



Mavela Game Lodge

*The Adventure
Begins.....*

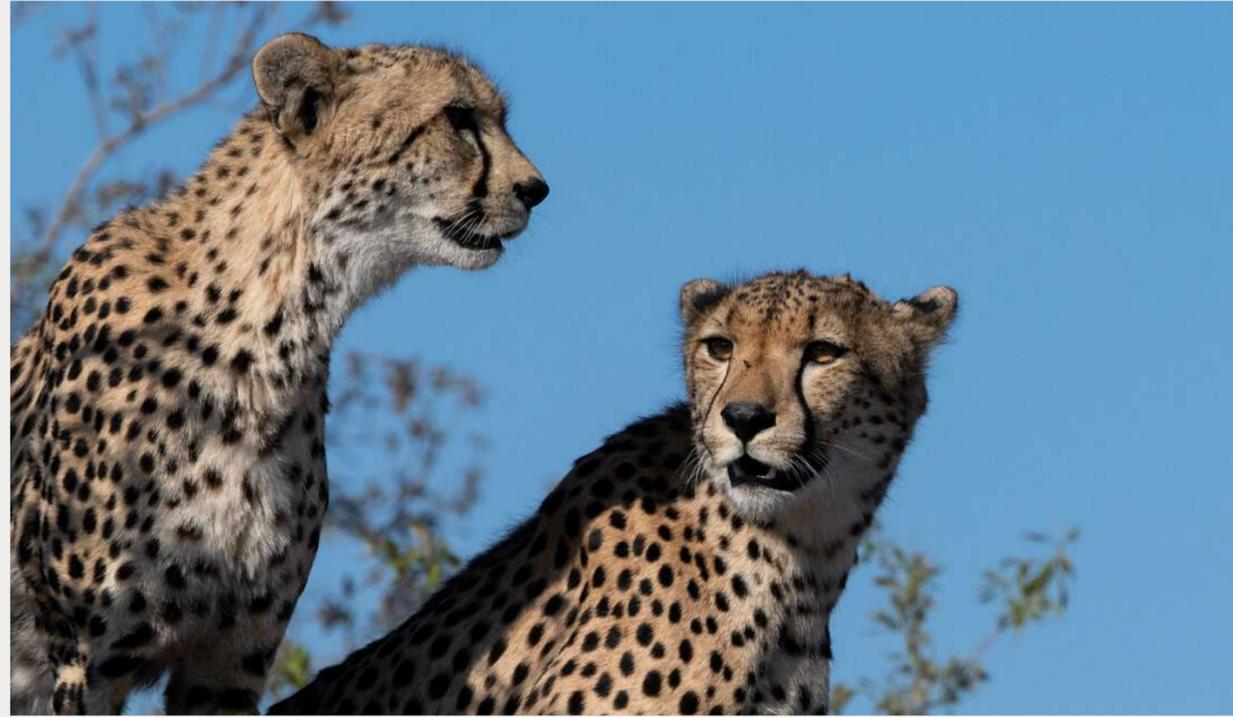
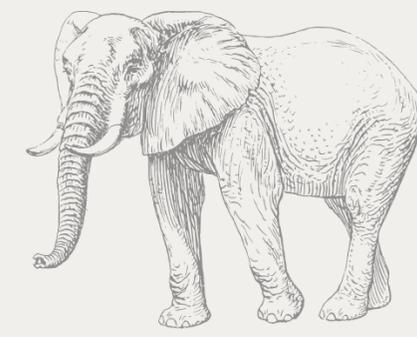
A Glimpse of Mavela

*23 000 Hectare Private Game Reserve
Exceptional Wildlife Viewing
5 Luxury Tented Suites
Fully-Inclusive Lodge
Endangered Species Conservation
World Class Birding Hotspot*



"There is something about safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne - bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive"

Wildlife

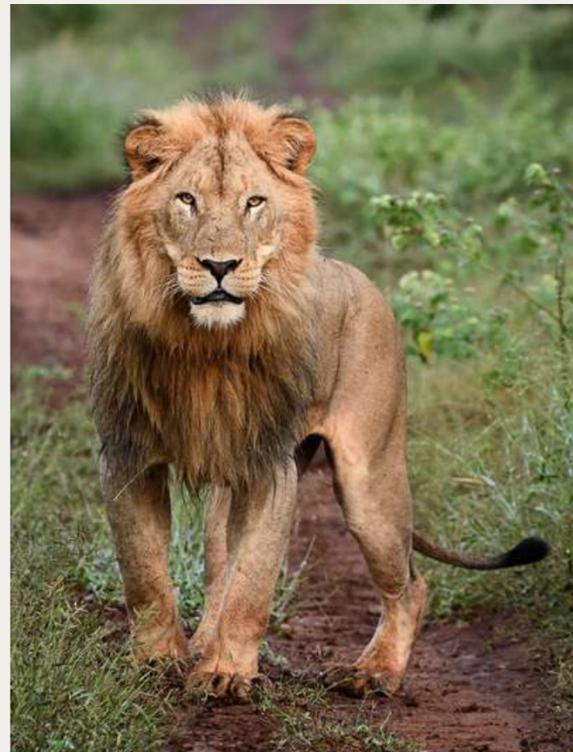


Situated in a magnificent Big 5 Private Game reserve, guests at Mavela can expect to see a wide variety of mammals, birds and reptiles.

The reserve is home to over 70 mammal species, including the famed magnificent 7; Lion, Rhino, Buffalo, Elephant, Leopard, Cheetah and Wild Dog.

A renowned bird paradise, where over 400 species can be found. Birdwatchers can search for both beautiful and rare species in a variety of habitats.

