

# Sabi Sands

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# SABI SANDS RESERVE

## Cheetah Plains | Executive Houses

Private Game Reserve, Northern Sabi Sands



### Personal Impression

This is a lodge with the WOW impact. Opening in early 2019, it is a high-tech extremely modern safari lodge. It is powered by huge, moving solar panels, has electric safari vehicles, and features high-tech touches in the rooms.

The property consists of three "houses" that each have four villas within close proximity of the house. The entire lodge has a very comfortable and contemporary feel. Each house differs mainly only by its location on the reserve with each guest room being identical.

### Accommodations

Very large guest rooms with floor to ceiling windows to bring the outdoors inside. Drapes operate electrically and will cover the windows with the simple touch of a button. Plenty of outlets and USB ports can be found near the bed. The mosquito netting is also electrically operated and easy to use or not as you please. There is substantial hanging and drawer space as well as a storage area for your bags.

The bathroom is expansive including a double vanity with magnifying mirrors, dual overhead couple's showerheads, a bathtub with a view, dressing area with seating and hooks, and a large centrally located trashcan that is hidden behind a brass cover. The toilet is in a separate area with a sink.

The main seating area has a sectional couch and there is a large lounge chair at the end of the bed. A smokeless fire can be built for those who want it. Another high-tech touch is an iPhone sized device that can be used to call the butler for whatever you may need. There is a desk with working area enough for a laptop computer. Also, there are tea and coffee supplies, if needed.



**Every detail has been considered for the comfort and convenience of the guests.**

- The fireplace in the boma area and the main lounge has a curved feature above the fireplace so that the smoke goes straight up eliminating in smoke in the area around the fire.
- The dining table has chairs at the most comfortable angle for the majority of people.
- The electric vehicles have heated seats (also at the best angle for comfort) and USB charging ports. There is far more room than an average safari vehicle due to the flat bed of an electric vehicle.
- There is a private chef for each house so special dietary needs are easy to accommodate.
- The deck is large and has natural stone not wood and plenty of comfortable furniture.
- Wide concrete walking paths surround the lodges.
- Central to all of the houses is a first class, state-of-the-art workout facility complete with brand new equipment.
- WIFI coverage was excellent.



## Dining and Wines

The main house area is exclusive to the group of guests staying at the house. Whether it is 2, 4, 6, or 8 guests the price varies but always the same for guests who book together. No encountering people you do not know. The lodge is very appealing. It is large enough to accommodate far more than 8 guests and there is a nice sized living area, large community dining table, TV lounge, and a wine room with an extensive selection of wine. There is a beautiful heated pool surrounded by lounge chairs and seating areas. The fireplace in the boma area and main lounge has an arched screen so that the smoke goes straight up resulting in a smoke-free area around the fire. There is a private chef for each house so dietary restrictions are easily accommodated. We stayed one night and had a truly outstanding meal. The omelet in the morning was "the best ever".



## Game Drives

This area of Sabi Sands is known for cats. Two lion prides are found in this part of Northern Sabi Sands. It has great topography for cheetah. We encountered larger groups of giraffes and wildebeest than we have seen at other Sabi Sands properties. Many lodges do traverse this game reserve so there are plenty of eyes on the lookout for sightings.



Website: [Cheetah Plains](#)



# Chitwa Chitwa | Northern Sabi Sands

## Personal Impression

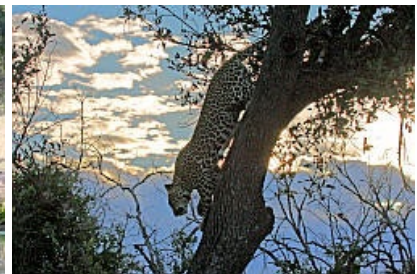
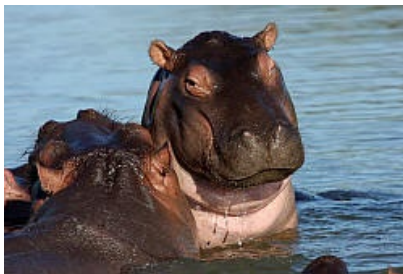
This lodge is located in the northern section of the Sabi Sands, a 10-minute flight from Leopard Hills/Singita area but with different topography that features more large trees, larger watering areas and only a few commercial lodges.

This is a true ultra-luxury property on the scale of Singita and Lion Sands. The lodge has a HUGE lake and all the rooms have a view of the lake that is frequented by hippos who entertain you with their antics during the day.



## Camp Location and Game Viewing

There is shared traversing between many different land owners creating a nice area for finding game. Many of the lodges in this area are private rather than commercial so the number of safari vehicles is less than would be experienced in other areas of the Sabi Sands reserve. This allows vehicles to stay longer at key sightings without having to leave or go on standby for a chance to view the sighting. During a two day stay at Chitwa Chitwa property we saw giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, hippo, a large herd of Cape Buffalo, rhino, elephant, a lion and 2 small cubs, two cheetahs, and lots of leopard. Cheetah is encountered along with wild dog but these sightings are not frequent. We counted four different leopards during our stay including a mother and two cubs. Animal pictures taken in this area of Northern Sabi Sands.



## Public Areas

It has a WOW affect from the moment you enter the lodge. The suites have been completely refurbished due to a fire in the main lodge in January 2009; it was completely rebuilt and opened in May 2009. It is stunning! On entry, there is a large reception room and directly across

a large curio shop. A deck walkway with a spectacular view of a lake leads you to the main lodge which is furnished in a contemporary African style and a huge space to accommodate just 16 people. The massive lounge area offers multiple seating arrangements, large bar, dining area and fireplace. There is a large library to peruse books on African animals and information. An expansive outside deck with lots of seating along with Bali type lounge furniture looking out on to the large lake.

