



Activities at BUFFELSDRIFT GAME LODGE



BUFFELSDRIFT GAME LODGE IS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE KLEIN KAROO WHICH IS PART OF THE WORLD FAMOUS GARDEN ROUTE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We are located 6.5 km just outside of Oudtshoorn, the Ostrich capital of the world. The lodge is situated only 300 metres from the tar road leading to the Cango Caves.

The main lodge area is right next to a 5ha waterhole, filled with big fish, turtles and hippo. From the wooden deck that surrounds the lodge area, you can see our elephants walking, our hippo and fish in the water as well as other game grazing on the opposite bank. If you are lucky you will even spot the fish eagle catching his daily meal. We have a wide variety of activities such as Bush Safaris, Night Drive, Meerkat Safari, Lion Experience, Free Roaming Cheetah Experience & Elephant Feeding, and Walking.

We are also well equipped to host conferences and weddings and have in house specialists that can assist you with this.



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FREE ROAMING CHEETAH EXPERIENCE



In April 2020, we introduced our South African cheetahs to our guests. After two years of being on the Reserve and being a part of our family, our cheetahs are now adapted and have relaxed to their new environment. We are aiming to create a platform to educate tourists about this predator in his natural environment.

We aim to create conservation awareness through education and to give the visitor a once in a lifetime experience. Buffelsdrift Game Lodge is part of EWT's Cheetah Meta-population project, and wants to contribute towards the existence and increase of the free-roaming cheetah population in their natural habitat in Southern Africa.

Cheetahs, like all other large predators, are heavily persecuted by livestock farmers. To conserve habitat for species such as the cheetah are a massive challenge to overcome. Buffelsdrift Game Lodge decided to contribute to this cause, by conserving the habitat for the cheetah and in so doing help to overcome the challenges that our cheetah meta-population faces.

Track the free roaming cheetahs by vehicle and by foot in their natural environment at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge.

Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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AFRICAN BUSH SAFARIS



BUSH SAFARI

Here at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge, we offer Bush Safaris not only to our residents, but to the public as well.

“We call it Bush Safaris, as our guides are trained to not only educate our guests on our wide variety of animals, but also about our bird and plant species.”

- Andries van Schalkwyk | Managing Director

During our bush safaris (game drives), you can expect to experience true Karoo vegetation from our open game viewing vehicles. Our wide range of animals includes Hippo, Giraffe, Eland, Zebra, Buffalo, Springbok and much more. The duration of our bush safaris is \pm 2 hours. About midway through the safari, there is a refreshment break at one of our scenic lookout points. These offer 360° panoramic views of the area as well as the Swartberg Mountains.

NIGHT DRIVE

At Buffelsdrift Game Lodge we offer night drives not only to our residents but to the public as well. A night drive is a safari that happens at night with the help of powerful spotlights to see the different animals. The two-hour night drive offers guest an opportunity to spot the elusive “Shy five” of Buffelsdrift Game Lodge - caracal, genet, porcupine, aardvark, and aardwolf. The open game drive safari vehicle offers to witness other wildlife species such as hippo’s grazing, Giraffes, Buffalo, Cape Mountain Zebra, Sable, Eland and much more. About midway through the night drive, there is a refreshment break where you can enjoy the renowned Klein Karoo night skies. The advantage of a night drive is that it provides access to nocturnal species that

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are rarely seen during the day, and there is a greater probability of seeing them hunt at night.

ELEPHANT EXPERIENCES



None of our elephants have been taken from the wild for captivity. The three elephants were orphaned when the adults were poached. Our elephants come from circumstances that if we did not intervene they would not be alive today. We did not choose this life for them but we rather chose to give them the best possible life within our means with the best possible love and care. All our elephant excursions have a most informative educational approach.

We are fortunate that they ended up here at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge as they are true gentle giants and have great personalities. Elephants are very affectionate and caring animals and you will immediately experience this when visiting us.