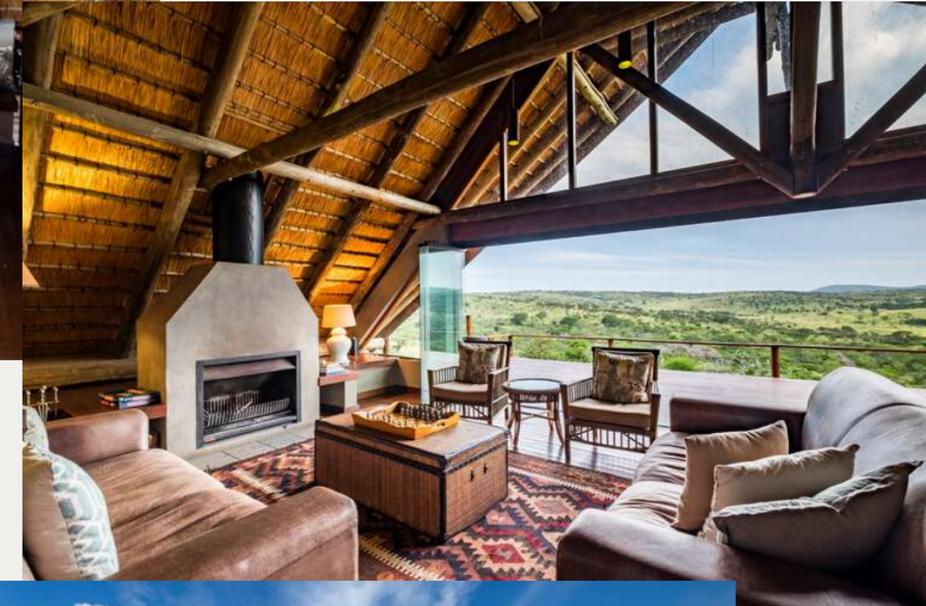
Mavela protects and conserves some of the most endangered species on the planet. We strive to protect Black Rhino, pangolin, cheetah and Wild Dog





The Lodge

A home we wish to share with you



Enjoy your space as if it was the comfort of your own home. The lodge is fully-inclusive to all guests, which means you can help yourself to anything you wish. Warm days are spent by the pool and cold nights are spent by the fireplace upstairs. Watch the captivating sunsets at the bar while enjoying your favorite wine.

The lodge comprises an open-plan, two-storeyed thatched welcome area. The roof depicts a diving raptor in flight and presents a regal architectural feature. The expansive dining room and lounge areas offer ample space to sit and relax while the upstairs bar enjoys stunning views over the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. Outside, the open air boma is the ideal place to enjoy a clear African night's sky. The swimming pool offers much needed respite on a warm Zululand day.





The "Tent" Safari-Style



The lodge has five comfortable safari-styled tents, each with a private deck offering beautiful views over the surrounding bushveld. Immerse into nature and live amongst wildlife. Expect to encounter some of the animals of Mavela from your private tent. Impala will graze on your patio and warthog will wallow in your birdbath. Hear the lions roar while sleeping in your bed! The beauty of staying in a canvas room is that it feels like sleeping in the open air.



The tents are tastefully decorated in a rustic, but luxurious style. Bed configuration can either be 2 x $\frac{3}{4}$ beds or an Extra Length King, with crisp white linens, ceiling fan and en-suite shower facilities, complete with Charlotte Rhys amenities. Complemented with wildlife on your doorstep.

"I never knew of a morning in Africa when i woke up and was not happy"



The Reason

Why Choose Us



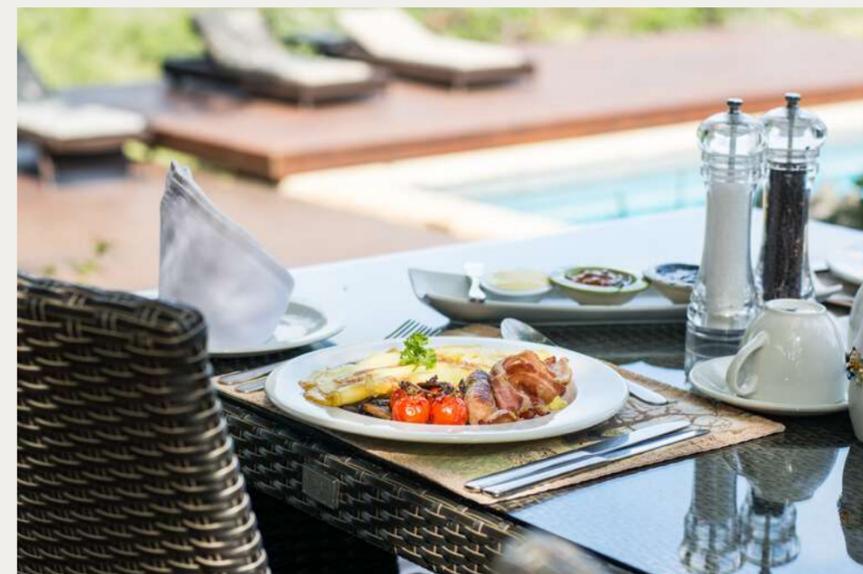
Big 5 Game Viewing

Walking Safaris - Specialised walking safaris lasting up to 3 hours with a highly trained trails guide

Birding Safaris- We offer specialised birding safaris on request and have received a birder friendly accreditation from birdlife South Africa

Private Vehicle Rental - Have exclusive use of a vehicle and guide to roam the reserve as you wish

Tented bush camp - With only 5 guest tents, max:10 people, each guest receives an intimate and authentic african safari experience



Photographic Safaris - Join a knowledgeable photographic guide in a private vehicle to get that ultimate shot.

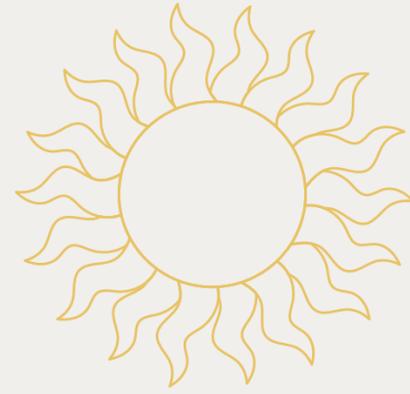
Food - The lodge offers 3 meals daily - a full english / continental breakfast, buffet lunch and a 3 course dinner prepared using fresh and local ingredients, paired with good quality South African wine

Fully - Inclusive - Soft drinks, beers, spirits and South Africa's finest wine

Family owned and Operated - Owned & managed by the Stevens family. Ensuring the highest standard of friendly hospitality and attentive service.

