



Real Africa

Real Close to Cape Town

The Big 5 - Cape Town

Over 10,000 hectares of Big 5 Conservancy.



FACT SHEET 2017/18

INTRODUCTION

Aquila Private Game Reserve, just under a two hour scenic drive via the N1 from Cape Town, is named after the rare and endangered Black Eagle that thrives in the area. Proclaimed a Private Nature Reserve in 1985, this 4 star, Big 5, malaria free, 10,000 hectare conservancy boasts 3 pristine biomes of vegetation set in the magnificent Karoo mountains, valleys, rivers and kloofs.

Aquila has been recognized alongside major tourist attractions in Cape Town, such as Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch and Robben Island as a must-see Cape destination.

ACCOMMODATION

4 Star accommodation is available in Cottages and Lodge Rooms. Aquila sleeps a total of 168 guests sharing and 81 single occupancy in 77 rooms.

All cottages and rooms are equipped with air conditioning, heating and cooling systems, bar fridges (which can be stocked at guests' request), room safes, hair dryers, tea and coffee making facilities and guest amenities as well as the highest quality of linen are standard features in all room and cottage types.

AQUILA COTTAGES

Aquila's cottages have been built primarily from stone, thatch and wood to blend in with the environment. There are Premier, Family and Standard Cottages. The Standard Cottages are undergoing a major renovation and this will result in the Room type name changes from Standard to Luxury Cottages from 1st November 2017.

Premier Cottages

The Premier Cottages are positioned on the hillside of the reserve to ensure privacy and have been built in harmony with the rock, which is a principle focal point in the large en-suite bathrooms and alfresco showers. Each of the Premier Cottages are constructed from wood, stone and thatch and are equipped with their own indoor fireplaces. The en-suite bathroom is unique, with twin hand basins, bath, bidet and toilet and opens up into an alfresco shower. The Premier Cottages offer a wooden deck with panoramic views across the expanse of the reserve.

Room configuration:

Premier Cottage 6: Sleeps 4 (Twin sharing and double bunks)

Premier Cottage 7: Sleeps 2 (Twin sharing)

Premier Cottage 8: Sleeps 2 (King size bed)

Premier Cottage 9 (Honeymoon Suite): Sleeps 2 (King size bed)

Premier Cottage 10: Sleeps 2 (Twin sharing)

Average cottage sizes: Balcony 8m², Bedroom 40m², Bathroom 20m²



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Luxury Family Cottages:

The Luxury Family Cottages are semi-detached units with a focus on privacy. The Luxury Family Cottages are equipped with their own indoor fireplaces for that extra bit of warmth and coziness in the colder months. The Luxury Family Cottages are constructed under thatch roofs and feature exterior stone work using raw materials from the area. The large en-suite bathrooms feature corner baths with alfresco showers (some bathrooms also feature a bidet).

Room configuration:

Luxury Family Cottages 31 & 38: Sleeps 8 (2 bedrooms with king size beds and 2 en-suite bathrooms, upstairs contain 4 three quarter beds)

Luxury Family Cottages 32 – 37: Sleeps 4 (2 downstairs in a queen size bed and 2 upstairs in three quarter beds).

Please note the children's loft area looks over the bedroom downstairs and is accessed by a wooden staircase.

Average room sizes: Family Balcony 12m², Family Room 30m², Family Bathroom 6m²

Luxury Cottages (previously known as Standard Cottages)

The Luxury Cottages are a collection of semi-detached units with thatch roofs and exterior stone work. The Luxury Cottage underwent a major transformation in 2017, with a complete upgrade which included new flooring, new furniture, new lighting, new vanities in the bathroom and new softs throughout. These exquisite cottage comprise a patio, a bedroom, a large bathroom with a corner bath and an alfresco shower.

Room configuration:

Luxury Cottages 11 – 30: Sleeps 2 (Twin sharing)

Sizes: Room 16.6m², Bathroom 3.9m², Patio 12m²

AQUILA LODGE (ROOMS)

Situated adjacent to the restaurant is the newly built Aquila Lodge, comprising 3 floors and 44 rooms, some of which face the reserve and the mountains, accessible by a glass panelled lift with magnificent Karoo vistas. Modern Afro-chic interior design is used throughout the lodge.

Premier Lodge Rooms have large balconies overlooking the magnificent view of the reserve. En-suite bathrooms contain a shower and bath. 2 twin beds which can be combined to a queen size bed. A sleeper couch is available in these rooms suitable for a small child.

Room configuration:

Rooms (uneven numbers) 1ST FLOOR: 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111. 2ND FLOOR: 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211

3RD FLOOR: 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311

Sleeps 3 – 2 adults and 1 child under the age of 12.

Twin beds can be combined to a queen sized bed and sleeper couch for child under 12.

Smallest Room Size: Room 23.6m², Balcony 10.8m², Bathroom 7.5m²

Standard Lodge Rooms, look away from the reserve and have an en-suite bathroom containing a shower. These rooms do not have a balcony or any specific view.

