

FACT SHEET



AFRICAN RETREATS

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THE ISLAND RIVER LODGE



INTRODUCTION TRANQUILITY THROUGH EXCLUSIVITY

Situated on a private island in the middle of the Blyde River, enveloped by large indigenous trees and dense vegetation, is a remarkable oasis called The Island River Lodge. This unique eden offers the discerning traveler the perfect combination of wild virgin bushveld and riverine water paradise, and is accessed via a causeway, which has only recently been built. It's raw, wild and untouched!

The lodge has been carefully constructed to take advantage of the views of the mighty Blyde River and the backdrop of the Klein Drakensberg mountains. Rhodesian Teak decking in the main area of the lodge houses a relaxing infinity pool, outdoor dining area, lounge and a number of lookout points. The boma area is under a canopy of indigenous trees and offers a sense of privacy on the water's edge. Construction of the lodge looks like a modern extension of its natural surrounds, and not an intrusion.

The main decking area is built around a some large and old trees, which serves as the central point and canopy over the main outdoor area. The boma area (catered guests) is where evenings are spent listening to the rapids of the Blyde River below and the crackle of the flames from the boma's campfire. The trumpeter hornbills will serenade you with their calls while you're listening to the flowing river besides the deck area.

Rustic and authentic accommodation is provided on a fully catered or self-catering basis, and is available in four river facing chalets and four uniquely designed mountain facing tents on wooden platforms (each strategically placed for additional privacy). There are outdoor showers in all the chalets and two of the luxury tents, with 2 chalets also offering deep lounging baths. Rooms are

interlinked via meandering pathways that are lit during evening times.

There are world-class attractions in the vicinity, making The Island River Lodge a perfect base for your Kruger and Limpopo excursions. Recommended is the Panorama route and exploring the wonders of the Kruger to Canyons biosphere. Trips to the Bourke Luck Potholes, God's window, big five game drives either in private game reserves or the Kruger and much more can all be arranged prior to your stay.

When you're not out and about, we recommend exploring The Island River Lodge's own backyard, an 8 hectare stretch of land with plenty of paths and gentle walks. There's a swing bridge with astounding views of the river and lush vegetation. Enjoy the serene surrounds while relaxing at the poolside listening to the surrounding birdsong.

Don't be surprised to see an abundance of birdlife fluttering about, and if you're lucky enough, you might spot a hippo grazing on the grounds of the lodge.



THE ISLAND RIVER LODGE



This place is for the serene soul, the one that favours unique bushveld luxury in a riverine setting.

AT A GLANCE

- Located on a private island surrounded by the Blyde River and flanked by the Klein Drakensberg mountains.
- An elevated Rhodesian Teak balcony in the main area surrounded by 200 - 300 year old indigenous trees.
- Birder's paradise : Trumpeter hornbills, Pel's fishing-owl and kingfishers are just a few of the species to spot.
- Sweeping views of the river below from the viewing deck, boma and swimming pool area.
- Walks around the 8 hectare surrounds on paths along the riverfront.
- Accommodation comprises two communal areas to meet specific culinary requirements (catered or self catered); and uniquely designed tents and chalets for the same purpose.
- Rooms have balconies with either mountain or river view
- Flexibility in terms of guests' needs.
- Fully catered (breakfast and dinner) or self-catering available.
- Natural finishings complimenting the surrounding bush.
- Options to explore nearby tourist attractions either self drive basis or pre-booking an excursion.
- Sundowners in secluded romantic spots.

FACILITIES

- 8 Rooms : Four luxury tents (2 x queen; 2 x twin); four chalets (2 x queen; 2 x twins)
- En-suite bathrooms in all units, with outside showers in all chalets and two of the tents
- Automated mosquito spray in each unit and main lodge

- Fans in each chalet/tent
- All units have own personal fridge and coffee & tea making facilities
- Tents are also self contained with own braai area
- Communal boma and braai area with fully functioning kitchen (self catering guests)
- Large outdoor braai area and fire pit with seating area on outdoor deck (catered guests)
- Indoor and outdoor dining areas in both areas
- Communal seating area with library in main lodge
- Free WiFi
- USB charging points in all rooms
- Swimming pool
- Viewing decks
- Credit card facilities
- Wheelchair accessible chalets and one of the tents has ramp access

ACTIVITIES

- Outside dining under the stars.
- Activities off-site : Panorama Route, big five game drives, hot-air ballooning, visits to cultural centres, hiking and mountain biking.
- Activities on-site : Fishing, bird watching and walks on the 8 hectare island.
- Traditional braais and campfires in the boma area
- Sundowners at scenic locations.

A TYPICAL DAY

The day is at your leisure, and there are no set activities. The only structured times are dinner and breakfast for catered guests.

- Check in 14:00 / Check out 10:00
- Breakfast served from 07:00 - 09:00; dinner from 18:00-20:00
- Lunch can be ordered on request (at additional charge)

THE ISLAND RIVER LODGE



LOCATION

The Island River Lodge is situated on a private island surrounded by the Blyde River, 15km outside the town of Hoedspruit in the big five area of the Limpopo Province.

HOW TO GET THERE

The closest town to The Island River Lodge is Hoedspruit which is an easy five hour drive from Johannesburg/OR Tambo International Airport.

Take the N4 towards Nelspruit, take the Belfast turning and follow sign posts for Dullstrom/Lydenburgh. Once you reach Lydenburgh follow the sign posts towards Tzaneen/Origstadt and once you get to the Tzaneen (R90) turning continue straight onto the R527 for 17.5km.

You will then come to the R531 on your right, follow this for 400m, turn right on to dirt road sign posted for Blyde Mountain Country House. Once at the first gate, turn immediately left down the farm road for 500m until you reach a turning on the right, this is the causeway entry to The Island River Lodge.

Should guests choose to fly in, Eastgate Airport is located 15 km from Hoedspruit. Rental vehicles are available at the airport.

Exit the Eastgate Airport and turn right on the tar road. At the T-junction, turn right on the R40 towards Hoedspruit. At the second intersection, turn left on the R527. After 15km, turn left onto the R531. After 400 metres, turn right at the entrance to Blue Mountain Country House. Once through the gate, immediately turn left, follow the dirt track for 500 metres until a turning to the right – this is the causeway to the lodge.

GPS coordinates: S24'24.035 - E30'49.309

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Weather:

The average rainfall per year in the Hoedspruit area is 350 mm with most of it occurring during mid-summer (November-February). The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a heavy downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours.



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The average maximum temperatures range from 24 degrees Celsius in July to 32 degrees Celsius in January, but can reach low 40's at times.

Wildlife:

Tall and majestic indigenous trees shroud most of the island, with three distinct biospheres making up the 8 hectare island. An abundance of birds can be observed, including the trumpeter hornbill and Pel's fishing-owl. The Blyde River is also home to hippos and crocodiles while the Cape clawless otter has also been spotted on occasion.

Malaria

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation, as the Greater Kruger area is a high malaria area but a repellent stick or spray is effective and should also be utilised as well - especially outdoors at any time of the day.

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 chilly (5 degrees) 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 sun block, sun hats, and glasses, even during winter months.
- Scarves, fleeces, jackets, beanie, hat and gloves are advisable for early mornings between April and September - especially on game drives in open sided vehicles.
- 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.
- If self-catering, bring own food and drinks

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