



Marataba
SOUTH AFRICA

MARATABA TRAILS

The only walking trails of their kind in a Big Five reserve



WALK

On 1 June 2018, Marataba Trails Lodge became Marataba Mountain Lodge - redefined as a traditional safari experience in an exclusive retreat. We have come to realise that her essence is defined by her location - too special to keep hidden away, and only to be appreciated by those taking the trails that originally defined her offering. As part of this shift, Marataba Trails is now a stand-alone, specialist walking experience for the seasoned hiker looking for a challenging trail in a unique part of the world.





TRAILS EXPERIENCE

Marataba South Africa is a malaria-free, private concession within the Marakele National Park. The park, as its Tswana name suggests is a place of sanctuary, conserving 67 000ha (165 560ac) of the UNESCO-recognised Waterberg Biosphere – the only savannah biosphere in the world! – a diversity of wildlife, including the rare and critically endangered black rhino, and San rock art and Iron Age sites of great significance.

Our trails put guests in the thick of things, with challenging trails routes through Marataba's flourishing wilderness. The reserve is blessed with a diversity of regions and habitats, and its trails lead past watering holes, into forested gorges, to historical interest areas, and over mountain crests presenting Africa in all its magnificence. Our expert trails guides will advice on suitable routes based on guests' preference/s and fitness levels.

TRAILS GUIDES

Two senior trails guides accompany guests, no matter the size of the group. They are FGASA-accredited, with many years of experience in leading hiking trails within Big Five territories. Other than for their extensive knowledge of the reserve, they have been carefully chosen on their ability to interact with guests and make them feel at ease. Guests' safety is our first priority, and trails guides carry first-aid kits and satellite phones at all times.





TRAILS ORIENTATION

Departures*: Year-round, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

Departure times: 06h00 for 06h15 in summer | 07h00 for 07h15 in winter

Departure points: From the lodges, with transfers to the trails starts

Duration: 3 to 4 hours, depending on the terrain, guests' fitness levels, and weather; 8-hour trails can be arranged for the more intrepid hiker

Minimum number of guests: 2

Maximum number of guests: 8 depending on the trail, otherwise 6

Minimum guest age: 16 years

Rate: ZAR850 per person

Inclusions: Nutrition pack, with snacks+ and 2l still water; and a loan backpack for personal items

**The trail hike takes place instead of the morning game drive on these days.*

+Please specify any dietary requirements upon booking.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING ALONG

Please wear: neutral-coloured clothing; trousers; gaiters; hiking boots/closed walking shoes; hat; sunglasses; and sunscreen.

Please bring along: sunscreen; binoculars; camera/smartphone; and a lightweight dry mac jacket.

PLEASE NOTE

Marataba Trails are more interpretive bush walks than safaris. The purpose of our trails is to immerse guests in nature, rather than just observing it, reconnecting them with life at its simplest and most wonderful. The focus is not on tracking animals, although groups may encounter some along the way.