Room configuration:

Rooms (even numbers) 1ST FLOOR: 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112. 2ND FLOOR: 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212

3RD FLOOR: 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312

Sleeps 2: Twin beds which can be combined to a queen sized bed.

Room size: Room 16.8m², Bathroom 3.65m²

Lodge Family Suites: The above 2 room types can be converted to Luxury Family Suites. They interconnect by a common passage way. The entrance to the passageway may be locked, as can both bedrooms, forming a private and safe space for families.



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DINING

Aquila offers a variety of dining venues. Meals are generally buffet style, however, a la carte and set menu options are available for special occasions and private functions, they must be pre-booked.

ELEPHANT DINING

Elephant Restaurant:

This spectacular triple volume restaurant is perfectly situated and offers breath-taking views of the reserve. This spacious African- character building is the perfect setting for the extensive buffet-style meals served. Meals to suit all culinary/dietary requirements are prepared by our resident chefs, including traditional South African cuisine.

Available for large groups and is the general area where all meals are served

Seats: 90

Size: 100 sqm

Elephant Terrace:

The Elephant Terrace runs the length of the Elephant Restaurant. Guest dining in the Elephant Restaurant may chose to make use of this outside area. Groups may also make use of this area.

Seats: 65

Size: 65 sqm

Tusk Room:

Situated towards the rear of the Elephant Restaurant, the Tusk Room can be converted into a private area to accommodate exclusive group dining experiences.

Please pre-book for groups or private dining.

Seats: 45

Size: 35 sqm

Elephant View:

Situated upstairs from the Elephant Restaurant. The dining area extends to a small intimate balcony that can form part of the larger area or it could be used as a private area. The upstairs viewing area offers a sweeping view of the reserve.

Seats: 80

Size: 95 sqm

Terrace View area:

Seats: 25

Size :14 sqm

Please pre-book for groups or private dining.

Watering Hole Bar:

Situated adjacent to the swimming pool and restaurant, the "Watering Hole" pool bar and pool deck enjoys the same architecture and African design. Perfect for parents to keep a watchful eye on their kids in the pool whilst enjoying a meal or cocktail. Seating is on bar stools around the bar.

Seats: 6

Size: 10 sqm



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LEOPARD LOUNGE

The Leopard Lounge consists of a collection of lounges that are perfect for alternate dining venues.

Lower Leopards Lounge and Bar

The place to get together with other guests, enjoy a drink or catch up on some television. The Lower Leopard Lounge & Bar Lounge comprises of informal comfortable seating around a fire place and a long bar.

Size: 60sqm

Seats if converted to dining: 80

Lower Leopard Terrace:

Outdoor dining doesn't get any better – tables under umbrellas, circle the Drummers pit. Drumming occurs on most evenings guests are invited to join in exploring the heart-beat of Africa, if there is no formal drumming guests are able to get creative. This area is generally available to all guests and there is no need to pre-book – if the weather is good you will be able to utilise this area.

Seats: 36 (but can be extended to 50)

Size: 100 sqm

Upper Leopard Lounge:

Situated in a raised area adjoining the Leopard's Tail Lounge. This casual dining area has floor to ceiling windows and is a good option for private group dining. Please pre book for groups or private dining.

Seats: 40

Size : 42 sqm

Upper Leopard Terrace:

Extending outwards from the Upper Leopard lounge this terrace area offers alfresco dining under the shade of a large tree. This area is generally available to all guests and there is no need to pre-book – if the weather is good you will be able to utilise this area.

Seats: 55

Size: 35 sqm

Leopards Lair:

Leading off from the Upper Leopard Lounge, the Leopards Lair is a thatched circular building in the African tradition. Large windows allow plenty of light into this intimate area. Ideal for small intimate groups. Please pre-book for groups or private dining.

Seats: 10

Size: 30 sqm

INDABA CENTRE

Indaba Centre:

Situated a short distance from the main lodge area, this venue consists of three separate areas and exudes African charm. The Indaba Centre is constructed from thatch, large wooden beams and stone. Please pre-book all venues in the Indaba Conference Centre for groups or private dining.

Main Hall:

Seats: 100

Size: 100 sqm



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INDABA CENTRE CONT:

Indaba Boma:

A circular Boma extends from the main hall.

Seats: 50

Size: 36m²

Indaba Terrace:

Wrapping around the Indaba Boma is the relaxed outdoor dining area of the Indaba Terrace.

Seats: 80

Size: 40 sqm plus lawn area

RHINO CENTRE

Situated across the road from the reserve is the Rhino Centre, this area consists of two rooms (Lion and Buffalo venue rooms), a cool covered verandah area and a charming grassed area.

