



## EXPERIENCE MADIKWE

### Madikwe Safari Lodge

Its three luxury lodges – Lelapa, Kopano, and Dithaba – set on Madikwe Game Reserve, bordering Botswana, are ideally located to appreciate the vastness and diversity of Southern Africa’s landscapes and wildlife. Wooded hills give way to bushveld and Kalahari plains, roamed by the Big Five and 61 other mammal species. Coupled with the area being malaria-free, this has made the lodges popular family and friend destinations.

### Why us?

Madikwe Game Reserve is one of South Africa’s largest wildlife sanctuaries, covering 76 000ha (187 800ac) • Home to the Big Five, endangered African wild dog, and 60 other mammal species • Excellent birdwatching opportunities, with over 350 resident species • An environment of diverse geology and floral habitats • FGASA-accredited, experienced field guides • An area steeped in history, having seen the passage of Matabele King Mzilikazi, Scottish pioneer Dr David Livingstone, British engineer and artist Sir Cornwallis Harris, and renowned South African author Herman Charles Bosman

### Life-Enriching Experiences

#### Game Drives

Game drives, in open safari vehicles, head out each day at sunrise and again in the late afternoon to find the reserve’s many fascinating animals, both diurnal and nocturnal. Keep an eye out for the African wild dog – Madikwe’s signature species. This mammal is one of the continent’s most endangered (largely due to habitat loss), but is flourishing here. With no more than eight guests on a game drive, accompanied by their Madikwe field guide, this is a truly intimate safari experience.

- Duration: ± 3 hours
- Each game drive includes a hot beverage or sundowner stop in a scenic spot to purely appreciate being in the bush and in moment
- Children 6 years and older are welcome on the twice-daily game drives
- The children’s game drive (for young guests between 3 and 5 years) goes out daily from 10h00 to 12h00 in summer and from 11h00 to 13h00 in winter; parents are welcome to go along, subject to availability of seats

### **Bush Walks**

These are our after-breakfast walks on the wild side. You are immersed in the bush, rather than just observing it. All five senses are engaged, as you feel scrub crunch beneath your feet, touch the velvety acacia seed pod, hear the crack of a branch indicating you are not alone, and spot big game at eye level – exhilarating! Our expert guides will tailor walks to each of our guest's area/s interest, focusing on mammals, birds, insects, plants, geology etc.

- Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on guests' fitness levels
- No children under 16 years are permitted on the bush walks
- Guests over 60 years must present a medical certificate of good health
- Please wear: neutral-coloured clothing; comfortable walking shoes; a hat; sunglasses; and sunscreen
- Please bring: a lightweight dry mac jacket, camera/smartphone, and binoculars

### **Mack & Madi Family Experience**

Inspired by Rob and Britt More's first-hand understanding of travelling with their twins, Mack and Madi. More options and flexibility around accommodations, meals, and toddler-to-teen activities give children a little extra freedom to explore and just be kids – and make family travel child's play.

Based at Lelapa Lodge, the Eco House children's entertainment and education centre keeps young guests occupied with the wonders of the natural world, as well as sporting and creative activities. Just some of the fun includes: family game drives; bush orientation; bug CSI; dung tracking; slingshot and air rifle target shooting; arts and crafts, e.g. beading; pizza making in the boma; cookie baking and cupcake decorating in the kitchen. Parents are welcome to join in, or sneak a few hours for themselves.

### **Wildlife Lectures**

At times when the weather is unsuitable for safari activities, our field guides and trackers present short nature talks. They cover a host of subjects giving you more insight into the animals you see on safari (e.g. elephant behaviour) and the natural surrounds (e.g. the ecological impact of commercial lodges on the environment). These are informal presentations, which are largely guided by interactions with guests.

### **Local Community Experience**

More Community Trust's (MCT's) purpose is to empower people in the local communities in which MORE operates. They do this by providing access to: basic education and childcare; skills development through community-based initiatives; and fresh water. Over the years, MCT has built close relationships with its local communities, and you are encouraged to visit and roll up your sleeves to help out with upliftment programmes in place. This gives you the opportunity to experience a different – and humbling – way of living; visit culturally- and historically- significant sites; and connect with local people, while positively impacting on their lives.

