

Private family retreat on the Matlabas River



Marataba
GAME LODGES

MORE
COLLECTION



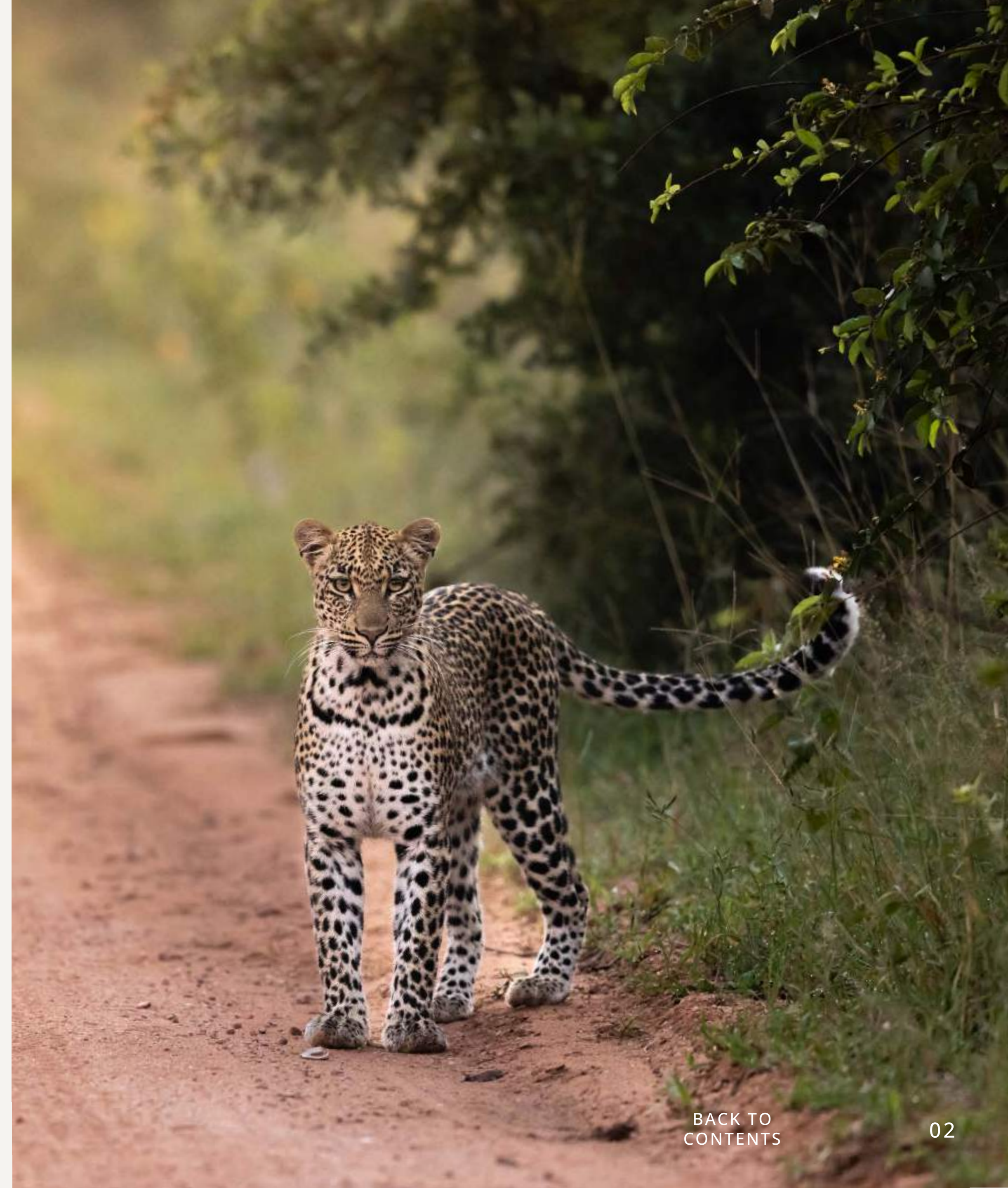