Lion Venue: Seats: 50
 Size: 40 sqm

Buffalo Venue: Seats: 12 Boardroom
 Size: 80 sqm

TRANQUILA ZEN GARDEN

Dining for no more than 5 couples, situated in an outdoor area in the middle of the Spa. This quiet, tranquil area serves healthy cold meals and snacks. Pre-booking essential and meals served here are all optional extras..

Maximum Seating capacity for dining: 12

BUSH DINING VENUES

Stone Cottage:

Deep in the reserve at the end of "Second Valley" is Stone Cottage, an old shephard's hut heralding back to the Boer War days. Jan Smuts, a past president of the Union of South Africa, is known to have escaped through the kloof behind Stone Cottage. This is now the hunting ground of leopards. This boma'd area has a magnificent cliff as a back drop. Meals are prepared on open fires and the only light comprises lamp light. For guest's convenience, ablution facilities are available and there is an African style bush pub. Pre-booking of the Stone Cottage is essential. This venue includes a 30 to 45 minute game drive to and from the venue.

Seats: 120
Size: 300m²

Look Out Point:

Situated on a hill overlooking "First Valley" is the Look Out Point, overlooking vast expanse of African bush. It is ideal for any special occasion and picnic style meals can be served here. Meals will be prepared in the main kitchen and served "picnic" style. This venue does not contain any ablution facilities and fires are prohibited. Pre-booking is essential.

Seats: 10
Size: 100 m²



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BUSINESS IN THE BUSH

Indaba Conference Centre:

This venue consists of four areas, the Main Hall, the Indaba Boma, an outside bar area and an outside seating area. This venue exudes African charm and is constructed from thatch, large wooden beams and stone. Conference equipment consists of DVD, TV, data projector and screen, flip chart and white board. Other specialised equipment can be arranged on request.

Seating Capacity:

- 48 guests (8 x 6 tables) including dance floor and buffet set up inside – bar at reception
- 92 guests (8 x 12 tables) dance floor, buffet and bar set up in boma area
- 80 guests cinema style - tea and coffee station at reception or in boma area
- 56 guests U-Shape style – tea and coffee station at reception
- 80 guests cocktail style with bars and buffet style

The main hall is 125m² (25m x 5m) with a thatch circular outside boma area of 36m².

Two Breakaway Rooms.

- 10m² (2mx5m)
- 5m² (2mx5m)

Rhino Centre:

Situated across the road from the entrance to the Aquila Private Game Reserve. Two meeting rooms are available complimented by a large cool veranda.

Black Room:

Style: Boardroom – 36. U Shape – 36. Cinema – 100.

White Room:

Style: Boardroom – 20. U Shape – 20. Cinema – 44.



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ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- **Game Drives:** Morning, afternoon and evening game drives with qualified field rangers in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Blankets and raincoats are made available to guests during the winter season. Specially designed ladders are used to assist guests embarking and disembarking the vehicles. Private Safaris can be booked. Duration is approximately 2 - 3 hours.
- **Horse Back Safari:** A safari trip on horseback is an alternative or in addition to the game drive safari option to experiencing the natural wonders of Africa. Stalking game gets closer than ever when you're saddled-up and ready to ride. No experience is necessary for the Aquila horseback safari. Weight restriction of maximum 95kg and age restriction of over 16 years. Horseback safaris depart from the ranger station at 10h00 and 13h30 daily. Duration is approximately 1½ hours.
- **Quad Bike Safari:** For the adventurous, a safari trip on a 250CC horsepower quadbike is an alternative or in addition to the game drive safari option. Weight restriction of maximum 95kg and age restriction of over 16 years. Duration is approximately 1½ hours.
- **Star Safari:** Complimentary star gazing is offered every evening from 20h30 to 22h00, weather permitting. Star gazers can utilise Aquila's powerful telescopes to view the Milky Way - just follow the signs from the restaurant.
- **Tranquila Spa:** The newly completed Tranquila Spa at Aquila adds to the already exceptional services and facilities on offer. A masterpiece in luxury, defined by its serenity and the creative use of natural elements. The facilities at the spa include 2 heated indoor pools, outdoor pool, steam room, sauna, relaxation area and change rooms. Maximum numbers apply to this area and guests wishing to make use of these facilities would need to book at the Spa reception. For guests that book a spa treatment, access to the spa facilities are complimentary. Facility fees are charged to guests who do not wish to book a treatment but only want to utilise the facilities. Guests making use of the facilities are supplied a private locker, robe and slippers. Juices and teas are also complimentary to all Spa guests. Treatments include manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing, hair treatments and massages. Tranquila Spa boasts a nail bar, 10 treatment rooms, a couple's treatment room and a domed therapy room (which is ideal for groups or couple's private spa packages) as well as a Zen Garden that seats up to 10 guests, healthy snacks and meals can be enjoyed here at an additional cost. Guests that are booked into the Premium Cottages or Rooms and guests that are staying for 2 nights or more have complimentary access to the Spa, treatments are at an additional cost.
- **Private Dining:** Should guests wish to book private dining in any of the venues or on their balconies, please note these need to be pre-booked and a supplement is applicable.
- **Walk the Labyrinth:** A stone and brick meditation labyrinth can be found behind the Luxury Family Cottages. There is a single, non-branching path that winds to the central meditative space. The path may be taken for personal or spiritual purposes. This activity is complimentary to all guests.
- **Children's Play Area:** The children's play area at Aquila (affectionately referred to as "The Den") consists of an indoor and outdoor play area with a variety of activities aimed at toddlers to pre-teens. The outside area has a mini-golf course, giant chess, a sandpit and a wooden playground to delight your little ones. Offering daily activities and a Junior Ranger program. The children's area is open from 9am to 9pm. This activity is complimentary to all guests.



