

# Mad for Madikwe

We don't know about you, but we're bushed. That's why we're escaping the chaos of Jozi for greener (wilder) pastures

Caracal. Jackal. Rhino. Wild dog. And an elephant charging one of the dozen lions who were feeding on the zebra kill we'd just witnessed. If there's one thing about Madikwe, it's that your game drives never, ever disappoint. Actually, nothing at **Madikwe Safari Lodge** does. Somehow this tiny, private lodge manages to satisfy everyone. For those who're going to the bush to escape from everything and everyone, Dithaba (which means mountain in the local dialect) has just four suites ... completely private, wonderfully quiet and extraordinarily romantic. We're talking private plunge pools, fireplaces in the bedrooms, romantic turn downs and dinners for two up on the rooftop alcove, where you'll find a fire lit, wine on ice and a sky just shimmering with stars. Another four-suite camp is Kapano (which appropriately means small gathering) ... again perfect for couples but also a great option for a family or group of friends to take over exclusively. Both really are seriously desirable getaways. But it's those with kids who should sit up and pay attention. The third lodge, Lelapa, means family, and it's without a doubt the best family lodge we've visited. With 12 rooms, five of which are family-friendly, there's an Eco House– with cool skulls and snake skins and

so much more – which your kids will discover and ... well, you'll struggle to get them away. There are bush skills (learn to make a toothbrush) and Bug CSI, there's painting and drawing and making elephant tracks with plaster of Paris. There's dung-tracking (unsurprisingly, hugely popular!) and pizza-making and more fun than a pre-teen can imagine. And if they're lucky, there'll be mopani worms on the menu for dinner in the boma. Eat them and there's HUGE street cred back at school! All this leaves mom and dad time to experience a spa treatment, go on a sundowner game drive, or do simply nothing at all. Bush bliss! Those who've stayed at one of the other MORE properties (in Sabi Sands, Kruger and Cape Town) know to expect fanatical attention to detail, and exceptional service ... and you know you're not going to go hungry. Now's the right time to visit, too ... spring and early summer sees warm days and cool nights, with lots of green growth but not so much that you can't spot an animal. Just four or so hours' drive from Jozi ... it's a bush treat second to none. Rates are from R5999 a person a night, which includes all meals, soft drinks, local brand beers and spirits and house wines and two game drives daily. Children under five years stay free, between six and 15 years pay 50 per cent and 16 years and older pay full adult rate when in their own room. *Details: [www.madikwesafarilodge.co.za](http://www.madikwesafarilodge.co.za)*