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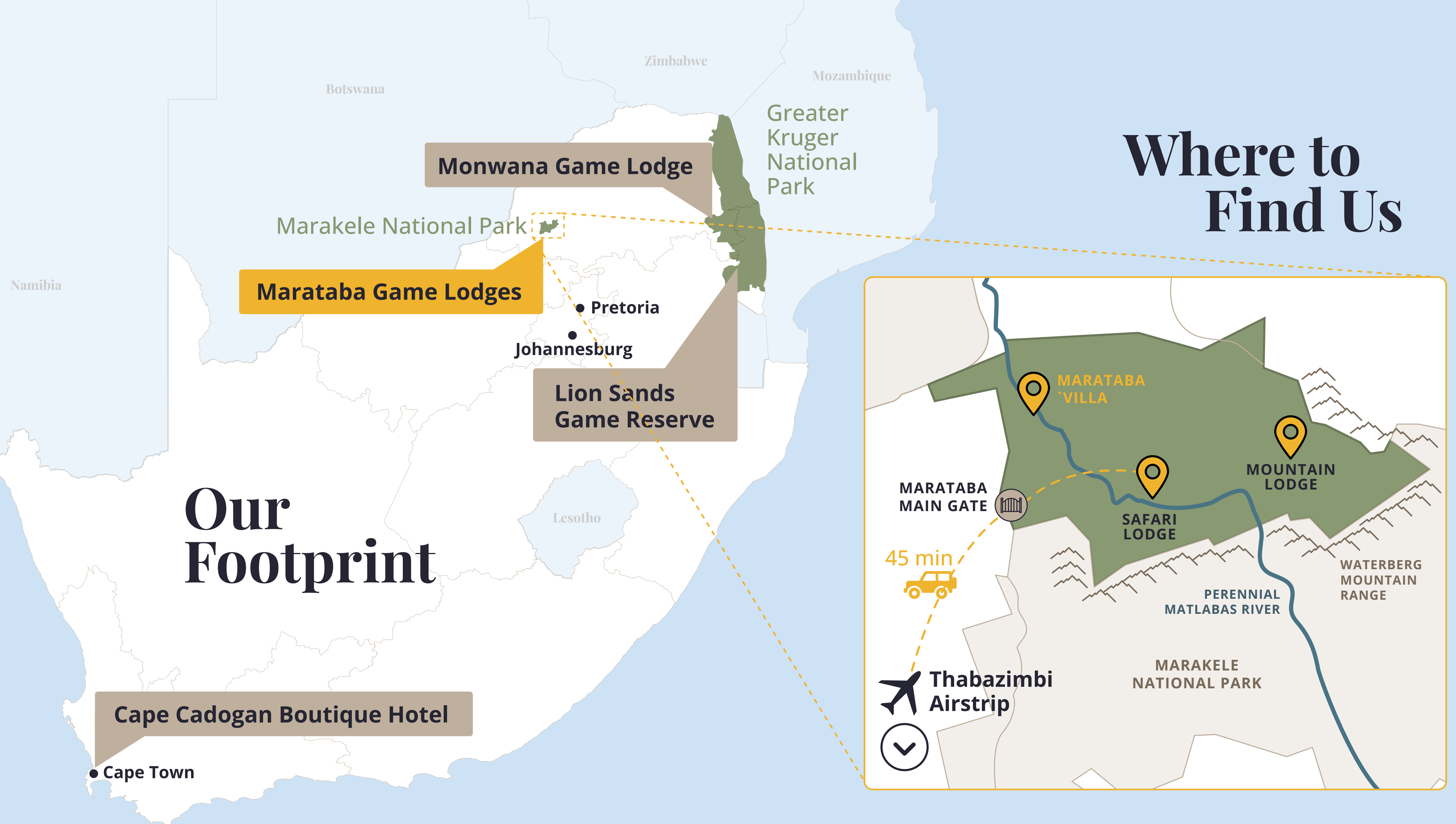
An invitation to savour stillness