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- **Swimming:** Aquila boasts a 35m length large infinity pool situated next to the Elephant Restaurant, which features a wet bar (“The Watering Hole”) Sun- loungers are positioned around the pool for guests’ comfort. Towels available from reception.
- **Board Games:** Available to guests from the Leopard Bar. Complimentary to all guests.
- **Library:** An intimate “honesty” library is available in the Upper Leopard Lounge. Complimentary to all guests wishing to relax with a book.
- **Plant a Tree in Africa:** Part of our veld regeneration project. Enquire at the rangers’ station.
- **Leopard Patrol:** Join our conservation team as they patrol fences and check on the camera traps in the mountains. Must be pre-booked.
- **Leopard Lounge:** Aquila’s Leopard Lounge consists of a lounge area with comfortable seating in which to relax, read a book or catch up with friends. Roaring log fires make it the perfect place for a “night cap” in the evenings. Cable television is available in this area.
- **Leopards’ Lair Smoke Room:** A sumptuous yet intimate colonial style smoking room that offers one the opportunity of enjoying one of the quality cigars on offer and an after dinner night cap.
- **Upper Leopard Lounge:** The perfect spot to while away an afternoon with the family. Games and interesting books are available for guests to enjoy.
- **Curio Shop:** The boutique style curio shop is situated close to reception and offers various African souvenirs for sale, as well as locally manufactured items and Aquila branded apparel. For the guest’s convenience, items such as sun block and batteries are stocked.
- **Drummers’ Pit:** Situated outside the Leopard Lounge this sunken boma is a great spot to soak up the sun and in the evenings African drums are made available to guests to try their hand at this African tradition.



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ITINERARIES AND PACKAGES

Aquila offers overnight safaris and day trip safaris as set out in the standard itineraries below. For guests that are wanting to add some of the other activities at Aquila into their packages please take a look at our suggested Special Packaged Itineraries. Aquila has the greatest selection of game in the Western Cape and was rated by SAA's Sawubona In-flight Magazine as "One of the Best Day Trips", together with Cape Point and Table Mountain.

Day trip Safaris – Standard Itineraries

| FULL DAY | HALF DAY |
|--|---|
| MORNING SAFARI, HORSEBACK SAFARI AND QUADBIKE SAFARI 09h00 – 16h00 Welcome Drinks - Breakfast – Game Drive – Lunch – <i>(Optional Extra - Visit Spa before or after lunch)</i> | EARLY MORNING SAFARI 07h00 – 12h00 Welcome drinks (Tea, Coffee & Rusks) – Game Drive – Pre packed Continental Breakfast <i>(Optional Extra - Visit Spa after Game Drive)</i> |
| COMBO SAFARI 09h00 – 16h00 Welcome Drinks – Breakfast - Game Drive – Lunch - Horseback or Quad bike Safari | AFTERNOON SAFARI 11h45 – 16h00 <i>(Optional Extra – Arrive early to fit in a visit to the SPA)</i> Welcome drinks – Buffet Lunch – Game Drive |
| | SUNSET SAFARI 15h00 – 18h00 Welcome drinks – Tea & Snacks – <i>(Optional Extra - Visit Spa before the Game drive)</i> Game Drive |
| FLY-IN HELICOPTER DAY TRIP ITINERARY - Transfer from hotel, 45 to 60 minute flight followed by itinerary purchased | |
| <i>SPA VISITS ARE OPTIONAL EXTRAS AND SHOULD BE PREBOOKED IN THE RECOMMENDED TIME SLOTS</i> | |
| <i>During leisure time please make use of optional extra activities such as Spa Treatments, Quadbike, Horseback Safari</i> | |

Overnight Safaris – Standard Itineraries -Check in at 14h00 and check out 10h00.

DAY ONE:

If you are using the Aquila transport then a representative of Aquila Private Game Reserve will collect you at your hotel where you will travel via the scenic Du Toitskloof Pass and through the Winelands to Aquila Private Game Reserve.

- A welcome drink will await your arrival whilst you relax at either one of the swimming pools in summer, or whilst enjoying a roaring log fire in our lounge in winter.

Enjoy lunch in the restaurant and check into your room at 14h00.

Depart for your game drive with one of our experienced rangers and enjoy sparkling wine served at one of various look out points en-route.

