

NambuCamp

FACT SHEET



AFRICAN RETREATS

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INTRODUCTION

Elevated above the landscape and built on an old anthill lies Nambu Camp, located in the heart of the Greater Kruger in the Balule Game Reserve. This 6-bedroom safari camp overlooks a winding dry riverbed, bustling waterhole and the Drakensberg Mountain range which carves across the distant skyline. Views of this wilderness are framed by the lodge's unique and open design.

The camp has been in the Drinkwater family for almost 40 years, passed down through the generations and home to many memories with both family and friends. The name Nambu means 'river' in the local language of IsiThonga, and this unique lodge has many ties to this natural source that flows through the traverse. From the family name to the flowing waters of the Olifant's River nearby. Tawny eagles soar above and herds of elephants drink down below; this hilltop lodge is certainly a wildlife haven surrounded by nature.

During the heat of the day, relax by the camp's poolside or bird watch from the lodge's vast viewing platform before a mid-day brunch up at the main camp. Here at Nambu there are two activities per day, situated in a big five reserve head out on foot or on safari and explore this vast and diverse landscape, you never know what you may find here in South Africa's true wilderness.

AT A GLANCE

- A 6-Bedroom safari lodge located in the Balule Reserve, 16.2km from Hoedspruit
- First activity of the day: A 3hour early morning safari out on the reserve with a bush-style coffee stop before heading back to camp for a light and healthy breakfast.
- During the heat of the day, relax in the late morning whilst watching the wildlife below and the birds throughout camp before brunch is served at 1pm at

the lodge.

- Nambu's spacious viewing platform overlooks a dry riverbed and waterhole where many of the bushveld's inhabitants come to visit, from herd of elephants, towering giraffes, to the nocturnal and elusive predators.
- A large traverse area with the Olifant's River running through the reserve, rocky outcrops, drainage lines and natural springs, which makes for incredible game viewing amongst the landscape scenery.
- Simple, yet modern and stylish cuisine is served in the open dining area which overlooks the vast landscape below.
- Second activity of the day: Set off on a late afternoon game drive to explore more of this diverse reserve. After a few hours out on safari and just before the sun sets, share a drink and a game of croquet together at one of the many scenic spots, whether it's down by the river watching the hippo pod or high on an outcrop facing the Drakensberg Mountain range and the changing colours of an iconic African sunset. You'll then head back to camp for drinks around the fire before dinner is served.
- Natural, safari-style décor throughout, raised wooden pathways lead the way through the camp and gardens.
- Swimming pool and sun lounges with bushveld and mountain views.
- A birding paradise - Many species of birds are found throughout the reserve, from the vibrant sunbirds in the camp's garden, the rare pel's fishing owl down at river to the tawny eagles that nest in front of the lodge, Nambu's viewing deck is the perfect place to sit back and spot all nature.

FACILITIES & YEARLY FEATURES

- 6 safari-style, en-suite bedrooms - located amongst the trees with king size beds, modern bathrooms overlooking the bushveld with double showers and



an outside deck. (Twin beds also available)

- Accommodating up to 12 people, Nambu is a quiet and intimate safari camp.
- Framed scenic views from the upper deck and an open-air viewing platform below.
- Air-conditioning / Overhead fans in all rooms.
- Tea/Coffee making facilities in each room
- Bathroom products are supplied
- Swimming pool located on lower deck with waterhole views
- Shaded and comfortable lounge areas on both upper and lower decks, perfect for wildlife viewing
- Lodge boma area and fireplace / Fires are lit before the evening meal is served.
- Daily turndown service / Laundry available upon request
- Wifi available at the lodge
- Nambu Artist Residency
- Nambu Yoga Retreat

ACTIVITIES

- **Game Drives** - A 3hour morning / 2hour afternoon safari in a big five private concession in the Balule Game Reserve, which forms part of the Greater Kruger. Learn about the flora and fauna of the African bush. Early morning's and late evening's are the best time for game viewing. Stop for morning coffee or an evening sundowner during your safari drives.
- **Morning Walk** - During your stay here at Nambu there is an option to swap out one of the morning safari drives for a morning walk. Head out at sunrise, walk through the riverbed and along to the river. Walking in the wild not only allows you to get up close to nature, but you gain a more in depth understanding of the bushveld around you, everything from the tracks to the trees. There are many archaeological sites dotted throughout the reserve so walking allows you to explore these areas and different artefacts from hand axes, milling stones

to soap stones which date back to the late stone age between 9,000- 12,000 years old.

- **Kruger National Park Day-Trip** - Experience a full day-trip to the abundant and beautiful Kruger National Park with a private safari guide. Game viewing in the park is exceptional, leave the lodge in the early morning with a packed-breakfast and spend the entire day exploring the park searching for many of South Africa's iconic animals before returning to camp for dinner.
- **Private Panoramic day-trips** - One of the most scenic drives in South Africa. Take a day to explore the views of this dramatic landscape, stopping off at the many viewpoints along this picturesque journey.
- **Bird-watching** - Listen and look out for many of the bird species found here in the reserve and here at Camp. According to BLSA there are over 839 species of birds found here in South Africa, so it always helps having a pair of binoculars to hand, also our guides are always happy to help identify the birds you see.





TYPICAL DAY AT NAMBU CAMP

Daily schedules change according to what guests have planned or pre-booked for the duration of their stay. A typical day at Nambu will include 2 activities, a light breakfast, a hearty and healthy brunch, sundowner drinks & games. Finally ending the day with an elegant evening dinner.

