

AMAKHOSI  
Safari Lodge



*A King's Pride*



**AN EXTRAORDINARY  
DESTINATION**



SONJA & ALWYN

# WELCOME

AMAKHOSI SAFARI LODGE & SPA is a special hideaway offering exceptional service and luxury, set amidst expansive African landscapes and breath-taking big five wildlife of the Amakhosi Private Game Reserve.

Situated in the northern reaches of Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal's Zulu Kingdom, Amakhosi's sense of place is tangible with its contemporary African décor, relaxed atmosphere, and welcoming Zulu smiles - a place where you can rediscover yourself and celebrate the richness of life in this, 'The Place of Kings'.

Situated on the banks of the uMkhuze River, this small and exclusive Lodge is about experiencing Africa at its best; from scrumptious dinners on the deck to sundowners in the bush, to tracking down the 'Big Five' and exploring the world of insects, amphibians, and birds. Visit once, and you will long to return forever.





## ZINHLE MAHLINZA

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Zinhle is from a small town called Jozini. She started working at Amakhosi in February 2010 as waiter, then after four years was promoted to receptionist where she worked happily for three years until being promoted to assistant manager.

“The thing I love most about my work is the challenge, and that every day I am meeting new people. That is the best thing to me. It is also nice seeing guests that have been at Amakhosi several times because that shows that we treat them very well and they love the place. This place is amazing and that is why I always wake up in the morning with a smile, knowing I am going to do the job that I love the most.”

# MEET SOME OF THE TEAM



## PHILLIP KHUMALO

BIRDING GUIDE

Philip joined the Amakhosi team as a ranger and bird guide in 2007 and worked there until 2014, when family commitments required that he leave to tend to his family farm. A few years later, once his commitments on the farm were completed, he joined the staff of a nearby game lodge, extending his wildlife knowledge and gaining more experience. And in 2021 had the opportunity to re-join the team at Amakhosi. “I am very excited to be back with the Amakhosi Team as it feels like being back with my other family! My passion for conservation runs deep and I hope that we can all work together to conserve our wildlife for future generations to enjoy!”

# MEET SOME OF THE TEAM

## REJOICE MNGOMEZULU

CHEF

Rejoice comes from Magudu area near Pongola, and she started working at Amakhosi in 2000, starting in the scullery, progressing to food preparation and then to training to be a chef in 2002. “It was not easy but as I was willing to learn I found I enjoyed it so much and was doing my job with passion. And I survived the hard work and long hours! I found that I liked working with different people and it really gave me the experience to work as a team, learning from each other and always putting the customer’s needs first. I found that we had to be flexible and to be able to have more options for guest’s needs such as different dietary requirements, as you want them to be happy and also be able to enjoy their food, sometimes it is a challenge but when guests send compliments to us, we are all so happy.”



## JEREMY DUZE

TRACKER

Jeremy started working at Amakhosi in 2009 as a tracker and loves working with Philip - they grew up together in Ndumo, a rural community in the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal, and have been friends since childhood. He forms a formidable partnership with Philip, and together there is no track too small or old which he cannot bring alive. “I have learnt a great deal about the bush since first becoming a tracker and love my work so much. My aim is to be the best tracker at Amakhosi!”





## THE LODGE

Amakhosi, an extraordinary destination in an extraordinary setting... where relaxed luxury, attention to detail and personalised service is the norm. African hospitality at its very best - from the warm handtowels, sherry and smiles that greet guests, to the plush comfort of the six spacious River Suites, two 'Umntwana' Honeymoon Suites and the private 'IsiGodlo' residence.





## RIVER SUITES

The six spacious River Suites, built in the shape of a Zulu shield, are set along the river, and spaced strategically angled for ultimate privacy. Each open-plan and air-conditioned suite, which accommodates two adults, is beautifully appointed with ceiling high windows and a spacious deck overlooking the Mkhuzi River flood plain. The comfy chairs and hammock are perfect for whiling away the time with a good book or with binoculars in hand. The interior décor is cool white with accents of colour - the subtle Zulu craft adding to the sense of place.