## Accommodations

Eight individual air conditioned VERY large chalet rooms that are well designed and all quite unique. Each suite is named and although all about the same size the exquisite decor is totally different. Two of these rooms are in the Charlsy Suite and this suite has two bedrooms with an adjoining lounge area - perfect for a family or two couples travelling together. This is reminiscent of properties like Birkenhead House or La Residence but on a more contemporary styling. All the rooms have fire places, massive bathrooms, and large decks with big plunge pools. Every room we saw created a WOW affect.

**The Chitwa House** — There is a separate house that offers two bedrooms and an adjoining lounge area. This is a beautiful villa and although more expensive it is worth the extra cost.



## Dining and Wines

The manager Shannon, is a delightful young woman who is enthusiastic, experienced as a manager of a safari camp and very helpful. The service was good and the boma was absolutely sensational totally lit by candlelight. One beef filet dinner was the best we have eaten in a safari camp. Breakfasts and lunches they fell down a bit with lunch not up to the standards of their dinners. Breakfast and lunch are served in a totally covered area that offers everyone total shade overlooking the huge lake. They have four red and four white house wines to choose from and local spirits are also included in the rates.

## **Internet Access**

A well-equipped IT center where you can burn CDs of your safari pictures and use computers and wireless internet. WIFI throughout the lodge.

## **Gym and Spa**

There is a small work out facility and spa facility.

**Website:** [Chitwa Chitwa](#)



# Leopard Hills Private Game Reserve | Sabi Sands

## Personal Impression

Sabi Sands private reserve borders Kruger National Park. This is a small exclusive lodge with only 8 rooms and the finest of accommodations. Douglas, the manager, is personable, charming and delighted to welcome guests to this exquisite game lodge. It is set high over a waterhole with incredible views of the bush below. I highly recommend this property.

Voted as one of Getaway Magazines Top 15 Lodges in Africa. Small and personal, it offers a truly deluxe and unforgettable experience.



## Accommodations

Suite is an appropriate name for the fabulous rooms at Leopard Hills. The rooms are large, with floor to ceiling windows looking out into the bush, a separate sitting area, all fully air conditioned with a sun deck, private rock plunge pools, as in the picture above. Romantic bathrooms with big bathtubs, indoor and outdoor showers. This is extreme and total luxury.



The standard room at Leopard Hills - you can see the private plunge pool on the deck.

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



## Game Drives

Personal wildlife pictures taken on this property.

The topography around the private reserve of Leopard Hills is the same as Singita. It is so diverse and that makes every game drive a delightful experience. Game viewing here is plentiful. Animals are everywhere. When the fence came down in 1991 between Kruger National Park and the Sabi Sands reserve, 800 elephants have moved into Sabi Sands Reserve.



The area of Leopard Hills is open to the vast Kruger National Park, so the animals are free to roam in and out of the reserve. You are seeing nature at its finest here, not penned in a small area for the tourists to see. Couple this with the peaceful atmosphere of the bush, the low density of visitors, a vast expanse of private land, it is game viewing at its finest. There are only six guests with the guide and tracker in each land rover for a truly personal experience.

All the space you need to take your African wildlife pictures. Each game drive holds new adventures and the sights you see will be burned into your memory forever. Leopard Hills also offers bush walks, boma dinners and bush breakfasts. This is a wonderful property where your expectations will be exceeded.



## The Guides

The quality of the guides at Leopard Hills is superb. Similar to other top-quality lodges, the guides have a keen sense of Africa, the animals, and are doing exactly what they love to do. The guides stop at sundown to cook little appetizers and mix your favorite drink. You will enjoy this while watching the sunset over the African bush. The rangers post reports on the internet site (address below) with details of game drives and sightings. It is a nice thing to do and makes for very interesting reading as you anticipate your time in South Africa.

## Dining and Wines

The intimacy of the dining room beckons Leopard Hills guests after they finish their cocktail on the expansive deck overlooking the water hole below. A delightful dining room where

wonderful gourmet meals are served to please everyone's palate. Personal service is the key here and you will find they are willing to accommodate your every dietary need.

Leopard Hills was voted as one of the Top 100 Restaurants in South Africa (Food and Wine Magazine).

## Spa

A lovely spa with a view over the bush beckons during game drives. There is also a small gym with several different machines.

## Internet

Internet and WIFI is available in the library.

**Website:** [Leopard Hills](#)



# Singita | Boulders and Ebony

Singita means miracle in Shangaan and it lives up to its name

**Rated Number 1 game park in Africa by Conde Nast  
AWARDS FOR SINGITA LODGES | MAP OF SINGITA PROPERTIES**



## Personal Impression

It is difficult to describe the beauty, luxury and excitement of Singita. It is the type of place that must be experienced to be understood. Luxurious

accommodations, sumptuous food with included wines and spirits, even complimentary 24-hour laundry and the thrill and quality of the game drives and guides make this a place that everyone should visit at least once in a lifetime. It is an expensive property but after visiting many different properties and comparing the facilities and the cost I feel Singita it is worth every penny spent.



## Accommodations

Suite is an inappropriate name for the thatched roof cottages with a large sitting room, complete with a log burning fireplace, large bedroom with king size beds draped in netting like a wedding veil, luxurious bathrooms with a trendy four-footed large bathtub, indoor and outdoor showers, huge deck with a private plunge pool. This entire cottage is luxuriously appointed in modern zebra, dark wood floors and the full glass windows make the bush part of every room. Some of the most luxurious accommodations I have ever experienced. Each cottage has complete privacy with the windows facing into the bush. You cannot see the cottage next to you once you are indoors. The cottages are arranged on each side of the main lodge so even the most remote cottage is in comfortable walking distance.

