

FACT SHEET



AFRICAN RETREATS

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INTRODUCTION

Rukiya Safari Camp is located in the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve in the greater Kruger region of South Africa. It is an intimate, tented camp built beneath old riverine trees on the banks of the Blyde River. It is a low impact camp with environmentally friendly construction, beautifully reused timber for decking and furniture, and light canvas for the tents.

There are 6 canvas tented rooms built on timber decking and elevated off the ground overlooking the Blyde River, which flows in front of the camp. Décor is simple, stylish and in tune with the natural ambience of the camp. Wooden walkways lead the path from the tents to the main camp area, which houses an infinity pool, boma, large balcony and canvas lodge area.

Safari activities include Big 5 game drives and bush walks, while there is a host of activities in and around the nearby town of Hoedspruit (roughly 20km from camp). Morning game drives include breakfast in the bush before returning to camp, making it an adventurous and unforgettable experience.

AT A GLANCE

- Tented safari camp in Wild Rivers Nature Reserve
- Located on the banks of the Blyde River
- Owner-run and managed
- Sleeps 16 people in 6 canvas and timber safari tents
- Has 2 family tents each sleeping 4 people (children over 4 years old)
- Environmentally friendly camp with semi-permanent structure using low impact materials
- Tranquil ambience, simple yet luxurious camp, with adventurous activities
- Big 5 game drives conducted in the Balule Nature Reserve open to Kruger National Park
- Bush breakfasts enjoyed on game drive

- Bush walks conducted in Wild Rivers Reserve and in the Big 5 Balule Reserve
- Various adventure and luxury activities available in and around the nearby town of Hoedspruit (+20km)
- Voluntourism opportunities through Seeds of Light and Ingwe Leopard Research
- Can be booked on an exclusive-use basis without an age limit for children

FACILITIES

- 6 Canvas safari tents elevated on wooden decking (including 2 family tents)
- Main camp area on extensive timber decking, and natural wooden outdoor furniture
- Infinity pool with pool deck and sun loungers overlooking the Blyde River
- Boma with campfire and surrounding seating area
- Indoor lounge and dining area at main camp area
- WiFi and electrical outlets throughout camp
- Laundry service available at a charge
- Each tent has a balcony with chairs overlooking the river view
- Standard rooms sleep two people on double or twin beds; family rooms have 4 beds (standard room divider separating room into two)
- En suite bathrooms- showers only
- Standing fan in each room (2 in family rooms)

ACTIVITIES

- Game drives in the Balule Nature Reserve (6-7 hours spent on activities per day)
- Guided bush walks in Wild Rivers and Balule Nature Reserves - *(upon request and availability)*
- Bird watching from the comfort of camp
- Bush breakfasts during game drive
- Sundowners during afternoon game drive
- Activities available in the area include tours of the Kruger National Park, Panorama route, and other



sought after South African Lowveld attractions

- Cultural village tours
- Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre
- Hot-air balloon excursions near Hoedspruit
- Boat cruises on the Blyde and Olifants Rivers
- Spa Treatments available on site
- Voluntourism opportunities through Seeds of Light and Ingwe Leopard Research

A TYPICAL DAY AT RUKIYA SAFARI CAMP

Rukiya Safari Camp game drives in the Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve, which is open to Kruger National Park. A bush breakfast is included in the morning activity, and roughly 3 - 5 hours are spent on each activity. Guests are able to tailor their experiences at Rukiya to include extras, however a typical daily schedule might be as follows:

- 05h00: Wake up for quick coffee before morning game drive
- 05h30: Morning game drive departs
- 11h00/30: Return to camp after game drive and breakfast in the bush
- 13h30: Enjoy lunch under the trees at camp and relax for the afternoon
- 16h00: Depart for afternoon/evening game drive
- 19h00: Return to camp for a spectacular dinner

Please note that times alter slightly on a seasonal basis, and in order to join the afternoon game drive arrival at camp must be no later than 15h00.

LOCATION

Rukiya Safari Camp is located in the Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve about 10km outside Hoedspruit in the Greater Kruger region of Limpopo. Wild Rivers is a 3000-hectare area forming part of the 12000-hectare Blyde

Olifants Conservancy. The camp itself lies on the banks of the Blyde River only 500m upstream from the confluence of the significant Blyde and Olifants Rivers.

