

# Ezulwini

BILLY'S LODGE

## FACTSHEET



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### INTRODUCTION

Succumb to bushveld luxury at Ezulwini Billy's Lodge, which is built on the banks of a riverbed seasonally visited by rain bringing herds of grazing animals and their predatory counterparts right to the vicinity of the lodge. Located in the Balule Nature Reserve, a pristine private region of the Greater Kruger Park.

A lodge decked with leadwood masterpieces and high, thatched roofs, there is an element of space and opulence throughout the main area, extending to the superb private suites. Plunge pools, sun decks, and both indoor and open-air showers, Billy's Lodge caters to guests with a taste for sumptuousness.

Meals are served in the boma around a dancing fire, in a cosy African-inspired dining room, or outside on the deck. Sounds of the nightlife fill the air and lull you to sleep in the comfort of your safari suite before an early morning wake up call signifies the start of an exciting day in the South African bush.

### AT A GLANCE

- Luxury safari lodge located in the private Balule Game Reserve, Greater Kruger.
- Accommodating only 12 people at most, Billy's Lodge is small and keeps the experience intimate.
- The lodge allures with opulent wood, leather and glass accents, while incorporating the wild into its structure.
- 3 Superior suites that are spacious and private with plunge pools, open-air showers, lounges, and mini-bars.
- 3 Standard rooms with ensuite bathrooms, cupboard space, air-conditioning and overhead fans.
- Rusks and biscuits served before game drive, hot

brunch served on the deck after game drive, and high tea served before afternoon drive, while dinner is a feast served indoors or outdoors.

- Private traverse of the Balule Reserve, off-roading, and stopping for morning coffee and afternoon sundowners.
- Lazy afternoons can be spent at the lookout deck watching game at the waterhole.
- Multiple areas to relax outdoors around the lodge.
- Elephants and other animals come in close range of the lodge due to the unobtrusive fencing, adding to the wild experience.
- Shared swimming pool surrounded by trees and shade; plus individual plunge pools in suites.

### FACILITIES

- Main lodge with bar, indoor lounge, TV, and dining room
- Shaded main deck with leather couches and views into the bush
- 'Sky walk' - raised wooden walkway leading off the main deck to viewing point overlooking waterhole
- 3 Superior suites with private plunge pools and open-air showers
- 3 Standard rooms with ensuite bathrooms
- Boardwalks leading to each suite lit by lanterns and lined with natural vegetation
- Open-air boma area for traditional, outdoor dining around a fire
- Wine cellar built into the natural rocks under the main deck and incorporating a hand-crafted knobthorn display table
- Extra towels and blankets in all rooms
- Air-conditioning and ceiling fans in all rooms
- Suites have mini-bars and hot beverage stations
- Evening turn-down service



- Main lodge swimming pool
- There is **free WiFi** at both Billy's and River Lodge. The signal strength is good at the entertainment areas, and for sending emails but very slow for downloading large files which we do not recommend.

### ACTIVITIES

Safari activities at Ezulwini Billy's Lodge revolve around morning and evening game drives in the private traverse of the Balule Nature Reserve, Greater Kruger, but there are many ways to keep busy during a stay at the lodge.

- Morning and afternoon game drives in 4x4 safari vehicles led by guide and tracker. Morning game drives begin at 06h00 and afternoon game drives depart from the lodge at 16h00.
- Photographic opportunities both on drive and from the various viewpoints around the lodge.
- Bird watching from the lodge and while on game drive.
- Sundowners in the bush enjoyed during afternoon game drive as the sun is setting.
- Boma dinners around the fire and under the stars.
- Traditional South African cooking over an open fire in the boma.

### TYPICAL DAY AT EZULWINI BILLY'S LODGE

A typical morning at Billy's Lodge begins with a wake up call for early morning game drive, and ends with a few drinks around the traditional boma fire under a star-filled sky. Below is summary of how a typical day is structured at the lodge.

- 05h00 Wake up call
- 05h30 Rusks, tea and coffee at the lodge
- 06h00 Depart for game drive

- 08h30-09h00 Return to the lodge after game drive and take some time to freshen up before breakfast
- 09h30-10h30 Breakfast is served on the deck in the sunshine, or on the shaded veranda overlooking the surrounding bush
- 10h30-14h00 Leisure time during which guests may relax in their rooms, at the lodge, at the pool, or on the lookout deck
- 14h00-15h00 Lunch is served on the deck in the sunshine
- 15h30 Afternoon tea served just before departing for game drive
- 16h00 Depart the lodge for afternoon game drive, during which time guests stop for sundowners and enjoy a short night drive upon return to camp
- 19h30-20h00 Return to the lodge after game drive and spend a few minutes refreshing or having a drink at the bar before dinner is served.
- 20h30 Gather in the boma and take your seats in the dining area while dinner is served

### LOCATION

Ezulwini Billy's Lodge is located in the Balule Nature Reserve, which makes up part of the Greater Kruger Park. Sharing unfenced borders with the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve and the Kruger National Park, Balule enjoys the free-flow of wildlife throughout its traverse, putting Ezulwini Billy's Lodge in the heart of it all. The reserve is about a 45 minute drive from Hoedspruit - the safari capital of Limpopo.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Guests at Billy's Lodge can access the lodge via self-drive or road transfer after flying to Eastgate





airport in Hoedspruit. The drive from Eastgate airport to Billy's Lodge is about 1 hour in duration along the well-travelled R40. Guests will enter the Balule Reserve through the Olifants West gate and drive a short distance through the reserve to the lodge.

Guests flying to Johannesburg OR Tambo airport can take a shuttle or self-drive option to cover the 6 hour car journey to the Balule Reserve.

### 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 mean average maximum temperatures range from 24.5°C in July to 31.5°C in January with the mean monthly 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. Expect to see the Big Five over the course of a 2-3-night stay.

In addition to the Big Five species that are regularly sighted and enjoyed at close range, animals frequently seen in the Balule Reserve include giraffe, zebra, warthog, spotted hyena, baboon, hippo, impala, kudu, vervet monkey, waterbuck, wildebeest, bush baby, mongoose, duiker and steenbok.

Some other very special members of the wild

you might also see include the wild dog, cheetah, honey badger, porcupine, armadillo, civet, caracal and serval. 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 mornings on game drive, 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.