

three tree hill

history • nature • culture

THREE TREES DETAILED FACT SHEET

LOCATION, DISTANCES & TRANSFERS

S 28 deg 39' 41.6" E 29 deg 29' 13.6"

Altitude 1207m / 3959ft

360km from OR Tambo (4 hours drive) or 260km from King Shaka International (3 hours drive)

Nearest Airstrip Ladysmith 1200m / 3937ft – bitumen surface

Transfers by vehicle, helicopter or light plane arranged on request.

Close to the base of Van Reenens pass, the lodge is also the ideal half-way stop between Johannesburg & Durban, only 27km from the N3 highway, including 8km of gravel road.

No 4 x 4 necessary.

This lodge is the perfect location to base yourself for exploring the major Anglo-Boer War Battlefields in KwaZulu Natal (Battles of Spioenkop and Colenso), the Northern Drakensberg Mountains (world heritage site), and within easy (2hrs) reach of the Anglo-Zulu War Battlefields (Battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift).

DESCRIPTION

Against the magnificent backdrop of the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa, and overlooking the secluded Mfazimnyama Valley of the Spioenkop Game Reserve, lies Three

Tree Hill. This family-owned & managed Fair Trade certified lodge, places great emphasis on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism and offers spectacular scenery, locally grown farm-style country food with superb hospitality. It is the ideal environment in which to unwind and be rejuvenated. This intimate, luxury 24 bedded lodge is owned by Simon & Cheryl Blackburn whose passion and enthusiasm for Africa's wildlife, history and culture is immediately evident when you visit. You are welcomed into their home, and invited to experience the warm hospitality, and relaxed atmosphere in their four star lodge.

ROOM TYPES

The lodge consists of 6 x Double cottages & 3 Two-bedroomed Family Cottages, accommodating a total of 24 people.

The 40sqm stand-alone **6 X Double/Twin Cottages** are clad in corrugated iron exterior & wood panelling interior. They have been elegantly designed to transport you back in time, although are all equipped with modern conveniences such as heated towel rails, overhead fans, air conditioners and panel room heaters. 100% cotton percale linen, cotton blankets, duck down duvets & pillows add to your comfort. Please advise of an allergy to these. Double/Twin Cottages have 2 extra-length (190cm) $\frac{3}{4}$ **beds** pushed together. These beds can be converted to king size if requested. A private verandah is attached to each room. Rooms accessed by fairly steep pathway to main lodge facility.

1 x 2-bedroomed Kiplings Family Cottage is 100sqm stand-alone cottage, which is easily accessible to the main facilities (lounge/dining areas) for young children or people with limited mobility. Master bedroom has a fireplace & bathroom en-suite (with separate bath & shower). Children's (2nd) bedroom has bunk beds and two single beds (sleeps 4 children under 12 years) This room has a fully functional bathroom adapted for people with limited mobility. Wheelchair access into the shower, with handrails & fold-away seat make this suitable. Lounge

area opens to cozy kitchenette (microwave, wash basin & fridge) with tea/coffee making facility. Verandah leads out to shady sandpit under an Acacia tree. Maximum 2 adults with 4 children (under 18 years) sharing. Or, alternatively 4 adults sharing.

1 x 2-bedroomed self-contained Churchills Cottage This 105 sqm self-contained luxury cottage sleeps 4 adults (or 2 adults, 2 children - 3rd child on request) in 2 separate bedrooms (with private en-suite bathrooms) No children under 8 yrs of age. Fully self contained kitchen with open plan dining and living area, private unfenced pool, braai & entertainment area. Shared deck leads out from rooms. Ideal for couples travelling together or families with teenagers.

1 x 2-bedroomed self-contained Burchells Cottage This 105 sqm self-contained luxury cottage sleeps 4 adults (or 2 adults, 4 children) in 2 separate bedrooms (with private en-suite bathrooms). Children's (2nd) bedroom has bunk beds and two single beds. Fully self-contained kitchen with open plan dining and living area. Shared deck leads out from rooms with spectacular views of Spioenkop. Un-fenced private swimming pool (does have pool safety net) & entertainment area in the garden. Ideal for couples travelling together or families.

1 x Guide Room This cosy 20 sqm room with en-suite bathroom (shower, toilet, basin), working desk & chair, tea/coffee station, overhead fan is situated close to the reception area. Suitable for guides, drivers or pilots accompanying guests to the lodge.

STANDARD ROOM FEATURES

Guest amenities (shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer, bubble bath, bath salts) consist of a unique range of exquisite hand-made virgin olive-based African Botanical body care products. Tissues, un-bleached toilet paper, cotton wool & hand clothes-wash gel also supplied. Torches, umbrellas and hot water bottles supplied. Tea/coffee making facilities. Electronic safes, hair dryers & British square 3-prong plugs. Also 2-prong type & USB ports. Private verandah.

All bedrooms have overhead fans, panel heaters & air conditioners for your comfort.

Kiplings Family Cottages also has nappy bags & hand clothes-wash gel. Milton bottle steriliser, night light, puzzles, books, children's hiking backpack & shady sandpit.