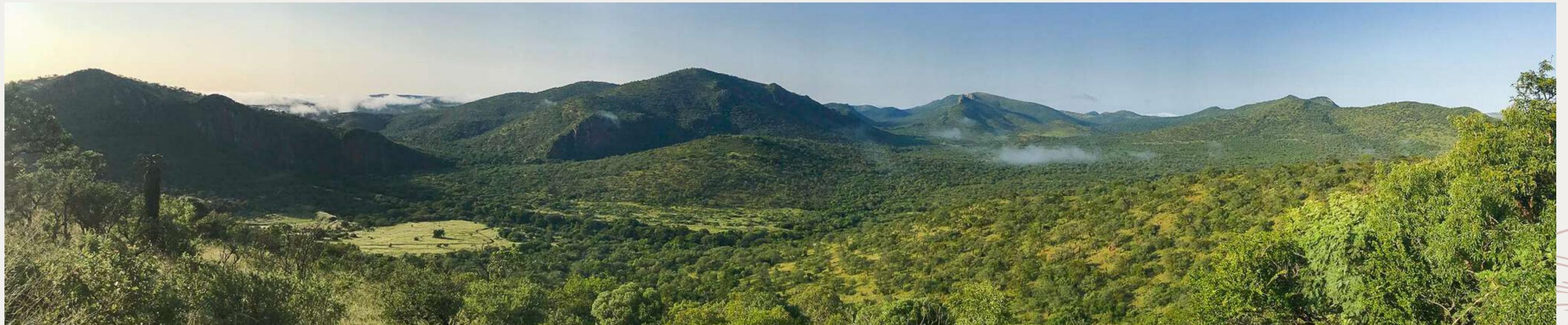
Accessibility - Easily accessible for self-drive guests.

Location



Set in the rolling hills of Zululand

SITUATED IN NORTHERN KWA-ZULU NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA. THE AREA FALLS WITHIN THE MKUZE VALLEY LOWVELD VEGETATION TYPE, VARYING FROM OPEN SAVANNA THORNVELD TO RIVERINE WOODLAND, CHARACTERIZED BY ACACIA AND MARULA TREE SPECIES. THE DIVERSITY OF ZULULAND PROVIDES FOR A HOST OF WILD SPECIES. THE RESERVE IS HOME TO OVER 70 MAMMAL SPECIES, INCLUDING CHEETAH, WILD DOG, HYENA AND OF COURSE THE BIG 5. IT ALSO OFFERS SUPERB BIRDING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES.



"You know you are truly alive when you are living among lions"



EXPLORE WITH US

Activities



Game Drives



The Thrill of the unknown. The Thrill of what is around the next corner

Explore the Manyoni Private Game Reserve in a customized open top 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser, led by a knowledgeable guide. The guide will take you on a search for the reserves renowned wildlife, while pointing out the subtleties of the ecosystem around you. Be prepared to get up close with the larger animals as the guide takes you off-road to get the best possible view.

Game drives depart early morning and late afternoon, when the animals are most active. This gives you the best chance of seeing an incredible wildlife spectacle - you may even be lucky enough to see a hunt!

Expect to encounter free ranging Wildlife throughout the duration of your safari. These animals are wild, as nature intended. Every sighting is unique as you watch the dramatic story of life and death unfold as the animals go about their daily struggle for survival in the natural world.



'They say an elephant never forgets. What they don't tell you is that you never forget an elephant'

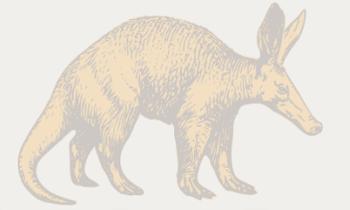


The morning departure is usually half an hour before sunrise, with a tea/coffee break affording guests the opportunity to stretch legs and absorb the beauty of the natural surroundings. They return to the lodge for a hearty continental and full, English breakfast, followed by relaxing at the pool or simply day dreaming on their private decks.

The evening game drive departs mid- to late afternoon. The field guide customizes each route, depending on what was seen previously and according to the group's specific interests. The stop at dusk offers guests traditional, South African "sundowners" and a variety of typical South African snacks. It is a special moment to pause and listen to the night sounds with the African sun setting over the pristine bushveld, after which it is time to search for the more elusive, nocturnal creatures of the reserve.



NIGHT DRIVES CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED TO SEARCH FOR THE RARELY SEEN NOCTURNAL ANIMALS. HEAD OUT AFTER THE SUN HAS SET, AND WONDER THROUGH THE DARKNESS UNDER THE STARRY NIGHT SKY WHILE THE RANGER SEARCHES THE BUSH WITH HIS SPOTLIGHT. STOP IN THE DARKNESS AND SWITCH OFF ALL LIGHTS TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE SOUNDS OF THE NIGHT. STAR GAZING IS A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE AS WE ARE SITUATED FAR FROM ANY LIGHT POLLUTION.



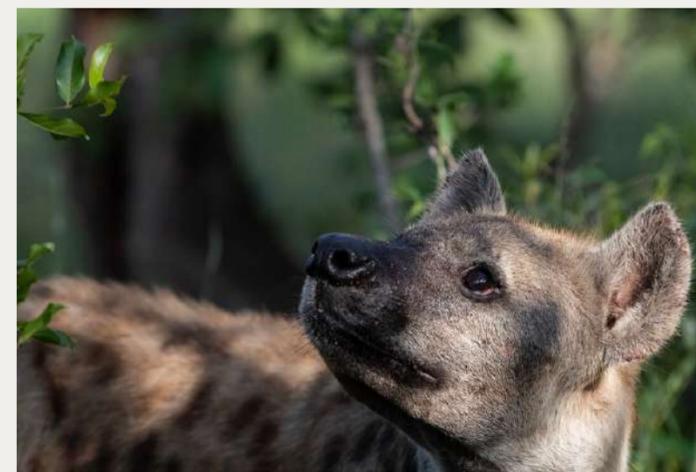
GAME DRIVE TIMES

Summer	Winter
5 - 5:30am Lasting between 3-5 hours	5:30 - 6am Lasting between 3-5 hours
4 - 4:30pm Lasting 3-5 hours	3:30 - 4pm Lasting 3-5 hours

A private vehicle option is also available should you wish to explore the reserve with your own guide on your own times. This is great for special interests such as birding or photography



Your safari experience will be led by a highly trained, FGASA qualified guide with years of experience in finding animals and explaining their behavior. If you have any specific interests such as birding, botany, geology, photography and star gazing – You name it, our guide will have some knowledge on the subject. Feel free to make any special requests, we will do our absolute best to provide you with the fascinating details of each subject





'Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better'

Walking Safari

The ultimate way to re-connect with nature



Experience Africa on foot with specialized walking safaris conducted by our highly trained trails guide. Each walk can last up to 3 hours and departs early morning to give guests the best opportunity to encounter the larger wildlife of the Manyoni Game Reserve. Walking also offers a wonderful opportunity to get closer to nature by stepping off the game viewer and slowing down your search of wildlife - take in the beauty of the smaller creatures and learn about the medicinal and cultural beliefs of the floral kingdom. Maybe even track down one of the 'Big 5' by following the footprints left in the sand.

