



VISITOR'S GUIDE

Welcome to your home in the Bush



Tomjachu is an exclusive, family-owned private nature reserve set in over 500 hectares of game fenced mountain bushveld where peace, nature and family embrace one another and special memories are forged forever.

Whether you are looking for adventure or relaxation, with family, friends, or your loved one, Tomjachu offers something for everyone. Hike through the mountains amongst abundant wildlife, go for a nature drive or guided walk with our experienced ranger, try your hand at fishing for bass in our dam, or take guided tour to the infamous Kruger national park.

Or simply unwind by the pool, listening to the orchestra of over 278 bird species, as the fresh mountain air trickles up from the valley below. Our relaxed, informal and highly professional team are sure to make your stay an indelible memory.

OUR STORY

Mpumalanga (meaning 'place of the rising sun') is an area steeped in geological, natural and ancient human history. It is here that Gordon & Vikki Fillery chose to develop this beautiful mountain bushveld property which was intended to be home to them and their family. Built between 1988 and 1991, the once family Homestead has undergone many changes, but what has never changed is the spectacular site that seems to hang above the distant Bekker Mountains, looking out towards the rising sun over the Crocodile Valley Gorge.

An inventor and entrepreneur, Gordon had a dream of an African paradise for his son, and his grandchildren. This was shattered when Gordon passed away shortly after their first Christmas on the property, leaving the 'farm' to his only son Brian Fillery.

Brian (or 'Pops', as he was known) and his wife Sara quickly recognized that the property was imbued with tremendous potential, and set to work - the reserve was stocked with indigenous game and the Homestead enhanced and expanded using stone hewn on the farm itself. Guest cottages were added and Brian's and Sara's former family home, Valbonne Villa, was re-invented for Tomjachu to become a serene destination welcoming guests from all corners of the world.

In 1995 the property was renamed Tomjachu after Brian & Sara's three sons Tom, Jack and Hugo. Memories and family artifacts, artworks and antiques from our families' many travels are displayed throughout the accommodations, and each tells its own unique story.

Following Brian's tragic death after a short fight with cancer in 2016 it fell to his son Jack, together with help from his brothers Tom & Hugo to continue the vision of Tomjachu, and today Brian and Gordon's aspiration of a paradise for those they left behind is truly being fulfilled.

The property continues to be lovingly and carefully managed, and is now home to an abundance of indigenous plant and animal life, creating a true conservation paradise which we share with you to this day.

ACTIVITIES AT TOMJACHU



HIKING

With 20 kilometres of marked tracks and trails weaving through grassy plains, mountains and ravines, there are few better ways to explore the reserve than a good old hike. Bring along sturdy hiking shoes, a backpack, neutral clothing, sun hat and sunblock, as the midday sun can leave you a bit breathless. Don't forget your binoculars, and carry water with you to rehydrate.

Always stick to the trails and paths - going off-road is a great way to get lost, and can also be damaging to the fragile environment!

MOUNTAIN BIKING

If you are one for the more thrilling encounter, our mountain biking trails on the reserve will give you the adventure you are after. Our marked trails range from intermediate to technical, taking you up and down the valley.

We have bikes for hire, but you are welcome to bring your own. Always stick to the trails, wear a helmet, and don't forget to take water – the mountains will make you thirsty! Please always be aware of others using the trails

GUIDED BUSHWALKS

Our guided bushwalks are a wonderful way to appreciate the smaller details of nature on the reserve, from termites to tracks, trees and their medicinal uses, and abundant birdlife and close animal encounters.

Our knowledgeable guide will lead you along trails and animal paths through the open savannah past the watering holes and dams, and up into the mountains. Bottled water is included, and we advise wearing long trousers and a sunhat.

GUIDED NATURE DRIVES

Enjoy an adventurous nature drive in our open game viewer, affectionately named 'Shrek', with our guide who will spend time informing you on the history of the area, and interesting facts about the trees, insects and birds.