Return to the lodge and restaurant for an authentic African dinner or traditional South African braai (BBQ) . After dinner join the ranger next to the open air boma on a star safari or relax in the lounge area with a nightcap.

DAY TWO:

- Early morning game drive followed by full buffet breakfast.

Check out 10h00



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SPECIAL PACKAGES

DAY EXCURSIONS

GIRLS DAY OUT – Spa Group Package (MIN 4 & MAX 8 PAX) 07H00 – 16H00

Pamper Time! Step into the Spa and luxuriate in the 2 heated pools, Sauna & Steam Room. Lose yourself in a 30 minute massage of your choice and an Express Manicure AND Pedicure. A private health lunch is served in the Spa.

FOOTPRINT PACKAGE - 09h00 – 16h00

Welcome Drinks followed by a Buffet Breakfast and a 2 to 3 hour Game Drive. – Buffet Lunch – Spend time at our Eco Synergy Program and assist in reducing your carbon footprint. Contribute to the veld regeneration project or plant a tree.

ADVENTURE PACKAGE - 09H00 – 16H00

Welcome Drinks – Buffet Breakfast – Horseback Safari/ Quadbike Safari– Buffet Lunch – Full Body Massage

Day 3: Sleep in and after breakfast and check out at 10h00, stow your luggage and indulge in an adventurous horseback or quad bike safari.

OVERNIGHT STAYS

ULTIMATE ROMANCE

Romantic 2 NIGHT STAY for a couple in either a Premier Luxury Room or a Luxury Cottage.

This package is the perfect way to celebrate any special occasion or just to rekindle the spark.

Day 1: Welcome drinks is followed by lunch which is served in our Elephant Buffet Restaurant. The formal room check in is at 14h00. The couple have time at leisure until their 16h00 departure on the two to three hour game drive. Returning to the lodge in time for a leisurely dinner. After dinner the couple can join a ranger on a journey of the southern skies.

Day 2: Couple depart on an early morning exclusive private game drive with a romantic stop for a picnic breakfast in the bush. A buffet lunch is served in the Elephant Restaurant. The couple have the afternoon at their leisure and are invited to enjoy the delights of the Spa in preparation for their Rose Quartz massage. Rose Quartz, with its gentle pink essence, is a stone of the heart, a Crystal of Unconditional Love. The evening is rounded off with a romantic private dinner.

Day 3: Sleep in and after breakfast and check out at 10, tow your luggage and indulge in an adventurous horseback or quad bike safari.

IT'S ALL ABOUT US

1 night stay with an option of adventure or pampering.

Day 1: Welcome Drinks – Buffet Lunch – Check in at 14h00 – Quad Bike OR Horseback Safari OR 60 minute Massage of your choice. Buffett Dinner

Day 2: Private Game Drive – Buffet Breakfast – 10h00 Check out



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ABOUT AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Having been proclaimed a Nature Reserve in 1985, the “veld” (terrain) is in pristine condition, consisting of Renoster Veld, Mountain Fynbos and succulent Karoo vegetation types found in 3 beautiful valleys. Situated in the Karoo with its wide open spaces, the 10,000 hectare conservancy has a natural wetland and is protected by majestic mountains and valleys, which makes for varied and ideal game viewing.

Wildlife:

Aquila is home to the Big 5 - elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and rare Cape mountain leopard as well as giraffe and hippo. Large herds of game are also found on the reserve, such as black wildebeest, Burchell’s zebra, springbok, gemsbok, steenbok, caracal (lynx), blesbok, bat eared fox, ostriches, klip springer, duiker, greybuck, baboon, black backed jackal, eland and red hartebeest. In February 2005, Aquila announced the birth of the first rhino to be born in the Western Cape in 250 years.

At the end of 2015 and beginning 2016, another 4 rhino calves were born at the reserve. Unfortunately, upon its birth, one of the calves was rejected by its mother and Aquila made the choice of uplifting the calf and hand rearing this orphan. This will be an 18 month long journey. Currently, the calf is being housed in a separate boma on the main reserve. Guests visiting the reserve might be able to view the rhino on their game drives, which will be under strict supervision and at Aquila’s discretion.

Birdlife:

Aquila is named after the endangered black or verreaux eagle and is involved in a conservation project for black eagles and other raptors. Aquila is home to approximately 172 species of birds and is also home to several breeding pairs of the rare black eagle. Karoo chat, rufous-eared warbler, fairy flycatcher and yellow-bellied eremomela can be found on short walks into the surrounding wilderness. Lark-like bunting and black-headed canary move in after the rainy season. In the summer months the booted eagle is a regular visitor and the rainy season attracts flamingos to the reserve.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social Upliftment Programme:

Aquila focuses most of its social upliftment, job creation, skills development, sustainable charity programmes and empowerment efforts in the previously “doomed” and forgotten town of Touws River, which is situated 12kms from Aquila, where Aquila’s workforce resides. The town was built around a railway servicing plant that closed down in the 1980s leaving 97% unemployment amongst the approximately 12,000 previously disadvantaged residents.