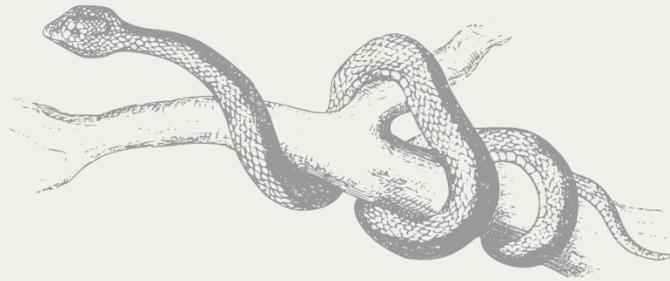
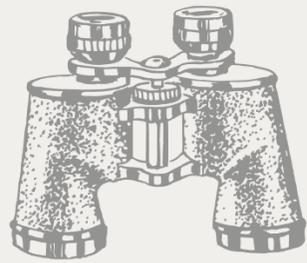
A walking safari will replace a vehicle based safari as both take place in the early morning. We recommend sacrificing at least one drive to experience this wonderful activity.

Your guide will customize the route depending on your interests and fitness level. Take a stroll through the bush while stopping at anything that catches your eye, or get your exercise for the day by marching along the crests and valleys of the rolling hills



WHAT TO BRING

- A good pair of walking shoes
- Neutral colored clothes – greens, browns, something that blends well into the bush
- Hat and sunscreen
- Binoculars
- Water – we can provide bottle at the lodge
- Long pants are suggested to keep the insects off your legs



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Your guide will be armed with a .375 bolt action rifle. He will be highly trained in when and how to use this weapon. It is used as an absolute last resort to protect ourselves.

We have never had to use it, and have always been able to handle a situation safely

- Guests will walk in single file, with the guide in front
- Groups of more than 6 will be joined by a back-up armed guide
- There will need to be silence while walking to allow the guide to hear any animals ahead
- The guide will do a full briefing of the rules and regulations before conducting a walk.
- Guests may be refused to walk if you are below 18 years of age or above 65. We will assess each situation individually
- Any medical conditions will need to be disclosed before joining a walking safari





Birds

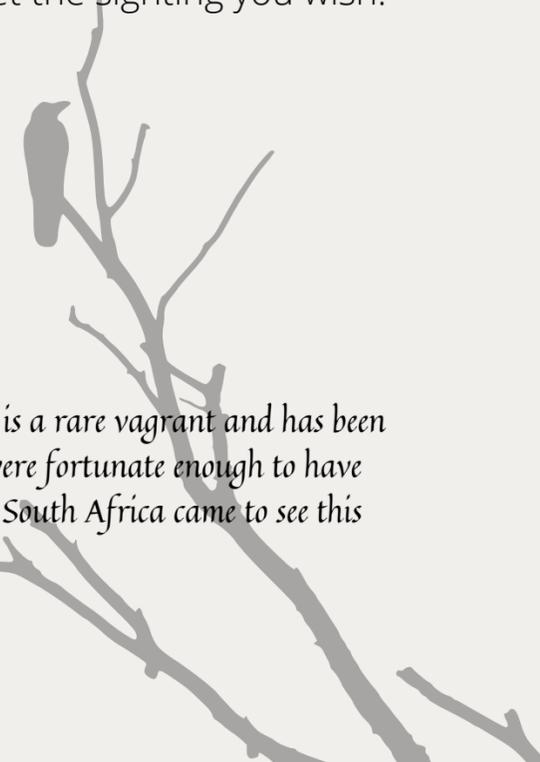
Our Pride & Joy



Some come to experience the Big 5, and leave with an everlasting appreciation of the magnificent birdlife. Mavela is renowned for its exceptional birding opportunities, with over 400 species recorded on the reserve. The diversity of habitats found on the Manyoni reserve invite you to go searching for all sorts of beautiful and elusive bird species. From riverine thickets to grassy plains, the bush provides an abundance of birdlife.

The Stevens family are avid birdwatchers and ensure that guests are given a glimpse into this fascinating hobby. The guides at Mavela are bird specialists, and will be able to identify many of the birds by their call alone. They love a challenge, and if you wish to come searching for a specific bird, we will search high and low to get the sighting you wish.

A photo of the Golden Pipit, taken at Mavela lodge. This bird is a rare vagrant and has been recorded in Southern Africa only a handful of times. We were fortunate enough to have this bird stay at Mavela for 44 days! Visitors from all over South Africa came to see this surreal bird





White-Throated Robin-Chat
 Grey Tit-Flycatcher
 Bronze-winged Courser
 Bushveld Pipit
 Bearded Woodpecker
 Fiscal Flycatcher
 Lappet-faced Vulture
 White-Headed Vulture
 Cape Vulture
 White-backed Vulture
 Striped Pipit
 Mocking Cliff-Chat

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl
 Marsh Owl
 Grass Owl
 Barn Owl
 Pearl-Spotted Owlet
 Southern White-Faced Owl
 Senegal Lapwing
 Southern Ground Hornbill
 Shelley's Francolin
 Lazy Cisticola
 Croaking Cisticola
 Secretary Bird



OUR STAR BIRDS

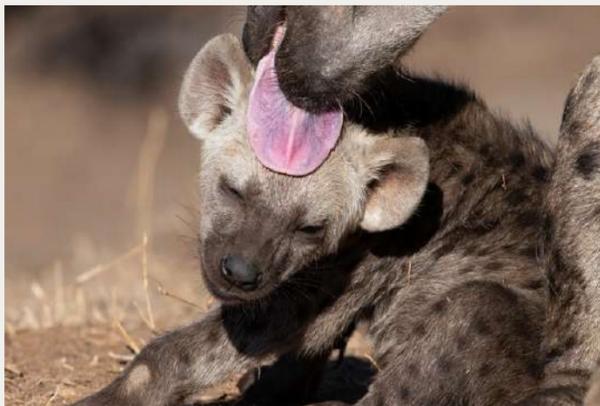
Pink-throated Twinspot
 Eastern Nicator
 Rudd's Apalis
 Neergard's Sunbird
 Green Malkoha
 Narina Trogon
 African Broadbill
 Gorgeous Bush Shrike
 Purple-banded Sunbird
 African Crowned Eagle
 Square-tailed Drongo
 Grey Waxbill

Bearded Scrub-Robin
 Green Twinspot
 Grey-hooded Kingfisher
 Black-bellied Starling
 Scaly-throated Honeyguide
 African Cuckoo Hawk
 African Green Pigeon
 Grey Sunbird
 African Emerald Cuckoo
 Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher





PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARIS





WHY CHOOSE A PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARI?