- **05h00:** Wake up Call / Morning Coffee & Rusks
- **05h30:** Morning Game Drive / Bush Walk Departs
- **09h00:** Head back to camp for a light breakfast overlooking the riverbed
- **01h00:** Head down to the lodge where brunch is served
- **16h30:** Afternoon Game Drive Departs
- **18h00:** Sunset Drinks, Canapés & Games
- **19h00:** Freshen up after the safari, take a seat round the roaring fire before an elegant and delicious evening meal is served.

Please note: Game drive times alter slightly on a seasonal basis.



LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

Nambu Camp is located in the big five Balule Private Game Reserve in the heart of the Greater Kruger, 16.2 km outside of Hoedspruit. The Eastgate Airport is a short 45-minute drive away, making it easily accessible for fly-in guests, while many might choose to self-drive from Johannesburg, which is a scenic 5-hour drive away.

Nambu Camp is easily accessible for self-driving guests. Directions as follows:

From Hoedspruit:

- Leaving the town of Hoedspruit, take the R40 towards Phalaborwa
- Travel 16.2 kilometers on the R40 to reach the Balule – Olifants West Gate on your right. Turn right into the Balule boom gate.
- The gate guard will ask your destination: Nambu Camp.
- You will be asked to fill in a visitor's permit and to make a payment of R50 per car and R100 conservation fee (per person)
- Directly after the entrance gate, take a sharp left and drive along the fence for 890m. Keep right once you get to a road named Maroela Laan.
- Continue along this road for 5.7km until you get to a T-junction.
- Take a left, then an immediate right where you will see the Nambu Camp sign.
- Continue on this road for a short 40m and turn right up a slight incline for 80m
- Take a left and follow a rocky road for 610m and you will reach the entrance to Nambu Camp.

From Johannesburg:

- Exiting O.R. Tambo, take the R21 (Boksburg) motorway and then the N12 toward Witbank/ eMalahleni
- The N12 merges with the N4. Continue on the N4, through Middelburg.
- At the R33 turn-off, turns towards Belfast.



- In Belfast, follow the signs to Dullstroom (R540).
- Travel through Dullstroom toward Lydenburg / Mashishing on the R540, and continue to Ohrigstad (R36).
- At Ohrigstad, follow the road to Hoedspruit (R527).
- From here, the road leads from the Highveld down to the Lowveld as you descend the escarpment.
- Entering Hoedspruit, turn left to Phalaborwa on R40.
- Travel 16.2 kilometres on the R40 to reach the Balule – Olifant's West Gate on your right. Turn right into the Balule boom gate.
- The gate guard will ask your destination: Nambu Camp.
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From Nelspruit:

- From Mbombel (Nelspruit) proceed in the direction of White River on the R537.
- After White River take the R40 to Hazyview. Follow this road until you reach a T-junction.
- Turn left at the T-junction (you are still on the R40), drive through Hazyview.
- At the four-way stop continue straight on the R40 past Bosbokrand (Bushbuck Ridge) and Acornhoek.
- After Acornhoek the R40 will continue northwards towards Hoedspruit / Phalaborwa.
- Entering Hoedspruit, follow the R40 to Phalaborwa.

- Travel 16.2 kilometres on the R40 to reach the Balule – Olifant's West Gate on your right. Turn right into the Balule boom gate.
- The gate guard will ask your destination: Nambu Camp.
- You will be asked to fill in a visitor's permit and to make a payment of R50 per car and R100 per person. This nature conservation fee is for your private account.
- Directly after the entrance gate, take a sharp left and drive along the fence for 890m. Keep right once you get to a road named Maroela Laan.
- Continue along this road for 5.7km until you get to a T-junction.
- Take a left, then an immediate right where you will see the Nambu Camp sign.
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CHILD POLICY

Children over the age of 8 are welcome here at Nambu Camp.





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 34°C in January with the average minimum occurring in July at a temperature of 8.5°C.

Wildlife

Nambu Camp is built in the heart of the Balule Private Nature Reserve which is open to the Kruger National Park. This wild and diverse reserve is home to the big five and overall a vast array of wildlife. The camp itself overlooks a winding dry riverbed and waterhole and there are also natural springs dotted in the riverbed, many animals are drawn to the little oasis. This undulating landscape means that there are many great vantage points perfect for spotting any movement below from the towering giraffes, herds of elephants to the bushveld's predators. The flowing waters of the Olifant's River run through the reserve and life can always be found here and you're almost guaranteed to see large pods of hippo and basking crocodiles. The Balule birdlife is second to none with a huge variety of riverine species drawn to the winding waterway. The rare pel's fishing owl has quite often been seen as well as kingfishers, herons, vultures and many eagle species. However, a perfect location to observe the birdlife, is at the camp itself - where a tawny eagle's nest can be seen in front and vibrant sunbirds are attracted by the flourishing gardens here at Nambu. Bird-watching at camp is a true highlight.

Malaria

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their

local doctors on anti-malarial medication in preparation for their visit to the Lowveld. Insect repellent should also be utilised.

WHAT TO PACK

The climate in the Kruger Lowveld brings the 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.
- Insect Repellent
- 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.
- Cameras & Binoculars for the many wildlife sightings and day-trips on your visit to South Africa
- Adaptor plug

