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Madikwe Game Reserve: The Premier Location for Malaria-Free Big 5 Safaris

It was late in the day and we returned to check on four male lions (2 mature and 2 immature) that we had seen sleeping earlier. We drove off road and parked just ten feet away from the closest, a large regal lion. As darkness fell the lions began to roar.



A truly special Madikwe Experience I'll Never Forget

First one.....

Then another....

Until a tremendous quartet of rising deep notes ripped through the darkness and reverberated through my body.

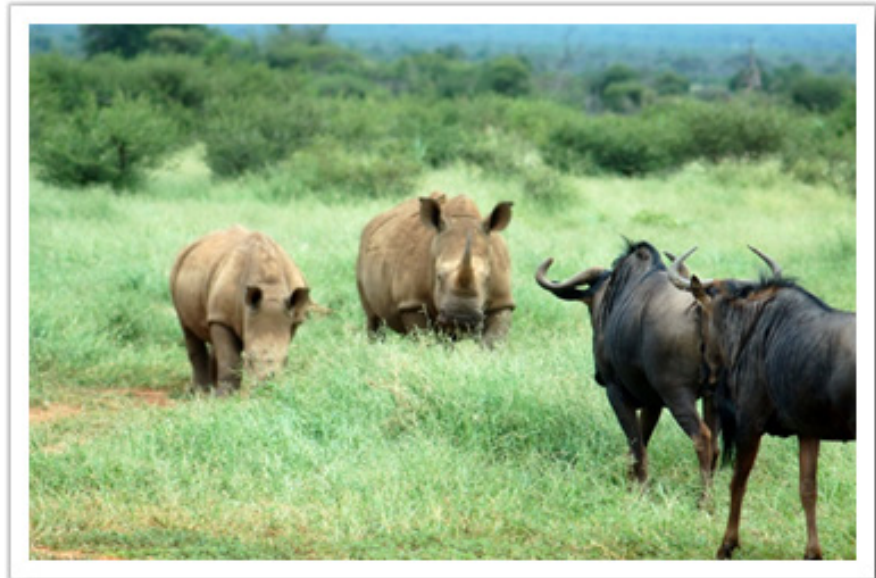
Madikwe felt every bit as wild as any reserve and thoughts of that time still make my body quake just a little.



About Madikwe Game Reserve

Madikwe Game Reserve was formed as a unique project where a large reserve was created in 1991 on ranch lands that had been severely overgrazed, becoming unable to continue to support cattle grazing. The reserve is fenced but at 76,000 hectares it is the 4th largest game reserve in South Africa and during Operation Phoenix over 8,000 mammals of 27 species were relocated to the reserve. This effort was meant to aid in wildlife conservation but also in economic development of local communities in this impoverished region.

Madikwe is easily accessible from Johannesburg and features luxurious lodging options



Madikwe has become a reservoir for rare species, and is an excellent place to see rarities such as the African wild dog, brown hyena, and both white and black rhino. Big Five game viewing is possible, although leopard can be difficult to find but sightings are growing in frequency as more leopards are becoming habituated.

*If you're looking for
a malaria-free
safari zone,
Madikwe should be
at the top of your
list*



For those in need of a safari in a malaria-free zone Madikwe is a top reserve based on both its size and quality of wildlife viewing. It is also very convenient to guests flying into the major hub of Johannesburg and can be reached by a quick flight or about three hour and a half hours by road. Lodging tends to range from luxurious to extremely luxurious, and there are about 22 different camps and lodges to choose from.



Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge:

A Brilliant Local Community Owned Property

This is the first 100% community owned lodge in South Africa, owned and staffed by the Balete people from the neighboring village of Lekgophung. They have done an amazing job with the creation of their lodge and we were very impressed with their architecture, particularly the central lounge area that suspends on the hillside creating a spectacular tree house effect with huge views over the reserve. A stay at Buffalo Ridge is a fantastic experience and it is a great luxury value lodge within the Madikwe Game Reserve.

*Buffalo Ridge
Safari Lodge
provides luxury
accommodations at
good value*



Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge Central Lounge Area

The lodge has 8 chalets, each with a private viewing deck, decorated in natural hues of color and texture, offering a very private and comfortably luxurious experience. The chalets have en-suite bathrooms and showers, with sliding doors from both the bedroom and bathroom areas. The chalets are elegantly designed and well constructed, there are glass and screen sliding doors which is nice to keep insects out but let the sounds and smells of the bush in. The chalets feature black and white photos of people in the village doing their daily activities, which is a nice way to tie in the community and gives the chalets a modern chic kind of décor.

The remoteness of Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge is highly appealing to many guests.



