

Manyeliti, Timbavati, and Kapana

Table of Contents

- Royal Malewane - Africa House | Thornybush Private Game Reserve 1
- Camp Jabulani | Kapama Private Nature Reserve..... 5
- Kings Camp 7
- Makanyi Private Game Lodge | Timbavati 10
- Royal Malewane | Thornybush Private Game Reserve..... 13
- Tintswalo Safari Lodge 17

Royal Malewane - Africa House | Thornybush Private Game Reserve



Personal Impression

This is a little slice of heaven in the African bush. A very personal experience where a person feels more like a part of a family than a guest. Luxurious surroundings, incredible rooms and expansive decks. The service is friendly, warm and you feel at home immediately. Royal Malewane has a lot of repeat guests, one couple had been there 10 times. They had been all over South Africa, Botswana and

Kenya and this lodge is where they always return. There is a special ambiance here that is hard to put into words. I can highly recommend Royal Malewane.

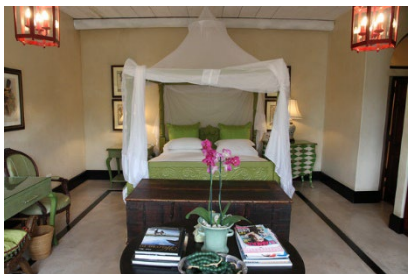
Accommodations

This is like a La Residence in the bush; stunningly beautiful. It is a brand-new lodge built for exclusive use only. All the rooms are off a central enclosed courtyard which is totally private and very luxurious. No cost is spared in the decor of this private lodge. I went to see it and fell in love with it. I think that this is a wonderful place to stay for large groups instead of the standard Royal Malewane rooms. It is a very special experience.



These suites come with a private butler, private chef, private game driver vehicle with a private ranger and tracker.

These are just a few of the pictures of the unique rooms and decor of Africa House. For more photos, please visit our [photo album](#).





Spa

The spa is a short walk from the main lodge. The most elaborate spa that I have seen anywhere in South Africa. Just sitting by the pool in this wonderful place is so relaxing. Of course, many treatment options are available for an additional charge.

Internet Access

Wifi is available in all of the guest rooms.

Game Drives

The area around Royal Malewane is dense and full of thorn bushes. It is not as diverse or as attractive as the Sabi Sands private reserve. The fences have been removed and now Royal Malewane is open to the full Thornybush Game Reserve.

We witnessed a remarkable event with the elephants. They were climbing on and destroying a huge termite mound. Those large animals kneeling as they literally crawled to the top. Then they started to move off the mound and down the road. One big bull elephant was "checking out" all the female elephants as they passed. Even the tiniest female was backing into the male to be "checked". Later on, another male turned up and we had the classic standoff by the two bulls. I felt like I had experienced something truly special and will never forget this herd going through their normal social behaviors.

(Pictures below - a little hard to see but the big bull in the front of the picture has his trunk straight up in the air.) Monkeys are all over Royal Malewane and play on the decks of the lodge and in the trees.



The Guides

The guides at Royal Malewane have been there since the lodge opened. There seems to be a real family like atmosphere here. On our game drives, they seemed to be very aware of the animals, the behaviors and how to give each guest the best possible experience.

Dining and Wines

This is a Liz Biden property and she knows the art of good food and hospitality. The entire dinner experience is very personal. Very good South African wines accompanied dinner. Lunch on arrival was also quite an experience. The smoked salmon salad was followed by the most delicious chicken dish and there were fresh berries with raspberry sauce for dessert.

Getting to Royal Malewane

Direct flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town daily to Hoedspruit airport. Royal Malewane also has a smaller airstrip for charter flights directly into Thornybush Game Reserve. Road transfers are of course available if you do not wish to fly.

Local Village Tour

You can visit Nyani Tribal village. This is an authentic Shangaan village that is reliving the tribal life of 50 years ago. The village serves to both preserve the culture of the Shangaans of the area as well as to educate visitors with the traditions and customs of the community. All the visitors are guided by Axon who is from the lineage of Chief Kapama. There is an additional cost if you choose to visit the village.

Other Tours

There are many other tours available.

Bombyx Silk Factory — Discover Bombyx Mori silk on this visit to one of only two producers of this silk in the country.