We are proud to say that over the past 14 years, Aquila has paid approximately R150 million in salaries, which has empowered locals and created flourishing primary, secondary and tertiary small businesses. Aquila is the largest local employer with 280 permanent staff. Over 400 staff (including temporary staff members) have been on the monthly payroll, sustainably. As one person feeds an estimated nine family members, approximately 30% of Touws River is directly dependent on Aquila’s salaries. Since 2004 Aquila has subsidized a full time teacher at the local school. This ongoing effort investing in the future of the community will ensure that the local community can gain a good education and empower them to succeed in the future. Aquila also continues to host school children from previously disadvantaged local schools on complimentary daytrips to the reserve. We believe that urban children learn more about nature, wildlife, sustainable social upliftment, conservation and responsible tourism in one day, while visiting Aquila and ARC, than could ever be taught in a classroom.

Aquila operates a winter Food for Litter campaign, where local residents are encouraged to collect litter, and trade it for recycling, whilst receiving meals for the collected litter. Over 350,000 meals have been provided to the local community during winter for the past several years.

In Touws River, temperatures can drop to -7 degrees C. Aquila has given away over 12,000 blankets during the harsh winter months. Aquila has also donated many thousands of items of clothing to needy recipients.



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Skills development:

95% of all previously disadvantaged staff members have been trained with no prior experience to be fully competent and certified as game rangers, drivers, waitresses, cooks, registered security officers and anti-poaching guards, cleaners, front and back of house staff, game capture and translocation rangers, environmental and maintenance, etc. Aquila has facilitated hundreds of temporary staff member in learning new building skills, who have subsequently progressed from labourer to brick layer, and then to builder (from minimum wage to several times that).

Training of employees is ongoing, and include Health and Safety, First Aid, Fire Fighting, Computer Training, along with a huge array of operational training in all departments.

Members of the Touws River community have been awarded Nature Site Guide qualifications in a joint venture with a local training provider, the Nature College. During 6 months of rigorous practical and theoretical in-house training, the aspirant candidates are educated on a variety of subjects such as geology, desert ecology, fynbos, birds etc. Aquila Private Game Reserve not only provided their qualified guides as mentors to all the candidates, but also paid for the training and evaluations.

GREEN PROJECTS

Solar Renewable Energy

On the 10th August 2010, after a 4 year negotiation, Aquila managed to introduce and secure a R3billion deal with a world leading international Swiss/German renewable energy company, to build a 44MW CPV solar plant on Aquila's land in order to supply much needed power to the Western Cape grid, in a time of load shedding, and a power shortage crisis.

This project employed many staff from Touws River on a short term basis during its construction and we expect many long term job opportunities such as cleaning, security, maintenance and management.

Hundreds of European and national professionals have been visiting and working on this project and Aquila believes that millions of rands have been spent with local Touws River businesses as a result.

A second 120KW CPV solar plant at a cost of approximately R20-R30 million was built at ARC and consists of 12 large CPV panels that produce 120kW of on-site renewable energy that is used by Aquila and ARC, reducing our carbon footprint.

Eco Synergy Systems:

Aquila Private Game Reserve will be focusing on the launch of the new ARC facilities, offering travellers and learners the opportunity to learn about vital issues in sustainable tourism. Aquila has launched Eco Synergy Systems..

Eco Synergy Systems focuses on the following:

1. The re-introduction of safari game and the Big 5 to the Western Cape (buffalo, leopards, lion, elephants and rhino)..
2. Aquaculture / Aquaponics: Approximately 30,000 tilapia fish are based at ARC and Aquila. Aquila's menu has been restructured to include these fish where possible. Our goal is to produce up to 6.5 tons of fish per annum, and to produce the ZAR1.7million worth of fruit, vegetables and fish that Aquila consumes annually, organically fertilized and on-site (reducing our carbon footprint). Excess tilapia are supplied to the soup kitchen in the Food for Litter campaign. The tilapia are organically fed. When slaughtered, 30% of the fish weight is waste which is used to feed the Biogas plant. The fish water is used in the aquaculture system to organically fertilize the greenhouse and tunnel crops.



