



SAFARI MOON
LUXURY BUSH LODGE

FACT SHEET





INTRODUCTION

Safari Moon Luxury Bush Lodge is the latest venture of esteemed designer and decorator, Nicola Leitch: an avid collector of art and all things interesting. Owners of coastal properties, Penguin Palace and Whale-Tide Villa in Cape Town, Nicola and Guy have recently branched out their boutique collection to the bush and established yet another unique accommodation.

Stepping into the lodge is much like entering an eclectic art exhibition, it's inspiration stemming from around the globe, there is attention to detail in each and every aspect of this brand new boutique B&B. The lodge and living spaces are draped in luxurious finishes and fine art, from a 55-piece collection of renowned Ardmore ceramics to an array of Lionel Smit paintings and sculptures - Safari Moon provides a cultured and contemporary setting for the discerning traveller.

There are 6 stylish suites to choose from during your stay, named after different wildlife species that can be seen in the estate and around the lodge. Every room has its own charm, style and story, not forgetting a vibrant collection of both international and African art. One can expect a luxurious and tranquil space to revitalise and rediscover one of South Africa's most sought after safari destinations.

Guests can look forward to a personalised and exceptional service during their stay, and it's not just the artwork that's from every corner of the globe, the culinary experience also has an array of international elements but always comprises from quality ingredients that are both locally sourced and seasonal. Breakfast is included in a stay at Safari Moon and consists of a spectacular spread of

seasonal fruit, crunchy homemade granola, yoghurt & honey, freshly squeezed juice and two daily options for the main course. Meals can be ordered in advance from tapas-style gourmet platters enjoyed by the pool, to a three-course lavish dining affair with your host and fellow travellers.

Located in South Africa's Safari hub of Hoedspruit, Safari Moon is a boutique base from which to discover the wonders of South Africa's Lowveld region. Explore a range of nearby attractions from the famed Kruger National park to the scenic Panorama Route, or simply chose to relax and unwind in nature, making the most of your private piece of Wildlife Estate wilderness.

AT A GLANCE

- * Owner designed, run and managed. This boutique bush stay is Nicola & Guy's latest exciting venture, completing their Coast to Kruger trio of lodges - Penguin Palace, Whale Tide Villa & Safari Moon.
- * Safari Moon is boutique bush lodge located in the secure and scenic Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate, accommodating up to 12 guests in 6 contemporary suites.
- * Each of the private suites are uniquely decorated with an array of African and international art collections and are fully equipped for a stylish stay in nature.
- * Suites are all named after animals that can be seen in the estate and around the lodge : Porcupine, Honey Badger, Nyala, Bush Baby, Leopard & Giraffe.
- * Shaded by a canopy of grey-hue Balinese parasols, the pool deck is where breakfast is served alfresco in the mornings and where guests can relax on



comfortable sun loungers and unwind by the pool in the afternoons.

- * Breakfast is included in a stay at Safari Moon and is served between 6.30 - 11.00. Should breakfast be needed prior to 7.30 an order can be placed the day before and a picnic style breakfast will be left in your fridge to eat at your own leisure / game drive.
- * Seasonal tapas-style lunch platters can be ordered for lunch and Nicola's 3-course dinner menu can be requested prior to arrival and during your stay. Packed breakfasts and homemade picnic lunches for day trips can also be easily arranged in advance.
- * Utilising both seasonal and local produce, expect quality gourmet cuisine during your stay at Safari Moon who can cater to all tastes and dietary requirements; vegan, vegetarian, gluten & lactose free.
- * Cooking demonstrations can be booked during your stay and are hosted by Nicola who enjoys sharing her culinary skills. Enjoy South African cuisine and take home the family recipe, it's a memorable lunchtime experience. (Minimum 4 people)
- * There is plenty to do in the wildlife estate itself, from self-game drives and walking trails to bird hides, bike hire and horse-riding, you don't have to travel very far for find adventure amongst the wildlife.
- * Safari Moon is ideal base to explore the wonders of what the Lowveld has to offer. Activities can be booked during your stay, from a day in the Kruger National Park, a tour of the Blyde River Canyon boat ride to horse riding in the estate. We recommend planning activities prior to arrival which can be arranged with Nicola on bookings@safarimoon.co.za.
- * The Wildlife Estate is secure with electric fencing, 24

hour access control & security guards. The central hub of the quaint Hoedspruit is just a short walk from the gates where you can shop, stock up, and take a stroll around town.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Safari Moon consists of 6 individually unique suites, all embellished with artistic pieces from all over the world. Each room offers something different, but what they all have in common is the attention to detail in the decor, from fresh foliage to the finishing touches. They are fitted with all of the modern luxuries and quality amenities that you may need. Named after the different wildlife species that can be seen in the estate and around the lodge, every suite has its own charm, style and story.