Hoedspruit Research and Breeding Center — A two-hour tour that begins with a video presentation and then you see cheetah, African wild dogs, and many other rare animals in their natural habitat. The project also focuses on rehabilitation camps for both the Barbary Lion and the Rhino.

Moholoholo Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center — Brian Jones and his team nurture the injured, poisoned, orphaned animals for release back into the wild. The center contributes to the conservation of endangered species and facilitates a number of successful breeding programs.

Helicopter Flights - Mpumalanga Helicopter Safaris — Private flights over the area with incredible views of the bush, waterfalls, and a 1000-meter-deep canyon. Topped off with a picnic lunch with a spectacular view.

Hot Air Balloon Flights — The flight will be one hour over the bush. If weather conditions do not allow the flight, there are full refunds.

Golf- Hans Merensky Golf Estate — A challenging 18-hole, par 72 Championship Golf Course where the animals add a little spice to the hazards of a good round of golf.

Website: [Villas of Africa House - Royal Malewane](#)

Camp Jabulani | Kapama Private Nature Reserve

"The Elephant Experience"

This is a very unique property. If game viewing from the back of an elephant is appealing to you, this is a wonderful place to stay. Camp Jabulani is a newly opened property and game viewing can be done from one of their 13 highly trained elephants. The 13 elephants were bought to Camp Jabulani in 2002 from Zimbabwe where their safety was in jeopardy.



Location

Camp Jabulani is located in the 13,000-ha Kapama Private Game Reserve which is located close to Hoedspruit's Eastgate Airport, making it very convenient to fly into Camp Jabulani. There are daily flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Eastgate Airport. The camp will arrange transfers from the airport to the camp. By road it is approximately 480 km from Johannesburg. Kapama borders the Timbavati Nature Reserve.



Accommodations

The accommodations here are 6 luxurious air-conditioned tents. I have never been in a tent where it felt like a regular building. The tent pictured below will show you how luxurious they are. The walls have a unique covering and there is even a fireplace in the tents. I have seen many luxury tents in my travels but these are by far the most superior. The ceilings of these tents are thatched. All rooms feature large wood decks with a private plunge pool. There is a Victorian bath with a view, outside shower and double vanity. Children under 16 cannot be accommodated unless the entire camp is taken by a group.



Game Drives

Morning and afternoon game drives are with knowledgeable rangers in either open air land rovers or by elephant back. Kapama Game Reserve is home to the Big Five and the reserve offers excellent opportunities to experience the animals and the tranquility of the bush. The reserve incorporates the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Center, which is widely known for its contributions to the conservation of wildlife. During the elephant-back safaris, guests are seated on comfortable canvas covered saddles positioned behind an experienced elephant handler. The elephants move single file through the bush and the experience of viewing the animals from this vantage point is truly remarkable.

Visit the [Hoedspruit Endangered Species Center](#). A visit to the center is included in your stay if you wish to learn about the conservation efforts underway to protect the wildlife of South Africa.

Spa and Gym Facilities

The camp offers a sauna, gym and spa with various treatments available.



Dining and the Lodge Public Areas

From their lavish breakfasts to gourmet picnics and dinners, the camp features the finest cuisine. The main dining room table in the lodge is very elegant and set with fine crystal and exquisite China plates. The entire lodge is furnished elegantly, with attention to the smallest detail.

Summary

If you want to experience elephant back safaris, this is one of the most luxurious places to visit. Very easy access and outstanding accommodations.

Website: [Camp Jabulani](#)

Kings Camp

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve | "A Seasons in Africa" Property

This is a property that we highly recommend as an excellent value. In our opinion, the rates are lower than they should be for a property of this caliber. This beautiful property is a sister property to Leopard Hills. These are "Seasons in Africa" properties in two prime game viewing areas in South Africa.



Leopard and Elephant Pictures taken by Keene Luxury Travel at Kings Camp

Location

Kings Camp is located in the Timbavati part of the Greater Kruger National Park. They have a private air strip for charter flights or you can fly in on regularly scheduled flights to Hoedspruit from Johannesburg or Cape Town. The camp will arrange transfers from the airport to the camp.

Accommodations

Kings camp has 10 individually thatched suites with air conditioning, luxurious bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers and a stocked mini bar. The rooms are large and truly luxurious accommodations in the middle of the wilderness. The room pictured below is the room we stayed in on our visit.