As part of the package you will be given full use of a private game drive vehicle and a knowledgeable photographic guide to help with any questions you may have. The beauty of having your private vehicle is that you can spend as much time as you like out in the bush or at a sighting of your choice. If your goal is to photograph lions, then we will focus solely on finding the animals and spending time at the sighting - so you can get that perfect photograph

YOUR GUIDE

Your guide will be knowledgeable on most photographic equipment and techniques and will know exactly how to position the vehicle to take full advantage of the lighting and situation. Predicting animal behavior is an important aspect in photography and your guide will be able to position and wait for the scene to play out as expected.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES

The reserve is a paradise of open grassy plains and rolling hills. This is perfect as a backdrop to photograph any animal species. Photographing the Big 5 is any nature lovers dream. Search for your species of choice and then spend time enjoying their beauty.

Basic equipment is available for rent, but we suggest renting your own equipment. For any suggestions or advice get in touch with us.

Extra Activities

To make your stay unique and memorable



Rhino De-Horning



Join our wildlife management team on a unique rhino dehorning experience. Rhino dehorning has proven to be an effective measure to deter rhino poaching. We therefore invite you to join us and participate in a heart-warming, hands-on experience.

Get up close to wild rhino whilst assisting the team in collecting DNA samples and taking measurements, all of this contributing to the protection of the species. The procedure is not harmful in any way and our veterinarian and wildlife management team is highly experienced ensuring the welfare of the rhino during the procedure.



*For any additional activities, please enquire before your trip to check availability and cost

"We believe that interest in nature leads to knowledge
which is followed by understanding
and later, appreciation.

Once respect is gained
it is a short step to responsibility,
and ultimately action
to preserve our Earth."

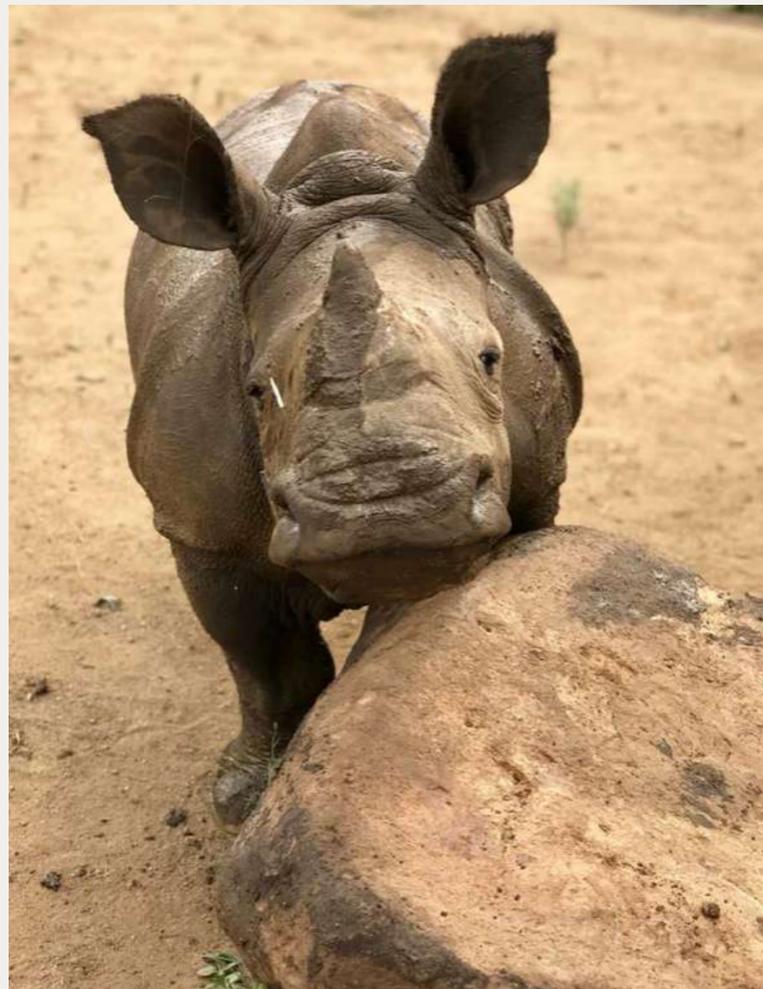
- Dr Ian Player





Visit To a Rhino-Orphanage

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage is a specialized facility for the care and rehabilitation of orphaned rhino calves. We would like to offer you the opportunity to visit the facility and learn more about the amazing work they do. During your visit you will be able to see how the facility is run and how the orphans are being cared for.



*Please note that this is a rehabilitation facility and we therefore limit human interaction with the animals. A maximum of 6 guests can be accommodated per visit. The visits last an hour. Guests are not permitted to take their own photos however a staff member will take photos for you during your visit. Visits are subject to availability, and will be restricted when new calves arrive or are undergoing treatment. Please enquire for availability and bookings.