Guests can expect a luxurious and tranquil space to relax and unwind in nature. Room facilities include:

- * Private Outdoor Decks or Raised Open Balconies
- * Sun Loungers & Seating Areas
- * Air-con & Fans
- * Four Poster / Extra Length King Size Beds
- * 100% Cotton Sheets
- * Feather Pillows & Duvets
- * Coffee Machine & Tea Station
- * Large bar fridge which can be stocked in advance with your preferred goodies
- * Africology Amenities / Hairdryer
- * International Plug Points
- * Spacious Storage, Hanging Space & Safety Box
- * Complimentary Hi-Speed Wifi
- * Mosquito Spray & Hand Sanitiser
- * Spacious Bathrooms, Vanity Basins, Outdoor or



PORCUPINE ROOM

- Indoor Rain Showers
- * Victorian Claw, Freestanding Stone or Built-In Bathtubs
- * Complimentary Sherry

ROOM INFO

ROOM 1 | **PORCUPINE**

Named after the prickly porcupines that are often seen from the deck after dark, this room is on ground level and is one of the most spacious at 85 SQM in size and the most secluded of all the suites. Elegant touches include a Daniel Novella piece, Persian rugs, Melvin & Moon chairs, a large leopard oil painting by James Stroud, hanging palm lights and a 2.4m Ardmore wall hanging, making this the most colourful of spaces. The outside seating area nestles in nature and is particularly perfect for romantic sundowners. Indoors there are more lounge areas to sit back and enjoy the eclectic artwork which adorns this room. The bathroom boasts a double vanity basin, free-standing stone bath and both a spacious indoor / outdoor rain shower. Porcupine is for the wilder at heart.

ROOM 2 | **HONEY BADGER**

Back in the beginning of the Safari Moon venture a resident honey badger would often visit this room deck to get to the tangled leadwood, which at the time was home to a hive of honey-making bees! Named after this tenacious creature, this room is decorated in true "Out Of Africa" style with Melvin & Moon Chairs, a magnificent mahogany chest from India, big-cat book holders, a Silk Persian and a local art piece by Corbus Van der Walt. An ornate Indian door opens to reveal a Daniel Novella piece and a passage

from the main lodge to both Honey Badger & Nyala but there are also private entrances to each of these rooms. Your private deck is cosily enclosed and raised above a succulent garden, this room gets a beautiful golden glow in the evenings, with dappled light from the leadwood which is built into the quirkily shaped deck. The bathroom has a large Victorian Claw bath, double basin vanity and an indoor / spacious outdoor shower. Honey Badger is for the Old Africa enthusiasts.

ROOM 3 | **NYALA**

Overlooking the garden grounds and surrounding bush, Nyala are often seen from this deck quenching their thirst at the bird baths or nibbling the tender new shoots. Located on ground level and adjacent to Honey Badger, this room is also attached to the main lodge but has two entrance points to ensure seclusion. Unlike the other suites, Nyala has more than a few nautical elements inspired by Africa's old trade roots. However, this room also has both African and Asian aspects to it, from the wonderful local wool carpet (from the hand-made project in nearby Acornhoek) to the large Chinese style mural and fabric finishes on the sofas and cushions. The bathroom has an indoor rain shower which opens out onto a spacious outdoor rain shower which has an overhanging bush-willow. This room also boasts a built-in bathtub. Nyala is for the lovers of luxury.