Two lodges, Boulders and Ebony are about 3 minutes apart by land rover both with 9 cottages, a spa, full-service lodge and restaurants. Boulders is more contemporary and Ebony is more colonial. Visiting both I would say you cannot go wrong staying at either property and they both offer the same layout and quality of accommodations.



## EBONY ACCOMMODATIONS



## BOULDERS ACCOMMODATIONS



## Game Drives

The topography around the private reserve of Singita is so diverse and makes every game drive a delightful experience. Game viewing here is special. It doesn't creep into your soul it hits you head on. Animals are everywhere. Since the fence came down in 1991 between Kruger National Park and the Sabi Sands reserve, 800 elephants have moved into Sabi Sands Reserve.

As Singita land is open to the vast Kruger National Park the animals are free to roam in and out of the reserve. You are seeing nature at its finest here not penned in a small area for the tourists to see. Couple this with the peaceful atmosphere of the bush with a low density of visitors to a vast expanse of private land with just six guests, the guide and tracker in each land rover and you have a remarkable combination for the perfect African experience

Each game drive you experience will be a truly remarkable few hours that will be burned into your memory forever. Each game drive holds new adventures. On one game, drive a herd of Elephants crossed around our jeep. The elephants were in front and back of us almost too close to photograph. You will get so close to lions that at first it is disconcerting. Then you realize they don't even care that you are there and go about their normal behavior totally ignoring us for intruding on their day.

Singita is animal rich with rhino, hippos, giraffes, leopards, and numerous types of antelope, monkeys and baboons. The game viewing will not disappoint of this I am 100 certain. The pictures below are personal pictures from our last game drive in Singita. I have selected these to show you how close you really are to the animals. It is not all done with telephoto lenses. You are very close.



## The Guides

Singita has incredible guides, they are among the best I have found and actually spend more time with you than in a normal game park. They stop at sundown and cook little appetizers and mix you your favorite drink in the bush. You enjoy this while watching a herd of elephants cross or the monkeys at play. After your game drive, they act as your personal bartender, and fix your pre-dinner drink. They get to know you, your likes and dislikes. They will join you at dinner when you wish and share tales of the bush and the lifestyles of the South African people. They are well educated, speak excellent English and have a true love of the African bush and the animals.

## Dining and Wines

Dinner is a great event at Singita. After an exhilarating game drive, a quick freshen up you are ready for your pre-dinner drink and a satisfying dinner. Your guide will mix you drinks at the bar outside of the restaurant and when you are ready you head in for dinner. There are multiple choices on the menu and the staff are happy to accommodate your every whim. Want the steak with Béarnaise, no problem. Want the pasta without the tomatoes, no problem. Want both the steak and the pasta, no problem. Any preferences for a particular way of eating or particular foods can be accommodated. They have exotic items such as game meats but also offer standard fare that all American guests are used to eating. Wines and spirits are included complimentary with the only additional charges being for selected premium wines for purchase. The Boma dinners at Singita are truly something very special.



## Local Village Tour

Singita offers a visit to a local village at around \$45.00 per person. You will visit a local Shangann village, Justicia. Visit a family home and the pre-school children will entertain you with singing. What makes this visit special is that all the money paid for this excursion goes to assist the 16 local villages bordering the game reserve. This money is donated in a way so as to not make the villages reliant on this assistance. Described to me by a Singita employee "We don't give the villagers fish we give them a fishing rod to catch the fish". All assistance is based on making each village more self-reliant and independent.

## Normal day at Singita

**Morning** - At 5:30am you will get the wake-up call to get ready for your morning drive. Yes, it is early but the anticipation of seeing the animals makes this easier than you would anticipate. After breakfast, you head out on your morning game drive. The game drives can last for about two to three hours depending on the passengers in the vehicle, what you see and how long you wish to stay out.

**Lunch and the afternoon** - These are lazy times after lunch with normally a little nap in the afternoon, or a splash in your private splash pool or a visit to the spa.

**Afternoon tea at 4:00 pm** - Meet in the lodge and enjoy an English Tea complete with the necessary snacks before heading out with your guide and jeep companions for the afternoon drive.

**Dinner** - You can go straight to the bar or back to your room to freshen up. Then you call and a guide comes to escort you from your cottage to the lodge for dinner. Although it is safe to walk around during the day the animals are more active at night and they will not allow you to walk around after dark without a guide. A dinner in the restaurant, or under the stars in the BOMA you will be treated to a delectable relaxed dinner before retiring to look forward to the next day's adventures.

I predict that your time at Singita will be one of the greatest travel memories.

**Website:** [Boulders Lodge](#) [Ebony Lodge](#)



# LION SANDS

## Ivory Lodge

### Private Game Reserve in Sabi Sands



#### Personal Impression

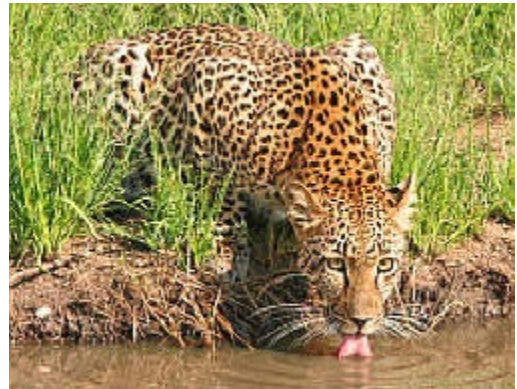
Lion Sands Ivory lodge is situated in the Sabi Sand private game reserve area. This exclusive lodge has only six rooms and the finest of accommodations. The rooms are huge and feature every luxury. This unique property has been in the family for generations and they have developed a unique first-class lodge offering the ultimate in privacy and comfort.

