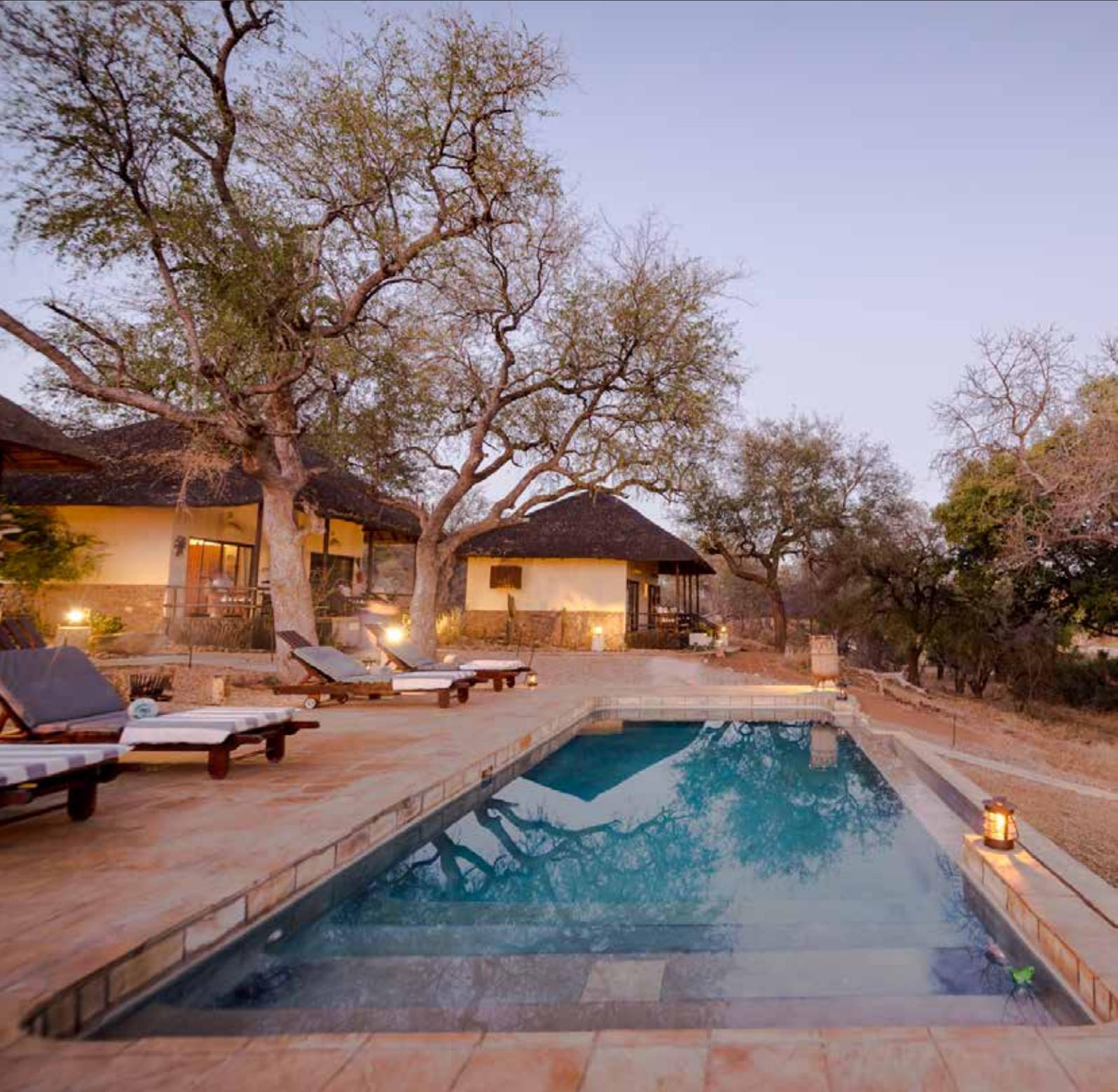


# FACT SHEET



Phakamani  
RIVER LODGE



AFRICAN RETREATS

Reservations: Corlia Oosthuizen  
Telephone: +27 (15) 7930259  
E-mail: [reservations@african-retreats.co.za](mailto:reservations@african-retreats.co.za)

Marketing: Cecilia Blunden  
Email: [cecilia@african-retreats.co.za](mailto:cecilia@african-retreats.co.za)  
Website: [www.african-retreats.co.za](http://www.african-retreats.co.za)



## INTRODUCTION

Built above the bustling banks of the Olifant's, Phakamani is a riverside retreat set in the heart of the Balule / Parsons Nature Reserve, forming part of the Greater Kruger.