You will also be seeking out some of the larger animal species on the reserve, including giraffe, zebra, warthog, wildebeest, waterbuck, nyala and the majestic kudu, with a stop at one of our many stunning viewing spots for a well-deserved sundowner as the sun sets over the mountains.

BIRD WATCHING

Spend some time roaming freely around the property with your birding checklist (or enquire about a list at our reception), searching for some of the 272 recorded species found on the property, including Crowned Eagles, Scaly-throated Honeyguides, Bat Hawks and a number of seasonal migrants. Early morning is the prime time for bird watching - remember to bring your binoculars and be sure to dress in neutral tones to ensure that you don't startle our feathered friends while out and about on the reserve.

DAM FISHING

(Strictly catch and release only)

For the hopeful angler, we have two fishing dams on the property which we share with the fish eagles. South Dam and Symphony dam are teeming with a variety of fish, including bass, bream and tilapia. At South dam there is a jetty to cast from, as well as shaded picnic areas.

We have rods for hire or bring your own. We only ask that you do not walk through the reeds as it damages the environment, and also to bring any litter home with you.



DINING AT TOMJACHU



We have numerous dining options to make your visit to our retreat truly special, from Bush dining experiences under the stars, to picnic baskets for you and the family to take with you as you roam around the reserve

THE HOMESTEAD DINING ROOM

In the warmth and comfort of The Homestead we offer an a la carte menu.

Get your taste-buds jumping with a variety of flavours. Our menus embody home-style cooking with elegant flair using home-grown and locally sourced organic ingredients. Sit on the veranda enjoying sweeping view with a large gin before a sumptuous dinner by candlelight in our intimate dining room.

With continental, cooked and full breakfast options you can enjoy a healthy or a hearty breakfast to set you up for the day, with a dramatic mountain backdrop.

PICNIC BASKETS

For a memorable day out, we can prepare a picnic basket with sandwiches or wraps, fresh fruit and home-made energy bars to take with you in on your hike or cycle around the property, where you can stop at one of our stunning picnic sites and re-energise.

We can also provide picnics and breakfast baskets for day trips off the property.

WINE AT TOMJACHU

We have a unique and varied range of carefully selected award-winning wines in our cellar, including vegan wines. All are produced in South Africa, mostly from small, family-owned vineyards, and many supporting conservation initiatives, such as Conservation in Action.

BUSH DINNER EXPERIENCE

A truly unforgettable experience. Enjoy a short nature drive and watch the mountains turn pink in the fading sunset light, before meandering further down the valley to be welcomed by a crackling fire, fine wines, the scent of delicious food being prepared. Dinner is served under the canopy of the night sky with only the sounds of the trilling nightjars to accompany the tranquillity.



THINGS TO DO NEARBY



There are a wonderful array of excursions, day trips and exciting activities all within a stone's throw of Tomjachu. The list is not exhaustive, but here are some of our favourites!

You can of course choose to drive yourself, or alternatively we can arrange guided day tours to many of the following attractions, and also to nearby Swaziland and Maputo in Mozambique. Accompanied by a knowledgeable guide you can relax and enjoy an exciting and informative day out, with the invaluable benefit of local passion and knowledge.

THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Only a 45-minute drive from Tomjachu to the nearest gate at Malelane lies the world-renowned Kruger National Park, which offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa.

Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park of nearly 2 million hectares is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms and a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques and policies.

THE PANORAMA ROUTE AND BLYDE RIVER CANYON

Arguably one of the most scenic drives in the world, the Panorama Route which connects several points of cultural and natural points of interest is one of the biggest attractions to this part of South Africa. Centered around the Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest canyon in the world, the route features a number of waterfalls, vast forest areas, potholes, historic towns, and epic views of the canyon.

SUDWALA CAVES

The Sudwala caves are considered the oldest known cave system on the planet. These vast, spectacular caverns rest in pre-cambrian dolomite rock, which is one of the oldest sedimentary rocks which occurs on earth.

