

FACT SHEET



AFRICAN RETREATS

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INTRODUCTION

Rukiya Safari Camp is located in the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve which neighbours the Greater Kruger. It is an intimate, tented camp built beneath old riverine trees on the banks of the Blyde River. It is a low impact camp with environmentally friendly construction, beautifully reused timber for decking and furniture, and light canvas for the tents.

There are 6 canvas tented rooms built on timber decking and elevated off the ground overlooking the Blyde River, which flows in front of the camp. Décor is simple, stylish and in tune with the natural ambience of the camp. Wooden walkways lead the path from the tents to the main camp area, which houses an infinity pool, boma, large balcony and canvas lodge area.

There is also the Rukiya River House which is perfect for families and groups of 4 wanting a more exclusive safari experience. The house had a private verandah overlooking the river, and is located next to the camp, guests can enjoy their own private house whilst still enjoying the lodge facilities such as the pool area, sun loungers, bar, and dining experience.

Safari activities include game drives in both the Balule and Wild Rivers Reserve. Bush walks are also available as well as host of activities in and around the nearby town of Hoedspruit (roughly 20km from camp). Morning game drives include breakfast in the bush before returning to camp, making it an adventurous and unforgettable experience.

AT A GLANCE

- Tented safari camp in Wild Rivers Nature Reserve
- Located on the banks of the Blyde River
- Owner-run and managed
- Sleeps 16 people in 6 canvas and timber safari tents
- Has 2 family tents each sleeping 4 people (children over 4 years old) - The Rukiya River House - A 2-bedroom house, ideal for family or groups

of 4 wanting a more exclusive experience.

- Environmentally friendly camp with semi-permanent structure using low impact materials
- Tranquil ambience, simple yet luxurious camp, with adventurous activities
- Game drives conducted in both the Balule Nature Reserve & Wild Rivers Reserve. Two activities per day, usually one in the Balule where there is an opportunity to see the Big-Five and the other in Wild Rivers where the focus is on other species found in the African wilderness.
- Bush breakfasts enjoyed on game drive
- Bush walks conducted in Wild Rivers Reserve and in the Big 5 Balule Reserve
- Various adventure and luxury activities available in and around the nearby town of Hoedspruit (+-20km)
- Voluntourism opportunities through Seeds of Light and Ingwe Leopard Research
- Can be booked on an exclusive-use basis without an age limit for children

FACILITIES

- 6 Canvas safari tents elevated on wooden decking (including 2 family tents) - The Rukiya River House has two en-suite king bedrooms and a private verandah which has a beautiful outside seating area overlooking the river below.
- Main camp area on extensive timber decking, and natural wooden outdoor furniture
- Infinity pool with pool deck and sun loungers overlooking the Blyde River
- Boma with campfire and surrounding seating area
- Indoor lounge and dining area at main camp area
- WiFi and electrical outlets throughout camp
- Laundry service available at a charge
- Each tent has a balcony and seating area overlooking the river or the bush
- Standard rooms sleep two people on double or twin beds; family rooms have 4 beds (standard room divider separating room into two)



- En suite bathrooms– showers only
- Standing fan in each room (2 in family rooms)

THE RUKIYA RIVER HOUSE

This is a brand new accommodation type at Rukiya and offers guests a more exclusive experience, ideal for families or groups of 4. The house has two en-suite king bedrooms, a private verandah which has a beautiful outside seating area overlooking the river below, internet access, DSTV, kitchen, dining area and lounge, air-con, tea & coffee making facilities and a fully stocked bar.

Guests staying at the River House will dine down at the main lodge and have access to all it's facilities, including the infinity pool and the sun-loungers.