The name Phakamani derives from the local language of Shangaan, meaning to 'Rise Up'. Giant Sycamore Figs, Marulas and Jackelberry trees frame the lodge and its riverfront views and bring with them an abundance of life, from nesting fish eagles and bounding baboons to the iconic big-five.

This 4-bedroom lodge can accommodate up to 8 people in its stylish river view chalets. Each room has a section of balcony which overlooks the surrounding wilderness and winding waters below. Stone lined pathways lead the way from the rooms to the main lodge where you will find the dining room, lounge, bar, infinity pool and sun lounge area. Take a stroll down to the river and you'll find a few secluded and shaded seating areas, offering a perfect place to relax and take in the sounds and sights of nature.

Phakamani is situated in the Southern section of the Balule / Parsons Nature Reserve and has access to 3,000 hectares of Big-Five traverse. Take a safari drive and head out and explore this untamed and abundant landscape, the wilderness can be full of surprises.

## AT A GLANCE & LODGE FACILITIES

- Remote riverside retreat set in the heart of the Balule / Parsons Nature Reserve, 46km from Hoedspruit
- Located on the banks on the Olifant's River offering spectacular wildlife viewing from the lodge.
- Sleeps up to 8 people in stylish, river-view chalets. All of which have their own section of balcony facing down to the river, toiletries, mosquito nets, AC, wardrobe, tea & coffee facilities and double basin bathrooms.
- Double & Twin rooms available

- Free Wifi throughout the lodge & connectivity in all rooms
- The lodge infinity pool, sun loungers and shaded outside sofa area all overlook the river and wilderness below.
- Phakamani overlooks the winding waters of the Olifant's River and also has waterhole in front of the lodge, attracting many of the bushveld's inhabitants from herd of elephants, wandering hippos to even Africa's prowling predators.
- A birding paradise - Being located on the river means that many species are drawn to the rich waters, from fish eagles and owls to barbets and cranes, grab a pair of binoculars, a bird book and head down to the secluded seats at the river.
- Shuttle service & Airport pick-up available on request (Additional Charge). The lodge is also easily accessible for self-drive guests.
- Daily turndown service included & laundry is available at an additional charge of R100 per bag.
- Game Drives conducted in the Big-Five Balule /Parsons reserve in 3,000 hectares of wilderness
- Can be booked on an exclusive-use basis, for a family and friends getaway or even a honeymoon couple wanting a private bush experience.
- Natural safari-style décor throughout with stone lined pathways leading the way around the lodge grounds, which are also lit up with lanterns in the evenings.
- Simple and delicious South African style meals which are served in either in the boma area close to the river or up at the main lodge.

## ACTIVITIES

- **Game Drives** - Expect a 3-hour morning / afternoon safari in the Big-Five Balule / Parsons Game Reserve, which forms part of the Greater Kruger. Learn about Africa's intricate flora and fauna by your knowledgeable and qualified guides, with early morning's and late evening's being the best time for game viewing. During your activity, stop for morning coffee or an evening



sundowner during your safari drives.

- **Kruger National Park | Full Day-Trip** – Experience a full day-trip to the world renowned 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-Trip** – Discover 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 soaring the skies or fluttering around the lodge. According to BLSA there are over 839 species of birds found in Southern Africa, so it always helps having a pair of binoculars to hand, and our guides are always happy to help identify the birds you see.

- **Other activities** available in the area include: Moholoholo Wildlife Rehab Centre, Endangered Species Centre, Hot-Air Balloon Rides, Blyde Boat Cruise, Horse-riding and Cultural Village Tours.
- **Spa Treatments** – Available on request in your room. We have a qualified masseuse on site. Please contact reservation for a treatment price list and availability.

## TYPICAL DAY AT PHAKAMANI RIVER LODGE

Daily schedules change according to what guests have planned or pre-booked for the duration of their stay. A typical day at Phakamani will include 2 activities, a hearty breakfast, a light lunch, sundowner drinks & snacks. Finally ending the day around the boma fire before indulging in our 3-course evening meal.