There are daily tours in the main cavern lasting around an hour, adventurous crystal tours going deep into the cave system to stunning crystal encrusted caverns, and a restaurant on site.

BARBERTON HISTORIC TOWN & GEO TRAIL

Situated in the De Kaap valley fringed by the Makhoniwa mountains, rests the historic town of Barberton. Established during the 1880s gold rush in the region, the town is a treasure trove for history lovers, and a visit to Barberton Museum is highly recommended.

Follow the Barberton Geo Trail which winds its way across the stunning mountains, where numerous colourful information tablets stand in lay-bys along the picturesque route.

KAAPSEHOOP

Travel along the old road to Barberton, climbing up to 1486m above sea level, and you will reach Kaapsehoop, a quaint old gold mining village just below the escarpment, surrounded by picturesque meadows where wild horses roam amongst unusual granite rock formations.

A short walk from the town brings you to the impressive Lowveld escarpment with views over the De Kaap Valley some 800m below.



ACTIVITIES AT TOMJACHU RATES

	CURRENT		Oct 2023 - Sept 2024	
	ADULTS	KIDS U12	ADULTS	KIDS U12
Bush Dinner Experience 3-course set menu with canapés, inc. nature drive	R 550	R 350	R 625	R 495
Nature Drive Sunrise/Sunset guided nature drive – 2hrs	R 390	R 195	R 430	R 240
Guided Bush Walk Sunrise/Sunset guided bush walk – 2 hrs	R 250	R 150	R 280	R 170
Mountain Bike Hire Per bike per day	R 180	R 100	R 200	R 125
Fishing Rod Hire Per rod per day – catch & release only	R 100		R 120	

ACTIVITIES NEARBY RATES

	CURRENT	Oct 2023 - Sept 2024
Kruger National Park Full day Safari exploring the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Conservation fee not included payable at the gate. (No children under age of 6)	R 2050	R 2250
Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon Full day sightseeing tour along the Blyde River Canyon, including entrance fees & lunch	R 2450	R 2515
Swaziland Day Tour Full day exploration of the Kingdom of Swaziland, including a stop for lunch (guest account)	R 2580	R 2845
Chimp Eden & Sudwala Caves Full day visiting the chimp sanctuary and the oldest known cave system in the world, including a stop for lunch (guest account)	R 1525	R 1725
Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Full day visiting the centre where rescued and injured wild animals are rehabilitated. Includes a stop for lunch (guest account)	R 2450	R 2645



AROUND THE RESERVE



We are privileged to share this beautiful space with you, and we ask that you respect the following reserve rules:

◊ **There is no self-driving permitted on the reserve** - due to our mountainous terrain our roads can get rough in places. We have many marked hiking and mountain biking trails and roads for you to explore, and each guest is provided with the below map upon arrival.

◊ **We ask that you please stay on the roads and trails** – even your footsteps can damage the fragile environment.

◊ **Dispose of your litter responsibly** back at the Homestead or at your cottage. Please also respect all the animals – they are wild, although some may allow you to approach closely.

