



TSWALU
KALAHARI



UNIQUE
DISCOVERIES



Rios de Santa Lucia

Rio de Ladrao

I de Inhaçatã

Rio de Manica

TERRE DO QUERUNDE

Rio de Ouro

TERRE DO XENBE

Rio de Inhaçatã pura

TERRE DO INHAÇATã

Rio Zabala

TERRE DO XENBE

C dos Correntes

Parte de Inhaçatã

Rio de Francisco

Rio Ladrao

www.tswalu.com

ROYAUME
DE
MANICA

PAYS DES

CAFFRES

We are custodians of a very special part of the Kalahari and, while we are dedicated to giving our guests a unique experience in a luxury environment, we continue to aim to return the Kalahari to itself. Stephen Boler, who created the Tswalu reserve, started the process and we are continuing in that vein.

I believe the guest experience improves from day to day and that people who come to Tswalu have a real African savanna experience. All aspects of life at Tswalu - the animals, insects, flora, cuisine, landscape, the guides and trackers, and the Kalahari itself - play their part.

On the research side, the Tswalu Foundation is now well established and the work being done by the researchers it commissions is of importance to the region, not just Tswalu.

Again we see it as important that our guests can participate in this process if they so desire.

The Oppenheimers are privileged to own this unique part of Africa and look forward to sharing it with you.

Nicky Oppenheimer



Nicky Oppenheimer





BAREFOOT LUXURY...

Experience the barefoot luxury of Tswalu Kalahari, South Africa's largest private game reserve, covering an area of over 100 000 hectares (250 000 acres) in the exquisite malaria-free "Green Kalahari" region.

With the emphasis on conservation tourism, Tswalu Kalahari is able to offer superlative game and sightings of some of South Africa's rarest and most extraordinary wildlife, including the desert black rhino, black-maned Kalahari lions, meerkats, cheetah, rare antelope, and the elusive aardvark, aardwolf, pangolin and porcupine.

Design your own itinerary with game drives, bush walks, horseback safaris and animal encounters. Spend a night on our Malori sleep-out deck, with nothing between you and the brilliant stars of the Kalahari night sky. Treat yourself to an indulgent spa treatment in our award-winning safari spa.

Dine in the bush, the boma, or in the privacy of your suite. Enjoy sundowners in the dunes or order a gourmet picnic breakfast for your early morning game drive. Catering for just 30 guests in two luxury lodges, the emphasis is on privacy, flexibility and exclusivity, and we tailor your experience to suit you.



- Interactive safari – it's not just about seeing game, but rather experiencing it
- Largest private game reserve in South Africa – a pristine malaria-free wildlife wilderness of over 100 000 hectares (255 000 acres)
- Incomparable hospitality – a dedicated team committed to exceeding expectations
- Exclusivity of the safari experience – every promotion includes a private vehicle, guide, and tracker
- Guests dictate their own safari plan – complete flexibility of safari and meal times to suit the guest
- Gourmet cuisine with South Africa's finest wines – delight in a different menu and dining venue every night

UNIQUE DISCOVERIES...





WORLD



WORLD

CONSERVATION

The word 'Tswalu' means 'a new beginning' and Tswalu Kalahari is driven by two ambitions; to create an inspirational experience for its guests, and a conservation vision, to restore the Kalahari to itself. These two goals sit in perfect equilibrium; each guest contributes directly to the sustainability of the reserve in a true model of eco-tourism.

Tswalu Kalahari has been certified by 'Fair Trade in Tourism' for both our Environmental and Conservation programmes.

This certification ensures that both socially and environmentally responsible management is practiced by the property. Habitat restoration is particularly relevant in today's world where natural habitats are being destroyed at alarming rates.

Guests are encouraged to participate in our wildlife projects – primarily in the cooler months between April and September.



VILLAGE TOUR

With the increasing international awareness of the importance of responsible environmental practices and a staff component that is growing in both literacy and skills, Tswalu has the opportunity to develop as a model of responsible environmental management.

Thus conservation, socio-economic development, tourism and responsible environmental management are the four legs upon which Tswalu is being developed.

