



IF YOU GO DOWN IN THE BUSH TODAY YOU WON'T GET A BIG SURPRISE!

The New Era of Safari has been welcomed at Makanyi Private Game Lodge in South Africa's Timbavati Game Reserve with the introduction of a New Generation of Totally Silent, Environment & Wildlife Friendly, Electric Safari Vehicle



Makanyi Lodge is exceptionally proud to have officially taken ownership of the first of its kind electric conversion safari vehicle. Owner Jessica Gold said of the innovative move: *"Here at Makanyi we have always looked at ways to ensure that we preserve our beautiful natural environment and when we heard about Electric Safari Vehicles doing conversions of game viewers, we jumped at the opportunity to convert one of our own Land Rovers – and the results have been astonishing! So much so, that we look forward to having our entire fleet converted in the near future."*

With the increasing rise in the price of fossil fuel seriously impacting lodges and a growing awareness of the detriment to the sensitive environment of their continued use, the conversion of aspirated vehicles into fully electric vehicles is surely a no brainer. However, until now, the conversion technology has been in its infancy with worries about durability and length of charge. That is until Electric Safari Vehicles developed ground breaking conversion technology to adapt vehicles that can be fully recharged from solar panels and are both water and dust proof with the capacity to run 4-wheel drive in all types of terrain with more power and torque compared to the normal diesel game viewers.

The range of these vehicles is also impressive – with previous obvious concerns about running out of power in the bush now all in the past. One average 6 hour charge can see a vehicle run for anything between 150 and 200km depending on terrain – far more than needed with most game drives being between 30 and 40km.

The benefits to guests are numerous too with the introduction of these silent vehicles both fulfilling green criterion and enhancing the whole safari experience. Guests can really get up close and personal to skittish wildlife and all whilst enjoying the more subtle sounds of the bush from birds and crickets to the alarm calls used by many creatures to alert of approaching predators. The vehicle is also so smooth it provides an infinitely better platform for photographers and videographers to capture scenes without vibration or engine noise.

Head Ranger Sean commented:

"The silence is tremendous and has totally transformed the safari experience, we can communicate more easily with our guests and the tracker without shouting over the sound of the engine and we can better follow more sensitive or elusive game – leopards, bull elephants in musth or mothers and babies for whom the sound of the engine can spark a negative reaction. All this whilst knowing we are protecting the environment we care so passionately about."

A Makanyi guest on a preliminary game drive summed up the experience:

"Having been on many safaris, I was pleased to be offered the opportunity to go on an electric vehicle during my stay at Makanyi Lodge. The overall experience was amazing with a totally smooth ride without the usual vibrations whilst on the go and especially when stopping to view the animals. When asking the ranger to move forward or backward when the animal moves, in a normal vehicle he would have to switch the vehicle back on and at times the animal / bird reacts and moves off. With the electric vehicle it was not a problem as the vehicle is always on and, when stopped, there is no noise or vibration – making it ideal should we need to move a tiny bit for a better angle. Well done Makanyi Lodge, the experience was amazing, the benefits immeasurable and the future GREEN!"

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