An early booking for an Elephant Experience is essential as our elephants are very popular. Clients should arrive 15 minutes prior to activity. Activity will automatically be cancelled if clients arrive 15 minutes after booked time and will have to wait for the next time slot. You are welcome to ask our elephant guides as many questions as you like.

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MEET OUR ELEPHANTS



Picture.1 - Jabari
Meaning "Powerful" (he is the youngest & also the naughty one)
Picture.2 - Bulelo
Meaning "Thank you" (he is the older and bigger bull)
Picture.3 - Malaika
Meaning "Angel" (Absolute matriarch, she rules over the males)

ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE

Hourly from 09:00 to 15:00 Depending on availability.

You may take as many photos as you like while our qualified and skilled elephant guides share their knowledge with you of these gentle giants.

ELEPHANT OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Daily - 08:00 & 16:00 Depending if there is an elephant experience booked.

View our elephants in their natural environment during the early morning or late afternoon.

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MEERKAT SAFARIS



Join us daily at dawn to witness these incredible wild habituated creatures emerging out of their burrows, just in time to soak up the sun before they head about their daily activities. Meerkats are also referred to as the Suricate or in German as the Erdmännchen and are known to be part of the Mongoose family. They are small species of foraging mammals that's usually found inhabiting the harsh conditions of the open and arid, semi-desert plains in Southern Africa. Meerkats are known for their upright stance and their sociable behaviour. Buffelsdrift Game Lodge is situated in the heart of the Klein Karoo and offers the ideal environment and vegetation for Meerkats to thrive.

The Meerkat Safaris at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge will bring you up close to these amazing animals. A trained ranger will meet our guests in the Lookout Lounge, where they will enjoy a warm cup of coffee and rusks, before heading to the Safari vehicle by which they will be taken to the Meerkat burrows. On the way to the burrows guests are usually lucky to spot some of the 22 species of animals on the reserve. As there are dangerous animals like Buffalo and Hippo on the reserve, the guests remain on the vehicle while waiting for the Meerkats to emerge at the break of dawn. The ranger will educate the guests on all the interesting facts and behaviour throughout the experience.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

These are wild habituated Meerkats and will not be touched or handled by humans, including the ranger.

The distance from the Meerkats and the guests will at all times be determined by the ranger and respected by the guests.

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Maximum of 16 guests per vehicle.

Maximum of 2 vehicles per day.

No children under the age of eight years.

Advanced bookings only.

Please call Lodge day before activity to reconfirm departure time.

Please note: Weather permitting

On sunny mornings our meerkats wake up on time, but conditions such as rain and cold overcast mornings can delay the meerkats to emerge from their burrows for the morning. Meerkats prefer clear sunny mornings. Thus, in the event of above mentioned weather conditions, there is a possibility that we will not see the meerkats or that the meerkat safari can be cancelled.

Currently Buffelsdrift Game Lodge has embarked on an extensive Meerkat research program. Volunteers at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge will be utilized to help the ranger with data collection and behaviour observations. For more information, visit our [Volunteer Program](#).



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LION EXPERIENCE



After two years of intensive preparation we received three young lions in January 2017. The negotiations with the Namibian conservationists Dr Rudie and Marlice van Vuuren from N/a'an ku sê - Conservation, started almost two years ago when the couple indicated that they would like to expand their work that they are doing in Namibia, to South Africa. The first project on the list was to relocate the three young lions from a Game farm in the Western Cape to Buffelsdrift Game Lodge with the help of Cape Nature. The cubs, approximately 9 months old, two females and one male, were relocated with the help of Dr Willem Burger, a local vet from Oudtshoorn. The cubs were welcomed on Wednesday the 4th of January at the special erected camp at Buffelsdrift.

The decision to move the three lions was based on the fact that the area at the Game Farm was very small and the area at Buffelsdrift was bigger and would suit them better. These cubs were born in captivity and can therefore never be released into the wild. A portion of the funds accumulated by this is used for conservation and to support two local schools in our community

LION EXPERIENCE

Daily at 09H30 & 15h00.