- **04h30:** Wake up call / Morning coffee & rusks
- **05h00:** Morning Game Drive departs
- **09h00:** Head back to camp for breakfast overlooking the river
- **01h00:** A light lunch is served at the lodge
- **16h00:** Afternoon game drive departs
- **19h00:** Back to camp, freshen up after your safari, take a seat round the roaring fire before the three-course evening meal is served.

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

## LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

Built above the bustling banks of the Olifant's, Phakamani is a riverside retreat set in the heart of the Balule / Parsons Nature Reserve, forming part of the Greater Kruger and only 46km outside of Hoedspruit. Both East-gate and Palaborwa airport are an hour drive away,





making it easily accessible for fly-in guests. While many might choose to self-drive from Johannesburg, which is a scenic 6-hour drive away. Phakamani River Lodge is easily accessible for self-driving guests. (High-Clearance vehicle recommended)

*Directions as follows:*

#### **FROM HOEDSPRUIT:**

- Leaving the town of Hoedspruit, take the R40 towards Phalaborwa
- Travel 33km kilometers on the R40 to reach the Balule -Parsons gate on your right.
- A once off R70 Conservation Levy is charged at the gate as well as R100 per vehicle, which is payable by cash at the gate.
- Travel 5.4km from the main Balule / Parsons Gate until you get to Nyathi Gate and carry on 1.4km to get to the black sliding gate and keep right.
- Travel another 1.7km to Sopies Hoogte and in another 400m keep right at Elephant Game Lodge / Balule Bush Camp sign.
- Continue straight past Parsons Hilltop Safari Camp sign
- Travel another 500m keep left at Isilimela sign.
- Drive another 2.3km and follow the sign towards Phakamani River Lodge.

#### **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).
- Leaving the town of Hoedspruit, take the R40 towards Phalaborwa

- Travel 33km kilometers on the R40 to reach the Balule -Parsons gate on your right.
- A once off R70 Conservation Levy is charged at the gate as well as R100 per vehicle, which is payable by cash at the gate.
- Travel 5.4km from the main Balule / Parsons Gate until you get to Nyathi Gate and carry on 1.4km to get to the black sliding gate and keep right.
- Travel another 1.7km to Sopies Hoogte and in another 400m keep right at Elephant Game Lodge / Balule Bush Camp sign.
- Continue straight past Parsons Hilltop Safari Camp sign
- Travel another 500m keep left at Isilimela sign.
- Drive another 2.3km and follow the sign towards Phakamani River Lodge.

## CHILD POLICY

Children over the age of 6 are welcome at Phakamani River Lodge. Please accompany your children at all times as we are an unfenced camp on the river and located in a Big-Five area.

## WEATHER

The average mean rainfall for the year in the Greater Kruger region 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

Phakamani River Lodge is built in the heart of the Balule / Parsons 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 the lush and abundant Olifant's River and it's own waterhole, and many animals are drawn to this life source, especially in the dry winter months. The undulating landscape surrounding Phakamani means that there are many great vantage points perfect for spotting any movement below from the towering giraffes, herds of elephants to even the bushveld's predators.

The flowing waters of the Olifant's River run in front of the lodge and through the entire reserve and life can always be found here, you're almost guaranteed to see large pods of hippo, basking crocodiles, elephant herds, waterbuck, bushbuck, kudu, warthog, giraffe, and a vast array of birds.

The Balule / Parsons birdlife is second to none and harbours a huge variety of riverine species, drawn in by the winding waterway. The rare pel's fishing owl has been seen in front of the lodge and kingfishers, herons, vultures and many eagle species are common sightings. A perfect place to

observe the bird life, is either from your room deck, or better yet down by the river at our shaded seating areas. Bird-watching at Phakamani 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 especially here at the river.

- 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 - European adapters available. USB ports available in the rooms.



# FACT SHEET



Phakamani  
ZELATI LODGE



AFRICAN RETREATS

Reservations: Corlia Oosthuizen  
Telephone: +27 (15) 7930259  
E-mail: [reservations@african-retreats.co.za](mailto:reservations@african-retreats.co.za)

Marketing: Cecilia Blunden  
Email: [cecilia@african-retreats.co.za](mailto:cecilia@african-retreats.co.za)  
Website: [www.african-retreats.co.za](http://www.african-retreats.co.za)



## INTRODUCTION

Nestled in nature and situated in the big-five Makalali Private Nature Reserve, Phakamani Zelati Lodge & Villa offers an authentic safari experience and bush retreat in the Lowveld region of South Africa.