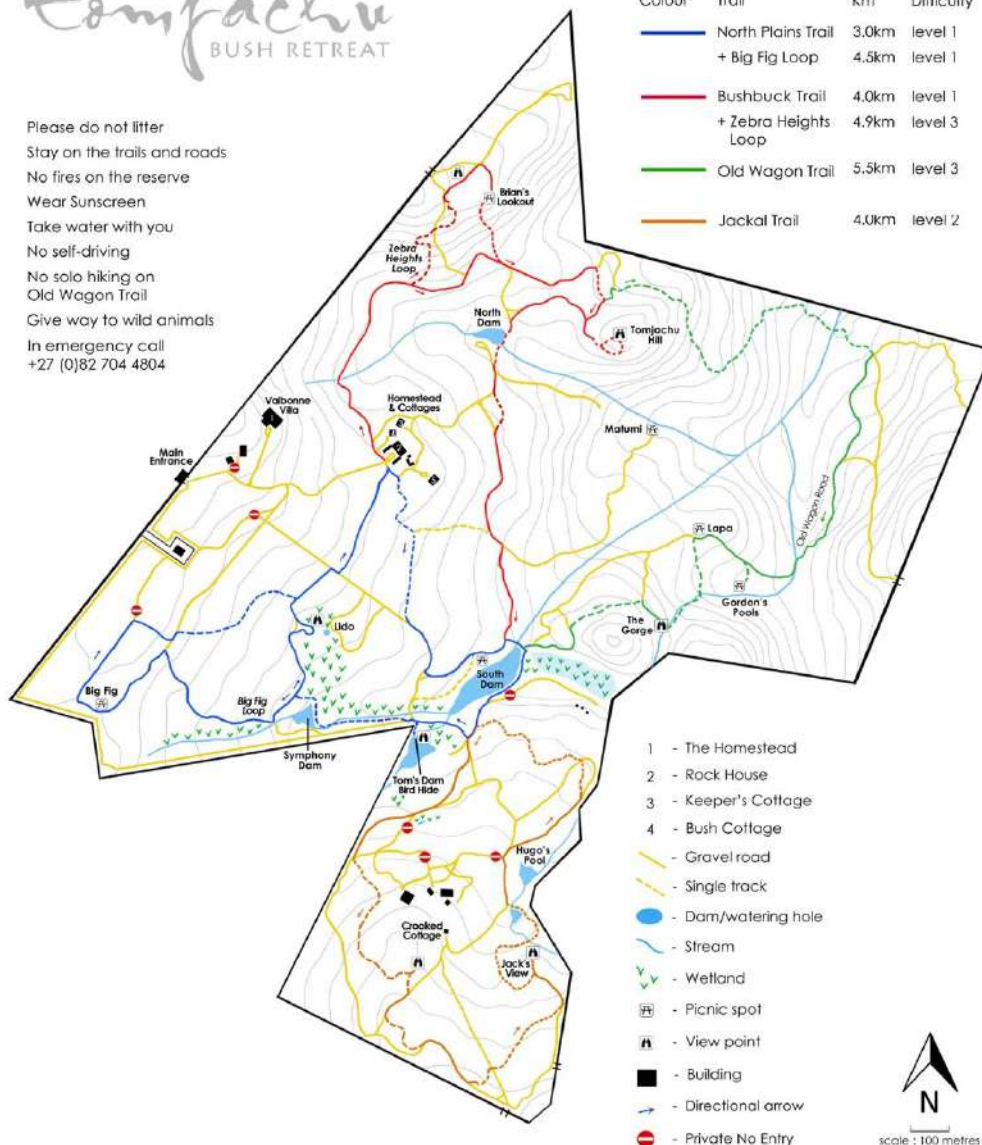
◊ **Please do not feed any of the animals** on the reserve – currently we do not have monkey and baboon problems and we would like to keep it that way!

◊ **Be aware of noise levels** and other guests also enjoying the retreat.



- Please do not litter
- Stay on the trails and roads
- No fires on the reserve
- Wear Sunscreen
- Take water with you
- No self-driving
- No solo hiking on Old Wagon Trail
- Give way to wild animals
- In emergency call +27 (0)82 704 4804

Colour	Trail	Km	Difficulty
Blue	North Plains Trail	3.0km	level 1
Blue	+ Big Fig Loop	4.5km	level 1
Red	Bushbuck Trail	4.0km	level 1
Red	+ Zebra Heights Loop	4.9km	level 3
Green	Old Wagon Trail	5.5km	level 3
Orange	Jackal Trail	4.0km	level 2



- 1 - The Homestead
- 2 - Rock House
- 3 - Keeper's Cottage
- 4 - Bush Cottage
- Gravel road
- Single track
- Dam/watering hole
- Stream
- Wetland
- Picnic spot
- View point
- Building
- Directional arrow
- Private No Entry



CONSERVATION AT TOMJACHU



Solar Power

- We have installed an integrated solar system at Tomjachu, which not only allows us remain 'online' during loadshedding, but also means that over 50% of our electricity is now green energy provided by our good friend, the sun!