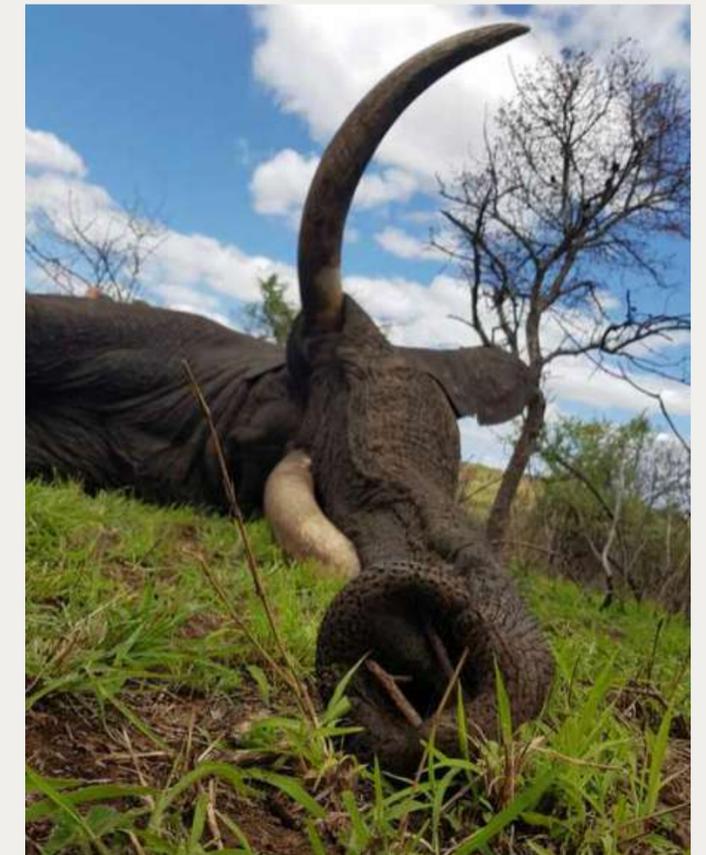
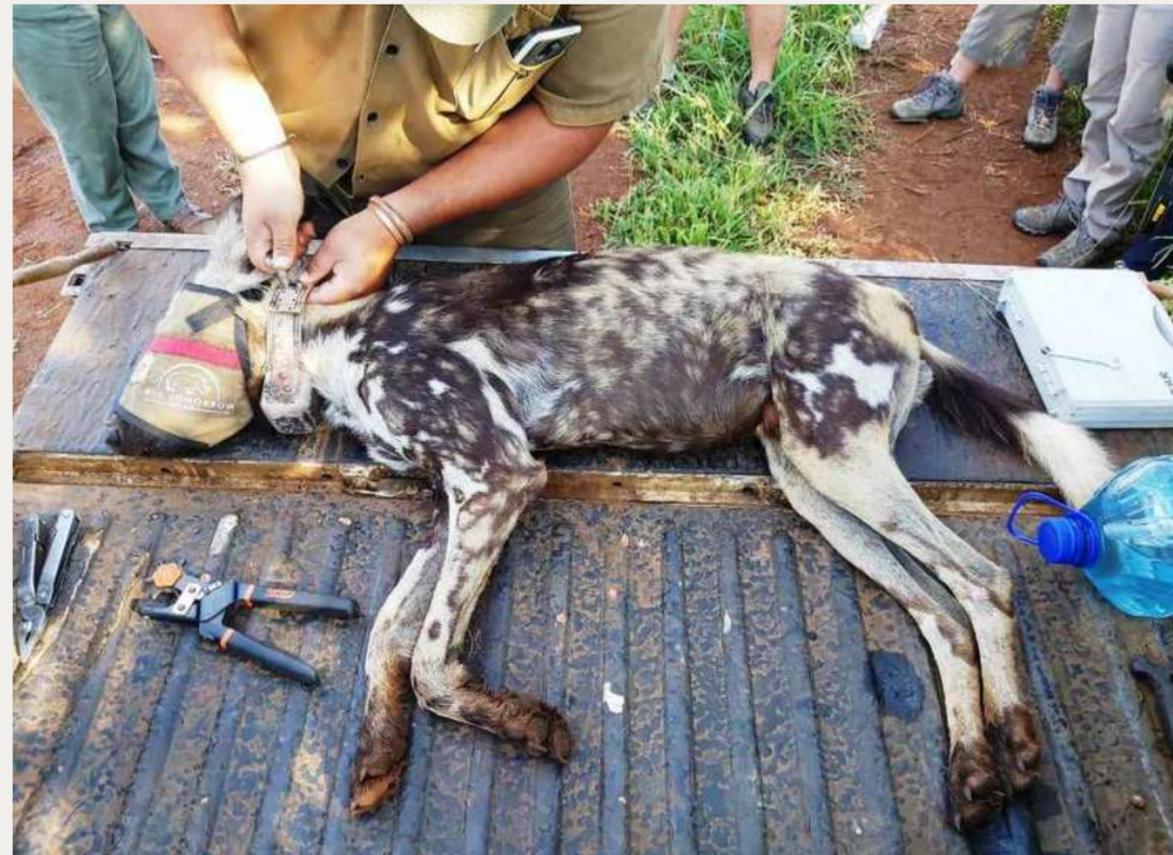
Animal Tracking

Join us on a wildlife monitoring session. Learn about the use of telemetry equipment and track down one of the collared animals on Manyoni. You will get to know the team as well as gain insight into animal behaviour and wildlife management. Monitoring specific individuals, packs or prides is an important part of wildlife management. You can participate in either elephant, lion, cheetah or wild dog tracking. An afternoon or morning session can be booked. Please enquire at your lodge for availability and bookings.



Other Conservation Activities

From time to time, Manyoni conducts routine conservation activities, such as collaring, animal callups, and immobilisation of individuals for veterinary treatment. Please enquire with your lodge if any of these activities are available during your stay.





Cultural Tour



SAWUBONA! Join us on a visit to the Mandlakazi Tribal Land to experience Zulu culture whilst supporting women in this community. You can join the Zululand Conservation Trust team on a visit to one of the schools or crèche's which we support monthly and learn more about our environmental education projects. Enjoy a traditional Zulu lunch whilst learning about the Zulu Culture. We welcome donations such as toys, stationary, books, blankets and clothing.



'Some travel to see the difference, others travel to make a difference'