# COMFORT & STYLE



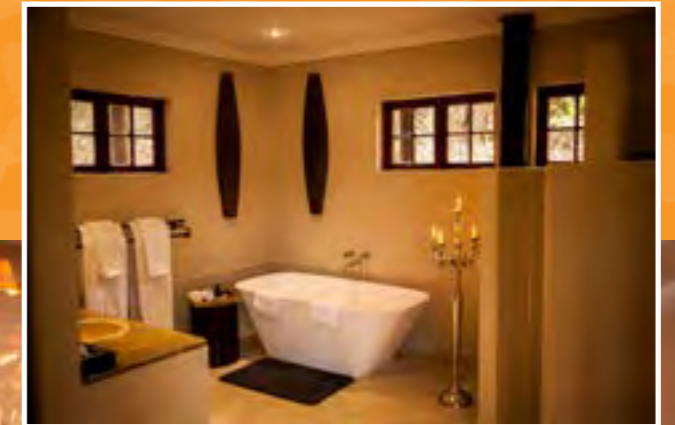
A king size bed, draped with mosquito netting, invites an afternoon nap, and the separate lounge area with mini-bar and a tea and coffee tray ensure refreshments are available when required. The spacious bathroom with a bath, shower and separate toilet, has fluffy bath robes, slippers and fragrant Africology amenities - and candles to add to the romantic ambiance. An outside shower adds to the safari experience.





# UMNTWANA HONEYMOON SUITES

'Umntwana', means 'a child of Royalty' in Zulu, and in addition to all the luxury offered in the River Suites, offers a spacious deck, private splash pool built into the deck and hammock overlooking the river. It truly spells 'royal dwelling' and 'romantic getaway'... the perfect place to celebrate your love with a bottle of chilled bubbly.





## ISIGODLO PRIVATE HOUSE

'IsiGodlo', means 'chief's residence' in Zulu, is a private house overlooking the meandering Mkhuze River. It is located a short distance away from the main lodge and accommodates four adult guests and offers you a share of paradise. It is perfectly positioned to capture the African sun as it sets over the rolling hills of this pristine Zululand wilderness.





The spacious lounge entices with large leather sofas, a central fireplace and bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms all opening onto a large wooden viewing deck, giving sweeping views of the valleys and wildlife below, with the splash pool providing cool relief on those hot Zululand days.



# CUISINE

A key feature of any safari experience is the cuisine, and at Amakhosi, with their African fusion style you will not be disappointed.



Your dining experience begins shortly after arrival, with a scrumptious high tea on the deck of the lodge - enjoy freshly made iced tea or lemonade and platters of vegetable wraps, chicken kebabs, mini pancakes with salmon and caviar, pâtés, quiches, chocolate mousse and mini cheesecakes, before meeting your personal ranger and embarking on your first Amakhosi safari experience. With anticipation you scan the African bush for the Big Five, and marvel at the diversity at hand... and later at a scenic sundowner spot, with G&T in hand, you appreciate the splendour of an African sunset.





Each day at Amakhosi starts with an early morning wake-up call, then coffee and homemade rusks on the deck before setting off on a morning game drive. At the appropriate moment and at a scenic spot, your guide will decide it's time for a coffee stop... the bush coffee (filter coffee and Amarula instead of milk and sugar) which tastes all the sweeter for being in the bush, and delicious muffins and cookies. Back at the lodge it's time for brunch, a buffet style spread comprising a hot and cold smorgasbord, with only the freshest of ingredients followed by a selection of cooked breakfast options.



Dinner is served upon your return in the main lodge or on the deck overlooking the river. It is an elegant candle-lit affair with a multi-course menu - all beautifully plated and delicious, and accompanied by a selection of South African wines. A traditional dinner may also be enjoyed in the open-air under the stars in the boma, which resembles a traditional Zulu kraal, complete with bonfire, the dramatic sound of African drums and traditional Zulu dancing.