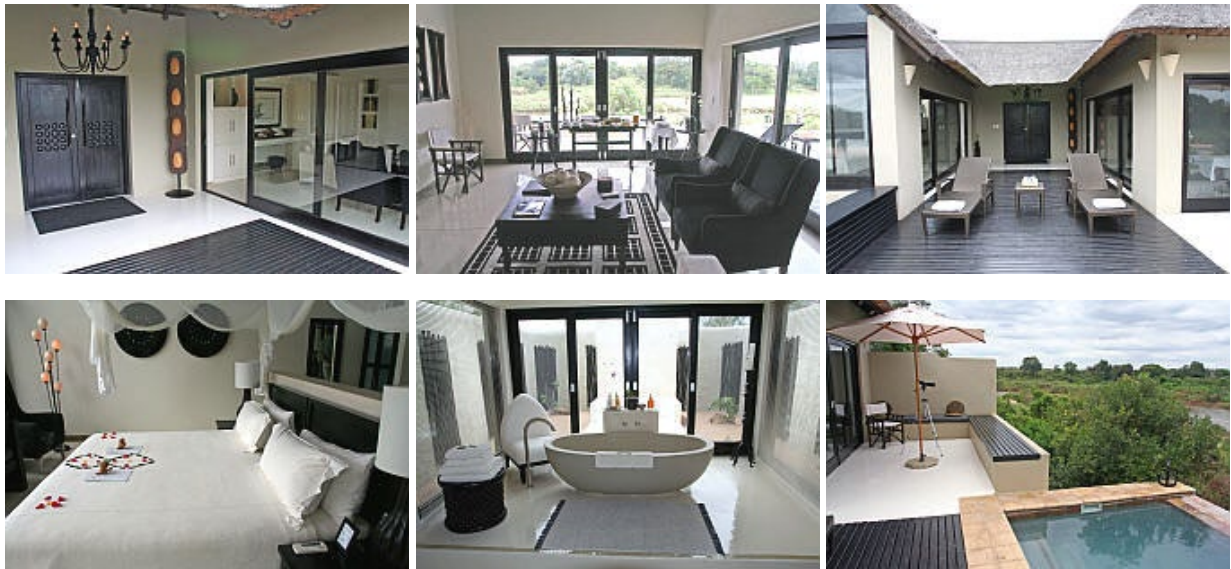
The lodge is in a perfect setting overlooking the river that divides the private reserve from the Kruger National Park. The animals can roam freely between the Kruger National Park and the private lands of Lion Sands.

#### Accommodations

The ultimate in luxury and privacy. The air-conditioned villas are divided into two separate sections which are joined by a courtyard that features a sparkling private plunge pool and large deck area. The bedroom is large with expansive views to the river below. The bathroom is immediately behind the bedroom and features a large contemporary free-standing tub, large indoor shower and a huge outdoor shower. This can be seen in the private villa picture above.

The living room features a fireplace and a unique room service feature. Food is delivered and placed in the room by means of an outside door, a gong is rung and you know your food has arrived. Open the door on the inside and there is your meal. Pictured below. This is taking privacy to a new level of service. These rooms are among the largest and most deluxe in the game lodges in South Africa.





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

## Game Drives

Game viewing here is excellent. This private reserve has a smaller area than many of what the other private reserves offer. However, this is not a negative in our personal view. The rangers know this area and the animals that frequent the reserve very well. Some private or public game reserves are so large that it can be a hindrance in finding the animals.

The reserve has more than enough land to offer exceptional sightings and interesting topography. During our game drive here we had exceptional sightings, including the sighting of two young leopards that were particularly fascinating. Pictures of one of those leopards is shown above. The loading of the land rovers takes place from a staging area so as not to disturb any guests who may have decided to stay in rather than participate in the game drives.

One very appealing aspect was a raised deck overlooking the river and the Kruger National Park that is perfect for a special breakfast or sundowner. A truly magical spot. This is a wonderful property where your expectations will be exceeded.



## Dining and Wines

The lodge and dining area is very appealing. Setting the tone for just ten guests, the public areas offer comfort and intimacy. The food is outstanding. Personal service is the key to Lion Sands and you have the choice of in room dining or joining other guests at the main lodge area. The lodge features a nice Boma area for the dinner under the stars. Lion Sands is on an all-inclusive basis - wines and spirits are complimentary (excluding premium imported brands). The mini bar in the rooms should be called the maxi bar.



## Spa, Internet and Laundry

A wonderful spa with a variety of treatments is available and located between Ivory Sands and a sister property in the Lion Sands reserve. A gym is also available. Internet and laundry services are available for guests on a complimentary basis.

**Website:** [Lion Sands](#)



# River Lodge

## Private Game Reserve in Sabi Sands

### Personal Impression

Lion Sands River Lodge is located on the privately owned Lion Sands Game Reserve bordering Kruger Park. The Sabie River is the border between Lion Sands and Kruger. As you sit on the deck you are actually looking at Kruger Park. The property is owned by the More Family who make every effort to provide a perfect safari in all aspects of the lodge experience.



### The Game

The game here is excellent. I have been personally visiting this lodge for years it has never disappointed. Consistently they have wonderful sightings of leopards and some of the best Hyena dens I have ever seen. The Hippos in the river here are exceptional and you can walk down to the river edge safely to see the hippos. Large elephant herds are common. Overall fantastic game. [Click here for](#)

[our game pictures from previous hosted tours](#)

