



**Lion Sands Private
Game Reserve,**
Sabi Sand Game Reserve,
South Africa

Guy Aubrey Chalkley, who founded Lion Sands in 1933, used to tell his daughter when she slept out on Chalkley Treehouse, "Never fear the roar of the lion for it is rather when you don't that you need to be aware." Over the past 60 years, this treehouse - built as a photographer's platform - has been reinforced and adorned with a cozy double bed, a hot-water bottle, dressing gowns, and a basin. Guests can have dinner and drinks in the tree or dine at the lodge and head out afterwards. Once dropped off - with mosquito repellent, torches, lanterns, and a two-way radio, they're on their own till morning. Chances are that during the night you will hear a lion roaring to stake his claim. This part of South Africa, bordering Kruger National Park, has a high concentration of noisy predators; Hyenas and jackals engage in chitter chatter. At sunset and sunrise birds chime in. The treehouse sits on the edge of an open plain. You may be able to hear the Sabie River about a mile away. The sun sets and evening emerges; when the moon is full, you might see it's light shimmering off the elephants less than 200 feet away across the plain. They are remarkably silent under the spectacular night sky - the Southern Cross, shooting stars, satellites - which is all yours, from horizon to horizon.