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NYALA SAFARI LODGE

FACT SHEET

# NYALA SAFARI LODGE



SUN DESTINATIONS



## INTRODUCTION

Resting comfortably on the banks of the seasonal Mhlabetsi River in the Greater Kruger's Balule Nature Reserve sits the inimitable Nyala Safari Lodge. Distinct in design, this 5-bedroomed lodge offers thatched accommodation in an iconic rondawel style, an archetype of Kruger accommodation.

Nyala's main area has a wrap-around viewing deck mimicking the curves of the river, and runs the full length of the lodge. The entire lodge is shaded by weeping Boer-beans and ancient Jackalberry trees, ensuring respite from the heat during the sizzling summer months. There's also a swimming pool on-site-and decking area to ensure the most is made out of those balmy summer days. Don't be surprised to spot bushbuck and vervet monkeys while lounging around the pool area.

Just metres away from the main area is a thriving waterhole, where wildlife is known to put on a spectacle for onlookers. The boma area is strategically placed to take advantage of waterhole views, and offers the perfect place to sit under the stars around a crackling campfire after your evening game drive. Boma and swimming pool aside, the rest of the main area comprises a dining section, open plan kitchen, lounge, and viewing deck with hammocks.

Dotted among the riparian vegetation are 5 well-appointed chalets, furnished with sandy beige interiors and earthy tones designed to harmonise with the Balule Bushveld. Expect Egyptian cotton linen, light wooden furniture, and ornate bathrooms, four of which have deep-set luxurious baths. While each room has a hint of uniqueness, all have indoor and outdoor showers and views of either the bushveld, pool or river.

Activities include two game drives a day which depart at first light and late afternoon when the nocturnal predators are most active.

### AT A GLANCE

- A simple, luxury lodge with a relaxed atmosphere
- Located in a private concession in the Big 5 Balule Game Reserve
- Overlooks the seasonal Mhlabetsi River
- Eco-aware lodge with a focus on sustainable dining
- Traversing rights of roughly 5000 hectares
- There are only 5 thatched chalets, which means a personalised safari experience
- A floodlit waterhole in front of the boma
- All chalets have indoor and outdoor showers

### FACILITIES

- Swimming pool with deck area and sun loungers
- Viewing deck overlooking the seasonal river
- Deck area with dining option
- Boma area with firepit, chairs, and bushveld views
- Floodlit waterhole in front of the lodge
- Garden and lawns around camp
- Lounge and bar area with flat screen TV
- Tea and coffee station in the main area
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Small library area with an array of wildlife books
- Grey water system, solar power, and recycling system in place
- 5 brick and thatch chalets/rondawels with:
  - mosquito nets, ceiling fans and canvas dropdown blinds
  - all chalets have a private patio
  - Wi-Fi is available
  - tea and coffee station
  - universal plug points
  - bedside tables with lighting and lanterns
  - indoor and outdoor showers, and baths in 4 of the chalets
  - chalets have bushveld, garden or river views
  - chalets either have Queen beds or Twin beds
  - 4 of the chalets have room for a third bed





## A TYPICAL DAY AT NYALA SAFARI LODGE

Below is an example of a typical day on safari at Nyala. The times may vary according to seasons and other environmental factors.



## LOCATION

Nyala Safari Lodge is located in the Greater Kruger's famed Balule Nature Reserve, a Big 5 reserve sharing unfenced borders with the Kruger National Park. If you're self-driving, from Johannesburg it takes an estimated 6 hours by road to reach Nyala Safari Lodge. Self-drivers would need to leave their car at the gate - Nyala will transport you to camp, which will take roughly 40-minutes by road.

Most safari-goers choose to fly into O.R. Tambo and then catch a connecting flight to Hoedspruit-Eastgate Airport. There are also scheduled transfers available and private transfers, which can be arranged through our reservations department.

## ACTIVITIES

**Game Drives:** Two game drives are offered per day, one in the morning and one in late afternoon that moves into the night. All game drives are conducted in open 4x4 game viewers, which are eco friendly.

**Sundowners and Coffee Stops:** On the morning drive there is a stop for coffee and on afternoon drive you will stop for sundowners. Stops usually take place in scenic, open areas. Sundowners are drinks of your choice, and are typically accompanied by a few snacks.

**Boma Dinners:** Some of the evening meals are enjoyed in the elevated boma, above the floodlit waterhole. Guests can appreciate their surroundings while sitting around a crackling log fire under a starry night sky.







## GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

### WEATHER

The Kruger is a fantastic year-round safari destination that enjoys hot summers with rainfall and crisp, dry winters. The summer is from November to April and winter is from May - August.

During the rainy summer season, the landscapes shift to lush emerald green. During November/December is when impala give birth, making it ideal to spot young lambs. Summer is also the best season for birdwatching, as it draws in a wealth of summer migrants from across the globe. Expect full waterholes, rivers, and short bouts of rain with dramatic skylines.

The temperature in winter is warm. Evenings and early mornings are cool, and days are warm and dry. The bushveld thins out during winter, making it easy to spot big game. Because water is scarce, predators are attracted to the waterholes and dams; making it easy to track game.

### MALARIA

The Balule Nature Reserve region is a low risk malaria area. It is best to consult your local Doctor for advice. Generally, the type of medication needed for the Kruger area is Malarone, Doxycycline or Melfloquine. Mosquitos are more prevalent in the wet, warmer season. Mosquito repellent and creams are also great preventative measures.

### WILDLIFE

The bush is wild, unpredictable, exciting, and surprising. It changes daily, with no two days the same. Wildlife is regularly spotted at the waterhole or on the banks of the seasonal river in front of the lodge. Frequent visitors include an array of birdlife, giraffe, elephants, impala and the occasional predator. The Balule Nature Reserve is a Big 5 reserve, but there are plenty of other animals that are regularly spotted. Species include zebra, warthog, spotted hyena, baboon, hippo, impala, kudu, vervet monkey, and waterbuck.

### WHAT TO PACK

During the summer months the weather can be hot. Safaris take place in open-topped game viewers, so be prepared with warm clothes during the cold season.

You may want to bring a few outfits, in addition to the following items:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun hat, sunglasses and sunblock
- Cameras and binoculars
- Light, neutral coloured clothing
- Bathing suit
- Warm jackets essential in winter (May – Oct)
- Beanie and gloves – the mornings are cold during winter