# EXPERIENCES

A safari is a journey of discovery in which you are one with your surroundings. Being part of life in the bush is the essence of a safari and being able to do it is a privilege one should never take for granted.



Imagine close encounters with a herd of African elephant, or examining a spider in its web, glistening with early morning dew. Identifying birds by their call, tracking rhino, or watching the antics of a herd of impala... and 'bush' coffee and sundowners – these are just some of the memorable experiences possible. Amakhosi's well qualified guides are waiting to take you on a journey of discovery...



## GAME DRIVES

Head out on an early morning game drive and breathe in the sights and sounds of the bush as it awakens with the rising sun. Or in the afternoon enjoy the warmth of the African sun and the dust in the air, revel in the changing light as daylight gives way to darkening skies and an array of stars.



Watch cheetah cubs play and elephants bathe, stop awhile to enjoy a freshly brewed cup of filter coffee with a dash of Amarula, follow lion tracks with anticipation and learn about the eating habits of white rhino from their poop. Giraffe, kudu and nyala abound as the bush reveals her treasures – be fascinated as your game ranger tells of Zulu traditions and the medicinal use of plants, watch eagles soar and hear the tantalising call of gorgeous bush shrike. Follow the tracks and eventually find the lions, enjoy G&Ts at sunset before looking out for eye-shine as your tracker swings a beam of light back and forth.



Nightjars enjoy the warmth of the road, buffalo gather, and an eagle owl flies off in disgust at being disturbed. The creatures of the night, often unseen but always present, are a tantalising part of a night drive.





## WALKING SAFARIS

A walking safari enables you to experience the intricate detail of the bush, its tiny creatures and critters, its grasses, plants, and trees. Your knowledgeable guide and tracker will take you on an exciting, yet safe encounter with the fauna and flora of Amakhosi Private Game Reserve.



After a hearty brunch, and in the safe hands of your guide and tracker, you'll be given a safety briefing on the dos and don'ts of walking in the bush – such as don't run in the event of a close encounter with game! Ready and full of anticipation, you'll either leave the lodge on foot, or drive to another area of the reserve. Step by step you'll be introduced to new world of amazing insects, colourful birds and game of all sizes – feel the adrenalin rush as you crouch in silence behind a bush watching white rhino graze, or the thrill of tracking a herd of elephant, following their tracks in the sand, torn branches and dung, the freshness of which indicating when they passed by. Being on foot is bound to bring you even closer to the heartbeat of the bush and will remind you of how small and insignificant we are compared to the magnitude of nature.





## FROGGING SAFARIS

During the rainy season (generally November to March), Amakhosi invites guests to discover the fascinating world of amphibians. Qualified guides take you on a night safari into the bush to marvel at the spectrum of colours provided by a wide variety of species, all calling loudly to attract a mate.

Drive under a starlit sky, deeper and deeper into the bush until you stop at a waterhole. Gum boots on and armed with a headlamp, you head towards the muddy water with a surge of adrenalin, you are after all in Big 5 territory. An armed guard keeps a watchful eye on the surroundings as your attention is focussed on the little critters... one might say the more important critters, seeing as they are an indicator species. The surrounding reeds are alive, each frog with its own distinctive call – painted reed frogs, snoring puddle frogs, and bubbling kassinias, to name just a few. The variety and abundance of frogs seen is very weather dependant.



## BIRDING

Amakhosi is a birding enthusiasts dream, boasting more than 400 different bird species, the summer offer great birding opportunities as the species numbers are boosted by seasonal migrants such as the African emerald cuckoo and paradise flycatcher. A special treat for avid birders will be to spend time with specialist bird guide Phillip Khumalo, one of the top ten bird guides in South Africa.

His bird knowledge knows no bounds and his ability to mimic bird calls accurately will have you amazed – from the call of the emerald-spotted wood dove to the gorgeous bush shrike, black-headed oriole, and Narina trogon, he will have them answering his call and coming in for a closer look. One of the special species at Amakhosi is the very powerful crowned eagle which hunts mainly monkeys and small forest antelope and generally prefers forest areas, but in the Amakhosi Private Game Reserve, which has three breeding pairs, it is also found in riverine forest.