There are two accommodation types to choose from here at Zelati - there are 6 'Bush Chalets' at the main lodge as well as our exclusive use country-style villa. Whether you're looking for a weekend in the wild with family & friends or a romantic retreat for two, Zelati is an ideal destination to experience an authentic, 'back to nature' safari.'

Build beneath a canopy of leadwoods, marulas, sicklebush & sausage trees - the Zelati gardens offer a scenic and shaded spot to take in the natural surrounds. The camp itself is fenced and looks onto a set of three waterholes which are frequented by a variety of game, from wild dogs to warthogs. There are 2 safari activities a day, where you can head out with your guide and explore this wildlife haven.

Enjoy garden games, boma nights, traditional food and an authentic safari experience at Phakamani Zelati Lodge.

## AT A GLANCE & LODGE FACILITIES

- Built in the big-five Makalali Reserve, Phakamani Zelati Lodge offers guests a secluded safari stay, 80km from the town of Hoedspruit.
- Sleeps up to 12 people in 6 simple 'Bush Chalets. All of which have their own section of balcony facing into the lush garden grounds.
- The Zelati Villa can sleep 8 people (maximum of 10) and can only be booked on an exclusive-use basis, ideal for a family and friends getaway. When you book the villa you also get the entire lodge to yourself, a private chef and can even add on extra people to stay in the Bush Chalets.
- The Zelati Treehouse can also be booked in conjunction with accommodation booked at the main lodge.

Only a short drive from the main camp, this unique accommodation can be booked as an overnight add on to your stay, a romantic dining experience or even a birthday braai.

- Double & Twin rooms available in the Bush Chalets and double beds in the Villa.
- During your stay you can book a romantic 'bush bath' which overlooks the surrounding bush - free of charge.
- Free Wifi throughout the lodge & connectivity in all rooms
- Both the main lodge and villa overlook a series of waterholes that are dotted outside the fence perimeter, attracting many of Makalali's animals and birds.
- A birding paradise - grab a pair of binoculars, a bird book and take a seat in the garden, there are many different species to see here from kingfishers and barbets to hornbills and rollers.
- Shuttle service & Airport pick-up available on request at an additional charge - The lodge is also easily accessible for self-drive guests.
- Daily turndown service included & laundry is available at an additional charge of R100 per bag.
- Two activities per day conducted in the big-five Makalali Reserve, known for its spectacular game viewing. Home to the big-five and a diverse plethora of life, where even wild dogs and cheetah can be seen.
- A variety of species can be spotted around the lodge, coming to quench their thirst at one of the many waterholes - the camp has an unobtrusive fence, ensuring both safety and close up game viewing from the comfort of the lodge.
- Simple and delicious South African style meals are served either around the boma fire, at the main lodge or even down in the Zelati Treehouse.
- Grab a drink from the Zelati bar, take a dip in the pool, enjoy garden games and watch the wildlife come to drink during the heat of the day.

## SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Makalali translates to 'place of rest' in the local language of



Shangaan – Back in the early 90's, this area of wilderness was originally used for cattle farming. Today it now hosts the big-five and is a revered reserve, with a conservation mission of expanding South Africa's wilderness areas.

Included in your stay are two activities per day which consist of a 3-hour morning / afternoon safari in this scenic and abundant reserve. Learn about Africa's intricate flora and fauna from your knowledgeable and qualified guides. Early morning's and late evening's are the best time for game viewing. Please see "A Typical Day" for our safari timings.

During every activity your guide will choose a spot in nature for a quick cup of coffee in the morning or for a scenic sundowner during your evening safari. This is a great opportunity to get to know your guide, ask any wildlife questions that pop into your head and of course, take in the sights and sounds of nature off the vehicle.

## A TYPICAL DAY A PHAKAMANI ZELATI LODGE

Daily schedules change according to what guests have planned or pre-booked for the duration of their stay. A typical day at Phakamani Zelati Lodge will include



2 activities, a hearty breakfast, a light lunch, sundowner drinks & snacks. Finally ending the day around the boma fire before indulging in a traditional 3-course evening meal.

