



# FACT SHEET

Located in the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve which neighbours the Greater Kruger. Rukiya is an intimate, tented camp built beneath old riverine trees on the banks of the Blyde River. The camp is low impact with environmentally friendly construction. Beautifully reclaimed timber is used for decking and furniture, and light canvas for the tents.





Rukiya Safari Camp is located in the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve which neighbours the Greater Kruger. The reserve is about 10km outside Hoedspruit, often referred to as the "gateway to Kruger" in the Greater Kruger region of Limpopo.

Wild Rivers is a 3000-hectare area forming part of the 12000-hectare Blyde Olifants Conservancy (not reserve).

The camp is an intimate affair, with the Tented Units located to the right of the main area and Rukiya River House to the left, beneath old riverine trees on the banks of the Blyde River, a mere 500m downstream from the confluence of the great Olifants River.

The camp was built to be a low impact camp with environmentally friendly construction practices, beautifully reused and reclaimed 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. 4 of the rooms overlook the Blyde River, which flows in front of the camp and 2 overlook the beautiful bush surrounding the lodge. The style is simple, elegant and in tune with the natural ambience of the camp. Wooden walkways lead one from the tents to the main areas, complete with a deliciously enticing infinity pool, perfect for those hot summer days.

The Main area also houses the boma, a large balcony and bar as well as a fire place and lounge area.

The Rukiya River House, is perfect for families and groups of 4 wanting a more exclusive safari experience is located to the left of the main area and comes with a private verandah and hot or cold tub overlooking the river. Guests can enjoy their own private house whilst still enjoying the lodge facilities such as the infinity pool, sun loungers, bar, and dining experience or the River House can be booked on a Self Catered basis.

Safari activities include Morning game drives in the Balule Reserve which is Big 5, these game drives also include a picnic breakfast in the bush before returning to camp, where you can then choose to relax by the pool and indulge in the wonderful bird life and calming river frontage view or relax on the deck of the room which comes complete with the perfect daybed to sneak in a Siesta. The Afternoon game drives are conducted on the Wild Rivers Reserve (Not Big 5) during which you will get to stop and enjoy a favourite bush pass time which is called a Sundowner stop to enjoy the last moments of daylight after which you will head back to the lodge for a spectacular dinner to end off a busy day of making unforgettable memories.

Bush walks are also available as well as host of other activities in and around the area.





## RUKIYA IN A NUTSHELL

- Owner-run and managed
  - 4 river facing tents each sleeping 2 people
  - 2 bush view family tents each sleeping 4 people
- Each tent has a balcony and seating area overlooking the river or bush
  - En suite bathrooms - showers only
  - Standing fan in each room (2 in family rooms)
- The Rukiya River House - a 2-bedroom house, each sleeping 2 people plus the option of 2 single beds in the lounge area
- Environmentally friendly camp with semi-permanent structures 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, roughly 3 - 5 hours are spent on each activity.
  - Bush breakfast 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 of children
  - 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 (6 Mbps) and Electrical outlets throughout camp
    - Laundry service available at an additional charge
- Each tent has a balcony and seating area overlooking the river or bush



## ACTIVITIES

### Game Drives

There are two game drives per day, conducted in different reserves. One is in the Balule Reserve which is a Big- Five area and the other is on the Wild Rivers Reserve its self.

Game Drive locations are also subject to change depending on sightings.

(Please that the we cant guarantee sightings)

### Bush Walks

Guided bush walks in Wild River and Balule Nature Reserves

– (upon request and availability)

### Birding

Bird watching from the comfort of camp

The camp has a wonderful variety of Birds, due to the location and well established trees and river frontage, including but not limited to Pels Fishing Owls, African FinFoot's and Scaly Throated Honey Guides.

(Please that the we cant guarantee sightings)

### Full Day Kruger National Park Tours

Experience the World Renowned Kruger National Park. The KNP has a rich history and high density and diversity of wild animals including the Big 5 along with many other mammals, bird species and insects to name a few, the landscape is as diverse with mountains, plains and tropical forested areas

### Full Day Panorama Route Tour

This is a scenic road steeped in the history of South Africa which connects quite a few cultural and natural points of interest. The route is centered around the Blyde River Canyon, the world's third largest canyon. God's Window, waterfalls and Bourke's Luck Potholes are just a few of the stops along the way

### Boat cruises on the Blyde Dam and Olifants River

**Blyde Dam** -The Canyon is a 26km long, and referred to as a Green Canyon due to the subtropical vegetation and supports a large diversity of life, including fish, antelopes , hippos, crocodiles and primate species such as the Greater and Lesser bushbabies, Vervet monkeys and Samango monkeys. The Canyon is not only famous for it size, but is also home to second tallest tufa waterfall called the Kadishi waterfall

**Olifants River** - this is a Game Drive on water! Slowly make your way along the waters of the mighty Olifants River on a house boat watching life go by, while catching glimpses of a wide variety of game on the lush green banks of the river.