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3. Greenhouse: Cuttings, weeds and waste are used for compost. The greenhouses are situated in between restructured shipping containers, to maximize the usage and production with aquaponics, growth of the fish and fresh produce. Used cool drink and tinned food cans, cardboard and reclaimed wood have been used to make solar heaters to warm ARC's aquaculture and greenhouse systems, in order to maintain optimum fish breeding temperatures of 26 degrees C during winter.
4. Biogas: Biogas provides heat and energy, obtained from slaughtered fish waste, elephant dung, horse manure and leftover meals (elephants and horses are based at Aquila). Biogas is low impact and reduces our carbon footprint further, as we are hoping to switch from electricity and purchased gas to full Biogas production in 2015. The system has been bought and installed at Aquila's kitchen. 12,000 soup kitchen meals will be prepared using this system.
5. Vermiculture: The worm compost and tea are organic fertilizers for Aquila's gardens, the veld regeneration project and the tunnels (soil rejuvenation). The earthworms eat cardboard, paper, fruit and vegetables and kitchen scraps. The earthworm farm has been manufactured out of recycled shipping containers. The fertilizers produced on site saves on fossil fuel, along with packaging and transport costs. The excess earthworm tea is sold in ARC's shop for fundraising purposes. The earthworm tea is also used to supplement nutrients to ARC's duckweed farm.
6. Duckweed farm: There are 50 duckweed containers. Duckweed is a free organic protein source, used as a low impact feed for ARC's tilapia fish and ARC's chickens. Generally, duckweed is uncontrollable, invasive and non-indigenous. Duckweed is removed from local dams in a conservation effort, and is grown in controlled environments (containers).
7. Chicken farm: Our goal is to produce a sustainable on site, low impact organic resource of "free range" chicken and eggs for Aquila's restaurant and soup kitchens. Chicken manure is added to the duckweed water as a nutrient supply.
8. Waste Management and Recycling:
 - a. The Food for Litter campaign: ARC has run a Food for Litter campaign that swops litter for soup kitchen meals for 400 children a day during most winter months.
 - b. Waste collected is recycled and sold where possible. To make the project sustainable, the proceeds are donated to a local school in order to fund much needed school teachers.
9. Veld Regeneration Project / Alien Vegetation Removal: Thousands of non-indigenous trees were cut down and used to build Aquila's thatch roofs. 2,000 indigenous trees have been planted in the veld to increase the "carrying capacity" of the land. Approximately 100 edible to game trees are planted monthly. At any stage, several hundred trees are tended to and prepared for planting at ARC. Compost from Aquila's restaurant, horses, elephants and earthworms are organically used to fertilize our trees. Aquila has for the past two years offered all visitors the opportunity to plant a tree in Africa as part of our Veld Regeneration Project.

Aquila has been responding to the need for sustainable tourism over the last few years, before it became a talking point. We believe in ensuring our carbon footprint is minimal whilst offering our guests an African safari experience.

CONSERVATION

There are various conservation programs currently running at Aquila.

Saving Private Rhino:

The "Saving Private Rhino" initiative has been established to ensure the future conservation of Africa's rhino and wildlife heritage, by providing the most comprehensive, integrated anti-poaching solution available to every private game reserve in Africa which needs assistance defending its wildlife. Aquila offers to train its own rangers and rangers from other game reserves



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across South Africa at no cost in relation to intelligence gathering, security, patrolling and response, basic veterinary and military response and crime scene management to ensure that the rangers are well-equipped to protect endangered species.

In August 2011, Aquila Private Game Reserve was hit by a horrific poaching incident that saw three rhino attacked, with two of the rhino brutally killed and de-horned which has led to the establishment of the "Saving Private Rhino" initiative, which has national and international recognition.

Aquila has established free counter-poaching security training courses to teach rangers how to protect themselves as well as rhino and wildlife population.

Aquila was responsible for a R30million ivory arrest, the largest ever in the Western Cape. On a separate occasion, two Zambian nationals were arrested trying to sell a baby rhino horn covered in blood.

For more information regarding the tragedy, visit www.savingprivaterhino.org

Orphaned Rhino:

2015 brought good news with the birth of 3 baby rhinos at Aquila, the first since the terrible poaching incident. A symbol of hope for animal lovers everywhere. The first 2 births, one in October and the other on 16th December 2015 went well and both calves are well integrated into the group, the third birth occurring on New Year's Eve 2015 presented a problem with the mother rejecting her calf. After numerous attempts to reunite them, Aquila had to make the hard decision to remove the calf from its mother to feed it. The calf is now being hand reared at the main reserve. The ultimate goal is to release this calf back onto the main reserve with the other rhinos.

Leopard:

Aquila has rescued three rare Cape Mountain Leopards from farmer's traps and has provided the requisite medication and rehabilitation of these animals, whereafter they were successfully released back into the wild. Camera traps situated on the reserve regularly record the movements of 4 resident leopards.

Lions:

The largest of the Sub-Saharan lions, the Cape mountain lion resided for millennia in Southern Africa before it finally became extinct in the wild during the mid-nineteenth century. The huge lion, renowned for its thick black mane, used to live in areas that are now part of Western Cape Province in South Africa, surrounding Cape Town.

The lion is probably Africa's most iconic animal, especially with its majestic mane that makes it look like a large cat with fierce hair extensions. Indeed, the lion is often associated with pride. Amongst the Big 5, the lion is usually regarded as the most sought after trophy by hunters and the most sought after sighting by eco-tourists. Lions have no natural enemies other than human hunters. Lions are included on the Endangered Species list.

