



monwana
COMING HOME

EXPERIENCES FACT SHEET

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Life-Enriching Experiences

Monwana Game Lodge is about coming home, home to body, mind and soul in this incredible natural world that allows for breathing space and reconnection. As part of the MORE Family Collection, we are guided by our calling to create experiences that enrich lives, and to remind our guests how 'wonder-full' life is. Africa sets the stage for any occasion, and we strive to always create something new to delight our guests!

Game Drives

Duration: 3 hours

Game drives, in open safari vehicles, head out each day at sunrise and again in the late afternoon, in the company of expert field guides and trackers. Thornybush Nature Reserve shares an unfenced border with the Greater Kruger National Park, home to the famed 'Big 5' and countless many species of large mammals. The wildlife density on this tract of land is quite extraordinary, thanks to the rivers, landscapes and vegetation. The area is well-known for the quality and quantity of its sightings of Africa's most elusive cat - the leopard.

Being part of a private 14,000-hectare reserve means that guests enjoy personal, uncrowded, unrushed, and close contact sightings. We allocate no more than 6 guests per safari vehicle, which means that every guest enjoys a 'window' seat. Each row on the vehicle has a console with binoculars and USB charging points.

- Includes: a hot beverage or sundowner stop in a scenic spot to purely appreciate being in the bush and in the moment

*Private game drives are included in the accommodation rates for guests of Monwana Residence. Suites can request a private vehicle dependant on availability and at an additional cost.

Bush Walks

Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on guests' fitness levels

Being on foot is an altogether different experience of the wild that energises the senses. Hear the stones beneath your feet, feel the wild grass against your skin, smell the scent of rain in the air, taste the leaves of medicinal plants and appreciate the full scale of nature around you. Guided walks are in the company of an armed guide and tracker and tailored to guests' interests.

- Children under 16 years are not permitted on the bush walks, as per reserve policy
- Guests should wear: neutral-coloured clothing, comfortable walking shoes, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen
- Guests should bring along: a lightweight dry mac jacket, camera/smartphone, and binoculars

Bush Surprises

We love nothing better than a surprise setting out in the wild! We create spectacular Monwana moments by serving food in different natural settings on and around the property. Bush dinners, bush breakfasts, picnics, surprise bush stops, and our riverbed dining under the stars are always part of our guest experience.

Stargazing

During evening game drives or bush dinners (weather permitting), the field guides will share insights into the skies. The clear air and minimal light pollution of this remote lodge make it an ideal location for stargazing. The guides will point out the constellations that shift seasonally and those that are unique to the southern hemisphere (circumpolar constellations), taking guests on an astral safari.

Spa and Wellness

Here you'll find an oasis of pure calm in the wilderness. We've designed the spa to be an extension of mother nature's elements. A range of therapeutic treatments provide a restorative and sensorial experience. Guests choose from massages, exfoliations, reflexology, and facials with TheraNaka skincare products and essential oils – all ethically formulated with the finest natural and organic ingredients – as well as manicures and pedicures. Our experiences and treatments allow the guest to journey within, to arrive at a place where the soul feels nourished, replenished and closer to home. At Monwana, the fitness centre offers a serene atmosphere accompanied by a breath-taking view of the bush, and caters to various fitness activities such as weightlifting, cardio, and yoga. Of course, yogis can choose their preferred spot to stretch out any leftover tension, be it in the fitness centre or perhaps on their private deck overlooking the waterhole.

Shopping

Our safari boutique offers a range of proudly African-produced high-end clothing, accessories, art, and mementos – rare and beautiful items to remind guests of their time in Africa – as well as everyday necessities.

Excursions

Experiences such as hot air ballooning, golfing, scenic tours etc may be booked on your behalf at an additional fee and subject to availability. Some of our favourite adventures include:

Wild dog tracking

Time spent with these magnificent, endangered animals under the guidance of wild dog expert, Grant Beverly is truly unforgettable. This half a day educational experience supports the tracking and monitoring of the Kruger's Wild Dogs as part of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Programme.

Helicopter flip*

Take to the skies for an exhilarating once-in-a-lifetime flight from the Greater Kruger into the Blyde River Canyon and Gods Window. The Drakensberg escarpment can also be viewed on this hour-long flight. This adventure from the air inspires a sense of wonder and puts the biodiversity of the natural world into perspective. The 2 1/2 hour Blyde Canyon Sightseeing Flight includes a stop at The Chubby Pig Eatery or a picnic in the mountain. The Panorama Adventure Flight, also 2 1/2 hours, includes a stop at The Graskop Gorge Lift Company for more adventures.

Hot air balloon*

Offering an even more unique way to view the world and one to tick off the bucket list is a hot air balloon safari. This is a spectacular way to view the endless plains of the Thornybush and neighbouring regions from above.

*Flight experiences can be arranged through our team, with bookings availability- and weather-dependent, and a maximum of 3 guests.

Conservation Projects

We have access to a range of unique conservation experiences through the Thornybush Nature Reserve Team. All these activities must be prebooked and are subject to timing of project and availability. Costs available on request. They include:

Rhino dehorning project

As and when occurring and includes fixed-winged aircraft and helicopter, and observation of the whole operation.

Helicopter rhino monitoring program

Includes a 40/45 minute flight over Thornybush together with a lodge representative / anti-poaching ranger to monitor the reserve and interaction with them.

Snare removal (Wild dogs or hyenas)

Support of wildlife intervention measures

K9 unit anti poaching unit

Takes place in the South of the Reserve. Guests get to watch a demonstration and a talk on the dogs, how they are trained, and how they are used for tracking down poachers. (NOTE this is a donation-based activity and excludes transfer costs)

Daily Programme

The times given below are guidelines and may change subject to weather or the lodge's discretion.

An idea of what to look forward to...

Summer (September to April)	Programme	Winter (May to August)
05h00	Wake-up call	06h00
05h30	Tea/coffee; game drive departs	06h30
08h30	Game drive returns; breakfast/brunch is served	09h30
At leisure	Bush walk, or other activities of personal preference	At leisure
13h00	Lunch is served	13h00
16h00	Afternoon tea	15h00
16h30	Game drive departs	15h30
19h30	Game drive returns; dinner is served	18h30