Tucked beside the slow-moving Matlabas River, Marataba Villa is a place to trade rush for river time and reconnect with the people you've come away with. Reserved exclusively for your group, it's the effortless safari base for families and friends – private, spacious, and set quietly within the Waterberg wilderness.

Marataba lies within the malaria-free Marakele National Park, a “place of sanctuary” in Setswana, where nearly 165 560 acres (67 000 hectares) of protected wilderness unfolds across overlapping savannah and mountain landscapes, with the Matlabas River playing a key role in supporting a rich diversity of wildlife.



Where to Find Us



Our Footprint

Monwana Game Lodge

Marataba Game Lodges

Lion Sands Game Reserve

Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel

MARATABA VILLA

MOUNTAIN LODGE

SAFARI LODGE

MARATABA MAIN GATE

PERENNIAL MATLABAS RIVER

WATERBERG MOUNTAIN RANGE

MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK

45 min

Thabazimbi Airstrip

What makes Marataba so unique?

For families and friends who want the freedom of a private safari home

The Marataba Villa is an exclusive-use retreat set alongside the slow-moving Matlabas River, where wildlife ambles by. Four luxury tents offer space and privacy for everyone, while a central living area draws your group together for leisurely meals, storytelling on the fire deck, and afternoons spent at the pool with wide river views.

Here, everything is shaped around you. A dedicated team (chef, concierge, field guide) takes care of every detail, from coffee at first light to dinner under the stars. With your own safari vehicle and no set schedule, the days move at your pace:

linger a little longer, head out when the moment feels right, and return to a place that feels entirely your own.





Our Environmental Commitment

TREADING LIGHTLY, LIVING FULLY

Marataba Villa is designed to exist in quiet conversation with the surrounding landscape, offering an exclusive-use safari experience shaped by space, privacy and a strong connection to nature.

From solar energy and water-wise systems to considered sourcing and low-impact design, daily operations are shaped by the environment in which the villa operates.

This long-term approach to conservation and responsible tourism forms part of a broader commitment across MORE Collection to protect the landscapes, people, and communities connected to our properties.

Remarkable wildlife

Marataba is a privately managed section of 56 834 acres (23 000 hectares) within the malaria-free Marakele National Park conserving 165 560 acres (67 000 hectares) of the Limpopo Waterberg's biodiversity, as well as Iron Age sites of great historical significance. The park falls within the UNESCO-recognised Waterberg Biosphere.

The game here is impressive in number and diversity due to Marataba's location in a transition zone between the dry western and the wetter eastern regions of South Africa. Rare plant species of yellowwood and cedar trees, ancient cycads, and fern trees flourish here.

BIG FIVE

- Elephant
- Rhino (black and white)
- Buffalo
- Lion
- Leopard

NOTABLE AND SIGNIFICANT SPECIES

- African wild dog
- Cheetah
- Brown hyena
- Porcupine
- Warthog
- 300+ bird species
- Cape vulture (world's largest breeding colony)
- Sable antelope
- Cape pangolin
- Hippo



Experiences and Adventures

BUSH WALKS

Set out on guided bush walks tailored to your passions, from birds and botany to tracking, geology, and the smaller details often missed from a vehicle. Slow the pace and engage all the senses on this immersive experience. (For adults and teenagers aged 16+.)



GAME DRIVES

With your own private safari vehicle and dedicated field guide, every game drive at Marataba Villa is shaped around your group, your interests, your pace, and your wish list. The most rewarding wildlife viewing is typically early morning and late afternoon, when temperatures cool and animals are most active, but there's no fixed timetable here. If you feel like heading out earlier, staying out longer, or adding an extra adventure, your team is ready when you are. Enjoy unhurried coffee stops and sundowner sessions in the bush.

WATER SAFARI

Drift along the Matlabas on a morning or sunset water safari. Moving quietly along, you'll look out for hippo, abundant birdlife, and elephant drinking and foraging along the banks. Snacks and beverages are served en-route, turning the slow flow of the river into one of the most peaceful ways to experience the reserve.

CONTINUES →





MACK AND MADI KIDS' ADVENTURE SAFARI CLUB

Designed for young explorers, the Mack and Madi Club is a world of discovery and creativity: eco-garden play, spoor ID, cooking, pool games, kids' picnics, movie nights, stargazing – all led by a dedicated team.



WILDLIFE LECTURES

When the weather calls for a quieter moment indoors, our field guides host relaxed, informal wildlife chats. Inspired by your curiosity, topics can range from elephant behaviour and predator dynamics to tracks, birdlife, and the reserve's broader ecology.



A NIGHT IN A TREEHOUSE

Spend a night in Thabametsi Treehouse, a solar-powered, two-level hideout. Arrive at sunset for a picnic dinner and Waterberg views, then fall asleep safely under the open sky, with radio contact to a field guide always available. (Must be booked at additional cost in conjunction with villa accommodation.)