LODGE FACILITIES

The old-world charm of the lounge/dining area with its large verandah creates an ideal environment in which to wind down and enjoy nature. Meals are often served outside where one can soak up the views while enjoying the exquisite local farm-style fare.

The main lounge & dining area is linked by a central fireplace. The lounge is adorned with historical memorabilia & collection of Africana for guests to enjoy.

Free Wi-fi is only available in the Molly Blackburn library. The library holds more than 3000 books to be enjoyed by guests. There is also an underground wine cellar, with a large selection of carefully selected South African wines. Private meals and wine tasting can be arranged here on request.

Sheltered Swimming Pool, Croquet Lawn, Sunrise Viewing Deck, Sundowner Viewing Point, Children's outside play area with jungle gym, trampoline, obstacle course, sand pit & fantasy house.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Please advise the reservations team about any **dietary requirements** or allergies PRIOR to arrival, if possible.

Meals are all plated individually, with no buffet options. Breakfast orders are taken the night before with choice of Continental and English options. Lunches are light - salads, homemade bread, artisan cheeses & cold meats. Dinners are a set menu with 3 homely farm-style courses

followed by South African port, cognac or cigar in front of the fireplace or out under the stars around the boma fire. Dinner menu is displayed during afternoon tea, with only one choice for each course, so please do let us know if this choice is not to your liking, so we may have time to prepare an alternative. Fresh, farm ingredients sourced locally or grown on site. Vegans, coeliacs, pescatarians and vegetarians all catered for provided we receive **prior notification**.

Dining is at private tables for breakfast & lunches. Communal table for convivial dinner chatter, unless requested otherwise. Please enquire about dining in the underground Wine Cellar should you wish to have a unique experience.

Platinum Diners Club Wine List – Best of South African wines & craft spirits to choose from at reasonable prices. Be sure to visit Cheryl's Gin Emporium, which boasts a selection of 30 different South African Craft Gins.

EXPERIENCES

Guided activities (**game walks, mountain bike trails, horse rides, nature walks, archery & battlefield tours**) are subject to guide availability and by prior arrangement only.

Other self-guided experiences on site (**birding, walking trails, mountain bikes for hire, sundowners, picnics, swimming & yoga**) & in the nearby area (**Drakensberg mountain hikes, raptor show, reptile centre, canopy tour, adventure centre, rock art, helicopter flips, golf**) can be done under your own steam.

CHILDREN

Children's **nature based activities** include walks, horse rides, croquet, archery, shrimp and tadpole collecting, butterfly / insect catch and pinning, birding. We offer an **outside play area** for children with a jungle gym, trampoline, obstacle course, sand pit and fantasy house. In the mornings children can collect eggs from our layers in the

coup & take them through to the kitchen to be cooked for breakfast! A short hike (with a packed picnic lunch) to the Magic Faraway Tree can be fun too.

Please be sure to reserve one of our **Family Cottages** (Kiplings, Burchells, Churchills) if you are travelling with children. They have all the amenities needed to make your stay more comfortable. It is possible to fit one extra single sleeper bed (or cot) into the **Double/Twin** cottages, which will be suitable for a child under the age of 12 years. However, there will be **very limited space** in your cottage so is not ideal.

Please be considerate of your **child's behaviour** around other guests & do make use of your private Family Cottage dining/lounge facilities where possible, so as not to disturb the peace & tranquility for other guests in our public spaces.

We welcome **children of all ages**, however, children under the age of 8 years, can't be accommodated in our Churchills Cottage due to the high balustrade & uncovered pool.

Dinner for children under the age of 12 years is served at **6pm**, in order to finish-up before other guests arrive for pre-dinner drinks. Children's menu is available [here](#).

Children under the age of 12 years are **not permitted on game walks**, but are welcome to request a guided Nature Walk adjacent to the reserve, on the farm property.

Children under the age of 16 years will not enjoy the half day **Battlefield Tours**. We recommend they do the Artillery Trail (either with their parents or with a guide should you prefer)

Children are considered children until they reach **18 years old**, then they pay full adult rate.

Child-minding services & cots are available on request. Please **arrange prior to arrival**.

Our main swimming pool area has no safety net, limited balustrading and isn't manned.

Children are only permitted to **swim under adult supervision**.

COMMUNICATION

No **telephones** in rooms. Reception phone may be used if necessary. Mobile phone access intermittent in the rooms. Good signal close to main lounge facility.

Limited **wi-fi** access in the Molly Blackburn library area only. During summer months, WI-FI is disconnected in the afternoons and evenings when thunderstorms are present. Free of charge and speed is farm-paced. Guests are asked to **refrain** from using their mobile phones at the dinner table. Convivial chatter is encouraged.

WHAT TO BRING

The dress code is casual. For the tours you will need comfortable walking shoes, a sun hat, sunblock, binoculars, sunglasses and a light jersey/jacket for the summer and in winter a warm jacket/fleece. A light rain/wind proof jacket is always recommended. When going into the Drakensberg on self-guided hikes, please remember to pack for **all** weather conditions (even rain or snow in summer!) [Find detailed list here](#)

PARKING

Free covered parking on site

CHECK IN/OUT TIMES

Room Check in time is 14h00, however guests are encouraged to arrive for lunch. (13h00 – 14h30) Check out time is 10h00

ROOM SERVICING & LAUNDRY

Basic laundry service is provided. Guest Rooms are serviced daily, unless otherwise requested. Laundry detergent is available for hand-washing items in guest cottages.

