

The tale of three TREEHOUSES

Sleeping out in the open in the bush is an experience second to none ... romantic, adventurous and ... okay ... a tiny bit scary. At Lion Sands in the Sabi Sand we discovered three extraordinary treehouse options for a night out under the stars.



Guy bought the Kingstown Land from the Transvaal Consolidated Mines for four thousand pounds and 14 shillings! The **Kingston Treehouse** is possibly the most romantic of the three treehouses. Built of wood and glass, with a drawbridge, a four-poster bed, shower and the most amazing loo-with-a-view, it's an all-weather treehouse and is also the best bet for those wanting to spoil their bush babes ... there are two camper beds so a family with two younger children can stay overnight here too. You're dropped off at the treehouse just before sunset, where you'll find lamps glowing, a picnic-style dinner, a cooler box with a bottle of wine or champers and ... nothing. Just the sound of the animals and the view of a million stars!

Text: Kym Argo

GET Up a tree!



Chalkley 1

In the late 1920s, Irish American Guy Aubrey Chalkley visited Africa, and fell in love with the land and animals. In November 1933, he bought a stretch along the Sabie River and built a small camp. Four generations later, the gorgeous **Lion Sands** is still in the family ... and **Chalkley Treehouse**, first used by Guy to escape predators roaming the plains, is one of the most romantically-adventurous bush bedrooms imaginable. Built around a 300-year-old leadwood tree, completely open to the elements and with nothing but bush and herds of wild game as far as the eye can see, we think it's the ultimate treehouse option. Sleeping only one couple, it's a good 12 minute drive from the main lodge, and as with all three treehouses, there's no electricity, no wifi and not much cellphone signal, but there is a radio so you can contact your game ranger if necessary. And for heaven's sake don't think rustic ... there's a backgammon set and romantic gas lamps, binocs for game viewing and crystal champagne glasses for sunset sipping, the most comfy kingsize bed imaginable and soft throws to keep out the chill. And if you're lucky, as we were, there'll be a full moon ... absolutely magical!

2 Tinyeleti

Also open to the elements – but with the option of having two children with you – is the recently opened **Tinyeleti Treehouse**. Tinyeleti translates to Many Stars ... it's open-air, luxurious and close to the water, so your soundtrack is the rush of the Sabie River as well as the call of birds and the sounds of the night predators.



Info
The cost of these heavenly bush bedrooms is R2 750 a person a night, which is charged over and above the cost of your room at the main camp (lodge rooms are kept open in case of bad weather, or in case you ninny-out at midnight!). The rate includes a gourmet picnic-style dinner and local wine, beers and soft drinks. Details: www.lionsands.com, reservations on 011-880-9992, res@lionsands.com