Game Drives

Morning and afternoon game drives are with knowledgeable rangers in open vehicles. You will be served tea, coffee and biscuits on your morning game drive and drinks with canapes on your afternoon game drive. Your afternoon game drive gets back after dark, which gives you the opportunity to spot the nocturnal animals with a spotlight.

During Kings Camp game drives, you will experience a wealth of bio-diversity. With access to 100 square kilometers of prime game viewing terrain, even on a short visit, you will likely see elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, rhino, general game and bird life. Kings Camp has a unique atmosphere of undisturbed nature - which can readily be perceived by the discerning traveler. Nature Walks are offered with armed rangers. During our stay, we had two incredible experiences.

One was with a male leopard that was truly outstanding. We followed this leopard through the bush for at least 15 minutes. He was right next to the land rover. What an awesome experience. We then encountered a huge bull elephant that gave us a great show swinging his trunk around. Both were such close encounters that we felt very privileged to be that close to such beautiful animals. These two pictures are featured at the top of this page.



Pictures taken during our stay at Kings Camp

Other Activities

Mpumalanga Helicopter Safaris — Experience the beauty of the Blyde river canyon in the luxury of a helicopter, Mountain Magic helicopter safaris will pick you up at Kings Camp, fly you through the Blyde river canyon and along the escarpment passing "God's window" and stopping at the pinnacle for a champagne picnic.

Hans Merensky Golf Estate — Greet the African dawn on the manicured fairways of their challenging 18-hole, par 72-championship golf course, where crocodile and hippo add spice to the normal hazards of a good game of golf. Wild game including elephant, lion, giraffe, a wide variety of antelope and bird life are often seen on the golf course and in the surrounds. The legendary Bob Grimsdell designed this unique course, which extends over a vast area of

indigenous bush, interspersed with tranquil pools and velvet greens. From there you will be whisked off to view all the spectacular waterfalls in the area before returning to the camp.

Moholoholo Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center — An extremely informative and exciting tour of an African wildlife rehabilitation center. Highlights will include up close views of lions, leopards, servals, caracals, honey badgers, eagles and vultures. Two tours are available daily at 9h30 and 15h00. These times will interfere with either your morning or afternoon safari. The duration of the tour is four hours including two hours transfer time. Research and breeding center for endangered species. You will enjoy an informative and entertaining tour of the research and breeding center in the company of an experienced guide. Highlights include the viewing of an excess of 60 cheetahs, including the extremely rare king cheetah, a visit to the vulture restaurant and an introduction to the world of wild dogs.

Spa and Gym Facilities

Kings Camp offers a work out facility and spa with various treatments available along with facials, pedicures and manicures.

Dining and the Lodge Public Areas

There is an exceptional wine cellar with South African cuisine being served. Any specialized dietary requests will be catered for - prior notice required. Wonderful meals are served in gracious surroundings. The meals feature the freshest ingredients and we found every meal to be delicious with excellent variety. The Boma dinners are a special treat served around the fireplace. This boma is more protected than most other bomas. It had better lighting so it enhanced the experience. Kings Camp also has a comfortable lounge, bar and pool terrace. A favorite of mine was the game viewing platform which overlooks a very active waterhole. Other facilities include the curio shop, laundry, valet, fax, gym and library with internet facilities available free of charge to guests.



Summary

A wonderful property with the feeling of being in a peaceful and wilderness area, with all the luxury, good food and service that you could imagine.

Website: Kings_Camp

Makanyi Private Game Lodge | Timbavati



AN OUTSTANDING LODGE

Makanyi opened in June 2015 this is a wonderful lodge in the Timbavati Private Game Reserve. The lodge is situated in an area that is very private. The closest lodge is about 30 minutes away so you have limited vehicles in the game area that you drive.

Suite Accommodations

I am very impressed with the rooms and use this lodge consistently. Each room is a free-standing villa, beautifully decorated with many unique features. For instance, a place for you to store your bags out of sight. The ultimate in luxury and privacy. Makanyi's seven luxury suites have floor to ceiling glass and glass doors opening onto a private deck overlooking the dam. The rooms are spacious and feature an oversized bed, a lounge area with fireplace and a beautiful bathroom with a large shower and separate bathtub. Of course, for there is also an outdoor shower. Premium amenities, complimentary Wi-Fi, telephone, hair dryer, mini bar, and a Nespresso coffee machine and tea making facilities are found in every room.

