



Ngonyam Safari Lodge

FACT SHEET




INTRO TO

NGONYAM SAFARI LODGE

Ngonyam Safari Lodge is a small, family-run safari lodge set within the Makalali Private Game Reserve, offering an exclusive safari experience for a maximum of six guests across three en-suite tented chalets. Positioned on the edge of Ngonyam Dam, with uninterrupted views towards the Drakensberg Mountains, the lodge combines water, bush, and mountain scenery in a peaceful natural setting where wildlife regularly moves through camp. The experience at Ngonyam is centered around a calm and personal approach to safari, with morning and afternoon game drives, attentive hosting, and an atmosphere that reflects traditional safari values. Time in the reserve is shaped by the rhythms of the bush itself, whether following fresh tracks, spending extended periods at a sighting, or quietly observing the smaller details of the surrounding wilderness within Makalali.





“CENTERED AROUND A CALM AND PERSONAL APPROACH TO SAFARI”

AT A GLANCE

- Located in the Makalali Private Game Reserve, one of South Africa’s most pristine private wildlife reserves
- Big 5 game reserve
- Positioned on the edge of Ngonyam Dam
- Uninterrupted views towards the Drakensberg Mountains
- 3 Luxury Tents
- Each chalet has a private veranda
- Sleeps 6 guests at maximum capacity
- Diversity of wildlife
- Family run lodge
- Self drive accessible
- Children 5 and older are accepted
- Guide speaks English, German and Spanish

FACILITIES

- Indoor lounge area
- Indoor bar area
- Boma area for evening dinners
- Swimming pool overlooking the Ngonyam Dam
- Deck chairs around pool area
- All rooms are air-conditioned and have standing fans
- Luxury Tents have their own verandas
- En-suite bathroom with a bath, indoor and outdoor shower
- Mosquito nets in rooms
- Complimentary Wi-Fi available in the main area
- Credit card facilities (Accept Mastercard/Visa)
- Curio Shop
- Outsourced spa treatments



LOCATION

Ngonyam Safari Lodge is located within the Makalali Private Nature Reserve, one of South Africa's most pristine private wildlife areas. Set within 25,000 hectares of un-spoilt wilderness, the reserve is home to the Big Five and offers exceptional game viewing in a truly natural setting.

Surrounded by ancient trees, open bushveld, and the sounds of the African wilderness, the lodge provides an immersive safari experience where wildlife moves freely through a vast and diverse landscape.

ACTIVITIES

- Morning game drives
- Afternoon/evening game drives
- Sundowners in the bush
- Coffee stops in the bush
- Bird watching
- Traditional boma dinner outdoors around a campfire
- Spa Treatments (need to be prebooked)
- Guide speaks English, German and Spanish



A TYPICAL DAY AT NGONYAM SAFARI LODGE

Each morning begins with a morning wake-up call, coffee and a game drive in the Makalali Game Reserve. Below is a rough time schedule of the day's events which can change depending on weather conditions.





GETTING THERE

Guests have the below options:

- Self-drive to the camp.
- Fly into Hoedspruit airport and self drive which is about a 1.5 hour drive
- self-drive from Johannesburg, which is a scenic 5-hour drive away.
- Private or shared transfers can be arranged through our reservations office.

CHILD POLICY

- Children aged 5 years and older are welcome.
- Children are permitted on the game drive; however, participation is subject to appropriate behavior and remains at the discretion of the guide.
- No child-minding facilities available at the lodge

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION:

WEATHER

The average mean rainfall for the year is 350mm, with most rainfall occurring during mid-summer (November February). The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours. The mean average maximum temperatures range from 24.5°C in July to 31.5°C in January with the mean monthly minimum occurring in July at a temperature of 8.5°C.

GAME DRIVE VEHICLES

On game drives you are able to get a lot closer to big game. The animals are generally habituated to the vehicle. This means that they are used to the vehicle approaching them and know that it never causes them harm. All game drives are conducted in open 4 x 4 safari vehicles. This allows for panoramic views of wildlife and wilderness.

WHAT TO PACK

During the summer months the weather can be hot and sticky. You may want to bring a few outfits.

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



MALARIA

The Makalali Game Reserve is a moderate-to-low malaria risk 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

Set on the banks of Ngonyam Dam within the Makalali Private Nature Reserve, Ngonyam Safari Lodge offers guests uninterrupted views over the water, where resident hippos and crocodiles are regularly seen.

The reserve is home to the Big Five, with regular sightings of species such as buffalo, lion, elephant, leopard and rhino, alongside common game including impala, waterbuck, giraffe, zebra, kudu, wildebeest, warthog, baboon, vervet monkey, hippo, and a variety of antelope and smaller mammals.

Seasonal changes influence wildlife movement: during the dry season, sparse vegetation draws animals to permanent water sources such as the dam, while in the wet season, the landscape becomes lush and green, and wildlife is more widely dispersed across the reserve.

In addition to the more frequently seen species, guests may also encounter wild dog, cheetah, hyena, honey badger, porcupine, aardvark, civet, caracal, and serval. Birdlife is equally rich, with an abundance of species regularly seen around the dam and across the reserve.



RESERVATIONS

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MARKETING

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