



# Walkers Bush Villa

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

# FACT SHEET



SUNDESTINATIONS™



## INTRODUCTION

In the midst of the world-renowned game-rich Timbavati Private Nature Reserve lies a grand and somewhat stately five star country home hugged by wild bushveld and endless vistas of the Kruger. Walker's Bush Villa is an ornate, yet relaxed, bush hideaway furnished with decor that marries Karen Blixen's "Out of Africa" to the Tate Gallery.

Original owners of Critchley Hackle Lodge and Walkersons Hotel and Spa in Dullstroom, Ingrid and Howard Walker certainly aren't strangers to creating exceptional destinations. With their expertise in the industry spanning 25 years, Howard and Ingrid are firmly cemented in the tourism industry.

Guests visiting Walkers Bush Villa are welcomed with a ceremonial entrance of two cheetah statues guarding a lengthy driveway flanked by colourful flowers. The driveway leads into a paved courtyard with a water fountain serving as the centrepiece. Immediately you're struck with a tranquil solitude of classic country meets colonial bushveld.

Walkers is a five star, fully-catered 4 bedroomed country villa that has been built from scratch, making the architecture and layout unique. 3 of the bedrooms have a similar layout - and hug the courtyard area. Each of the rooms are separately located from the main house. The master bedroom, the pies de resistance, adjoins the main house and boasts an indoor and outdoor shower, an outdoor bath in private area and its own sleep-out room which is also accessible from the patio.

The villa is furnished with a variety of collectibles, handcrafted items, classic art pieces and opulent finishes. There are hints of Africa throughout the villa, with original Dylan Lewis sculptures and other artwork adorning secret nooks and crannies. Tall ceilings with rafters welcome you into the entrance lounge that is dominated

by a chandelier and wall-to-floor artworks. This open area flows through to the patio and across the swimming pool and lawns; which means endless views from the moment you step into Walkers. Off-set from the main lounge is a smaller, relaxation lounge to the left and to the right, an indoor dining area.

The extensive patio, with its views of the wilderness beyond, is the ideal place to relax. There are a number of seating areas, couches and tables. The patio leads down into the pool area that rests on perfect lawns providing ample space for kids to run around. There is a boma area complete with campfire, and even an outdoor sala for a spot of reading or yoga.

In terms of activities, there are daily game drives, bush walks, bush braais, bush breakfasts, sundowner sessions, and an array of children's activities on offer. This a fully-catered place with a private chef that will arrange meals according to your needs - just perfect for small groups or families travelling together.

## AT A GLANCE

- Fully-catered, 5 star bush villa flexible in terms of guests' needs
- Family-owned and managed - steeped in history
- 4 bedrooms, one of which is the master bedroom adjoining the main house
- Villa is handbuilt with unique features
- Bush walks, game drives, children's activities, bush breakfasts, sundowners and braais are included
- Classic art pieces scattered throughout
- Relaxed atmosphere with five star service and top professional game rangers
- Exclusive use on 5000 hectares in the Kruger's big five Timbavati Private Nature Reserve
- Beautiful view over the large lawn, extending to the bushveld and small waterhole in front of the villa
- Located just a few hundred meters from the Klaserie River



- Easy self-drive with accessible roads
- An abundance of African wild dog and lion sightings

## FACILITIES

- Parking in courtyard
- 4 bedrooms : 1 double (master) and 3 twin rooms that can be configured to form King size beds
- Double bedroom has adjoining "outdoor" bedroom
- Master bedroom has an indoor shower; and indoor and outdoor bath
- The 3 bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms with showers; and one of the rooms has a bath
- Beds can be configured to accommodate for children
- The villa sleeps 8 people
- Air-con throughout
- Amenities provided. They include: soap hand wash, shower gel, insect repellent, and sunscreen
- Products used are JE Living Bodycare. The range is ILala which is a locally manufactured organic range
- WiFi
- 2 lounge areas, one with TV
- Full DSTV
- Fireplace
- Indoor and outdoor dining areas
- Numerous outdoor dining areas on patio
- Swimming pool
- Boma area with campfire set-up
- Sala area for reading/relaxing
- Massive lawns which are fenced off from the bushveld
- Child-friendly
- Exclusive use, fully-catered villa with private chef at your disposal
- Exquisite menu that can be tailor-made to suit any dietary requirements
- Highly qualified guides and rangers

## ACTIVITIES

- Morning and afternoon game drives in the Timbavati

### Private Nature Reserve

- Bird watching from the comfort of the villa (the purple-crested turaco, along with other birds, are regular visitors to the lawns)
- Bush dinners
- High tea
- Boma dinners around the campfire
- Sundowners in a special location
- Bush walks upon request
- Bush breakfasts
- An array of children's activities can be arranged
- Special occasion set-ups can be organised

## A TYPICAL DAY AT WALKERS BUSH VILLA

The pace of life at Walkers is entirely up to the guest. As an exclusive-use villa retreat, the schedule can be managed and tailor-made according to the group. In most private safari lodges, the day begins with a bush walk or game drive. This is to take advantage of the time of day when predators are active.