ROOM 4 | **BUSH BABY**

Aptly named after the busy bush babies which can be seen bounding about outside, this room is located in the lodge, up a short staircase from the main grand entrance. The highlight of this room are the sunset views from the



HONEY BADGER ROOM



elevated outside balcony which overlooks the main lodge, pool and surrounding bush. Though it may not have an outdoor shower it does have a large walk-in wardrobe / dressing area, double vanity basin, walk-in rain shower and a stylish freestanding tub. Large windows make this room lovely and light, but pom-pom lined blinds can be pulled down with ease for privacy. Melvin & Moon chairs padded with Lo-Ki beetle cushions create a cosy corner perfect for an afternoon of reading or simply relaxing. Exquisite gold-side tables and elegant lamps sit beside the four poster bed and wildlife themed finishes can be found all over this room, from the animal artwork, to the ostrich egg detailed pillows. Bush Baby is ideal for the discerning traveller.

ROOM 5 | LEOPARD

Named after one of Africa's most elusive inhabitants, the leopard. Owners Nicola & Guy have had a few sightings since purchasing the property and the beauty of these felines is featured throughout the lodge, from printed throws to stunning sculptures. However the centre-piece of the Leopard Room is another oil painting by James Stroud which regally hangs above a splendid Chesterfield velvet sofa with hand crafted embroidered cushions from the local Kaross ladies. Glamorous is the word that best describes this room which can be found elevated above the bush-veld and enjoys excellent views from the private deck. A large Moroccan inspired outdoor shower also is a main feature in this suite overlooking the majestic Drakensberg Mountains range.

Inside, a beautiful blue-hued Persian, bejewels the floor beneath your feet and beaded cluster chandelier bring light and elegance to the bathroom which boasts a

freestanding stone bath, double vanity basin, walk-in shower and decorative details. Leopard is the room for the romantics.

ROOM 6 | GIRAFFE

Roaming the wildlife estate, giraffe are often seen in front of this room browsing the branches of the bush-veld that surround Safari Moon. Positioned on ground-level the four poster bed overlooks the natural surrounds and the spacious deck where one can relax with a glass of wine or a good book. Artistic details include cut out venetian mirrors, another glorious piece from James Stroud, patterned Persians, hand-woven baskets and throws creating a stylish space. Finally velvet cushions paired with crisp white linen provide a luxurious finish. The glass beaded local bunches of lights create drama in this space and bring an abundance of atmospheric warmth to the room. The freestanding stone bath, walk-in shower, outdoor shower and a double vanity basin are also featured here. Giraffe is for those seeking a peaceful retreat.

LODGE FEATURES & FACILITIES

Upon arriving at Safari Moon a pathway winds past a sprawling star chestnut tree, waterfall feature and succulent gardens. A splendid private collection antique chandelier creates a dramatic entrance and sets the stage for the opulent guest experience that awaits you. Styled with many a statement piece from Nicola's collection including a Lionel Smit sculpture and painting which adorns the entrance and lounge. High-ceilings create a grand interior appeal but the centrepiece of this space



NYALA ROOM

is the 55 piece wall feature of African Ardmore ceramics, which provide an artistic and original backdrop to any dining occasion. The main lodge has a spacious kitchen / Island in which the continental breakfast and hosted cooking demonstrations are presented.

The Safari Moon Bar is stocked with a variety of wines, beers, spirits and beverages to suit all tastes. If you wish to order something specific or a particular celebratory champagne, let us know prior to arrival in your booking notes. We also ask if guests have any preferences for drinks and snacks in their in-room mini bar.

The main lodge opens out to a stylish outside lounge area, pool deck, sun loungers, succulent gardens, braai area and cosy boma. Water-features are found throughout the gardens and create a tranquil atmosphere. Beautiful Balinese parasols catch the bush-veld breeze and create an inviting appeal to the Safari Moon pool deck which is also shaded by a flowing knobthorn, little marula and a twisted velvet corkwood. A hanging chair and leopard orchid suspends in the corkwood which overhangs the bar.