### Moholoholo Rehabilitation Centre

Moholoholo offers a unique experience to visitors, allowing once to get up close to their rescued animals, that due on injuries sustained will not be able to be released back into the wild.

### Hot-air balloon excursions near Hoedspruit

Take a Scenic one-hour long flight over the Lowveld section of the Blyde River, the terrain is a mix of farmland, private nature reserves and wildlife estates with Majestic views of the foot of the Drakensberg Escarpment

### • Voluntourism opportunities through Seeds of Light and Ingwe Leopard Research

The INGWE Leopard Research program is an independent nonprofit research organisation. More information can be found via the following website

[www.ontracksfoundation.org](http://www.ontracksfoundation.org)

### Cultural village tours

Immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of the African tribes, learn about traditional practices of life in a village, along with traditional drumming, music and dance .

Then end off with a delicious lunch, served in the typical African style.

### Spa Treatments available on site

Treat yourself to a truly relaxing massage on the banks of the Blyde River

(We do require advanced notice in order to organise the therapist)





#### TYPICAL TIMES AT RUKIYA SAFARI CAMP

(Please note that a "day" at Rukiya begins at 13h00)

05h00: Wake up and join s at the main area for a coffee before morning game drive

05h30: Morning game drive departs, The morning Game Drive is conducted on The Big-Five Balule Nature Reserve, which is open to Kruger National Park,

11h00/30: Return to camp after game drive and a delicious picnic style breakfast in the bush

13h30: Enjoy lunch under the trees at camp and relax for the afternoon

16h00: Depart for afternoon/evening game drive which is conducted on the Wild Rivers Reserve which is a non Big-Five area where the camp is located,

19h00: Return to camp for a spectacular dinner

Please note that times alter slightly on a seasonal basis,

In order to join the afternoon game drive one must arrival no later than 15h00 at the lodge.

The game drive locations are also subject to change depending on sightings.

Guests are also able to tailor build their experience at Rukiya by adding and include other extra activities please feel free to contact us for more!

#### CHILD POLICY

River House welcomes families of all ages (please enquire for details as some game drive restrictions)

0- 2 Free of Charge

2 - 3 25% of the adult rate

4 - 11 50% of the adult rate.

Children aged 4 and over are accepted in the tents.

Children aged 12 and over pay the full adult rate.

#### RATES INCLUDE

Full Board & Activities

- Accommodation in a luxury ensuite tent,

- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

- 1 x Big 5 and 1 x Non Big 5 Game Drive a day

- Teas & Coffees.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

- Accommodation in luxury ensuite tent,

- Breakfast and Dinner

- Teas & Coffees.

Exclusive-use

- Accommodation in a luxury ensuite tent,

- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

- 1 x Big 5 and 1 x Non Big 5 Game Drive a day

- Teas & Coffees.

#### RATES EXCLUDE

All drinks and meals not mentioned, transfers, additional activities not mentioned, and reserve fees.

Reserve fees

The late gate entry fee.



## THE GOOD TO KNOWS!

### 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 although not Big 5 plays host to a variety of wildlife. The river attracts many animal, such as warthog, waterbuck, impala, zebra, giraffe, hippo, and much more. Morning Game drives take place on traverse in the Big 5 Balule Nature Reserve.

#### Predators

Hyena and Leopard can be spotted on the Wild Rivers Reserve and if you keep your ear peeled at night then lions can be heard calling in the distance. Nile crocodiles are often spotted in the river in front of the camp, and some of the smaller nocturnal predators such as jackal, mongoose, civet, and genet can be seen out on the night drives in the reserve. 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 specialty water-orientated birds here include the 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 shortsleeves. Guests should pack sun protection in the form of sunblock, sun hats, and sunglasses, 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..





#### HOW TO FIND US!

The entrance to the Wild Rivers Nature Reserve is + -10km from Hoedspruit, and + -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/GPS as they take you through private farms and is inaccessible.. Use **WRITTEN** directions **ONLY**.

#### From Hoedspruit:

At the intersection of R40 and R527 in Hoedspruit, head 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 Mohlabetzi on the right).

Turn left onto the Wild Rivers gravel road, continue 600m to the entrance gate, you will cross 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 head on the N4 Highway 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, head 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 Mohlabetzi on the right). Turn left onto the Wild Rivers gravel road, continue 600m to the entrance gate, you will cross 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 R250 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@rukkiyacamp.com](mailto:lodge@rukkiyacamp.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.

#### LODGE

Email: [lily@rukkiyacamp.com](mailto:lily@rukkiyacamp.com)  
Telephone: +27 81 068 5591

#### CONTACT US

Website  
[www.rukkiyacamp.com](http://www.rukkiyacamp.com)

#### RESERVATIONS

Email: [res@rukkiyacamp.com](mailto:res@rukkiyacamp.com)  
Telephone: +27 72 978 5577