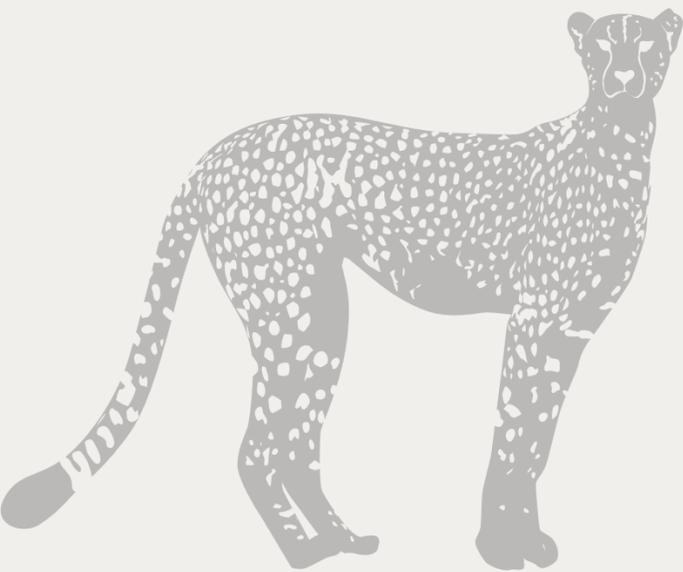
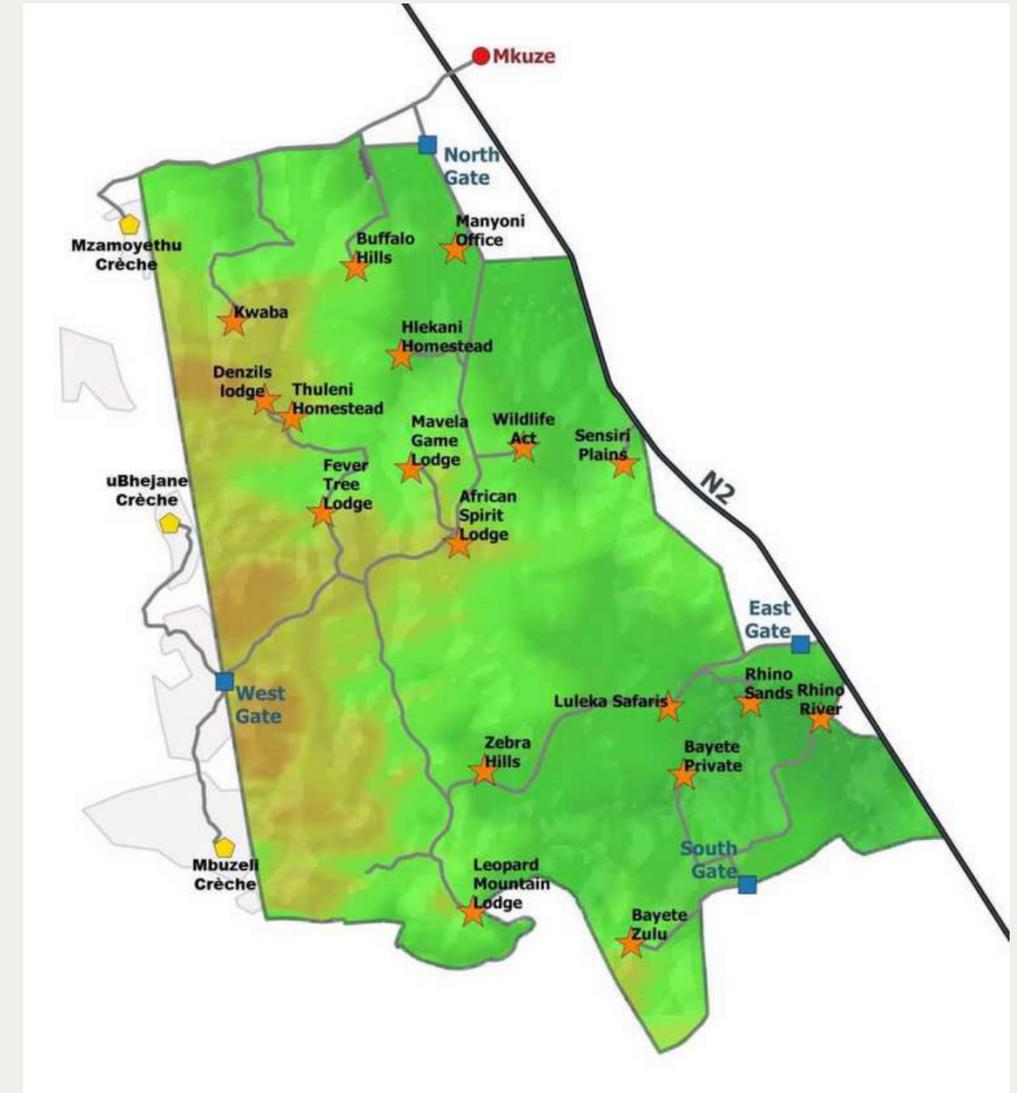
"I just wish the world was twice as big and half of it was still unexplored."



Manyoni Private Game Reserve

The Home of Mavela Lodge

Manyoni Private Game Reserve is one of the largest privately-owned reserves in Kwazulu-Natal. This 23,000-hectare reserve is the product of 17 dedicated landowners who dropped their fences in 2004 to create one contiguous protected area for our wildlife. The selection of the area as a potential release site for the WWF Black Rhino Range Expansion Project was a major driving factor in the establishment of Manyoni. In 2005, the newly established reserve was confirmed as a release site by the WWF and a founder population of black rhino were released into their new home. A few years later, in 2009, the reserve was formally proclaimed by the government as a Nature Reserve under the Protected Areas Act. Since the establishment of the reserve we have seen the reintroduction of lions, making Manyoni a Big 5 Reserve, and the reintroduction of endangered cheetahs and African wild dogs. In addition to endangered species conservation, Manyoni Private Game Reserve has a strong focus on conserving biodiversity, this includes the landscapes, ecosystems and processes upon which this biodiversity depends.