Recycling/reuse:

- We recycle up to 60% of our waste. All food waste is converted to compost, and all recyclable plastic & tin is sorted on site and transported to Nelspruit to be recycled.
- We educate our staff about the process of waste disposal and recycling, and why we must reduce waste to limit its effects on local and global environments.
- Reuse and upcycling is encouraged, and our staff have begun to make artwork from used materials to be sold in our shop.

Water:

- We have a number of water-saving systems in place – we encourage our guests to be sparing to help us conserve water.
- We have some, and are introducing more, effective systems to recycle grey water, and to capture rain water.

Guest Experience:

- We focus on providing guest experiences with as little impact on the surrounding ecology as possible with the aim of educating and informing about the wonder and fragility of our surroundings, and the need to protect it.
- Maintaining roads and trails – damage caused by boots and tyres and can take many years to recover!

Land/wildlife management:

- A large percentage of the company profits are reinvested in the property in order to improve our conservation efforts. This includes the careful management of the delicate ecosystems on the property through controlled burning, invasive species control, synthesised migration and breeding of indigenous game, and many other game and land management activities.

Construction and renovation:

- Most of the buildings on the property are over 30 years old. In any new buildings, renovations or improvements we aim to use and reuse as much locally sourced and renewable material as possible, including stone, reeds, thatching grass, sand and gravel from the property itself.

GETTING HERE



Please notify us in advance of your expected arrival time

We advise not to use GPS or satellite navigation systems to find us, especially if coming from Maputo/Southern Kruger. They can take you on a very long route with bad roads. You can follow our directions below, or contact our reception for guidance. Please note we are located 5km on a gravel road – please drive carefully. A 4x4 is not required, but very low clearance cars not advised.

Airport collection/drop off can be arranged on request

For our international guests, a few tips. Drive on the **left** side of the road. **'Robots'** are traffic lights. **'Circles'** are roundabouts.

Directions from Johannesburg and Pretoria:

Continue on the N4 east past Milly's Trout store and petrol station, keep left at the fork onto R36 (Schoemanskloof).

Continue on R36 for 15km and then continue on to R539 for 45km.

Keep left at the fork and merge onto N4

After 23km use the left lane to take the ramp signposted R104 Nelspruit (Mbombela)

Continue down this road (Samora Machel Drive) for 8km, past Halls Farm Stall on your right, until major intersection with R40.

Continue straight through 2 intersections, (1km)