Here is an idea of how a typical day on safari is structured:

- **05h30:** Wake up for quick coffee before morning game drive
- **06h00:** Morning game drive departs
- **09h00:** Return to the villa and spend the day according to own plans
- **16h30:** Depart for afternoon game drive, including sundowners
- **19h30:** Return to the villa with a ready-made campfire in the boma, and an exquisite dinner set-up.

## LOCATION

Walkers Bush Villa is located in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve on land belonging to Howard and Ingrid Walker. The Timbavati is a renowned nature reserve on Kruger Park's western boundary, nestled between the Manyeleti in the south and the Klaserie in the north.



It shares unfenced borders with the Kruger National Park and the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve. The villa is located about a 20 min drive from Hoedspruit/Eastgate Airport and is an easy self-drive from Johannesburg. Guests access the villa via the Timbavati/Klaserie (Enkhulu Gate) Gate, where it's a quick drive to the villa.

## GETTING THERE

### DRIVING

Take the N12 or N4 highway to Witbank / eMalahleni (from Johannesburg Airport, follow signs to Boksburg to find the N12). Follow the N4 highway past Middleburg (Toll Plaza), Belfast and Machadodorp (Toll Plaza).

Follow the Schoemanskloof option on the N4 and then take the R36 to Lydenburg/Mashishing. Follow the R36 to Ohrigstad, go through the Strydom Tunnel and take the R527 to Hoedspruit.

Turn right onto the R40 towards White River, and continue along this road (this road is also known as the Klaserie Road) until you see the turning off to the left for Eastgate Airport (There should be another sign that says Timbavati/Klaserie). Turn left here (Argyle) and after 300m you will go through a control gate and then head straight down directly to the Timbavati Gate (Enkhulu Gate).

17km later look out for Bush Pub & Inn on your left and Josmacs Bush Pub on your right hand side. In front of you now will be the new Timbavati Gate (Enkhulu Gate). Enter at the Timbavati Gate and tell the guards you are going to Walkers Bush Villa. Do not pay as the gate is on the Walkers property.

Once through the control gate turn immediately right at the sign "Walker" and follow the driveway which leads directly into the villa.

**Our GPS coordinates are : S 24° 21' 34" E 031° 09' 48"**

### FLYING

Walkers Bush Villa is an easy destination to fly into, and is located close to a popular safari airport - Eastgate/ Hoedspruit Airport.

Here are the flight details:

- SAA Airlink flies daily from Jhb's O.R. Tambo to Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport and back.
- SAA Airlink flies daily from Cape Town to Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport and back.
- CEM Air has 1 scheduled return flight from Johannesburg and 1 scheduled return flight from Cape Town, daily.

## CHILD POLICY

Walkers welcomes children of all ages.

## CHECK IN AND OUT TIMES

Check in time is 2pm and check out time is 11am.

## GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

### WEATHER

The average mean rainfall for the year is 350mm, with most rainfall occurring during mid-summer (November - February). The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours.

The average maximum temperatures range from 24°C in July to 31°C in January with the average minimum occurring in July at a temperature of 8.5°C.

### WILDLIFE

#### MAMMALS

Some of the world's largest mammals find their home in South Africa, where elephant, giraffe, hippo, buffalo, and rhino reside in the wild Kruger Park. Game drives in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve lead to unforgettable sightings of these large species, in addition to general



game, such as zebra, impala, kudu, gnu, waterbuck, bushbuck, duiker, and steenbok.

## PREDATORS

Following in the footsteps of the herbivorous mammals are the carnivorous species of the South African bush. Lion, leopard, hyena, cheetah, African wild dog, and the Nile crocodile are some of the prominent predators residing in the Kruger region. Smaller predators include jackal, mongoose, civet, and genet, among others. The Timbavati is also home to the famous white lions.

## BIRDLIFE

The Timbavati habitat accommodates a complete smorgasbord of birder's delights. Water birds such as herons, storks, plovers, spoonbills, and sandpipers are common along dam edges; kingfishers, orioles, robins, chats, larks, cisticolas, and coucals are some of the veld and woodland birds around; while birds of prey are seen and heard throughout the day. Purple-crested turacos are regular visitors to the gardens, and so are a host of other birds.

## MALARIA

Prior to travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation,

however a repellent stick or spray is effective and should be utilised. The villa will provide the repellent.

## WHAT TO PACK

Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves. Guests should pack sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses, while scarfs, jackets and gloves are needed for early morning game drive in winter.

Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings. There are many bird and wildlife books on offer at the villa, making for interesting reading, but guests should bring specific books and games for entertainment.

## GAME DRIVE VEHICLES

On game drives you are able to get a lot closer to big game. The animals are generally habituated to the vehicle. This means that they are used to the vehicle approaching them and know that it never causes them harm.

This enables to you to get within five to 10 metres of the large animals – and safely! All game drives are conducted in open 4 x 4 Toyota Land Cruisers or Landrovers.