We offer a daily tour to our staff village, which includes the staff accommodation, the clinic, Tshameka early learning centre, and The ABET (Adult Basic Education Training) centre.





WORLD



WORLD



WILD



WILD

4X4 SAFARIS

...with your personal private vehicle, guide, and tracker - no sharing of vehicles!

The main focus of the Tswalu Kalahari tourism experience is to expose guest to the wonders of the Kalahari ecosystem. Tswalu is extremely large and, by virtue of its size alone, offers an authentic African wildlife experience. The number of beds (30 in total) ensures that a limited number of seven safari vehicles traverse the area at any one time.

The arid nature of the savannah means that game, although plentiful, is scattered across a wide area. Thus, as the periods between sightings of large game may be extended, guides are required to offer insights into more than just big game and develop and share their knowledge of the unique Tswalu environment.



HORSE SAFARIS

Our horseback safaris gets you closer to nature while we're out riding across beautiful grassy plains and rolling dune veldt with 360-degree views.

The Korannaberg Mountains make an awesome backdrop to a late afternoon ride, draped in mauves and pinks, while the rolling dunes stretch out to infinity as you set out on your safari.

We have a variety of horses ranging from 14.2hh to 17.1hh. The breeds include Boerperd cross, Quarter Horse cross, Thoroughbred, Shire, Appaloosa cross, Arab cross and Saddler cross breeds.

We accommodate all levels of experience, from first time riders to skilled equestrians, as well as children, on the rides.





WILD



WILD



WALKING SAFARIS

With our diverse habitat and climate, we host an extremely diverse animal population, with about 80 species of mammals and 240 species of birds.

The open habitat makes for excellent game viewing and with the reserve spanning over 100 000 ha (250 000 acres), there is no need to queue for sightings or have limited time at sightings.

There are great opportunities to see rare species which are seldom seen in the traditional safari areas, and what better way to explore than on foot



HABITUATED MEERKATS

Tswalu has numerous colonies of meerkats but two colonies have learnt, over a number of years, to trust humans and accept them as part of their environment. The habituation process began years ago when two neighbouring families of meerkats were identified to be the subject of a wildlife documentary (the wildness of Tswalu, its spectacular landscapes and the rich diversity of Kalahari wildlife, makes Tswalu an ideal location for wildlife documentaries).

To habituate the colonies, a person would spend every waking hour of the day getting a little closer to the group, slowly gaining their trust and ensuring that their presence did not adversely influence the meerkats' behaviour. It was crucial that the meerkats continued about their daily life without any form of reward (food) because this would affect the accuracy and authenticity of the documentary being made.

After many months of slowly gaining their trust, the meerkat families finally accepted the presence of people and, because they had not been encouraged with food, they now simply look past people and continue with their day to day activities and facing the challenges of life in the Kalahari.

Over the years, the meerkat families have been the subject of a number of films and documentaries. Tswalu has maintained close contact with the meerkats in order to allow guests to experience a close encounter with the colony and also to make the animals available for behavioural and ecological research projects (this type of careful habituation also makes the meerkats extremely valuable research subjects and data on the colony is collected daily).





WTO



WTO

THE MALORI SLEEP-OUT DECK

... a luxury king-size bed on a raised deck 'in the middle the reserve,' where guests can sleep surrounded by the calls of nocturnal animals, with nothing between them and the brilliant stars of the Kalahari night sky... without compromising on luxury. The Malori sleep-out deck maximises the exquisite panoramic views of the vast plains of the Green Kalahari and is orientated to showcase the incomparable Kalahari sunsets.

* Accommodation supplement applies





TSWALU KALAHARI SPA

A number of sensual spaces combine to create an inspirational venue for one of the most unusual spa experiences in the world, the 'Best Safari Spa' in Africa.

Each of the therapy suites has its own 'sensation' shower with overhead colour therapy lights, which work together to take you on a sensory hydrotherapy journey from rain to rainstorm and then to a Kalahari rain dance.