- Duration: 2 to 3 hours
- Children of all ages are welcome to accompany their parents

### **Stargazing**

During evening game drives or bush dinners (weather permitting), your field guide will share insights into the skies above. The clear air and minimal light pollution of this remote African wilderness make it an ideal location for stargazing. You will see planets and stars you have never before seen with the naked eye. Your guide will point out the constellations that shift seasonally and those that are unique to the southern hemisphere (*circumpolar* constellations), taking you on an astral safari.

### **Rhino Conservation Experience**

Madikwe Game Reserve is committed to wildlife conservation, including of the critically endangered rhino species. To this end, the reserve has established The Honorary Officers Counter Poaching Unit (HOCPU), headed by Phillip Hattingh. As a guest of Madikwe Safari Lodge, you have the unique opportunity to join Phillip and experience rhino conservation in action.

After an early morning wake-up call, followed by tea/coffee and a light snack, you will be transferred by open safari vehicle to Madikwe Eastern Airstrip to meet up with Phillip, park representatives, and a veterinary specialist. Following a conservation orientation session and overview of the morning's plan of action, the veterinarian will depart by helicopter to track and sedate an as-yet-unrecorded rhino on the reserve.

Once the location of the rhino is called in, you will be taken by open safari vehicle to the scene where you can participate in the process of gathering DNA samples from the rhino and 'notching' (attaching an identifying ear tag). The rhino is soon back on its feet (sedated for no longer than 10 to 15 minutes to minimise stress on the animal) and now recorded in the reference book of identifiable individuals within the Madikwe rhino population.

Through this process, field guides are able to identify the rhinos and record their sightings for the purpose of monitoring the health of the population. In addition, the DNA samples are sent to Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute for each animal's unique ID to be added to the national database. Thorough records of rhino DNA are also vital to ensure convictions against poachers.

- At an additional cost
- Includes: refreshments; helicopter use; veterinary specialist services; access to dedicated park officials; and an exclusive encounter with a rhino
- Duration: 1 to 2 hours, depending on the time it takes to find an un-notched rhino
- A maximum of 16 participants, in two safari vehicles
- Children under 18 years are not permitted on the Rhino Conservation Experience

### Spa Therapies

While we take care of the children, why not take a little me time to be pampered? Spa therapies are offered in the privacy of your suite or deck by our expert therapists. Choose from massages, reflexology, and facials with Africology skincare products and essential oils (ethically formulated with the finest natural and organic ingredients).

- At an additional cost

### Shopping

Onelife MORE Boutique (located at Lelapa Lodge) offers a range of proudly African-produced high-end clothing, accessories, art, and mementos – as well as everyday necessities. “African designers possess a creativity and sense of style that is unique in the world. This is what I want to showcase through the Onelife MORE Boutique brand.” – The late Britt More, co-founder of MORE

### Daily Orientation

Summer (September to April)	Programme	Winter (May to August)
05h00	Wake-up call	06h00
05h30	Tea/coffee; game drive departs	06h30
09h00	Game drive returns; breakfast/brunch is served	10h00
At leisure	Bush walk, or other activities of personal preference	At leisure
13h00	Lunch is served	13h00
16h00	Afternoon tea	15h00
16h30	Game drive departs	15h30
19h30	Game drive returns; dinner is served	18h30

### Rates Inclusions and Exclusions: Lelapa Lodge, Kopano Lodge and Dithaba Lodge

**Rates include:** Luxury accommodation; in-room minibar (selected complimentary items); Wi-Fi (all areas); all meals, including afternoon tea; teas/coffees and selected local beverages (including soft drinks, beers, house wines, and spirits); two game drives per day, with refreshments and snacks; other standard activities; Madikwe Eastern Airstrip transfers

**Rates exclude:** Telephone calls; laundry; gratuities; cigars and cigarettes; imported and premium-brand beers, cellar wines, champagnes, and spirits; Onelife MORE Boutique purchases; spa treatments and products; Madikwe Game Reserve entrance fees and guest conservation contributions (GCCs); additional activities; flights; landing fees; transfers (other than Madikwe Eastern Airstrip transfers)