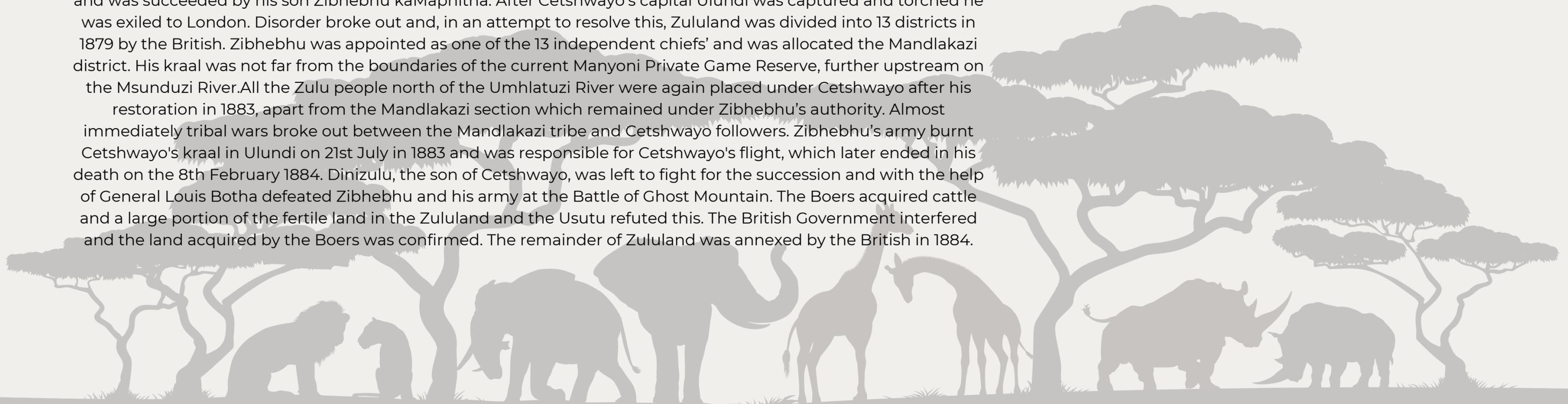


The History

Ancestors of Our Land



The Msunduze Valley has always been suitable for wildlife and traditional Zulu (Nguni) cattle. It was a seasonal grazing area and traditional hunting area of the Zulu clans that lived away from the valley. Cetshwayo kaMpande was the son of kaMpande who was Shaka Zulu's half brother. Cetshwayo succeeded his father Dingaan and was crowned as the Zulu King in 1873. During the same year Maphitha Zulu the leader of the Mandlakazi section died and was succeeded by his son Zibhebhu kaMaphitha. After Cetshwayo's capital Ulundi was captured and torched he was exiled to London. Disorder broke out and, in an attempt to resolve this, Zululand was divided into 13 districts in 1879 by the British. Zibhebhu was appointed as one of the 13 independent chiefs' and was allocated the Mandlakazi district. His kraal was not far from the boundaries of the current Manyoni Private Game Reserve, further upstream on the Msunduzi River. All the Zulu people north of the Umhlatuzi River were again placed under Cetshwayo after his restoration in 1883, apart from the Mandlakazi section which remained under Zibhebhu's authority. Almost immediately tribal wars broke out between the Mandlakazi tribe and Cetshwayo followers. Zibhebhu's army burnt Cetshwayo's kraal in Ulundi on 21st July in 1883 and was responsible for Cetshwayo's flight, which later ended in his death on the 8th February 1884. Dinizulu, the son of Cetshwayo, was left to fight for the succession and with the help of General Louis Botha defeated Zibhebhu and his army at the Battle of Ghost Mountain. The Boers acquired cattle and a large portion of the fertile land in the Zululand and the Usutu refuted this. The British Government interfered and the land acquired by the Boers was confirmed. The remainder of Zululand was annexed by the British in 1884.





Conservation Initiatives

Click on a link to find out more



Endangered Species Reintroduction



Zululand conservation trust

Black Rhino Range Expansion Project



Wildlife ACT

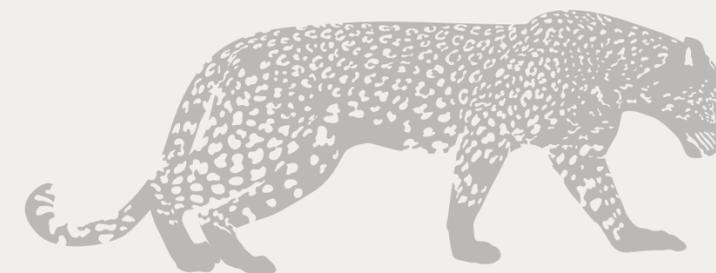




And then one day, when you least expect it - The great adventure finds you

Information

To make it easy



HOW TO GET THERE

The Manyoni Private Game Reserve is easily accessible by a normal vehicle via Durban and Johannesburg. It is approximately 3 and a half hours drive from King Shaka International Airport and 6 hours drive from the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. Transfers can be arranged on request.

CONSERVATION LEVY

To help us manage and conserve our wildlife, the Manyoni Private Game Reserve will charge a conservation levy. These funds go towards vital conservation work and ensure that our vulnerable species are protected for generations to come.

MALARIA

We are a Low risk area and have not recorded any cases on the reserve for many years. Other areas of South Africa are at Higher risk. Please consult your travel agent and doctor if travelling to other areas.

THE LODGE

The Lodge is unfenced, which means we do get animals walking through the lodge grounds. For your safety we will always have someone to walk you back to your rooms at night. During the day, someone will always be around to ensure your safety.

FULLY - INCLUSIVE

Guests staying at Mavela pay a fully-inclusive rate, which means you can put away your wallet and enjoy the offerings of the lodge as often as you like.

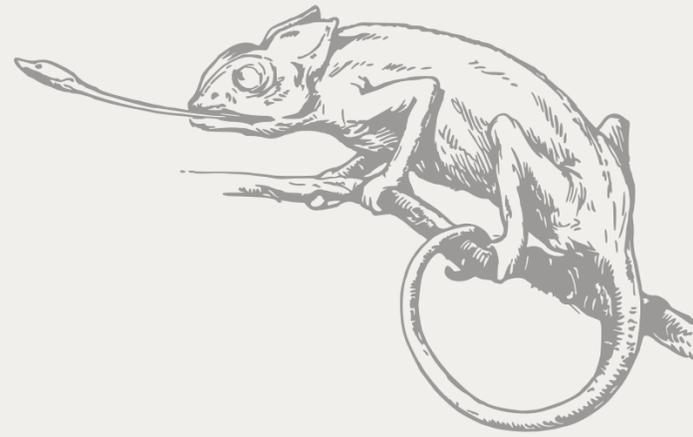


Included

- 2 Game Drives
- Walking Safaris
- Soft Drinks
- South African wine
- Beer
- Spirits
- Daily meals - early morning coffee with rusks, full English / continental breakfast, light lunch and three course dinner
- Snacks
- All day Tea & Coffee
- Safari Style tented accommodation with en-suite shower
- VAT Inclusive
- WiFi in the main lodge

Excluded

- Conservation Levy
- Gratuity
- Additional Self Drive activities within the reserve and surrounding area
- Extra activities associated with the Manyoni Private Game Reserve
- Private Vehicle rental
- Photographic safari



TIPPING

Gratuities are entirely at your discretion, based on the quality of service. As a guideline, we suggest R150 for the ranger per day and R180 for the general staff.

Tips can be paid via cash or credit card at the lodge. Your support will help many of our less fortunate staff and their families in the local communities.

CHILDREN

Mavela does not accommodate children younger than 12, unless the lodge is booked for exclusive use.

The Bush Telegraph

To Make a Booking
Mavela Game Lodge Telephone
Mobile / Whatsapp
General Manager

reservations@mavela.co.za
+27(0)35 940 0996
+27(0)72 347 6438
danstevens@mavela.co.za



Connect with us online

FACEBOOK

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INSTAGRAM

@mavela_game_lodge

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@Mavela_Lodge