CONTINUES →

SPA AND WELLNESS

Wind down with a spa treatment in your room or on your private deck during the quiet between safaris. Choose from massages, facials, and more, using herbal-infused, ethically sourced products from TheraNaka™. Yoga mats are available for slow, grounding stretches and simple breathwork – an easy way to reset and begin or end the day in tune with the river’s calm.



LOCAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Visit Heuningvei Primary School and the Itsoseng Daycare Centre in the Sentrum Community. This guided experience offers a meaningful connection with the people shaping young lives and directly supports the communities you visit - turning your stay into lasting impact.

RHINO CONSERVATION SAFARI

Gain insight into the ongoing conservation work supporting critically endangered black rhinos and near-threatened white rhino populations alongside specialist veterinary teams during key wildlife interventions. (Additional costs apply.)



Accommodation

An exclusive-use retreat along the Matlabas River, with dedicated hospitality at every turn.





Four luxury tents
(up to 8 adults and 2 children)



Private pool and fire deck



Villa chef, butler, and housekeeping team



Private field guide and safari vehicle












Central living area: open-plan lounge,
dining room, interactive kitchen,
and fireplace

Marataba Mountain Lodge

A remote, adults-focused, solar-powered
retreat perched above Waterfall Valley.



-  2 guests per room
-  King-sized bed
-  Wood-burning fireplace
-  Private viewing deck
-  En-suite bathroom with rain shower
-  Solar power
-  Air conditioning
-  In-room safe, personal bar, hairdryer, Wi-Fi
-  **16+** Guests aged 16+ welcome

Marataba Safari Lodge

A family-friendly escape on the plains,
where the Waterberg mountains set the
backdrop for adventure and togetherness.



11 Luxury Tents and 4 Family Luxury Tents (with kids' bedroom and bunk bed)



Guest pool



In-room spa treatments



Mack & Madi Kids' Adventure Safari Club with dedicated team and eco-garden



All ages welcome

Practical information

GETTING HERE



BY AIR

- Scheduled flights or private charters to Thabazimbi Airstrip
- Helicopter arrivals to Marataba Safari Lodge by arrangement with a transfer to the villa



TRANSFERS

- Approximately 40 minutes by road from Thabazimbi Airstrip



BY ROAD

- Approximately 4 hours (200 miles | 320km) from Johannesburg via well-maintained roads



WHAT TO PACK

- Neutral clothing for game drives and bush walks
- Warm layers for mornings and evenings, even in summer
- Comfortable hiking boots/shoes
- Swimwear
- Sun protection, including a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Camera/binoculars
- Yoga mats provided upon request

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Marakele National Park is malaria-free – no anti-malarial medication required
- Closest hospital: Mediclinic Thabazimbi Hospital (1 hour)

CONNECTIVITY

- Wi-Fi throughout the residence
- Mobile coverage keeps you in touch when necessary
- International power outlets and USB charging points





Weather and seasonal highlights

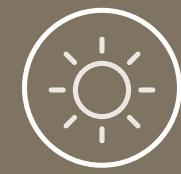
Marakele National Park is a year-round destination, with temperatures ranging from 70°F (21°C, winter min: 38°F/ 3°C) to 95°F (35°C, summer); rainfall peaks from December to February. Each season brings its own character and wildlife moments to Marataba.



SPRING

(September – November)

- **Temperature:** 52–72 fahrenheit | 11–22 celsius
- **Rainfall:** 5.9 inches | 150 millimeters
- **Wildlife highlights:** Newborn wildlife begin to appear, early migrants join residents
- **Landscape:** First rains spark wildflowers and lush green landscape
- **Seasonal appeal:** Flowering plants, bird activity at its brightest



SUMMER

(December – February)

- **Temperature:** 70–95 fahrenheit | 21–35 celsius
- **Rainfall:** 13.7 inches | 350 millimeters
- **Wildlife highlights:** Excellent birdwatching; young Big Five members appear frequently
- **Landscape:** Warm, dramatic thunderstorms; vibrant landscape and vivid sunsets
- **Seasonal appeal:** Lush, landscapes and abundant birdlife



AUTUMN

(March – May)