## TEAMBUILDING & ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

The above activities could easily be incorporated into exciting and adventurous team activities, whether they be corporate team building, dad-and-lad weekend getaways or even a girls fun activity filled weekend (with a bit of spa time for good measure!).



# CULTURE & COMMUNITY:



## ZULU HERITAGE

Zululand, also known as KwaZulu-Natal's Zulu Kingdom, is home to the proud Zulu people, known for their wide welcoming smiles, generous hospitality, and love of storytelling. And there's no better way to learn about their culture and traditions than from your Zulu safari guide, spa therapist or waiter. Take pleasure in their storytelling, have conversations, ask questions, and your stay will be all the more memorable. For a more intimate experience, trips to a nearby local village can also be arranged enabling guests to experience first-hand the rich culture and unique local crafts.





# CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY:

Being located within the 6,000-hectare Amakhosi Private Game Reserve, Amakhosi Safari Lodge is blessed with a diversity of habitat that includes a blend of savannah, wetlands, and mountains, is a naturalist's dream, boasting in excess of 400 different bird species as well as a variety of amphibians, with a frogging safari a highlight during the summer months. Over and above being home to Africa's Big Five (rhino, elephant, lion, leopard, and buffalo) there are several species of antelope, giraffe, zebra hippo, crocodile, and other cats such as cheetah and genet, amongst others. Amakhosi's conservation ethos revolves around its habitat restoration and maintenance, with alien vegetation eradication being routine, as well as conservation of key species, namely cheetah and rhino.

