



*Marataba*  
SOUTH AFRICA

## EXPERIENCE MARATABA

### Marataba South Africa

Marataba South Africa is a 23 000ha (56 834ac), malaria-free private concession forming part of the Marakele National Park. The park conserves 67 000ha of the Limpopo Waterberg's biodiversity, including the Big Five and abundant birdlife, and Iron Age sites of great historical significance. Marataba's luxury lodges – Safari Lodge and Mountain Lodge – provide guests with bases from which to explore the wilderness their own way. While the newest, and most impressive, addition to the MORE Treehouse circuit, Thabametsi provides a million-star experience.

### Why us?

The park and concession fall within the UNESCO-recognised Waterberg Biosphere – the only savannah biosphere in the world! • Marakele National Park is a 'place of sanctuary', as its Tswana name suggests • Its wildlife includes the largest colony of endangered Cape vultures (with 800 breeding pairs) in the world • Rare plant species of yellowwood and cedar trees, ancient cycads, and fern trees also flourish in the park • Expert field guides and trackers are key to the success of Marataba's safari experiences • The lodges offer programmes of unique activities to get guests closer to nature and the animals, including Marataba Trails and Miss Mara Water Safaris, as well as traditional open-vehicle game drives

### 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. This is a truly intimate experience, with no more than five vehicles out on the concession at any one time, making it unlikely you will come across another vehicle. The animals are accustomed to the vehicles and do not see them as a threat. This enables field guides to get within close range of Africa's most impressive species. Photographic opportunities are simply spectacular!

- 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
- Children under 16 years are not 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

### **Marataba Trails**

A specialist walking experience for the seasoned hiker looking for a challenging trail in a unique part of the world. Marataba is blessed with a great diversity of ecosystems and landscapes. Its trails lead through different areas of the reserve, providing a variety of experiences. Our expert trails guides, leading the hikes, will advise on suitable routes based on your interest/s and fitness level.

**Riverine trails:** follow the Matlabas River's course and pass some of the bigger watering holes, which attract a large variety of game, including hippo.

**Gorge trails:** descend into the Waterberg Mountain valleys – only accessible on foot – where you may have the chance to cool off in freshwater pools.

**Mountain trails:** are longer routes, leading up and over some of the reserve's mountains – the vistas from these trails are extraordinary, presenting Africa in all its magnificence.

**Interest trails:** lead to areas of historical interest on the reserve, offering you the chance to see cave paintings, relics of the Stone Age, and Iron Age ruins.

- At an additional cost
- Includes: a nutrition pack, with snacks and 2L still water; a backpack for personal items, on loan; and gaiters, on loan
- Duration: 3 to 4 hours – depending on the terrain, guests' fitness levels, and weather
- Children under 16 years are not permitted on any of the Marataba Trails
- Guests over 60 years must present a medical certificate of good health
- Please wear: neutral-coloured clothing; trousers; hiking boots/closed walking shoes; hat; sunglasses; and sunscreen
- Please bring: sunscreen; binoculars; camera/smartphone; and a lightweight dry mac jacket

### **Miss Mara Water Safari**

Morning and sunset water safaris are operated on the Matlabas River, 30 minutes' drive from Marataba Safari Lodge and 45 minutes from Marataba Mountain Lodge. One of Marataba's experienced field guides conducts a cruise along the river, which provides plentiful game viewing opportunities. Guests can expect to see hippo, crocodile, abundant birdlife, and land animals (including elephant), coming to the water's edge to drink and forage.

- Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
- Each water safari includes beverages and snacks (sundowners and canapés at sunset), served en route
- Children under 16 years are not permitted on the Miss Mara Water Safaris

### **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 Safari Lodge, the Eco Garden children's entertainment and education area 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; evening games. 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.

### 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.

### A Night in a Treehouse

Thabametsi Treehouse (64m2/690ft2) is our newest and most impressive hideout yet! It is solar powered and built on two levels – with a main bedroom (including a king-sized bed and two single pull-out beds), full shower room facilities, lounge area, and decks offering views of the Waterberg Mountains and across the verdant expanse of the Marakele. This is the ideal spot for a family of four (including two children, between 6 and 15 years) who want to experience an authentic night out in Africa – in complete luxury.

- A Treehouse Experience is booked in conjunction with lodge accommodation
- A Treehouse stay is charged at a per person sharing per night rate over and above the lodge accommodation rate
- Pack an overnight bag with your essentials, leaving your other belongings back in your suite at the lodge

### Spa Therapies

Take a little me-time out 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 Safari 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

#### Marataba Safari Lodge

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	Other activities of personal preference	At leisure
13h00	Lunch is served	13h00
16h00	Afternoon tea	15h00
16h30	Game drive/Miss Mara Water Safari departs	15h30
19h30	Return from afternoon activity; dinner is served	18h30

#### Marataba Mountain Lodge

Summer (September to April)	Programme	Winter (May to August)
05h30	Wake-up call	06h30
06h00	Tea/coffee and snacks	07h00
06h15	Depart on Marataba Trail/game drive	07h15
09h30	Return; breakfast/brunch is served	10h30
At leisure	Other activities of personal preference	At leisure
13h00	Lunch is served	13h00
15h30	Refreshments and snacks	14h30
16h00	Depart on game drive/Miss Mara Water Safari	15h00
18h30	Return from afternoon activity	17h30
19h00	Interactive dinner	18h30

### **Rate Inclusions and Exclusions: Marataba Safari Lodge**

**Rates include:** Luxury accommodation; in-room minibar (selected complimentary items); Wi-Fi (public 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; a Miss Mara Water Safari, with refreshments and snacks; other standard activities; Matla Mamba 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; Marakele National Park entrance fees and guest conservation contributions (GCCs); flights; landing fees; transfers (other than Matla Mamba Airstrip transfers)

### **Rate Inclusions and Exclusions: Marataba Mountain Lodge**

**Rates include:** Luxury accommodation; Wi-Fi (public 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; a Miss Mara Water Safari, with refreshments and snacks; other standard activities; Matla Mamba Airstrip transfers

**Rates exclude:** Telephone calls; gratuities; cigars and cigarettes; imported and premium-brand beers, cellar wines, champagnes, and spirits; Onelife MORE Boutique purchases; spa treatments and products; Marakele National Park entrance fees and guest conservation contributions (GCCs); flights; landing fees; transfers (other than Matla Mamba Airstrip transfers)