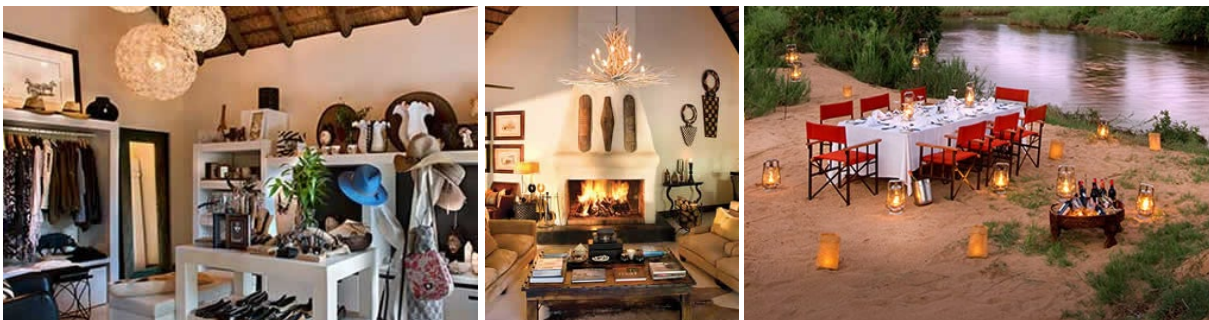
### Accommodations

River Lodge is the least expensive lodge on the Lion Sands Sabi Sands property. That said it is still as beautiful lodge with excellent accommodations. All rooms are connected by a wooden walkway a feature I really like in a safari lodge. The rooms are all on a flat surface with no steps to negotiate. There are eight LUXURY rooms that are spacious, well designed and incredibly comfortable. These luxury rooms are all together and convenient to the main lodge. The remaining rooms are nice but much smaller. The More Family lights like and bright rooms with white floors and woodwork. Everything is sparkling clean.



## Public Areas

River Lodge public area is spacious with an expansive deck. The dining room is also large and nicely furnished with exquisite table settings. Again, the light, bright and airy décor is everywhere. The main bar has two areas with plush furniture, a lovely fireplace and a large bar area. This lodge has a large shop brimming with items you do not see at other lodges. This lodge has a special deck in the bush that is utilized for drinks, bush breakfasts that is right over the Sabie River. An outstanding facility and one we have enjoyed often. River Lodge has loading docks for easier access to the vehicles and an easy step in for each of the three levels of seating; a very nice feature.



## Dining and Wines

Dining and Wines Meals at Lion Sands are worth a special mention here they always have wonderful caring chefs who cook outstanding meals. Any allergy issues – handled with a smile and additional servings cooked for most dishes to accommodate those allergies. Three of the best chefs I have ever experienced work at Lion Sands. Faith, Gladys and Lindy if you are fortunate enough to have one of these ladies you are in for a treat. Lion Sands probably has the BEST dinner in the bush of any property I have visited. With the entire area lit by lanterns in the trees and a man and ladies flushing toilet facility. Again, all white and very clean.

## Internet

WIFI is available we have never had any trouble picking up the signal. There is a television in the main bar area.

**Website:** [Lion Sands River Lodge](http://Lion Sands River Lodge)

# Tinga and Narina Lodges

Sophisticated, luxury lodges along the Sabie River



## Personal Impression

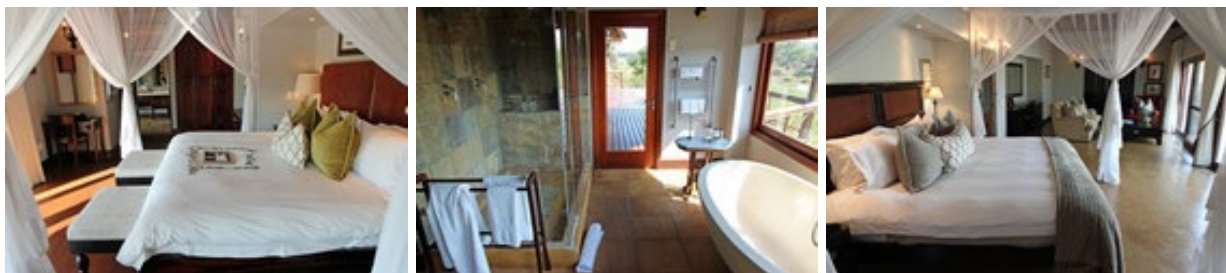
All the rooms are connected by raised wooden walkways. These lodges were taken over by the More Family who also own Lion Sands and they have transformed Tinga and Narina into really comfortable well-run lodges. Both lodges have been updated in the soft contemporary style that the More Family always utilizes. The Tinga and Narina lodges are basically identical.

## Accommodations

The two lodges, Tinga and Narina, each have 9 rooms and are very similar in layout. There are separate villas that are connected by raised pathways. This is a nice feature as you don't have to worry about looking where you step on the ground. All of the villas look out onto the Sabie River where you can spot animals from your very large floor to ceiling windows. Each villa has a spacious deck with chairs and private lunge pools for relaxing between game drives.



The bedroom and bathroom are very large. They have king size beds and a separate very comfortable sitting area with luxurious couches and chairs. There is a mini bar and safe in the credenza. The bathroom features an oversized shower, large bathtub double sinks, and there is a separate toilet. All the bathrooms have many windows so it is very light and bright.



[Click here for more pictures of Narina Lodge from Ken](#)

[Click here for more pictures of Tinga Lodge from Ken](#)



## Public Areas

There is a very spacious lounge area with both a covered area in the main lodge and then large decks to view the river area. These areas are furnished with comfy "sink into" couches and chairs. There are large bar areas in both lodges and plenty of seating that is well-spaced.



## Dining and Wines

My new favorite sentence is "I want my food the Chef Lindy way." Absolutely incredible food and some of the best dishes that I have EVER had anywhere in the world. Everything was amazing. I actually ordered a second appetizer as a dessert. So hard to choose what to eat as it was all so good. Of course, the Chef in charge is always changing but the food is constantly excellent.