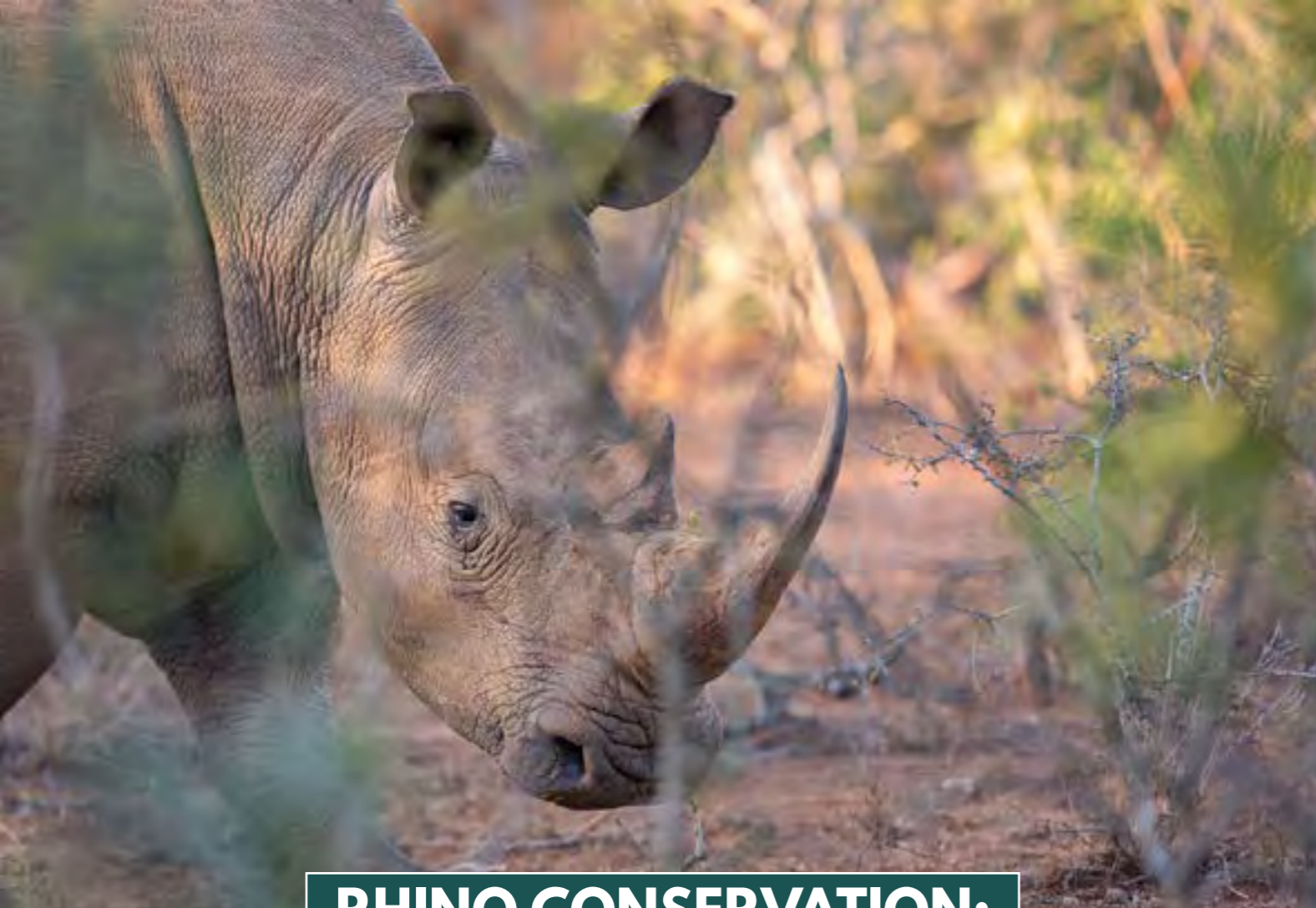


## CHEETAH CONSERVATION

In Africa, cheetahs are now only found within 10% of their historical range and they are currently listed as 'vulnerable' according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The dwindling numbers, combined with the very real threat of this iconic cat species going extinct, sparked the need for something to be done.

Amakhosi Private Game Reserve is recognized as a key reserve by the Cheetah Metapopulation Project, which was established by The Endangered Wildlife Trust's in 2011 for the protection of, and for the survival of, the cheetah species. The project was developed to maintain a high level of genetic variability within the gene pool of South Africa's cheetah population, thus reducing the chance of inbreeding within smaller reserves. This is achieved through the exchange of adult cheetahs between the participating reserves, of which Amakhosi is one, within the EWT Cheetah Metapopulation Project.





## RHINO CONSERVATION:

Most people are aware of the constant fight against the rhino horn trade and the slaughter of the region's rhino by rhino poachers that are led by very sophisticated syndicates with money and manpower. Private game reserves are targeted just as much as the national parks and many hours and funds are spent trying to keep our rhino safe through anti-poaching patrols and other security measures. Amakhosi along with many other lodges have had to take the drastic measure of dehorning their rhino to keep them safe for future generations.

Corporates and individuals can get involved by supporting these anti-poaching and rhino-dehorning efforts financially, and in the case of the dehorning, which is an exceptionally costly exercise, support financially by paying for the experience.

When protecting and managing a rhino population, rangers and scientists consider all the other species interacting with rhinos and those sharing the same habitat, so when rhinos are protected, many other species are too, not only mammals but also birds, reptiles, fish and insects as well as plants.



## SPA & WELLNESS:

Amakhosi Safari Lodge offers a myriad of opportunities to relax and rejuvenate, whether it be relaxing in your suite or lazing alongside the rock-fringed lodge swimming pool and taking the occasional dip... or better yet, you can unwind, revitalize, and rejuvenate your body, mind and soul in the unique African surrounding of the Amakhosi river SPA. Here guests can enjoy holistic body, skin and beauty rituals; rejuvenating massages and soothing treatments by Africology, these are designed to relax the body and bring harmony to the spirit while preserving youthfulness and enhancing health and vitality.



The Amakhosi River SPA takes safari spa treatments to new heights by indulging each of your senses... by soaking up the views of the Mkhuze river, relaxing to the sounds of the bush, breathing in the delicate fragrances of the oils and butters being applied and massaged and tasting our selection of delicious beverages and healthy snacks. Finish off with a refreshing swim in the infinity pool as you relax and enjoy the ambience of the bush and the river.