- **Temperature:** 59–77 °F | 15–25 °C
- **Rainfall:** 6 in | 150 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Resident raptors remain active; Big Five easier to spot
- **Landscape:** Calm, golden light; excellent for photography
- **Seasonal appeal:** Clear game viewing as bush recedes; wildlife rallies around water sources



WINTER

(June – August)

- **Temperature:** 39–68 °F | 4–20 °C
- **Rainfall:** 0.4 in | 10 mm
- **Wildlife highlights:** Animals concentrate at waterholes, making for easier sightings
- **Landscape:** Sparse bush makes animal sightings exceptional
- **Seasonal appeal:** Clearest skies for evening stargazing; crisp mornings, mild days, cosy fires in the evening

Your Itinerary



Day One

ARRIVAL AT MARATABA VILLA

- Morning flight from Johannesburg to Thabazimbi Airstrip (45 minutes)
- Transfer to Marataba Villa (40 minutes)
- Welcome and orientation
- Light lunch
- Meet your dedicated field guide
- Afternoon game drive with sundowner experience
- Dinner on the deck under the stars

Day Two

A DAY OF SAFARI ADVENTURES

- Coffee and a light breakfast selection
- Morning game drive
- Guided bush walk
- A hearty brunch at the villa
- Leisure time at the pool or relax and watch wildlife at the river
- Lunch available
- Water safari with sundowners
- Storytelling on the fire deck
- Dinner and evening stargazing

CONTINUES →



Day Three

A DAY OF WILD WONDER

- Coffee and a light breakfast selection
- Morning safari and bush breakfast
- Leisure time or take part in a community tour
- Lunch
- Depart for afternoon game drive
- A night under the stars at Thabametsi Treehouse



Day Four

DEPARTURE AND ONWARD JOURNEY

- Sunrise safari
- Hearty breakfast
- Check out and transfer to Thabazimbi Airstrip
- Flight departure for onward journey





Impact that ripples

**COLLECTIVELY CREATING
POSITIVE, MEANINGFUL,
AND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE**

Through the MORE Collection Impact Fund, every guest stay contributes to four key areas: Health and Wellbeing, Resource Sustainability, Education and Training, and Investing in Local Communities.

Across Marataba Game Lodges, this work supports local employment, conservation initiatives, responsible sourcing, and long-term investment in the people and communities connected to the Waterberg region.

A multi-level wooden treehouse built around a large, gnarled tree trunk. The structure is illuminated with warm, glowing lights, creating a cozy atmosphere. A man and a woman are standing on the upper deck, looking out over a vast, green landscape under a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and red near the horizon. The treehouse has a rustic, natural aesthetic with wooden railings and a canopy structure on the top level.

MORE Collection



MORE Collection, led by custodian and CEO Robert More, is a fourth-generation family business with roots dating back to 1933.

What began with one family's connection to the Sabie River has grown into a collection of safari lodges, a boutique hotel, and private villas across South Africa - from the Sabi Sand and Greater Kruger to the Waterberg and Cape Town.

Although the collection has grown over time, it remains grounded in the relationships, places and the care that have shaped it from the beginning.

Wherever you join us, you'll find thoughtful hospitality, a deep sense of belonging, and people who genuinely care about making every stay feel personal.

We look forward to sharing these remarkable parts of South Africa with you.



Robert More
CUSTODIAN AND CEO

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY WITH
MORE
COLLECTION

Discovering South Africa



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

IVORY LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
Refined safari living shaped by the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

RIVER LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A safari lodge connected to the rhythm of the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

NARINA LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A quieter safari experience in the trees above the Sabie River



Lion Sands
GAME RESERVE

TINGA LODGE

LION SANDS GAME RESERVE
A classic safari shaped by connection, discovery and the Sabie River



CAPE
Cadogan
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

CAPE CADOGAN BOUTIQUE HOTEL

KLOOF STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD
Your stylish city stay in the heart of Cape town



Narataba
GAME LODGES

SAFARI LODGE

MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK
A family-friendly safari in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains



Narataba
GAME LODGES

MOUNTAIN LODGE

MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK
A remote wilderness experience in the Waterberg Mountains



monwana
COMING HOME

MONWANA LODGE

GREATER KRUGER
An unhurried safari experience shaped by stillness and connection



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GAME LODGES



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