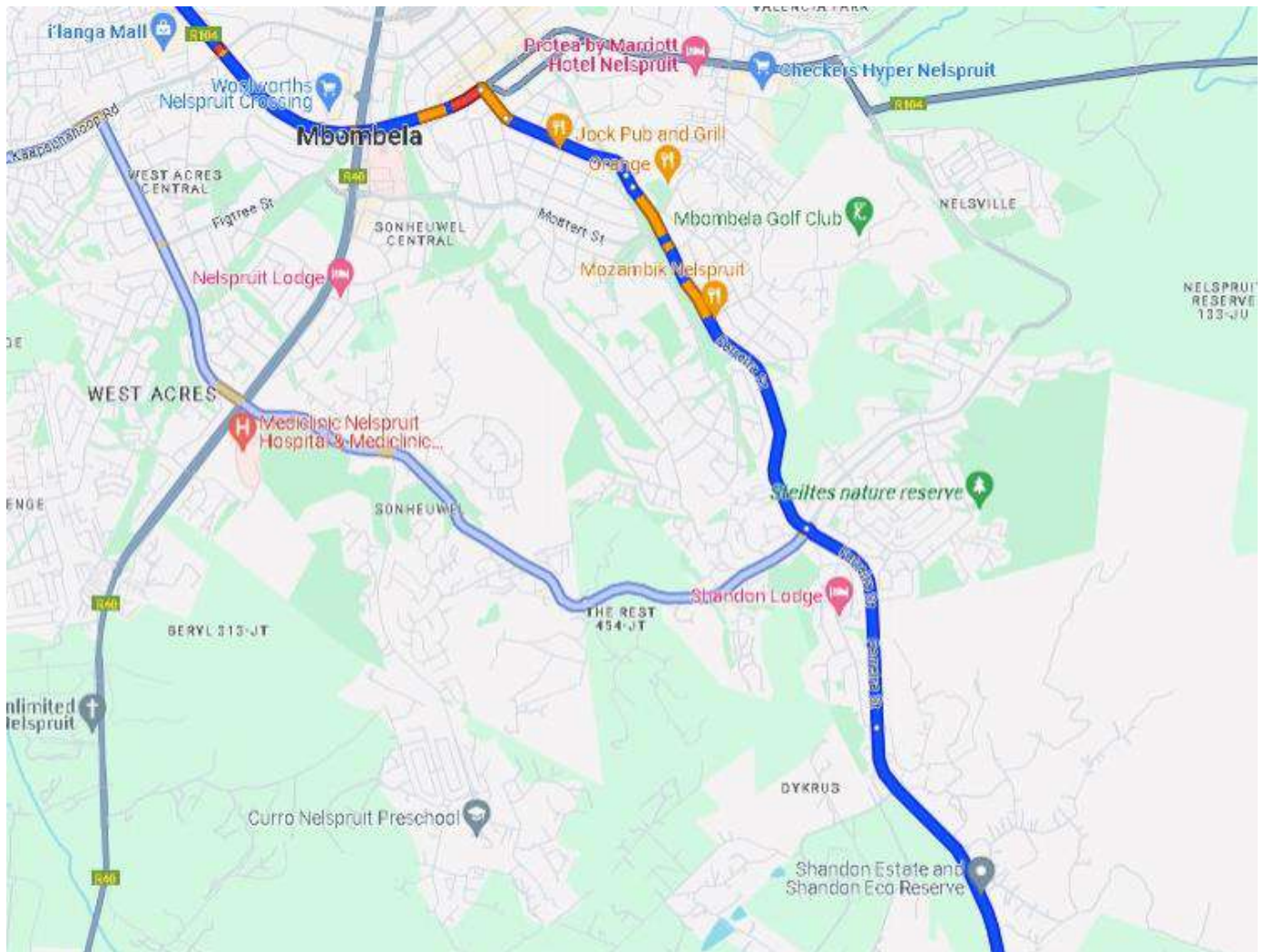
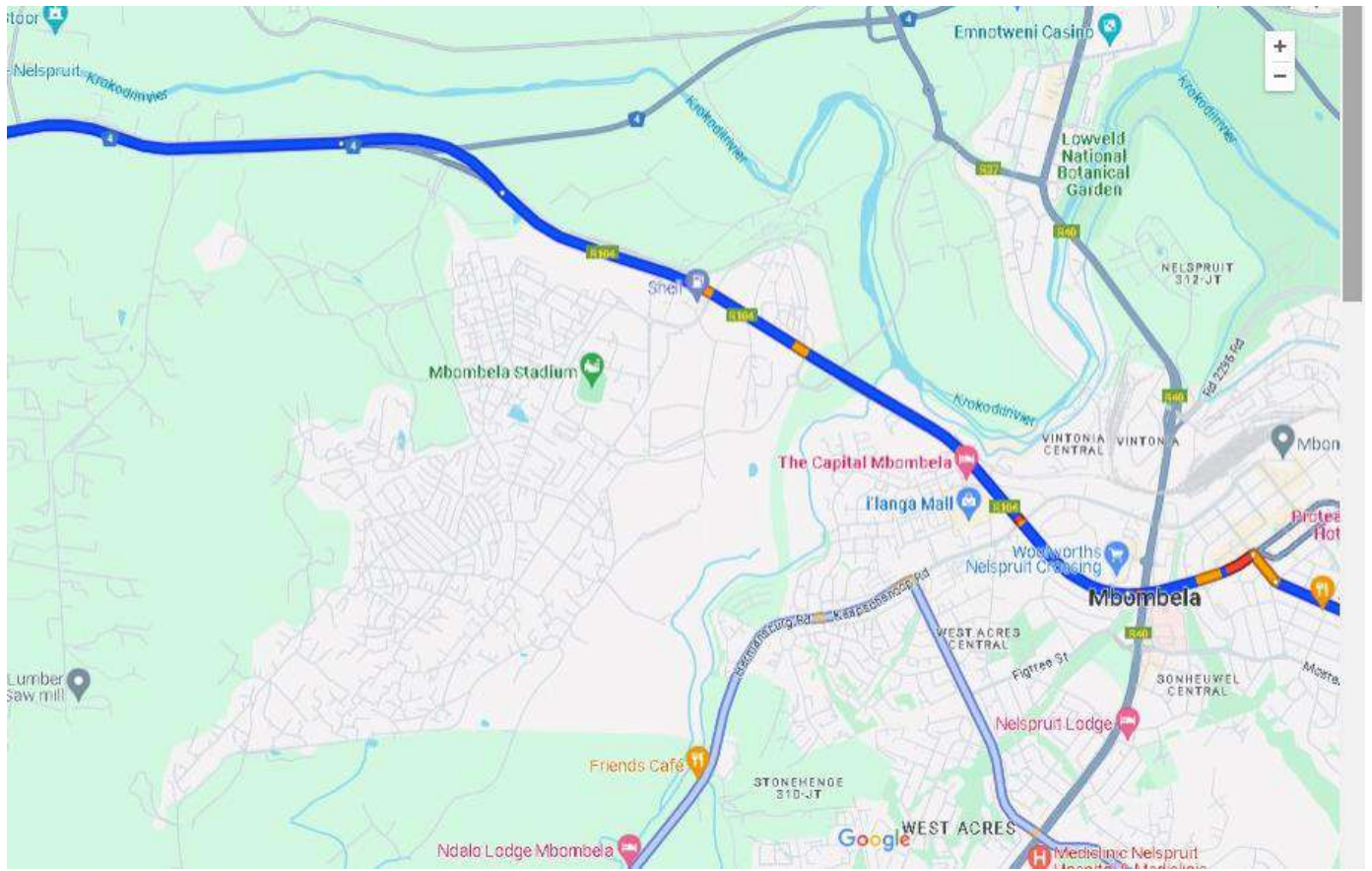
Turn right onto Paul Kruger Str (there is an ABSA building on your right hand side)

Continue straight onto Ferreira Street for 3km.

At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit and continue on Ferreira Street for around 7km, it will eventually become a gravel road.

After 2.5km at the top of the hill you will see our sign on the left (also a number '24', and sign to 'Uitkyk Nurseries') – turn left here.

Keep on this road for another 3km until you reach our gate at the top of the hill on the right, press the 'Reception' button and let us know your name. Welcome!



CONTACT US



Please notify us in advance of your expected arrival time

We are always here to help for any enquiries you may have, if you would like to make a reservation, or if you have any questions about what we offer here at Tomjachu.

Reception hours

8am – 4pm

(If we receive emails outside of these times we will respond as soon as we can)

Check in: 2pm – 6pm

Check out: by 10am

Please notify us in advance of your expected arrival time

Email

reservations@tomjachu.com

Telephone

+27 (0) 82 704 4804

“We arrived as guests, but when we left we felt part of the family”

-guest review

“ We have been to God’s Window, but this is God’s front door... ”

-Brian, guest