The Africology products used are produced using natural ingredients and inspired by the wisdom of Africa's traditional healers and celebrating Africa's vibrant heritage, communities, and plant life. All of which epitomise the ethos of environment and culture that Amakhosi Safari Lodge deeply values.





## WEDDINGS:

Amakhosi Safari Lodge offers the perfect way to say “I do”

From the moment of arrival when the happy couple are welcomed with wonderful Zulu hospitality and a heart-warming African smile, to checking in and viewing their suites. To a scrumptious ‘high tea’ on the deck and embarking on their first Amakhosi safari experience in the bush.

Today is the day! An early morning game drive and delicious breakfast back at the lodge, is followed by some pampering for the bride-to-be, where in the expert hands of an Amakhosi Spa therapist, she breathes in the sensual fragrance of natural oils created in Africa... relaxation for body, mind, and soul.

The groom, dressed in his finery, joins their ranger and the other guests for high tea at the main lodge, while the bride enjoys a special high tea platter in her suite before the final preparations.

After high tea the groom and guests depart on open game vehicles to the surprise bush venue, stylishly prepared and inconspicuously guarded by Amakhosi’s professional team of rangers and trackers against an unexpected appearance by one of the Big Five.

The fairy tale moment has arrived. The bride steps up into her ‘carriage’, is driven to the bush venue in an open game viewing vehicle, and is now you’re ready to walk down the aisle to meet her prince... The couple declare their love and commitment after which they’re showered in petals or potpourri to the melodious voices of the Amakhosi staff choir.

After the ceremony, the guests enjoy bubbly in the bush before a leisurely drive back to the lodge to freshen up before the evening festivities. It’s now time for the wedding photo-shoot in the bush...



# THE FOUNDATION:



After a leisurely game drive, the wedding guests are escorted to Amakhosi's traditional Zulu kraal where they're welcomed with a cocktail, the flickering light of lanterns and a wood fire. Once all the guests are seated around the bonfire, the bride and groom arrive to the dramatic sound of African drums followed by traditional Zulu dancing, followed by a traditional South African braai (barbecue)...

A more contemporary option would be a fairy-tale setting flickering with candlelight on the Amakhosi deck - complete with wonderful cocktails, tastefully decorated tables and a beautifully plated dinner. Soulful African melodies followed by dramatic drumbeats and vibrant Zulu dancing will ensure that the celebration is taken long into the night.

To make this special day perfect, the Amakhosi team has spent months getting to know and understand the couple's likes, dislikes as well as wishes and dreams. With this in mind a spectacular spot is selected, and a stylish bush venue has been prepared... Every detail thoughtfully planned and perfectly carried out.



Amakhosi Sfari Lodge is proud to partner with the DO MORE FOUNDATION, a foundation that inspires collaborative partnerships to "create better tomorrows" for the young children of South Africa. The Foundation places the young child at the centre of our programmes and initiatives with the belief that if you can impact and uplift the life of a young child, you will in turn impact the household which will ultimately positively affect the community. Households and communities are therefore seen as our key developmental partners as we increase their capacity to better meet the needs of young children through projects directed at food security, youth development, economic development as well as specific early childhood development initiatives.



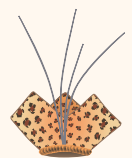
# USEFUL INFORMATION:

We suggest a warm jersey or windbreaker for early morning game drives, suntan lotion, a cap or hat, binoculars, and camera. Amakhosi is situated in a low-risk Malaria area; however, please consult your doctor for advice. Basic first aid can be administered by a staff member at the lodge.



## GETTING THERE:

Amakhosi is a comfortable drive from both Durban (4 hour) and Johannesburg (5½ hours) Should you wish to fly in; a private landing strip is available nearby (1hr from Durban and 1½ hrs from Johannesburg). Alternatively, commercial flights are available to Durban's King Shaka International Airport (3½ hour drive) and Richards Bay Airport (2½ hour).



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