THE VILLA

In 2017, Makanyi built a new two-bedroom villa. This is a totally self-contained lodge, complete with a full kitchen, large living area, private deck and pool and even a private boma. You will have your own safari vehicle that loads right outside the back of the villa. Perfect for two couples or a family it is truly a wonderful addition to the Makanyi lodge.



THE MAIN LODGE AREA

The main lodge area features windows along the length of the lodge with Glass doors opening onto the deck and swimming pool area. The lounge area features several areas of comfy furniture with a nice fireplace to take the chill away on a cool evening.

The dining room is at one end of the lodge with an impressive large very inviting table. The bar is at the other end and is outstanding. There is an area to sit at the bar and a large circular room that can have furniture arranged so a group can visit together or individuals have enough room for privacy.

There is a loft area that is being converted into a photographic studio. Here staff will assist you in improving your pictures. They have the ability to take your favorite pictures and print large canvas copies suitable for framing. These are rolled up in a tube that you can carry home with you. The colors are warm and inviting and it has a very luxurious but relaxed atmosphere.



Game Drives and Other Activities



Game viewing here is excellent. Timbavati has always enjoyed outstanding game, the big five along with many other species. There is even a chance of seeing the famous Timbavati white lions in this reserve. A maximum of 6 people per vehicle ensure everyone a “window seat”. There are also special photography safaris offered here for no more than 4 people.

Accompanied by an experienced photographer who will discuss settings, composition and shooting techniques such as panning, backlighting, side lighting and action shots. Helping you improve your photographic skills both in the vehicle and back at the lodge.

Makanyi also arranges visits to many of the wonderful attractions of this area from helicopter to scenic flights and hot air balloon rides. They also offer nature experiences such as Moholoholo a rehabilitation center caring for injured and poisoned animals. Elephant Whispers where you can interact and learn about the magnificent African elephant; as well as, Jessica, the friendly hippo.

Dining and Wines

Makanyi is inclusive of great food and wines and the warm hospitality is evident when you stay at Makanyi. The food is all locally sourced and of the highest quality. While they feature the best of South African cuisine, they also have an international flair in their menus. If you wish, you can enjoy a romantic dinner in the privacy of your own room. Makanyi offers premium South African wines and a selection of international liqueurs and spirits.



Spa, Internet and Laundry

There is a relaxing spa, and a well-equipped gym and curio shop. Internet in the rooms and laundry services are available for guests on a complimentary basis.



Website: [Makanyi Private Game Lodge](http://www.makanyi.com)

Royal Malewane | Thornybush Private Game Reserve

Personal Impression

This is a little slice of heaven in the African bush. A very personal experience where a person feels more like a part of a family than a guest. Luxurious surroundings, incredible rooms and expansive decks. The service is friendly, warm and you feel at home immediately. Royal Malewane has a lot of repeat guests, one couple had been there 10 times. They had been all over South Africa, Botswana and Kenya and this lodge is where they always return. There is a special ambiance here that is hard to put into words. I can highly recommend Royal Malewane.



Accommodations

Truly incredible standard rooms. Oriental rugs adorn the floor throughout the suite. Very large bedroom with king size bed with Ralph Lauren linens, couch and sitting area at the huge windows that look out onto the bush. On entering our room, there was a giraffe standing right in front of our deck; not more than 3 feet away. A nice desk, fireplace and elegant dark wood decor give a person a feeling of "no expense" spared to make these rooms an oasis in the bush.



The bathroom is also large with two sinks, bathtub (with a view) and two large showers, one indoors and one outdoors. Outside is a large deck with a private plunge pool and recliners to lay, relax and look out at the bush and watch the monkeys at play. The rooms are connected by elevated wood walkways. These walkways I find much more appealing in Africa. No worry about looking at the ground and where you step. No room is too far as the lodge is located in the middle of the complex. Two big suites, the Malewane and the Royal suite have two bedrooms and a huge living area, dining room and full kitchen with all appliances. These are like a lodge within a lodge. These are 220sqm and larger than many people's homes. Both are decorated differently and both are really beautiful, you will not want to leave.