## Game Drives

Tinga has a private concession of Kruger Park land. This means that they have a piece of land that is actually Kruger but only Tinga and Narina vehicles can drive on this land and they can go off-road for the big five. It is interesting when they take you to the border of their land to where the regular Kruger Park land starts and you see the masses of normal cars on the main road of Kruger National Park. Tinga and Narina land is directly across the river from Lion Sands. Many people like the idea of going off-road in Kruger Park, which is not normally allowed. The vehicles hold six people in very comfortable bucket seats.

## Internet

WIFI is available

Website: [Tinga Lodge](#) | [Narina Lodge](#)

# DULINI LODGES

## Dulini Moya Lodge | 5-star lodge

### Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sands

This lodge has been recently updated and was under construction on my last visit in 2021.

When I return in 2023, I will review this lodge.

Game viewing at Dulini is excellent. The Sabi Sands private game reserve is known for excellent game viewing and is home to the big five - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and cape buffalo. Each game lodge has a section of this huge private reserve and offers traversing rights to others on agreement. You will never feel that there are too many vehicles in the area you drive. They cooperate on sightings and have a limit of three vehicles at a sighting.

**Website:** [Dulini Moya](#)

# Dulini River Lodge

Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sands

## Personal Impression

Dulini River lodge is a sister property to Leadwood and Dulini Moya. A collection of lodges in the game rich Sabi Sand private game reserve area.

The property was completely updated and has a very comfortable and contemporary feel. The main lodge area is very appealing. The lodge is situated on the Sabi River and has nice bush views and is surrounded by large trees. This is a comfortable and friendly lodge and an excellent area for game and home to the big five.



## Accommodations

This lodge has six, large air-conditioned villas that feature a sitting room area, bedroom and bathroom. The rooms have large decks and feature a private plunge pool and a large outdoor shower.



## Game Drives

Game viewing is excellent. The Sabi Sands private game reserve is known for excellent game viewing and is home to the big five - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and cape buffalo. Each game lodge has a section of this huge private reserve and offers traversing rights to others on agreement. You will never feel that there are too many vehicles in the area you drive. They cooperate on sightings and have a limit of three vehicles at a sighting.

## Lodge, Dining and Wines

The lodge is spread out and the main lodge area is on a higher level than many of the villas. I found the main lodge to be very appealing with a wonderful contemporary African decor and a great view over the bush. The lodge features many comfortable seating arrangements and it is a nice place to relax. A large attractive public pool is available. Fully inclusive of all meals and drinks excluding imported spirits and wines.



## Spa, Internet and Laundry

Spa treatments are available. Laundry is at an additional charge. Internet is available.

**Website:** [Dulini River](#)



# Dulini Leadwood Lodge | 5-Star Lodge

Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sands

## Personal Impression

Leadwood is a 5-star property featuring just four air-conditioned spacious suites and it is situated in the Sabi Sand private game reserve area.

The property is spread out on lawn and bush areas and each suite is very private. This is a luxury lodge with wonderful spacious rooms and a huge main lodge for just eight guests. This is an excellent area for game and home to the big five.



## Accommodations

This lodge has four very large air-conditioned suites that feature a living room area, oversized spacious bedroom with a large bathroom directly behind the bed area. This is one big open concept and the room feels incredibly spacious. There is a large outdoor shower and the biggest private plunge pool I have seen at a lodge in South Africa. The rooms have a

wonderful mixture of rock, wood, and floor to ceiling windows that create the outdoor feeling inside your luxury suite. These are fantastic suites.

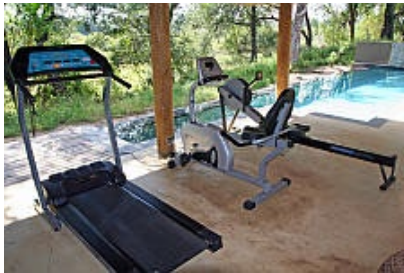


## Game Drives

Game viewing is excellent. The Sabi Sands private game reserve is known for excellent game viewing and it is home to the big five - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and cape buffalo. Each game lodge has a section of this huge private reserve and offers traversing rights to others on agreement. You will never feel that there are too many vehicles in the area you drive and they co-operate on sightings to have a limit of three vehicles at the sightings.

## The Lodge, Dining and Wines

The lodge and dining area is very appealing. The rock and fine wood theme is evident and this is incredibly spacious considering the lodge only can accommodate eight guests. Right outside the main lodge is a large public swimming pool and exercise equipment. The deck features wonderful views over the bush for dining. All-inclusive package with all meals and local wines and spirits.



## Spa, Internet and Laundry

Spa treatments are available. A very small area for the gym features a few basic machines. Laundry services are available for guests at an additional charge.

**Website:** [Dulini Leadwood](#)

# SABI SABI PROPERTIES

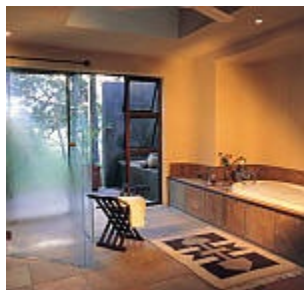
## Bush Lodge | Today Camp

### Sabi Sabi Game Reserve

Family Friendly Luxury Game Lodge All Inclusive 5-star property

This is a family friendly camp with some of the largest rooms you will find in any game park. This is a larger camp that accommodates families with children, but still offers first class facilities. It is not all inclusive, so beverages are an additional charge, although you can book

all-inclusive if you chose. There is an elephant that frequents the lodge and I have heard people mention that they have seen this big bull elephant in camp. He was not there when we were there, but this is a picture of him at the camp.



### Location

Sabi Sabi is adjacent to the Kruger National Park, in one of the oldest proclaimed private reserves - Sabi Sand Wildtuin. This is 500 km east of Johannesburg. Easily reached by air from Johannesburg via Mpumalanga International Airport, with a short plane ride to Sabi Sabi Airstrip. Private air charters can fly into Sabi Sabi Airstrip directly.