The reserve is home to an array of wildlife species and phenomenal birdlife; it has a mountain view and the presence of water, which makes it a magnificent spot in the bush. The local Hoedspruit airport is only 45-minutes' drive away, making it an easily accessible yet remote safari experience.

HOW TO GET THERE

The entrance to the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve is only 10km from the town of Hoedspruit, and about 45-minutes' drive from the airport. It is easily accessible by road from Johannesburg (5-6-hour drive). Once inside the reserve, it is another +10km to the camp via dirt roads. **Please DO NOT follow Google maps and directions, the GPS takes you through private farms and is inaccessible. Use our directions ONLY.**

From Hoedspruit:

At the intersection of R40 and R527 in Hoedspruit, travel north on the R40 towards Phalaborwa. Continue for 10km until the Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve sign appears on the left (directly opposite the gate for Mhlabetsi on the right).

Turn left onto the Wild Rivers gravel access road, continue 600m to the entrance gate (careful crossing an active railway line). Sign in for nr. 21 (Rukiya) at the gate and then follow the signs to nr. 21 (roughly 10km).

From Johannesburg:

From Johannesburg/Pretoria continue on to the N4 Highway. Continue to follow N4 for 191 km. Take the exit toward R33. Continue onto R540 from Belfast to Dullstroom. Turn left onto R36 (Lydenburg). Continue to follow R36 to Ohrigstad, continue through the Strydom Tunnel and take the R527 to Hoedspruit.



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From the Wild Rivers Reserve Gate:

Upon entering the gate, turn immediately right and drive along the fence line. After 2.5km the main road curves to the left slightly, leaving the fence line. From this point it is another 2.5km until you reach a board that signs 14-23 to the left. Turn left here and continue another 4.3km.

This road will start to gently decline down towards the river, keep straight passing the signs for 14 and 15. Keep driving straight on you will reach 21 on the left. Turn left at the wooden board saying Rukiya Safari Camp, 21.

Please note the gate closes at 18h00, so please arrive beforehand. If you are going to arrive late, it is not a problem, but please advise Lily in advance on lily@rukiyacamp.com or 081 068 5591, or risk not being able to enter the reserve as no one will be at the gate to open it. The late fee is R150 per vehicle.

CHILD POLICY

Children over the age of 4 are welcome at Rukiya Safari Camp.

RATES INCLUDE

Full Board & Activities - Accommodation in luxury en suite tent, three meals a day, activities (bush walks & game drives), teas & coffees.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - Accommodation in luxury en suite tent, breakfast and dinner, teas & coffees.

Exclusive-use - Accommodation in luxury en suite tents (max 16 pax), three meals a day, activities (bush walks & game drives) teas & coffees.

RATES EXCLUDE

All drinks and meals not mentioned, transfers, additional activities not mentioned, and reserve fees. The reserve fees are R350 per person per stay (R150 payable with accommodation and R200 payable at camp). The late gate fee is R150.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

Mammals

Wild Rivers Reserve is home to a variety of wildlife, but is not Big 5. The Blyde and Olifants Rivers attract many herbivorous mammals, such as warthog, waterbuck, impala, zebra, giraffe, hippo, and many more. There are no buffalo, elephant or rhino onsite, but game drives take place on an exclusive traverse in Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve, so all of Kruger's wildlife species can be seen.

Predators

There are hyena and leopard on the Wild Rivers Reserve,



and lions from the neighbouring reserve can be heard calling in the distance. Nile crocodiles are present in the river in front of camp, and some of the smaller nocturnal predators can be seen out on night drive in the reserve: jackal, mongoose, civet, and genet, among others. Game drives in Balule offer the opportunity to see prominent predators, such as lion, cheetah, African wild dog, in addition to leopard and hyena.

Birdlife

Rukiya's location on the banks of the Blyde River is the perfect residence for the elusive Pel's fishing owl, while other speciality water-orientated birds here include African finfoot, African fish eagle, trumpeter hornbill, various kingfishers, herons, black crakes, storks, and bee-eaters. There are many birds of prey to be seen, as well as larks, orioles, weavers, babblers, shrikes, and numerous ground fowls.

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.

WHAT TO PACK

Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves. Guests should pack sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses, while scarfs, jackets and gloves are needed for early morning game drive in winter. Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings.

There are many bird and wildlife books on offer at the lodge, making for interesting reading, but guests should specific books and games for entertainment.

CONTACT DETAILS

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