These suites come with a private butler, private chef, private game driver vehicle with a private ranger and tracker. Dinner can be served in your suite with the finest China and Silver.



Spa

The spa is a short walk from the main lodge. There is a workout room a variety of treatments are offered. There is an indoor and outdoor treatment facility.

Internet Access

Complimentary WIFI throughout the property.

Game Drives

The area around Royal Malewane is dense and full of thorn bushes. It is not as diverse or as attractive as the Sabi Sands private reserve. However, that being said we got the most incredible up close and personal experiences during our game drives at Royal Malewane. I think the quality of the rangers here and their knowledge of the terrain offer an opportunity for rare insights into animal behavior.

Our ranger and tracker really "tracked" a group of lions. Following tracks that lead off into the bush they jumped out of the vehicle and tracked the lions. At first, I have to admit I thought it was all show. Then they came and said we found them! We headed through the thick bush and the tension was mounting. We came SO close to these lions you could have reached out and touched them. Large males with females. Our shots of these lions are truly breathtaking. They lions moved off and we followed them in our vehicle as they headed for the water hole. Then the next day, we witnessed a remarkable event with the elephants. They were climbing on and destroying a huge termite mound. Those large animals kneeling as they literally crawled to the top. Then they started to move off the mound and down the road. One big bull elephant was "checking out" all the female elephants as they passed. Even the tiniest female was backing into the male to be "checked". Later on, another male turned up and we had the classic standoff by the two bulls. I felt like I had experienced something truly special and will never forget this herd going through their normal social behaviors.

(Pictures below - a little hard to see but the big bull in the front of the picture has his trunk straight up in the air.) Both experiences felt like they were off a TV wildlife show. We also saw all

other types of animals, of course, there were giraffe, cape buffalo, zebra, antelope of many types. Monkeys are all over Royal Malewane and play on the decks of the lodge and in the trees. Another interesting sight was two male lions right on the airstrip at Royal Malewane. A welcoming committee for incoming guests and a "royal" send-off for outgoing guests.

Below are our personal pictures all taken at Royal Malewane.



The Guides

The guides at Royal Malewane have been there since the lodge opened. There seems to be a real family like atmosphere here. On our game drives, they seemed to be very aware of the animals, the behaviors and how to give each guest the best possible experience.

Dining and Wines

Dinner is served on the large decks at the lodge. It is open air. On our night, the food was incredible. It was a set menu with no choices. We had about five courses with the main course being rack of lamb, which was truly outstanding. However, you can order pretty much whatever you want that morning and have it served to you that night. The entire dinner experience is very personal. Very good South African wines accompanied dinner. Lunch on arrival was also quite an experience. The smoked salmon salad was followed by the most delicious chicken dish and fresh berries with raspberry sauce for dessert. As you eat lunch, you sit on yet another deck and watch the waterhole as animals come and go. This is a mesmerizing site and you can sit there for hours.

Our actual bush breakfast at Royal Malewane; The liquor cabinet in the suite - all included



Getting to Royal Malewane

Direct flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town daily to Hoedspruit airport. Royal Malewane also has a smaller airstrip for charter flights directly into Thornybush Game Reserve. Road transfers are of course available if you do not wish to fly.

Local Village Tour

You can visit Nyani Tribal village. This is an authentic Shangaan village that is reliving the tribal life of 50 years ago. The village serves to both preserve the culture of the Shangaans of the area as well as to educate visitors with the traditions and customs of the community. All the visitors are guided by Axon who is from the lineage of Chief Kapama. The cost is 460 Rand about \$75.00.

Links to Other Tours

There are many other tours available.

[Hoedspruit Research and Breeding Center](#) — A two-hour tour that begins with a video presentation and then you see cheetah, African wild dogs, and many other rare animals in their natural habitat. The project also focuses on rehabilitation camps for both the Barbary Lion and the Rhino.

[Moholoholo Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center](#) — Brian Jones and his team nurture the injured, poisoned, orphaned animals for release back into the wild. The center contributes to the conservation of endangered species and facilitates a number of successful breeding programs.

Helicopter Flights - [Mpumalanga Helicopter Safaris](#) — Private flights over the area with incredible views of the bush, waterfalls, and a 1000-meter-deep canyon. Topped off with a picnic lunch with a spectacular view.