ACTIVITIES

- Two activities per day, conducted in two different reserves. One in the Balule Reserve which is a Big-Five area and the other in Wild Rivers Reserve. Game Drive locations are also subject to change depending on sightings.
- Guided bush walks in Wild Rivers and Balule Nature Reserves - (upon request and availability)
- Bird watching from the comfort of camp
- Bush breakfasts during game drive
- Sundowners during afternoon game drive
- Activities available in the area include tours of the Kruger National Park, Panorama route, and other sought after South African Lowveld attractions
- Cultural village tours
- Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre
- Hot-air balloon excursions near Hoedspruit
- Boat cruises on the Blyde and Olifants Rivers
- Spa Treatments available on site
- Voluntourism opportunities through Seeds of Light and Ingwe Leopard Research

A TYPICAL DAY AT RUKIYA SAFARI CAMP

Rukiya Safari Camp conducts their morning game drives in the Big-Five Balule Nature Reserve, which is open to Kruger National Park and the afternoon drives Wild Rivers Reserve which is a non Big-Five area where the camp is located. A bush breakfast is included in the morning activity, and roughly 3 - 5 hours are spent on each activity. Guests are able to tailor their experiences at Rukiya to include extras; however, a typical daily schedule might be as follows:

- 05h00: Wake up for quick coffee before morning game drive
- 05h30: Morning game drive departs
- 11h00/30: Return to camp after game drive and breakfast in the bush
- 13h30: Enjoy lunch under the trees at camp and relax for the afternoon
- 16h00: Depart for afternoon/evening game drive
- 19h00: Return to camp for a spectacular dinner

Please note that times alter slightly on a seasonal basis, and in order to join the afternoon game drive arrival at camp must be no later than 15h00. The game drive locations are also subject to change depending on sightings.

LOCATION

Rukiya Safari Camp is located in the Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve about 10km outside Hoedspruit in the Greater Kruger region of Limpopo. Wild Rivers is a 3000-hectare area forming part of the 12000-hectare Blyde Olifants Conservancy. The camp itself lies on the banks of the Blyde River only 500m upstream from the confluence of the significant Blyde and Olifants Rivers.

The reserve is home to an array of wildlife species and phenomenal birdlife; it has a mountain view and the presence of water, which makes it a magnificent spot in



the bush. The local Hoedspruit airport is only 45-minutes' drive away, making it an easily accessible yet remote safari experience.

HOW TO GET THERE

The entrance to the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve is only 10km from the town of Hoedspruit, and about 45-minutes' drive from the airport. It is easily accessible by road from Johannesburg (5-6-hour drive). Once inside the reserve, it is another +10km to the camp via dirt roads. Please DO NOT follow Google maps and directions, the GPS takes you through private farms and is inaccessible. Use our directions ONLY.

From Hoedspruit:

At the intersection of R40 and R527 in Hoedspruit, travel north on the R40 towards Phalaborwa. Continue for 10km until the Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve sign appears on the left (directly opposite the gate for Mohlabetsi on the right).

Turn left onto the Wild Rivers gravel access road, continue 600m to the entrance gate (careful crossing an active railway line). Sign in for nr. 21 (Rukiya) at the gate and then follow the signs to nr. 21 (roughly 10km).

From Johannesburg:

From Johannesburg/Pretoria continue on to the N4 Highway. Continue to follow N4 for 191 km. Take the exit toward R33. Continue onto R540 from Belfast to Dullstroom. Turn left onto R36 (Lydenburg). Continue to follow R36 to Ohrigstad, continue through the Strydom Tunnel and take the R527 to Hoedspruit.

At the intersection of R40 and R527 in Hoedspruit, travel north on the R40 towards Phalaborwa. Continue for 10km until the Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve sign appears on the left (directly opposite the gate for Mohlabetsi on the right). Turn left onto the Wild Rivers gravel access road, continue 600m to the entrance gate (careful crossing an active railway line). Sign in for nr. 21 (Rukiya) at the gate and then follow the signs to nr. 21 (roughly 10km).