### Accommodations

The accommodations here are 25 oversized individual villas. All air conditioned with huge bathrooms and living areas. Total luxury in the rooms. Children are accommodated well. The rooms are spread out over a large area with manicured grounds between the villas.





## Game Drives

Morning and afternoon game - drives are with knowledgeable rangers. The Sabi Sabi Reserve offers excellent opportunities to experience the big five, and other animals in the diversity of the bush. The land around Sabi Sabi camps is really quite unique and changes from area to area. We had outstanding rhino and lion sightings between Bush and Earth Lodge. The pictures we took are shown below.

**Personal pictures from our trip to Sabi Sabi. Notice how close the land rover is to the Rhino.**



## Spa and Work-out Facilities

The camp offers health and wellness spa with many treatments available.

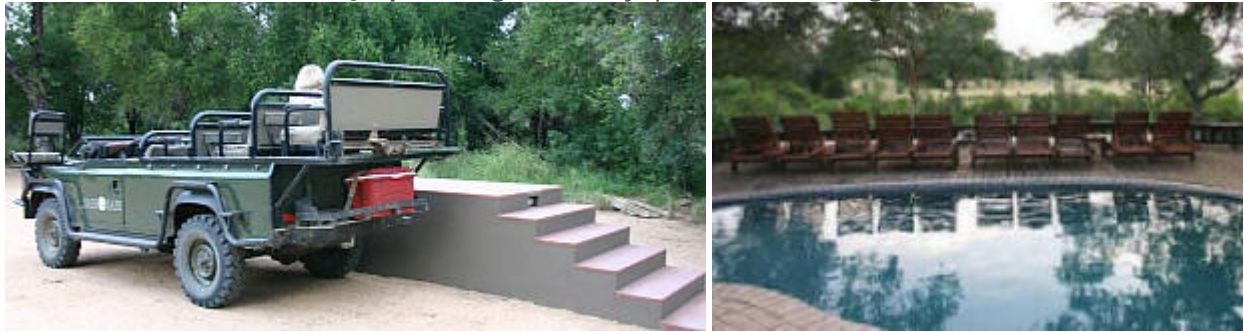
## Dining and the Lodge Public Areas

All meals at Bush Lodge are buffet including dinner. There is a large variety of food at dinner and the selections are excellent. I believe they do all buffet because it works better with children. TV is available in the lounge but not in the individual rooms. There is a large swimming



pool. This lodge has a "loading" platform for easy access to the land rovers. This may have been developed for families with grandparents traveling, but I found it a wonderful idea.

**Jeep Loading Made Easy! | Pool at Bush Lodge**



## **Business Services**

WiFi and conference services are available.

## **Summary**

If you want to experience a first-class camp with outstanding game viewing and take your children or you do not mind children being present, then this property is an excellent choice. They call this the "Today" of their Sabi Sabi collection. The design is not traditional African nor is it contemporary. A perfect balance of styles.

**Website:** [Today Bush Lodge](#)

# Earth Lodge | Sabi Sabi Game Reserve

## The "Tommorrow" Camp | Ultra Contemporary Luxury

All Inclusive 5-star property.

This is a very upscale and contemporary property. If you enjoy contemporary design, then this is the lodge that I would suggest. If you prefer a more traditional camp, this may not be for you.

The rooms, main lodge areas and foyer are quite stunning. Beautiful woods, pots and a spacious and luxurious feel permeate the lodge.



### Location

Sabi Sabi is adjacent to the Kruger National Park in one of the oldest proclaimed private reserves - Sabi Sand Wildtuin. This is 500 km east of Johannesburg. Easily reached by air from Johannesburg via Mpumalanga International Airport with a short plane ride to Sabi Sabi Airstrip. Private air charters can fly into Sabi Sabi airstrip directly.

### Accommodations

The accommodations here are 13 luxurious large rooms. All air conditioned, with private plunge pools, huge bathrooms and outdoor showers. Total luxury! Each room is slightly different but all rooms have a very contemporary design with use of natural woods. 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. The reserve offers excellent opportunities to experience the big five and other animals in the diversity of the bush. The land around Sabi Sabi Camp is really quite unique and changes from area to area. We had outstanding rhino and lion sightings between Bush Lodge and Earth Lodge. The pictures we took are shown below.



## Spa and Workout Facilities

The camp offers a sauna, gym and a large luxurious spa with many treatments available.

## Dining and the Lodge Public Areas

From their lavish breakfast buffet, lunch and gourmet dinners, this is bound to please anyone's palate. The main dining room table in the lodge is very elegant and the boma area is also appealing. The lodge features a wonderful large wine cellar with an incredible selection of wines. The entire lodge has an "earthy" feel and is spacious, contemporary with beautiful floral and architectural accents. South African wines and spirits are included in the safari price.

## Business Services

WiFi Internet and full conference facilities are available.

**Summary:** If you want to experience a contemporary first-class camp with outstanding game viewing, this is an excellent choice. They call this lodge the "tomorrow" camp out of their Sabi Sabi collection. Earth Lodge is named well, with the rocks and the earthy contemporary design. It suits it very well.

**Website:** [Earth Lodge](#)



# Selati Lodge | Sabi Sabi Game Reserve

The "Yesterday" Camp. Step back in time with this Traditional Game Lodge. All Inclusive 5-star property

This is a very small traditional camp that beckons back to a bygone area of traditional safaris. The rooms are air conditioned and at night areas of the lodge are lit by kerosene lamp to retain that old world ambiance. It is a very intimate and focuses on personal and outstanding service.



## Location

Sabi Sabi is adjacent to the Kruger National Park in, one of the oldest proclaimed private reserves - Sabi Sand Wildtuin. This is 500 km east of Johannesburg. Easily reached by air from Johannesburg via Mpumalanga International Airport, with a short plane ride to Sabi Sabi Airstrip. Private air charters can fly into Sabi Sabi airstrip directly.