[Hot Air Balloon Flights](#) — The flight will be one hour over the bush. If weather conditions do not allow the flight, there are full refunds.

Golf- [Hans Merensky Golf Estate](#) — A challenging 18-hole, par 72 Championship Golf Course where the animals add a little spice to the hazards of a good round of golf.

Website: [Royal Malewane](#)

Tintswalo Safari Lodge

Private Game Reserve | Manyeleti Game Reserve

Personal Impression

This is a unique exclusive lodge in the Manyeleti Game Reserve nestled between the Timbavati Private Reserve to the north, Sabi Sand Reserve to the south, and open to the Greater Kruger National Park on its fenceless eastern boundary.

What makes this a wonderful experience is the low human to land density. With only two commercial operated lodges

and a maximum of 8 safari vehicles traversing the 23500 hectares. (58750 acres) It is one of the lowest vehicle density private reserves in the greater Kruger Park region.



The lodge is very interesting built with rock frontage, wrought iron decorations and it is a totally unique design. The spacious public areas open to the huge deck where you can relax and watch the waterhole and frequent animal activity. This is one of the few lodges that offer a loading platform that make getting in and out of a vehicle so much easier.



[Click here for more pictures from Keene Luxury Travel](#)

Accommodations

Each of the individual six suites is named after a 19th century African explorer. All the rooms are connected with a raised, wooden walkway. The rooms are large, with floor to ceiling windows, a sitting area, all fully air conditioned with a sun deck, private plunge pools, and

elegant bathrooms with double sinks, bathtub and inside and outside showers. This is a very luxurious room and the additional storage area behind the bed is wonderful for organization.



Presidential Suite - Two Bedrooms

This suite has two bedrooms connected by a living area with full kitchen. Perfect for two couples or a family travelling together. This suite will have a private ranger and a private chef if guests wish to eat in the suite.



Game Drives

The size and topography of the Manyeleti private reserve is very diverse and that makes every game drive a delightful experience. There is a beautiful large lake on the property which is perfect for spotting game, the majestic fish eagles and wonderful bird life. The Manyeleti private reserve is open to the vast Kruger National Park, Timbavati and Sabi Sands private game reserves, so the animals are free to roam in and out of the reserve. Couple this with the peaceful atmosphere of the bush, the low density of vehicles, a vast expanse of private land, it is a wonderful safari experience.

There are only six guests with the guide and tracker in each land rover. All the space you need to take your African wildlife pictures. We were fortunate on our visit to see a good size group of sable. These are very rare animals to spot and always hiding in thick bush. We have only seen sable on one other occasion in Botswana and it was a fleeting glimpse. The Sable were quite relaxed and we were able to sit and enjoy them for an extended period of time. We spotted a leopard at the end of the safari who was stalking some impala.

We stayed for quite some time and it got dark so we used a red light so we did not disturb the impalas or the leopard and saw her make her charge. She did not succeed in making a kill and the picture below was her recovering from her hunting experience. You will also see some

animals here not usually seen in Sabi Sands such as ostrich and jackals. There are open plains that also increase the chance of seeing Cheetah and huge herds of buffalo.



The Guides

The quality of the guides at Tintswalo was good. Similar to other top-quality lodges, the guides enjoy their work and sharing the knowledge and experience with the guests. The guides stop at sundown to share some snacks and offer you your favorite drink. You will enjoy this while watching the sunset over the African bush.

Internet Connections and Laundry

The lodge has a business center and WIFI access complimentary for guests. Laundry is available and is complimentary.

Dining and Wines

All inclusive of all meals and local wines and spirits. Enjoy a drink before dinner on the expansive deck overlooking the water hole below. The dining room will soon beckon, it is spacious and can be set up as one large table or a group of 2, 4, 6 or 8 guests. A nice rock fireplace completes the ambiance. Personal service is the key here and you will find they are willing to accommodate your every dietary need.



Breakfast is a wonderful meal each morning after your game drive and is usually served on the deck.

During our visit elephants came to the watering hole right in front of the deck it was so delightful to eat breakfast and watch a little baby elephant and her mother. On our last day, they brought us a special treat pictured here. It is these small touches that make a lodge so special. A mini bar is located in each room and contents are complimentary.

Website: Tintswalo Safari Lodge