- 04h30 : Wake up call / Morning coffee & rusks
- 05h00 : Morning Safari
- 09h00 : Head back to camp for breakfast
- 01h00 : A light lunch is served at the lodge
- 16h00 : Afternoon game drive departs
- 19h00 : Back to camp, freshen up after your safari, take a seat round the roaring fire before the three-course evening meal is served.

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

## LOCATION / DIRECTIONS

Phakamani Zelati Lodge is located in the big-five Makalali Private Game Reserve, 80km outside the safari hub of Hoedspruit. Both Eastgate & Phalaborwa airports are within driving distance, making it easily accessible for fly-in guests. From the city of Johannesburg it's a scenic 7 hour drive, directions as follows for self-driving guests:

### FROM HOEDSPRUIT

- Leaving the town of Hoedspruit, take the R40 towards Phalaborwa.
- Travel 32.2 km and turn left onto the R526 towards Tzaneen.
- Continue straight for 31.6km and turn left at the Harmony turnoff
- Cross the train track, go straight 600m before going through a small boom gate.
- Travel 11.3km until you see the Phakamani Zelati Lodge sign on your left.
- Follow the instructions at the gate and follow the signs through the reserve to the lodge.

### 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).
- Leaving the town of Hoedspruit, take the R40 towards Phalaborwa
- Travel 32.2 km and turn left onto the R526 towards Tzaneen.
- Continue straight for 31.6km and turn left at the Harmony turnoff
- Cross the train track, go straight 600m before going through a small boom gate.
- Travel 11.3km until you see the Phakamani Zelati Lodge Sign on your left.
- Follow the instructions at the Gate and follow the signs through the reserve to the lodge.

## CHILD POLICY

Children over the age of 12 are welcome at Phakamani Zelati Lodge. The camp itself is completely fenced however please accompany your children at all times as we are located in a big-five reserve. There are plenty of ways to preoccupy the children – garden games, board games, safari drives, mini-bush walks and even a plunge pool to play.

## WEATHER

In South Africa's Lowveld region the summer months are when most rainfall occurs (November - February) so its worth bringing a waterproof jacket or two if you visit during this time. The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours. This time of year may be tougher for game-viewing due to the thickness of the bush but these months bring in plenty of

predator / prey action, vibrant photographic opportunities and bounding new babies in the bush.

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. The dry winter months are typically the best in terms of spotting game as all life is drawn to the remaining water sources, the landscape turns from green to gold and the evenings are a little chilly, so packing a few layers will be worth it.

## WILDLIFE

The Makalali Private Game Reserve is home to a variety of life, and its not just the iconic big-five that reside here. Rare African wild dogs also roam the reserve as well as cheetah, crocodiles, hippo, hyena and a plethora of plains game.

The camp itself is fenced but overlooks the abundant bush and a selection of waterholes in front. Many species are drawn to this water source, especially in the dry winter months and it's not uncommon that elephant herds cool down or lion prides come to quench their thirst in front of camp. The Selati river runs through the reserve, only flowing briefly after the rains. However, the winding dry river beds and riverine forest offer a unique ecosystem to explore.

Birders from all over the world come to South Africa to seek out more on their list and the Makalali offers bird-watching in abundance. A perfect place to observe the birdlife is from your chalet porch, and around the Zelati's garden grounds.

## WHAT TO PACK

The climate in the Kruger Lowveld brings the hot summer months between October - April. The rainfall is high, and so is the temperature, reaching over 40 degrees Celsius at times. So bring your swimsuit for a dip in the Phakamani pool!



The dry winter months begin in May and carry on until October - November, during this season the weather is mild during the day with temperatures averaging mid - high 20s, but when the sun goes down, the jackets are on and the fires are lit.

- Throughout the year, we recommend packing light-weight, neutral-coloured clothing with short / long sleeves - think 'Safari Style'.
- Always bring sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and polarised glasses.
- Insect repellent - It's the summer months that bring with it most of the critters, but they'll stay clear if you use an repellent. Try and opt for the eco-friendly kind.
- Layers are recommended - jackets, scarfs and even gloves are needed for early mornings on game drive,

especially in winter - but there are also cosy blankets on the vehicle.

- Comfortable walking shoes as well as open sandals for when the weather is hot.
- Cameras & binoculars for the many safari sightings and picture opportunities during your visit to South Africa
- We always advise bringing appropriate plug adaptors for your country.

## 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.