Safari Moon may be a bed & breakfast lodge, but during your stay you can sample the different dining experiences. Tapas-style platters can be ordered at lunch, consisting of a gourmet spread which includes a variety of homemade dips, pâtés, breads, cheeses, pickles and salads. Best paired with a bottle of Creation wine, and can be served by the pool or to your room. Leaving the lodge for the day? Packed breakfasts and homemade picnic lunches can also be arranged to take with you on any self-drive excursion or day trip. Dinners are a lavish affair and are usually served communally under the Ardmore collection, alfresco on the deck or fireside in the boma. Nicola's flair

for flavour, presentation and winning combinations is what makes the food here so enjoyable. There's something for all and no matter the dietary requirement or intolerances everyone can be catered for at Safari Moon. Depending on the South African season, Nicola changes up the menu, with lighter dishes like gazpacho, pink pickled salads, and sorbets in the scorching summer months and wintertime it's all about the sumptuous potjies, creamy chicken pies, and spiced poached pears. Utilising only the best local ingredients, simple, yet quality dishes are served at Safari Moon.

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- * Communal Pool / Sun-loungers
- * Secluded Indoor / Outdoor Lounge Areas
- * The Safari Moon Bar
- * Braai Area / Cosy Boma / Stylish Seating Area
- * Self-Serve Coffee Machine / Tea Selection / Rusks (Complimentary)
- * Tapas-Style Platters are available to order during lunch | R320pp & (Min x2 Guests)
- * The Dining Experience | Dinner Set-Menu 3-Courses | R450pp
- * Cooking Demonstrations with Nicola (Min x4 Guests)
- * Can cater to all tastes and dietary requirements including Gluten free, Dairy Free, Vegetarian & Vegan

ACTIVITIES | THE ESTATE & BEYOND

The Hoedspruit Wildlife estate has plenty to do if you don't fancy venturing very far from the lodge. Explore the self-drive game drive routes, make use of the bird hides



BUSH BABY ROOM



and cycle tracks, horse riding or simply take a leisurely stroll around the estate. Afroecology spa treatments are also available to enjoy on site and are best booked prior to arrival.

Further afield there is an array of guided safari excursions, scenic tours and adventures in the Lowveld region. The most popular has to be a trip into the Kruger National Park. Spend sunrise to sunset scouring this iconic wilderness region, searching for its diverse array of species that roam, stalk, soar and sprint. There are plenty of options when deciding on how to experience the park. Self-driving popular and a fun day out done at your own pace, there are easy maps to follow and recent sightings are pinned at the different rest stops. Privately guided day trips can be arranged from the lodge for both the KNP and neighbouring Greater Kruger reserves. This option offers a more immersive and informative safari experience with highly knowledgeable local guides and trackers. More specialist trips such as wildlife photographic workshops,

specialist bird-watching tour and big-five walking safaris can also be arranged. Take a day to also discover the dramatic landscape of the Panorama Route, stopping off at the many viewpoints along this picturesque journey. We recommend the boat cruise on the Blyde River Canyon, which is the third largest Canyon in the world and the only 'green' one due to its abundance of flourishing subtropical flora and fauna.

We have listed the most popular activities to do nearby, in other words a bush-veld bucket-list :

- * Full Day Kruger National Park
- * Panoramic Route Tour
- * Game Drives & Bush Walks (In surrounding big-five reserves)
- * Walking Safaris
- * Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise
- * Blyde River Canyon Hiking Trail
- * Microlight Flying
- * Scenic Hot Air Balloon Ride
- * Mariposkop Mountain Walks (with local guide)
- * Jessica The Hippo
- * Hiking Excursions
- * Quad Biking
- * Horse Riding & Bike-Hire
- * Helicopter Ride over Blyde River Canyon
- * Spa Treatments

Please Note: Activities are best booked prior to arrival to avoid disappointment, (especially in peak seasons). Guests can contact Nicola for assistance with recommendations, activity information and prices. Safari Moon can be pre-arrange all activities for guests during their stay. Email: bookings@safarimoon.co.za



LEOPARD ROOM

CHECK IN / CHECK OUT TIMES

Check in 14:00 / Check out 10:30

DAILY SCHEDULE

Daily schedules change according to what guests have planned or pre-booked for the duration of their bush vacation. A typical day at Safari Moon will include a leisurely breakfast on the pool deck where you can enjoy a morning melody of bird-song under a canopy of Balinese sunshades. The day is yours, if you are not booked onto any activities, spend time by the pool, take in the views with a drink on the deck, wonder the estate or simply read and relax on your private balcony. There are tapas-style platters available to order in the afternoon and in the evening a lavish 3-course dinner is served. Dinners are served communal style under the Ardmore wall with fellow travellers and even your hosts. However a private table can always be arranged to meet guests needs and for anyone celebrating special occasions.



