 'animal walkway' visited by various animals
- Guest toilets located in main lodge area
- Laundry service available
- Secure free parking
- No parties, music, or noise is allowed.

ACTIVITIES

- Activity packages tailor-made to incorporate various tours of the Kruger Park, Panoramic region, and other sought after South African attractions
- Visits to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre
- Panoramic tours
- Kruger National Park day trips
- Morning and afternoon safaris in greater Kruger National Park.
- Birdwatching
- Sundowners at various scenic locations
- Bush walks

TYPICAL DAY AT BALULENI SAFARI LODGE

Daily schedules change according to the seasons, guests' itineraries and requests, and activity packages. A typical day will include an early morning safari followed by a full breakfast at the lodge, or departing for the day's arranged activities.

A leisurely day at the lodge may go as follows:

- **06h00 - 09h00** Early morning safari with stop for coffee and rusks
- **09h00** Full breakfast is served
- **10h00 - 13h00** Leisure time spent at the pool or on your private deck
- **13h00** Lunch is served in the restaurant, followed by High Tea

- **14h00 - 16h00** Time out for an afternoon siesta
- **16h00 - 18h00** Sunset safari with scenic sundowners
- **19h30** 3 Course dinner is served in the boma at the lodge

LOCATION

Baluleni Safari Lodge is located in Balule Nature Reserve inside greater Kruger National Park. This is the safari hub of South Africa where some of the country's greatest attractions are located. Balule shares unfenced borders with Kruger National Park, and the lodge's location on the Olifants River brings a host of wildlife to its grounds.

Baluleni is 33km from the Kruger's Phalaborwa Gate, while the Panorama Route, Blyde River Canyon, various endangered species centres, and thrilling outdoor activities are within reach. The town of Hoedspruit is 65km away and Phalaborwa Airport is 33km away, making it easily accessible for self-driving guests as well as fly-in guests.

HOW TO GET THERE

Baluleni Safari Lodge offers transfers to and from Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport and Phalaborwa Airport. Although the dirt road from the R40 to Baluleni Safari Lodge is accessible for self-driving guests we recommend a vehicle with higher ground clearance.

Co-ordinates to Baluleni: **Latitude S 24.046414; Longitude E 31.017421**. Print directions and keep available during travel, as some GPS's may direct you to Nelspruit or elsewhere.

CHILD POLICY

Regrettably, no children under 12 can be accommodated at Baluleni Safari Lodge, and children over



12 are accommodated under adult rates. Children are the parents responsibility 24/7 as the lodge is unfenced and wild animals roam freely.

Indemnity form:

An indemnity form has to be signed on arrival at Baluleni Safari Lodge as the lodge is unfenced and wild animals roam freely.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFO:

Weather

The average mean rainfall for the year is 350mm, with most rainfall occurring during mid-summer (November - February).

The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours. The average maximum temperatures range from 24°C in July to 31°C in January with the average minimum occurring in July at a temperature of 8.5°C.

Wildlife

During the dry season the vegetation is sparse and wildlife congregates around watering holes. During the wet season the vegetation is dense and wildlife is more dispersed.

This is Big 5 area, and animals frequently seen include giraffe, zebra, warthog, baboon, hippo, crocodile, impala, kudu, vervet monkey, waterbuck, wildebeest, jackal, duiker and steenbok. Nocturnal animals like porcupine, genet and civet are seen from time to time.

Some other very special members of the wild you might also see include the wild dog, honey badger, hyena, and caracal. Birds can be spotted from all over the lodge, but some of the top species are

vultures, owls, bee-eaters, rollers, eagles, bustards, hornbills, starlings and shrikes.

Malaria

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation, however a repellent stick or spray is effective and should be utilised. All rooms have mosquito nets as an extra repellent.

WHAT TO PACK

The climate in the Kruger lowveld brings hot summer months between October and April when the rainfall is high, and so is the temperature, reaching over 40 degrees Celsius.

The dry winter months begin in May and carry on until October/November, during which time the weather is mild during the day with temperatures averaging mid-high 20s, while very cold in the evenings and early mornings.

- Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves
- Bring sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses.
- Scarfs, jackets and gloves are needed for early morning safaris, especially in winter.
- Comfortable walking shoes as well as open sandals for when the weather is hot.
- Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings.