



Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge
Maloti Drakensberg
Transfrontier Conservation Area

Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is just below the Drakensberg Amphitheatre's Sentinel Peak. It's the place from which all hikers and climbers tackle the famous Chain Ladders which give access to the Escarpment, the source of the Thukela (Tugela) Falls and Mont aux Sources. Home to the Bearded Vulture, and within easy walking distance of Mahai and Gudu Falls, Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is the place from which to explore the Drakensberg.



Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge has just re-opened the **Chalets**. Fully revamped and set up for the modern visitor, the Chalets boast extra-length King or Twin beds, double glazed floor to ceiling windows, heat-pumps with radiators for space heating, and newly refurbished en-suite facilities with a large walk-in shower. Comfortable leather tub chairs and a writing desk are placed to provide incomparably beautiful views of the mountain's famous Amphitheatre and the Sentinel Peak.

Witsieshoek's old **two-room bungalow units** are still available for the budget visitor. These older units have not yet been refurbished, and have two rooms, sharing an en-suite with a small bath, basin & toilet. Bed configurations include double and twin beds. Clean and comfortable, *these units are next in line for an upgrade.*



The Lodge's **central facilities** include an à la carte restaurant, lounge and pub. The restaurant provides a buffet breakfast (provided to guests as part of their tariff), tea-time treats, light lunches and substantial meals. Complimentary tea and coffee is available all day for Lodge guests. The comfortable lounge is dominated by a fireplace for cosy winter evenings, and a TV to watch that all-important game. The pub is well stocked and welcoming.



The Lodge has a transfer service to the Sentinel Car Park which is the starting point for a hike up the Chain Ladders. Lunch packs can be pre-ordered, and for those unfamiliar with the area, a qualified mountain guide can accompany your group. Rates for these services, as well as hiking fees from the car Park are on the Price List.

Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge has a **Vulture Restaurant** where regular sightings of the rare and endangered Bearded Vulture can be enjoyed. Bones put at the site on alternate clear days attract the birds (they won't fly in if it's overcast). If this is a special interest, please ask at Reception when the next feeding will take place. A well-defined vantage point for photographers allows for excellent photographic opportunities.



Short and long **day-hikes** that do not go up the Chain Ladders start at Witsieshoek. A short stroll down to Mahai Falls, or a full-day hike to Gudu Falls is both popular and worthwhile. For those wishing to enjoy the peace and quiet all rooms have comfortable chairs. At 2200m above sea-level, the weather is variable, and can change dramatically in a short space of time. For that reason we suggest you include a good book and your

favourite board games in your luggage, in case the mountain mists change your outdoor plans.

The local Batlokoa community own Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, which is commercially managed by Transfrontier Parks Destinations. Renowned for their friendly manner, the Batlokoa people welcome visitors to their local church where an excellent choir sings on Sunday mornings. Traders in the local village of Tsheseng, the closest town to Phuthaditjhaba, can show you both modern commerce and traditional craft and art. Ask at Witsieshoek for more details on suggested local places to visit.

Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is centrally located, about 4 hours from Johannesburg, Durban or Bloemfontein. Follow the main routes to Harrismith. From Harrismith take the R712 in the direction of Clarens/Golden Gate. At the town of Phuthaditjhaba take the R57 and continue straight through Phuthaditjhaba over the Namahadi River and enter the Sentinel Peak at the Toll Gate. Follow the signs to Witsieshoek which is about 27kms from where you first entered Phuthaditjhaba.

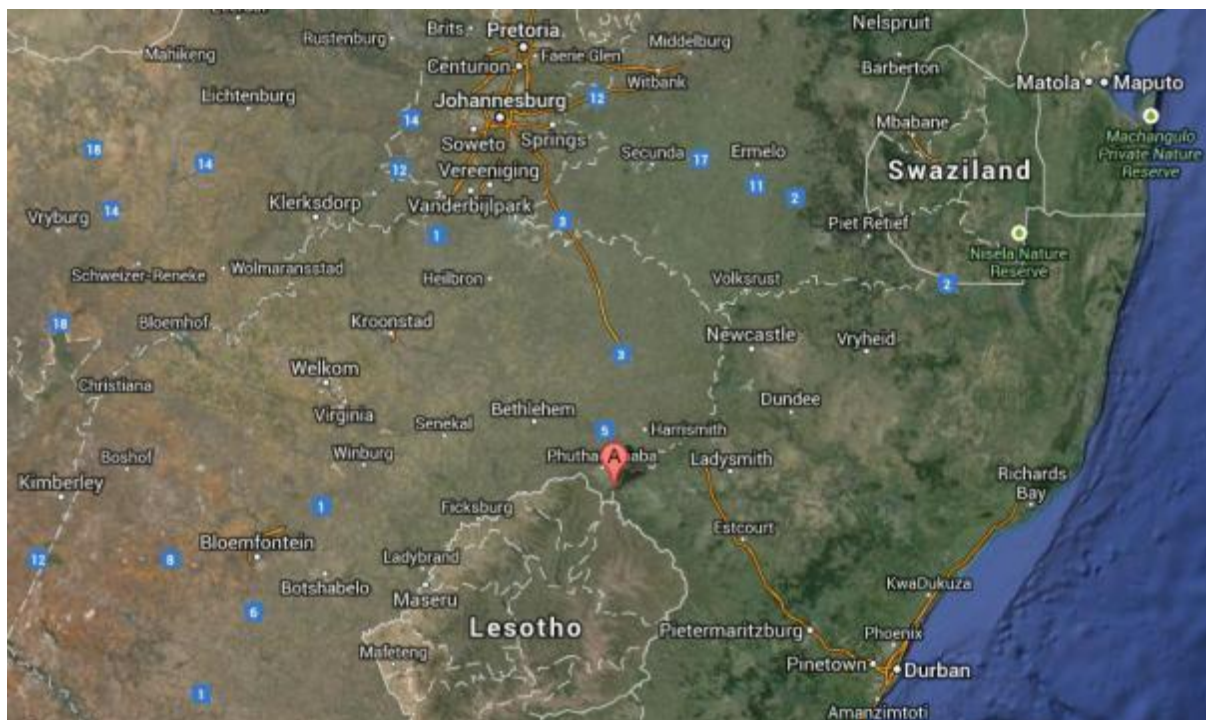
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In the event of bad weather knocking out the phones and email, please contact Transfrontier Parks Destination's head office on +27 (0)21 701 7860 | info@tfpd.co.za



FACT SHEET on Accommodation Units at Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge:

Chalets: *Recently refurbished*

8 rooms : 5 with extra-length King bed and 3 with 2 x extra-length twin beds. Percalé linen, with duvets and extra blankets.

Room has 2 x leather tub chairs, writing desk with chair and luggage rack as well as cupboard for clothing. Complimentary tea & coffee tray in the room, and free filter coffee & tea in the communal lounge all day.

Rooms have radiators for heating, double glazing and insulated ceilings.

En-suite has walk-in shower, basin and toilet.

Complimentary toiletries supplied (soap, shampoo, body lotion). Bath and hand towels.

Carpets, curtains and wall art all reflect the local Batlokoa community style and colours.

The chalets have a prime view over the Drakensberg's Amphitheatre, and guests will be able to look out onto the face of the mountain from their beds.

The Chalets are the 'deluxe' units on the property.

Bungalows: *Currently being refurbished* (first refurbished units expected to be available October 2013) Once refurbished, they will comprise 4 bungalows with 6 x 1-room units. (i.e. 24 rooms) 14 rooms will have King/extra-length beds, and 10 of the rooms will have 2 x extra-length twin beds.

One bungalow will have 6 rooms, with 3 interleading doors, allowing 3x2-room configurations if required by the guests.

Beds will have percalé linen, with duvets and extra blankets. Room will have wardrobe, writing table and chair. Complimentary tea & coffee tray in the room, and free filter coffee & tea in the communal lounge all day.

Rooms will have radiators for heating, double glazing and insulated ceilings.

En-suite will have walk-in shower, basin and toilet. Complimentary toiletries supplied (soap, shampoo, body lotion). Bath and hand towels.

Carpets, curtains and wall art all reflect the local Batlokoa community style and colours.

The bungalows will become the 'standard' units of the property.

Opening at the end of 2013/ early 2014:

A new **Hiker's Cabin** – located close to the entrance gate, on the level below the dining room.

The Cabin has 6 rooms, each with 2 x twin beds, with sheets, pillows and blankets. Space heating will be with oil heaters. There are 2 communal ablution facilities (one male/one female) – each with shower, basin & toilet. There are no self-catering facilities and accommodation is sold on a bed & breakfast basis.

The **existing old bungalows** are still available to visitors and have *not yet been refurbished*.

Each bungalow has 3 x 2 –room units with a double bed in one room and 2 or 3 x twin beds in the second room. Beds have sheets and blankets.

The two-room units share one bathroom with a basin, small bath and toilet. Complimentary soap is provided, with bath and hand towels.

Space heating is provided with oil heaters.

Room has cupboard for clothing, writing table and chair. Complimentary tea & coffee tray in the room, and free filter coffee & tea in the communal lounge all day.

Central communal facilities:

Reception is open from 6am to 9pm daily.

Dining room serves a buffet breakfast (included in the rate), and an a la carte tea/lunch/dinner menu.

Free filter coffee and tea is available all day for guests. It has a central fireplace, and the windows have curtains to keep the room warm after dark.

Guests can purchase lunch packs if going on day hikes (to be pre-ordered through the reception)

Lounge

Leather sofas. Locally made carpets, pottery and wall hangings for décor. Central fireplace. Flat screen TV.

Bar

Stocked with a large range of drinks and soft drinks.

Additional services for guests (to be booked at reception)

Transfers to and from the Sentinel Car Park

Mountain guides to guide hikers

Local village guide

Vulture Restaurant: Morning feeding to attract Bearded Vultures can be arranged for clear days.