



A Mantis Eco-Lodge Experience

Mantis luxury hotels, eco-lodges, and waterways are dream holiday and vacation experiences located around the world. Created by Adrian Gardiner, Mantis grew from a humble vision to create travel experiences where man and nature co-exist sustainably. Sustainable travellers have been enjoying eco-tourism, safaris, and adventure travel with Mantis since 2000.

MANTIS FOUNDERS LODGE

Mantis Founders Lodge offers hospitality that is focused on tailored service. The wildlife safari lodge, featuring 7 suites and the exclusive-use Founders Railway Carriage, is located in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, just one hour from Gqeberha. Founders offers a safari experience with a flair of romance for couples, and an intimate social environment for families and friends travelling together.

Founders Lodge is a celebration of essential beginnings in sustainable tourism, culture, conservation, and community inclusion. This lodge is a monument to conservation history, and it offers soul-reviving safaris in the place where Adrian Gardiner pioneered private game reserves and eco-tourism in the Eastern Cape. Guests enjoy intimate nature-inspired experiences focused on the smaller lesser known wildlife and ecology, as well as big five viewing on 4x4 guided game drives on 25000ha of game reserve.

UNIQUE SELLING FEATURES

- Big 5 safari on Shamwari Game Reserve (*malaria-free*)
- An intimate insight into the world of nature conservation
- Private, intimate and family friendly
- Situated on a private concession
- Bear Grylls Survival Academy - accredited kids programme
- Photographic hide

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Founders Railway Carriage accommodation experience
- Bird watching
- Varied dining venues in and around the lodge
- Rhino monitoring
- Nature walks within a rare biome with distinct flora and fauna
- Guest impact experiences with programs focused on conservation and community impact
- Interactive wildlife tracks & signs of the bush

LODGE FEATURES

- Bar with billiards table
- Drawing room with fireplace
- Library
- Founders museum and curio shop
- Gym and steam room
- Formal dining room
- Casual dining terrace
- Boma
- 2 outdoor swimming pools
- Sunken photographic hide

LODGE SERVICES

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Secure parking available
- In-room spa treatments

THE LODGE: ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCE



EXPERIENCE IT

Founders Lodge is intimate with only 7 suites that are accessed easily from the main guest areas, each is a gateway to privacy and exclusive downtime. Earth yourself! Take off your shoes, step off your private patio and onto the lush grass with your eyes fixed on the hilly horizons of our rare biome with distinct flora and fauna. Safari, dining, sundowners and poolside delights - Founders Lodge provides entertainment suites for both adults and children.

LODGE SUITES

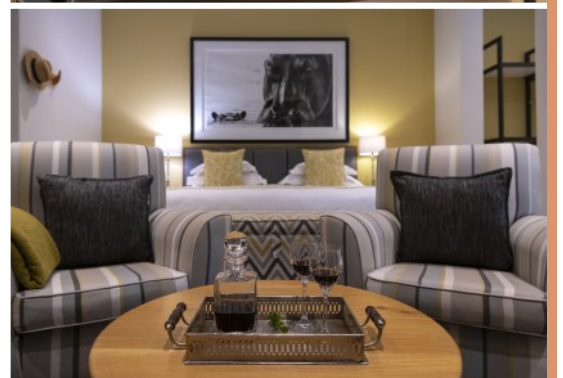
Ideal for couples or single travellers, our contemporary suites are inspired by nature and offer spacious contemporary comfort. Completed in warm hues that offset the black and white renowned David Yarrow wildlife photographic masterpieces on the walls; each suite opens onto a private veranda.

Our Heritage wing is situated in the manor house of the lodge, with access to a private dining room and lounge, including coffee table books and board games. Two spacious suites are adjoined by a central passage, providing families privacy and seclusion.

The Honeymoon pod is a plush and private pod designed as an ideal setting for celebratory getaways for two. Perched above the central lodge, the suite offers unobstructed views of the valley and has it's own private entrance.

FACILITIES

- Full en-suite bathroom
- Vanity desk with hairdryer
- Air-conditioning and electric safe
- Mini bar and tea / coffee making facilities
- Bathrobes and slippers
- Complimentary sherry / port provided in each room



FOUNDERS RAILWAY CARRIAGE: ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCE



EXPERIENCE IT

When Adrian Gardiner retired his private railway carriage on which he and his family had enjoyed many an adventurous journey across South Africa, it was his intention to emulate the romance of a bygone era with modern touches, such as a pool, boma and outdoor deck at Founders Lodge.

The first of its kind in the Eastern Cape. Permanently stationed atop a hill within the Founders Lodge private concession, offering sweeping views of the valley from the carriage outdoor deck. Patrons of the carriage are invited to join us onboard for this intimate and exciting encounter as you immerse yourself within nature, suitable for all ages.

ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

The charming carriage has three compartments: a main double sleeper as well as a two berth and a single compartment. There's also a period bathroom facilities onboard and a stunning lounge and dining area. The outdoor deck and boma with separate bathroom facilities completes the Founders Railway Carriage.

FACILITIES

- Private pool and boma
- Bar with coffee / tea making facilities
- Air-conditioning and electric safe
- Mini bar and tea / coffee making facilities
- Dressing gowns and slippers
- Complimentary sherry / port provided in each room



MANTIS FOUNDERS LODGE

TRAVEL INFORMATION



LODGE POLICIES

Family friendly (+4 years)
Check-in: 14:00 | Check-out: 11:00
Credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club Card and Amex
All guestrooms are non-smoking
No pets allowed

IT'S ALL IN THE LOCATION

Nestled between Gqeberha and Grahamstown, Founders Lodge is the perfect escape into the wilderness. Enjoy tranquillity away from the city and be reminded of the pristine beauty of the natural world.

ADDRESS

Sidbury, Gqeberha, South Africa
85km from Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport
52km to Grahamstown
Transfers on request

KEY ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA

Born Free Foundation
Big 7 safari