Food is stellar at Buffalo Ridge and a private dinner in a boma under the stars can be arranged. There is a surprisingly long swimming pool with amazing elevated views of Madikwe. Cultural visits to the town can be arranged as a unique experience from Buffalo Ridge. The lodge is set in the far west of the reserve and this area seems to be more remote with less vehicle traffic than the eastern portion of Madikwe.



Mateya Safari Lodge: For the Ultimate in Luxury Safari Lodges

For the special occasion safari that seeks the highest of luxury standards in a safari lodge, Mateya is arguably the ultimate luxury safari lodge to celebrate the honeymoon, anniversary, birthday, or a simple love of luxury.

For a once in a lifetime experience that features both fine amenities and great safari viewing, look no further than Mateya Safari Lodge



Outdoor dining at Mateya Safari Lodge

Mateya is designed for the discerning traveler, offering a graceful fusion of relaxed comfort in a beautiful setting. The lodge caters for a maximum of ten guests assuring exclusivity, privacy and the very highest standards of personal care and attention at all times. With an 8,000 bottle wine cellar, a well stocked library, and full service wellness center the amenity options for decadence are immense. Food is sumptuous and made to delight. Not to be lost in all of these extras the game experience also features exclusivity by limiting to just four guests per vehicle. Provided in the vehicles are both day and night vision binoculars.



The lodge consists of five individually designed luxury air-conditioned thatched suites. Each suite blends with its natural surroundings and offers uninterrupted views of the waterhole and plains. Guests can enjoy a balance of sophistication and comfort, in total privacy and harmony with nature, savoring the rare pleasure of their very own secluded slice of Africa.

Cool off after a hot drive in your very own private plunge pool



Chalet private deck and plunge pool

Reclining in hand-crafted mahogany furnishings, looking out as the zebra lead the plains game to the waterhole, the immediacy of your experience could not be more vivid. Lying under the shade of your natural window sala, or immersing in the cool water of your rim-flow pool, each and every feature of your suite provides total privacy and comfort. Your en-suite bathroom complete with a secluded open-air shower invites you to luxuriate in a sensual setting that is designed to satisfy your ultimate enjoyment. Warm the chill of cool nights with a custom designed fireplace. Mateya delivers the finest luxury safari experience.



Madikwe offers good game viewing, and the best in luxury accommodations. If you'd like Madikwe to be part of your safari itinerary, I can customize the trip.

If Madikwe isn't your cup of tea, I can suggest alternate safari ideas that will provide you with the safari experience of a lifetime.

Is Madikwe Right for Me? Choosing the Optimal Safari Destination for Your Needs

Madikwe may be right for you if...

- You're looking for a safari in a non-malaria area
- You want a safari experience convenient to Johannesburg
- You're looking for rare species like African Wild Dog, Black Rhino, White Rhino, and Brown Hyena
- You like game drives in open sided vehicles
- You're a fan of night drives
- You like luxurious or even ultra-luxurious accommodations
- You want creature comforts like phone, Internet, air conditioning, gyms and spas

Madikwe may not be the best choice for you if

- You're looking for a reserve that isn't fenced in (although 75,000 hectares is large by any standard)
- You're looking for a bit more of a wild, remote feel to your safari

Keep in mind Madikwe isn't an all or nothing proposition. A trip to Madikwe can always be combined with another great safari location in nearby Botswana or Zambia.

Whether or not you want to include Madikwe on your safari itinerary, I can customize a trip to Africa that will meet all of your requirements and exceed your expectations. [Learn more about The Wild Source](#) and how I work hard to deliver the trip of your dreams.

About Bill Given

Bill Given is owner and operator of The Wild Source, a safari company based out of Golden, Colorado, USA.

In addition to his safari related duties, Bill also conducts wildlife research. He is a Research Associate of the Denver Zoo and is currently conducting a conditioned taste aversion study in Botswana with lions. He has authored an article about African Wild Dogs that appeared in the March 2008 Africa Geographic (click below to read).



Bill loves talking safari and can plan the trip of your dreams. Even if you're already booked, he'll give you last minute tips. [Contact Bill Here.](#)

About The Wild Source And Wildlife Biologist/Safari Guide Bill Given



An Unparalleled Game Viewing Experience

As a safari planner, safari guide and wildlife biologist, I know the best seasons, regions and camps to view the wildlife that you want to see. Applying my scientific background and my extensive Africa safari experiences to *your specific requirements* will provide you with an unparalleled wildlife experience. I will craft an itinerary that will ensure great game viewing based on what you want to see. [Contact me](#) now to start planning the trip of a lifetime.