During the search for the closest species to the cape mountain lion, the owner of Aquila came across the "canned hunting" industry, which shocked him to the core. "Canned hunting" includes the practice of breeding animals specifically to be hunted and the practice of hunting tame, drugged animals and animals in small enclosures. Aquila is passionately opposed to this practice and it has become one of the core values of Aquila to combat this practice wherever and whenever possible.

All of the lions at Aquila have been rescued from this industry. A separate reserve was created at Aquila. An entire mountain and valley on the Aquila Reserve has been set aside as a sanctuary for these lions to roam freely. At this late stage, these lions could never be released into the greater Aquila Reserve, given the stripping of their natural behavioural patterns by their time in captivity. Research is underway to determine whether it would be possible to re-introduce captive bred lions into the wild from birth.

The nature and location of Aquila has meant that Aquila has and always will be contacted if there is an animal in need. Aquila, through ARC, will continue to provide whatever shelter and care is needed by these animals. The ultimate goal will always be to release any animals that are captive. If this is not possible then Aquila, through ARC, and the generous contributions from the public, will ensure that they have the necessary shelter, food and medical care. ARC has been fortunate enough to have been



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able to re-habilitate and release 3 mountain leopards, numerous lynx, porcupines, owls and various other species onto the greater Aquila Reserve.

The animals at ARC may not be viewed by the public, this to keep human interaction to an absolute minimum in anticipation of them either being released or rehoused into larger facilities or sanctuaries.

Veld Regeneration program:

As part of its Veld Regeneration Program, Aquila offers its guests the opportunity to plant a tree in Africa and to spend time at our Eco Synergy Program. This will assist in the reduction of their carbon footprint by contributing to the veld regeneration project or planting their own personalised tree thereby leaving behind their own unique legacy at Aquila.

AWARDS

Aquila Private Game Reserve's dedication to social upliftment, job creation, skills development and sustainable empowerment programmes are evidenced by Aquila being a finalist in the Western Cape provincial Lilizela Awards for Service Excellence and the winner of the World Luxury Travel Awards. In addition, Aquila has been a finalist of FEDHASA's prestigious Imvelo Responsible Tourism awards for 3 consecutive years and winner in 2014 of the Lilizela Imvelo Award for best economic impact by a large tourism establishment in South Africa, promoting the local economic development of communities for ensuring industry sustainability. In 2015, Aquila added the National Best Social Involvement programme to its list of accolades for its efforts to revive and uplift the community of Touws River. Aquila was first runner up in the National category for Best Single Resource Management Programme, Energy, as well as Best Economic Impact. In 2015 Aquila also scooped the Sanlam Top Destinations award in the Game Lodge category and was the 2016 winner of the Lilizela Provincial Winner for Service Excellence

ACTIVITIES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO AQUILA

The little Karoo enjoys sunshine for most of the year. Summers are dry and warm, winters are dry and crisp. The prevailing weather lends itself to long walks, hiking, cycling and other sports activities.

Matjiesfontein Village:

This historic village has a rich background, dating back to its roots in the late nineteenth century. From its ties with the Boer War, to the pioneering spirit engendered by its founder, James Logan, it is steeped in the history of an era, the echoes of which still reverberate through the streets and buildings. A double-decker London Bus makes a daily tour of the Matjiesfontein Village.

4x4 Mountain trails:

There are many mountain trails in the Karoo and Breede River area. The most popular one and also nearest to Aquila is Leeuwenboschfontein with route distance of 18 km (4-5 hours). A maximum of 20 vehicles is allowed.

Golf:

De Doorns offers a 9 whole course, with 18 whole courses to be found at both Ceres and Worcester.



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TRAVEL OPTIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Getting there by Road:

Safaris at Aquila are offered with or without transport to the reserve. Self-drive guests are advised to allow themselves 2 hours travelling time from Cape Town to the reserve. Guests that are booking the safaris with transfers are picked up from their Cape Town City hotel with transfers times being notified telephonically the evening before.

Times are subject to change and will be provided for scheduled tours on booking.

By Air: (helicopter or fixed wing):

The itinerary for the Fly-In Day Safari is the same as the above itinerary on the reserve; however the transfer itinerary will be as follows:

TBA on booking:

- Collection from the hotel or Guesthouse and transfer to Cape Town International Airport followed by a 20-30 minute exhilarating flight over the majestic Hex River Mountains & vineyards. • Welcome drink adjacent to runway. Safari vehicle transfer to the reserve. (Activities on the reserve as per the Day Trip by Road Safari above) • After lunch guests will be transferred to the airstrip.

Return flight over Robben Island and the V&A Waterfront (Cape Point is optional)

Fly-In Safari details are subject to change depending on the Charter Company that is used.

Directions:

Take the N1 from Cape Town; 10km before Touws River turn left onto the R46 to Ceres. The entrance is 2km further on the left.
33.3522° S, 19.9356° E

Reservations:

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