In keeping with the spa's philosophy of 'nature above man' the new spa has natural finishes throughout, including screeded floors, wooden window frames and doors, reed ceilings, and dry-stone walls in the indoor and outdoor showers.

Colours are cool and neutral to create a haven of peace and tranquillity, and an escape from the Kalahari sun.



YOGA

Surrounded by the great expanse and the endless skies that complete the unique environment of the Kalahari, join us as we stretch, strengthen and relax the body, offering you a sense of increased awareness vitality and inner peace.

A message from our instructor: “With the tsala overlooking the watering hole as the platform for the yogic practice or perhaps the comfort of your own room, we would like to invite you to emerge yourself fully into a practice which delivers a feeling of unity and relaxation, taking your holiday to the next level.

Our daily classes are suitable for all levels of experience, from the novice to the guru, as this is one practice that knows no judgment.”





THE TSWALU FOUNDATION



The Tswalu Foundation (TF) was created as a result of the forward thinking and love of the Kalahari by Mr Jonathan Oppenheimer in 2008. His founding vision for the Foundation was to develop a platform on which local and international visitors could contribute and involve themselves in community and environmental research on Tswalu Kalahari – either to an existing project or to suggest and fund specific projects in areas of particular interest to the funder.

Tswalu Kalahari is driven by a strong conservation and community development ethic, and whilst the Oppenheimer family have sanctioned numerous projects, the Foundation allows more researchers to study in the Southern Kalahari. Experience over the years has taught us that the longevity of the project is determined by the interactive nature of the project. We encourage researchers to share their concepts and progress with our guests, who, if inspired by the work, will continue to contribute to funding the project through the Foundation.



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WOTD



WOTD

TSWALU BOUTIQUE

All profits from the shop are donated to The Tswalu Foundation.
From clothing or a little piece of Africa, there is something
for everyone.



CHILDREN OF ALL AGES LOVE TSWALU

Children love Tswalu, because the staff at Tswalu love children. Here they can be part of our conservation vision, learning about the land and the wildlife in a malaria-free environment. They'll love the Junior Ranger Programme and the ranger packs, thoughtfully put together to surprise and delight them.

The Junior Ranger programme encourages children to identify animals and their spoor, collect samples, create art, and so much more. On completion of the programme all children receive a Tswalu Junior Ranger badge. The ideal age to participate is between 3 and 10 years.





Cameron Pearce





Degustation menus with wine pairings



CHEF'S TABLE

The flexible itinerary at Tswalu extends to dining, and the variety of menu and venue options will surprise and delight you. Enjoy a late breakfast at the pool, a picnic lunch on safari, dune dinners, boma feasts, sundowners in the bush or a romantic dinner on your private deck.

The gourmet menus are prepared by our Executive Chef, Justin Pillay, whose exacting standards ensure that each meal is a memorable experience.

As an experienced fine-dining specialist, Justin uses the best available seasonal ingredients, locally sourced wherever possible, to create his constantly changing and evolving menus, and his dishes are complemented by an award-winning wine list.

Enjoy a cooking class in the bush and then savour the fruits of your labour paired with South Africa's finest wines in an incomparable location.





Bushman rock etchings



BUSHMAN ETCHINGS

Tswalu has also been identified as an area rich in Archeological heritage. Tswalu is thus also careful to preserve a number of rich archeological heritage sights.

Preliminary investigation on the reserve has revealed the presence of important archaeological sites ranging from the Middle Stone Age (from about 1 800 000 years ago) to the Late Stone Age.

Artefacts at these sites include undecorated potsherds, pieces of ostrich eggshell and low stonewalling. Of special interest are a number of rock engravings and over 300 cupules (rounded depressions) “pecked” into the rock.

These cupules are found near water sources, mainly on horizontal surfaces and their purpose remains a mystery.

These archaeological sites enjoy the highest protection and research is being encouraged through both the McGregor Museum and the University of Witwatersrand’s SA Rock Art Institute.

Guests can enjoy a guided walk up Bushman Mountain to see these etchings and enjoy a leisurely picnic whilst overlooking the vastness of the Southern Kalahari.