CLIMATE

Summer (September – May) is the rainy season so we often have afternoon electrical thunderstorms. Annual average rainfall 650mm. The days are hot (between 25 - 35 degrees C) but by nightfall it cools off (average 15 - 18 degrees C) However, please be prepared for the occasional cold snap. Our winters (May – September) are generally mild & dry with warm, sunny days (between 16 – 25 degrees C) & chilly mornings and evenings (between 5 – 10 degrees C) – a wonderful time for visiting Kwa Zulu Natal. The region is the coldest during July when the mercury drops to below 5 degrees C on average during the night.

MALARIA

This is a **malaria free** area.

SMOKING

No smoking allowed inside any lodge buildings.

BOOKING & CANCELLATION POLICY

Minimum stay of **3 nights recommended** all year round. Your booking must be received in writing via e-mail. Our booking team will send you a confirmation in writing.

Direct Individual Bookings

- To secure the reservation rate quoted on the day, written confirmation is required **within 24 hours**.
- Guaranteed confirmation on **20% deposit** received **within 7 days** of making the reservation, after which it will be released.
- Full balance to be paid **45 days prior** to your arrival.
- All bank deposit payments are to be received free of bank charges or commissions. International bank transfers will be subject to bank service fee.

Agent FIT Bookings

- To secure the reservation a **written confirmation** is required **within 14 days** of making the reservation, after which it will be released.
- Full payment must be made 45 days before guest's arrival. Should you request a monthly statement for deposit bookings, please arrange with reservations.

Direct Group Bookings (3 rooms or more)

- Group bookings (3 rooms or more) are required to pay a non-refundable **deposit of 20%** of the accommodation value **within 14 days** of making the reservation, after which it will be released.
- Full balance payable 90 days prior to arrival

Agent Group Bookings (3 rooms or more)

- Group bookings (3 rooms or more) are required to pay a non-refundable **deposit of 20%** of the accommodation value **within 14 days** of making the reservation, after which it will be released.
- Full balance payable 45 days prior to arrival

Exclusive use of the lodge

- Exclusive use of the lodge is required to pay a non-refundable **deposit of 20%** of the accommodation value **within 14 days** of making the reservation, after which it will be released. Community & conservation levy will be calculated on a per person basis.
- Full balance payable 90 days prior to arrival.

Postponements

- You will face no penalty for any postponed reservation at any time, and for any reason.
- All your payments will be transferred to your new booking.
- Seasonal rate variation will apply.

Cancellations

- We strongly urge guests to take out travel insurance with 'cancel for any reason' clause.
- Only written **cancellations** will be accepted.
- Ensure you receive an acknowledgment of cancellations from the reservations office.
- 20% cancellation fee from confirmation to 46 days, 50% for 31 – 45 days, 80% for 8 – 30 days, 100% for 1 – 7 days prior
- **Group booking & Exclusive use cancellations** are subjected to penalty of **50%** accommodation value between 45 – 90 days before arrival, **80%** accommodation value between 0 – 45 days before arrival.

RATE INCLUDES

Rates quoted per person per night, unless otherwise specified.

Lunch, dinner, breakfast

Afternoon tea/coffees/sweet treats

Wi-Fi (unreliable during summer thunderstorm periods & speed is farm-paced)

15% VAT

Tourism levy – not applicable

RATE EXCLUDES

All beverages, All guided activities, Mountain bike hire, Shop purchases

Non-vatable Community & Conservation levy

COMMISSION

No commission on guide rates

No commission on activities or transfers

No commission on Community & Conservation Levy

AWARDS/ACCOLADES

Wilderness Foundation Green Leaf Environment Award

Fair Trade Tourism Certified

Lilizela Imvelo Best Single Resource Management Award

Lilizela Imvelo Best Overall Environmental Management Award

Lilizela Service Excellence Award

Eco Atlas Certificate of Ethical Excellence

Tourism Grading Council 4 star

Portfolio of Places Great Comfort Category with Chefs Hat & Eco Reserve Accolade

Greenwood Guide Member

Trip advisor Service Excellence Award

Diners Club Gold, Diamond & Platinum Wine List Awards

Top 100 SA Wines Short Wine List Award

Food 24 Wine List of the Year Award

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

Owner managed, run & hosted

Exclusive – maximum 24 guests

Foothills of the Drakensberg, therefore amazing views of the mountains

Game walks inside Spioenkop Game Reserve with close encounters of white rhino with experienced guide

World-class story-tellers

Paradise for families wanting to experience nature-based activities with their children

All food from immediate farming area – organic, no preservatives where possible

Selection of 30 South African Craft Gins, Rum & Brandies

Award-winning South African Wine List with underground wine cellar

Molly Blackburn library containing 3000 books

Fair Trade Certified

Reservations/Enquiries Tel: +27 (0) 87 0 599 016

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