## Accommodations

The accommodations here are 8 individual thatched roof cottages. All air conditioned, and the rooms are large and the bathtubs are very upscale.

**One room we saw had an additional bathtub outside - pictured below.**



## Game Drives

Morning and afternoon game drives are with knowledgeable rangers. The Sabi Sabi reserve offers excellent opportunities to experience the big five and other animals in the diversity of the bush. The land around Sabi Sabi camps is really quite unique and changes unique and changes from area to area.



## Dining and the Lodge Public Areas

All meals at Selati are an intimate affair. With so few guests, the attention to detail and quality is impeccable. The night we were there all guests were seated at one table with drinks from the bar before-hand. The lighting was all by lamp so the atmosphere was very romantic and appealing. The lodge can change the dinner venues from the formal dining room to the deck. The lodge also has a boma area. There is a wonderful pool area on the grounds with an incredible view of the bush.

## Spa and Gym Facilities

The camp does not offer spa facilities, but they will arrange transport to Earth or Bush Lodge for treatments.

## Business Services

WIFI facilities and conference services are available.

## Summary

If you want to stay at a small and intimate lodge that has a truly traditional African experience with exceptional service, this is the choice for you.

**Website:** [Selati Camp](#)

# MALA MALA

## Rattray's | Mala Mala Game Reserve

An entirely different game park experience.

### Personal Impression

Mala Mala was the first luxury lodge in South Africa, the trail blazer for all that followed and has the best land in South Africa, a huge property. Refurbished fairly recently Rattray's has rooms to the standard of the very best in South Africa.

The game experience should be far superior to any other lodge. We really enjoyed our time at the lodge. This lodge is about GAME- GAME- GAME and a fantastic room.



### Accommodations



There are three camps in the Mala Mala Reserve (Rattray's, Main Camp, and Sable Camp). The exclusive Rattray's is the best with just 8 private villas. There are 18 rooms in the Main camp and at one end they call it Sable Camp which has 7 suites that can be taken somewhat exclusively with private lodge facilities but the rooms are the same. They allow children at the Main and Sable Camp and 16 and older at Rattray's.

The rooms at Rattrays are really fabulous with two large his and hers bathrooms, large room with sitting area, really good internet with in room access. All rooms are on a flat surface and not a long walk for anyone. The Rattray's villas all have a view in an area of the river that usually has less water creating a natural crossing for the animals. From our room we watched lions walking back and forth crossing the river. We saw a mother lion with three little cubs on the opposite river bank. Also, a huge herd of cape



buffalo and elephants were in the river and crossed right in front of all of the rooms. Fantastic location. The lodge is fenced so no trouble walking around.



## Public Areas

The lodge public areas are lovely. A delightful bright reception area greets you and leads to the expansive deck where breakfast and lunches buffets are served. Off the deck is the dining area where we will have dinner in the evenings. There is a large reading library full of books and also a delightful bar for pre-dinner drinks. The area feels very spacious and inviting with a lot of the old Rattray's family pictures on the walls with some pretty famous people featured.



## Internet

There is internet and WIFI access in the rooms and also a TV with lots of stations.

**Website:** [Mala Mala Game Reserve](http://MalaMalaGameReserve.com)

# Main & Sable Camp | Mala Mala Game Reserve

An entirely different game park experience.

## Personal Impression

Mala Mala Main Camp and Sable Camp are located on the famous Mala Mala Game Reserve. Mala Mala was the first game reserve to offer excellent accommodations and a trailblazer for all the lodges that followed. This is less expensive than Rattray's, the other camp in the Mala Mala reserve. Children of all ages are accommodated at Main Camp.



## The Game

The game here is outstanding. Mala Mala is the largest private game reserve in South Africa. The Sand River runs almost the entire length of the property, about 23 kilometers - certainly a draw for the animals with the great access to water. Leopard sightings are usually exceptional and the river attracts large herds of Cape Buffalo and elephants. I have never been disappointed with the game viewing at Mala Mala. There are no trackers at Mala Mala. The Rangers do more here than at any other camp that I have visited, including helping at meals and maintenance on the property.

## Accommodations

Main Camp and Sable Camp collectively have 25 rooms (Main Camp has 10 luxury suites and 8 luxury rooms. Sable Camp has 5 suites and the 2 Bedroom Lion's Den Suite.) At one end of the camp there are separate lodges facilities for Sable Camp. It is possible to have a family or group take all of Sable Camp and have the entire one end of the camp exclusively. There is a little gate that divides the two areas. The rooms are identical at both Main Camp and Sable Camp. If your family takes all the rooms in the Sable Camp area then you can spill over into the Main Camp area for extra rooms but have all of your meals together at Sable Camp. This makes for a very flexible situation.

The rooms are quite large. They are nicely decorated but of course not on the luxury scale of Rattray's but still comfortable. There are two bathrooms so this is nice and convenient touch. The walkway areas between the rooms are really beautifully done. Lots of stucco and flowers on the winding pathways and the antelope are often on the paths or grass nearby. Main Camp offers handicapped room. This is a rare thing to find in a safari lodge.



## Public Areas

The Main Camp lounge and deck areas are very large and expansive with a lot of taxidermy animal heads on the walls from years ago when this used to be a hunting camp. Some may not like that feature. Meals are buffet style and served on the decks or in the outdoor Boma. The main lounge at Sable Camp is smaller but very attractive. Both the Main Camp and Sable Camp lodges have a swimming pool. Main Camp has a large and well-stocked gift shop.



## Internet

Internet is available at the lodge.

Website: [Mala Mala Sable Camp](#)

Website: [Mala Mala Main Camp](#)