From the Wild Rivers Reserve Gate:

Upon entering the gate, turn immediately right and drive along the fence line. After 2.5km the main road curves to the left slightly, leaving the fence line. From this point it is another 2.5km until you reach a board that signs 14-23 to the left. Turn left here and continue another 4.3km. This road will start to gently decline down towards the river, keep straight passing the signs for 14 and 15. Keep driving





straight on you will reach 21 on the left. Turn left at the wooden board saying Rukiya Safari Camp, 21.

PLEASE NOTE: The Wild Rivers reserve gate is open from 6h00-18h00, so please plan to arrive and depart in this time frame. There is an out of hours gate service that can be arranged if you are going to arrive late but this must be done so prior to your arrival. This service runs from 18h00 - 19h30 but there will be no access granted after 19h30. The fee for this out of hours service is R200 per vehicle. Should you need a late gate entry between 18h00 - 19h30 this needs to be arranged in advance (before the gate closes at 18h00) and this can be done by contacting the lodge directly; lodge@rukiyacamp.com or +27 60 802 4229.

Should this arrangement not be made before 18h00 or should you arrive after 19h30 unfortunately there will be no access into the reserve.

CHILD POLICY

Children over the age of 4 are welcome at Rukiya Safari Camp.

RATES INCLUDE

Full Board & Activities - Accommodation in luxury en suite tent, three meals a day, activities (bush walks & game drives), teas & coffees.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - Accommodation in luxury en suite tent, breakfast and dinner, teas & coffees.

Exclusive-use - Accommodation in luxury en suite tents (max 16 pax), three meals a day, activities (bush walks & game drives) teas & coffees.

RATES EXCLUDE

All drinks and meals not mentioned, transfers, additional activities not mentioned, and reserve fees. The reserve fees are R350 per person per stay (R150 payable with

accommodation and R200 payable at camp). The late gate fee is R150.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Weather

The average mean rainfall for the year is 350mm, with most rainfall occurring during mid-summer (November - February). The rainfall generally occurs in the form of thunderstorms where a downpour is experienced, very seldom lasting longer than a few hours.

The average maximum temperatures range from 24°C in July to 31°C in January with the average minimum occurring in July at a temperature of 8.5°C.

WILDLIFE

Mammals

Wild Rivers Reserve is home to a variety of wildlife, but is not Big 5. The Blyde and Olifants Rivers attract many herbivorous mammals, such as warthog, waterbuck, impala, zebra, giraffe, hippo, and many more. There are no buffalo, elephant or rhino onsite, but game drives take place on an exclusive traverse in Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve, so all of Kruger's wildlife species can be seen.

Predators

There are hyena and leopard on the Wild Rivers Reserve, and lions from the neighbouring reserve can be heard calling in the distance. Nile crocodiles are present in the river in front of camp, and some of the smaller nocturnal predators can be seen out on night drive in the reserve: jackal, mongoose, civet, and genet, among others. Game drives in Balule offer the opportunity to see prominent predators, such as lion, cheetah, African wild dog, in addition to leopard and hyena.

Birdlife

Rukiya's location on the banks of the Blyde River is the perfect residence for the elusive Pel's fishing owl, while



other speciality water-orientated birds here include African finfoot, African fish eagle, trumpeter hornbill, various kingfishers, herons, black crakes, storks, and bee-eaters. There are many birds of prey to be seen, as well as larks, orioles, weavers, babblers, shrikes, and numerous ground fowls.

Malaria

Before travelling, guests are encouraged to consult their local doctors on anti-malarial medication and preparation, however a repellent stick or spray is effective and should be utilised.

WHAT TO PACK

Throughout the year, we recommend packing lightweight, neutral-coloured clothing with short sleeves. Guests should pack sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and glasses, while scarfs, jackets and gloves are

needed for early morning game drive in winter. Bring along cameras, binoculars and recording gadgets to keep a record of the many wildlife sightings.

There are many bird and wildlife books on offer at the lodge, making for interesting reading, but guests should specific books and games for entertainment.

CONTACT DETAILS

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