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Guests will be transported in a game vehicle to the 5ha lion enclosure where they will see our lions (Shumba, Tonga and Safia) close-up from the elevated view point. A trained game ranger will feed the lions while guests view them. It is advisable to have a camera at hand. Furthermore, the game ranger will fully inform the guests regarding important aspects of lions in general.

General Guidelines:

- These are wild Lions and will not be touched or handled by humans, including the rangers.
- Maximum of 20 guests per Lion experience. Book in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Duration of the Lion viewing experience may vary depending on their behaviour (± 1-2 hours)

MEET OUR LIONS



Picture.1 - Shumba
meaning "Lion" in Shona (He is the male and the brother of the females)

Picture.2 - Tonga
meaning "Rule" in Shona (She has the outgoing personality)

Picture.3 - Safia
meaning "Pure and Wise" in Swahili (She is the shy but playful one)

HERITAGE NATURE WALK

Strap your boots and come experience an adventure that will allow you to use all your senses to connect deeper with the Little Karoo and its history. A 5km trail swirls past dramatic scenes of the famous red rock formations of the little Karoo. These scenes will take your imagination on a journey, while a qualified guide tells the stories on how the Little Karoo was born millions of years ago. Smelling nature and Feeling the grass crush underneath your boots while following your guide, you can encounter a variety of wildlife species from a safe distance. This activity is also a fantastic opportunity for bird lovers as our expert guides are fully qualified and well informed on the many bird species you may encounter on the walk. Moving through dense Karoo veld, the trail leads you to a historical cave that was previously inhabited by the San (Bushman) people. Here you will witness the fine art of the bushman people, painted many years ago against the folds of the mountain range. Overlooking the plains of the Little Karoo, the guide will share stories of the Bushman and how they lived here in the land of thirst.

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Additional Information:

Trail difficulty : Casual +- 5km walk

Duration : +- 4 Hours (depends on group's pace)

Departure Times : 06:00 (summer) 08:00 (winter)

Guests meet at the main lodge, from where you depart in one of our gameviewers towards the starting point of the trail.

Number of Guests : 8 Max

Min Pax : 2 Pax

Age Limit : Min of 12 Years of age

Breakfast : Breakfast pack, juice and water included

What to bring:

Sunblock

Hiking shoes (no sandals Or flip flops)

Preferably long trousers

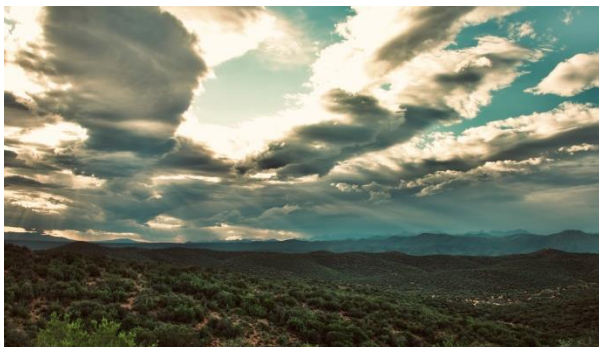
Hat

Small Backpack

Water

Binoculars

Appropriate medication for personal medical conditions



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THE SPA



The Spa @ Buffelsdrift is situated at the foot of the Swartberg Mountains, South Africa's 6th World Heritage Site, on Buffelsdrift Game Lodge. Situated 6.5km outside Oudtshoorn en route to the Cango Caves. At the Spa you will find a view of pristine Bushveld and lush vegetation overlooking a 5ha dam with hippos and more than 217 bird species.

The Spa @ Buffelsdrift has 3 permanent therapists of which 2 at a time are onsite that are professionally trained to provide the feeling one gets of being in nature with a relaxing and revitalizing treatment. Choose your preferred massage, treatment or facial and be amazed by the view over the waterhole, sounds of wildlife and relaxing soft music in the background.



TIME SLOTS OF ACTIVITIES

CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.BUFFELSDRIFT.COM

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