- * Breakfast can be ordered from 06:30 - 11:00
- * Lunch can be ordered on request 12:00 -14.30
- * Dinners are served at - 19:00
- * Safari Moon Bar | Open all day

WHEN TO GO

The Kruger region is considered a year-round destination and has two distinct seasons depending on your desired safari experience.

May - October is the dry season and is regarded as one of the best times for game-viewing opportunities as all life is drawn to the remaining water-sources. Wildlife is more easily spotted in the thinning foliage and open areas during this time of year. You guessed it, it gets chilly in Winter so remember your beanies, scarves and varied safari attire for those crisp early mornings and evenings on safari. These month we relish the crackle of our cosy boma fire and enjoy alfresco fireside dining on clear and starry nights.

The summer rains bring life and colour back to the bushveld from November - April and offers more of a scenic experience on safari. This time of year life abounds the veld as many animals give birth, providing a predator's paradise. The bush is beautiful this time of year with every viridescent shade imaginable, replenished waterholes and flourishing wildlife. The thicker vegetation just means you may have to search a little harder, but bird-watching proves effortless as migratory birds are around for the summer. This time of year the temperatures can reach their 40's, humidity can get quite high and downpours are expected, these don't usually last long and often provide spectacular skies and thrilling thunderstorms. Summer is



GIRAFFE ROOM

perfect for a lightweight wardrobe, but don't forget your swimsuit and raincoat. In summer you'll be keen to cool off in the pool.. but complete the scene by ordering a crisp classic G&T at the Safari moon bar. African afternoons at their best.

WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS AREAS

The wildlife estate is home to a variety of different species and the following can be spotted in the estate: giraffe, zebra, nyala, genets, kudu, impala, steenbok, civets, warthog, bush baby, duiker, wildebeest, porcupine, honey badger, monkeys, baboons, mongoose, and even the occasional wild dog pack and leopard. Bird baths attract a variety of species to the Safari Moon gardens and early mornings and evenings are the best time for bird-viewing and bird-song. Keep an eye out for glossy starlings, grey go-away birds, crested barbets, Natal spurfowls, sunbirds, wood hoopoes, hornbills and owls, just to name a few. Take a trip to one of the dams or raised hides in the estate and explore the estates game-drive routes where you can tick off a few species sightings before even heading into the Kruger!

The Kruger National Park is home to everything species you associate with Africa and more. This iconic reserve is home to the big-five; leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant & rhino. Exceptional game-viewing is almost guaranteed in the KNP, but like any wilderness area it's all about being in the right place at the right time and every day is different. Patience is key and waterholes are ideal to stake out, especially in the driest winter months. Take a wildlife tick-list and see how many species you can find during

the course of the day. Did you know the Kruger has over 500 different bird species, 148 mammals, 118 Reptiles, 35 Amphibians, 53 fish and 1,990 differing trees, grasses, shrubs, sedges and succulents. Some of the most common and sought after wildlife sightings to be had in the park include: elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, African wild dog, spotted hyena, white rhino, black rhino, hippo, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, kudu, waterbuck, sable, nyala, impala, blue wildebeest, crocodile, warthog, caracal, vervet monkey, baboon, serval, armadillo, pangolin, mongoose, honey-badger, civet, black-backed jackal, side-striped jackal, steenbok, bushbuck, klipspringer, aardwolf, African wild cat and genets to name but a few.

The Kruger is a bird-lovers paradise and being home to over 500 species throughout the year, you're bound to tick off a few top species or two. Keep an eye out for: martial eagles, kori bustards, ostrich, lilac-breasted rollers, brown-headed kingfishers, giant eagle owls, red-billed quelea, oxpeckers, grey herons, African fish-eagles, white-bellied sunbirds, bee-eaters and barbets. A pair of quality





binoculars and zoom lens is always a good idea if birding is high on your list.

Get to know the Kruger, it's different routes, waterholes, rest stops and wildlife hotspots. We can recommend roads to take that will take up the full day and also the closest gates and quickest routes in and out of the National Park. Remember to adhere to the official KNP timings for entering and exiting the park.

WHAT TO PACK

Need some help with your Africa Travel packing list? We've listed a few essential suitcase items and inspiration:

- * If walking is on your safari itinerary we recommend packing a variety of lightweight, neutral-coloured items. Think shades of sand, beige, tan, khaki, brown and green. You want to blend into the bush when walking in nature.
- * Winter Essentials: Beanies, scarfs, jackets and lots of layers
- * Summer Essentials: Swimsuit, raincoat and mosquito repellent
- * Suitable walking shoes / Sandals
- * Sun Protection: Sunscreen, hat, water, UV protected sunglasses
- * Antimalarials & Insect repellent (Consult doctor prior to departure)
- * Binoculars / Cameras / Devices / Chargers
- * Face-mask / Buff Scarf / Sanitiser / Personal First Aid Kit
- * Must-read books to bring: Lobombo Journals, Jock Of The Bush-veld, Elephant Bloodline & A Game Ranger Remembers

CHILD POLICY

Children are accepted at Safari Moon but have to be aged 10+

MALARIA

Before travelling, we encourage our guests to consult their medical practitioner for malaria advice in preparation for their visit to South Africa. The risk of malaria is low here but the region does lie within the malarial belt so it's always best to be on the safe side especially if travelling during or just after the Summer months in South Africa.

LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

Located in South Africa's Safari hub of Hoedspruit, Safari Moon is the ideal retreat to base yourself as you discover the wonders of South Africa's Lowveld region. The entrance to Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate is located in the centre of town, just a 20-minute drive from Hoedspruit airport. We are easily accessible by road from Johannesburg which is a scenic 5-6-hour drive. See directions below. Upon confirmation, guests will be asked to provide their contact details in which the owner will send the gate details prior to arrival.

DIRECTIONS FROM JOHANNESBURG:

We recommend driving via Dullstroom. The road to Lydenburg is barely a road anymore and it's hazardous. The GPS coordinates might take you via this route, but it is not recommended.



- * From Johannesburg/Pretoria Take the N12 or N4 highway to Witbank / Emalaheni.
- * From Johannesburg airport, follow signs to Boksburg to find the N12.
- * Drive past Emalaheni and Middleburg (This is the main route to Nelspruit and Maputo).
- * After Middleburg, take the R33 Belfast turnoff from the N4 (where the Engen One Stop is)
- * Turn left on the R33 and follow signs towards Belfast and Dullstroom.
- * Go through the town of Belfast and then turn right on the R540 road towards Dullstroom.
- * Dullstroom is the halfway mark between JHB and the lodge. This is a scenic place to stop, explore and have lunch.
- * From Dullstroom you will head towards Lydenburg/ Mashishing), which is roughly 50 km away.
- * Continue on the R540 but look out for potholes.
- * Once you get to Lydenburg (also referred to as Mashishing) junction, turn left onto the R36 and go through the town centre.
- * The R36 is also called Viljoen street. Carry on straight and turn left on Buhrmann Street.
- * At the Total garage, turn right onto De Clerq Street, which is also the R36.
- * Continue straight on the R36 which becomes the R527.
- * This road takes you past the town of Ohrigstad, over the Abel Erasmus pass, and through the Strijdom tunnel.
- * It's about 50 km from Lydenburg to Ohrigstad.
- * After the tunnel, continue for another 40/50 km until you reach the town of Hoedspruit.
- * There are 4 stops before you reach the railway bridge. After passing the bridge, turn right on the R40 to

Klaserie / White River.

- * At the 4 way stop, turn left on to Rotsvy Road and continue to the end until you get to the Hoedspruit Wildlife Estate Gate (280m)
- * Prior to arrival Nicola will send guests an access code to enter the estate.
- * Once you have entered the estate, turn right onto Knoppiesdoring 4 min (1.6 km)
- * Turn right onto Kierieklapper Street and continue on this road.
- * Pass the first left turn and continue on following the road round around the corner which veers to the left, keeping on Kierieklapper.
- * Continue on this road until you reach 372 Kierieklapper Street which will be on your right. (Look out for our leopard logo)
- * You have arrived at Safari Moon Luxury Bush Lodge!

