UMKUMBE
BUSH LODGE

FACT SHEET

www.umkumbebushlodge.com

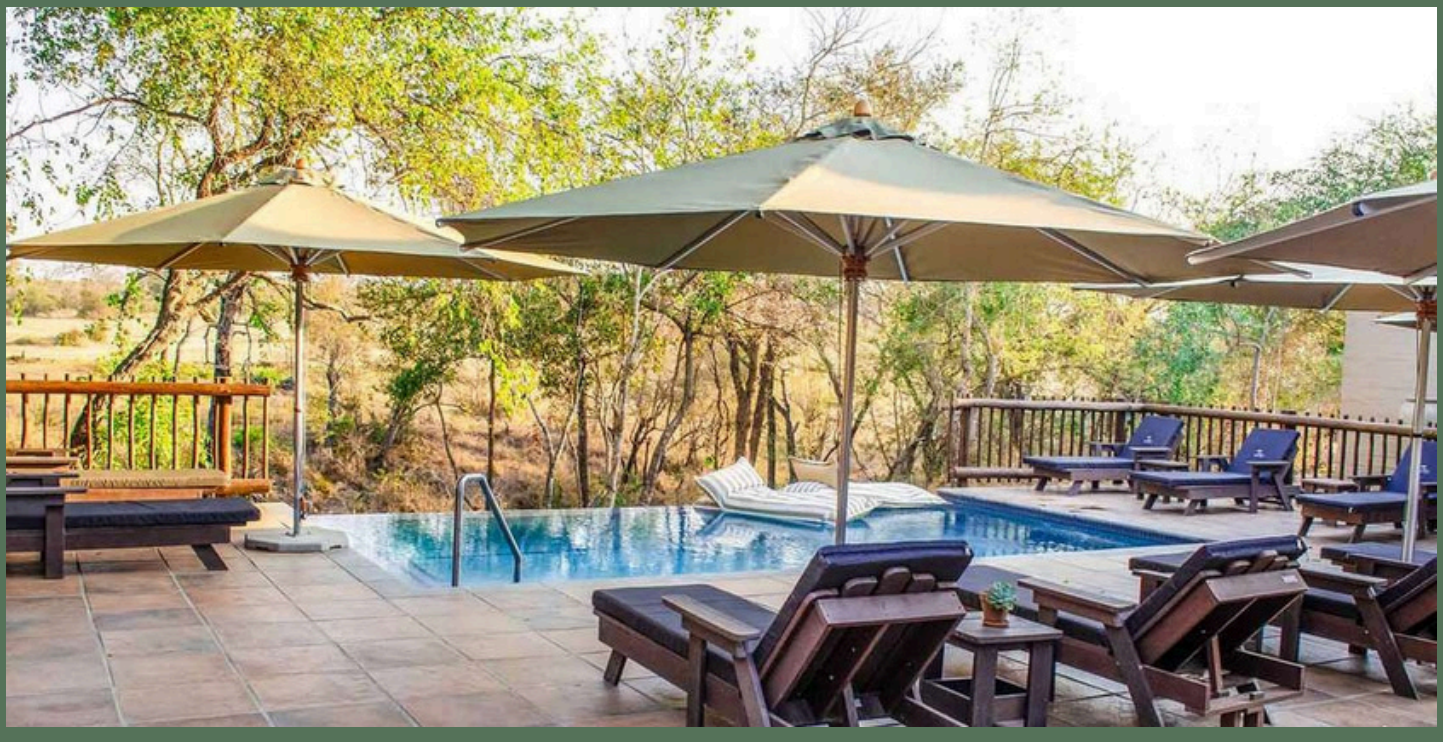
+27 82 500 8837 - Karine Wilkens (reservations)

+27 78 825 3999 - Reception Number (on site)

reservations@umkumbebushlodge.com

info@umkumbebushlodge.com





INTRODUCTION

Nestled near the seasonal Sand River, in a beautiful forested thicket, Umkumbe Bush Lodge is situated in one of the most sought after safari destinations in Southern Africa. This family-run lodge is located in the wildlife rich Sabi Game Reserve, inside the Sabi Sand reserve, which forms part of the Greater Kruger and shares unfenced borders with famed Kruger National Park.

This beautifully designed bush lodge can accommodate up to 20 guests across 10 tented-style suites. The camp features 3 Standard Tents (2 guests per tent), 5 Superior Tents (up to 4 guests per tent), 1 Luxury Tent (up to 3 guests), and 1 Superior Honeymoon Suite tent (2 guests). Elevated on wooden or concrete decks, each suite has its own balcony and is fully equipped for a comfortable safari retreat.

Built around a weeping boer-bean, the main lodge overlooks a variety of habitats – a winding river drainage line leading to the seasonal Sand River, a forested thicket and a section of open savanna. Guests can wildlife watch, relax and take in the wilderness surrounds in between activities and meals.

Reflecting the beauty of the African bushveld, Umkumbe showcases elegant interiors, from locally handwoven baskets and wooden carvings to delicately dried foliage finishes.

Experience an authentic South African safari and take time to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of modern living. Here in the heart of the wild you can reconnect with nature at Umkumbe Bush Lodge.

AT A GLANCE/FACILITIES

Set within a tranquilforestedthicket overlooking a seasonal river drainage line and nearby open savanna, Umkumbe Bush Lodge offers an intimate safari experience in the wildlife-rich Sabi Game Reserve inside the Sabi Sand reserve. The lodge combines authentic bush charm with modern comforts, creating a relaxed and stylish base from which to explore one of Africa's most iconic safari destinations.
Accommodation consists of 10 beautifully designed tented suites, each named after indigenous trees found in the region

Accommodation ranges from elevated Standard Tents built on raised wooden decks to spacious Superior and Luxury Tents set on solid concrete foundations for added comfort and space.

Each tent features a balcony where guests can unwind while taking in the surrounding wilderness.
All tents are equipped with air conditioning, a tea and coffee station complete with a Nespresso machine, hairdryers, and key-operated safes for storing valuables.
The Superior and Luxury Tents also feature outdoor showers, bathtubs, and sleeper couches for additional flexibility.

Designed with canvas walls that embrace the authentic safari atmosphere, each tent allows guests to drift off to the natural soundtrack of the African bush — from rustling trees to distant nocturnal calls — creating a truly immersive wilderness experience.



RATES

Umkumbe Bush Lodge rates **include** all meals, tea and coffee, purified drinking water, and two safari game drives daily with sundowners & snacks.
Rates **exclude** drinks ordered from the bar, walking safaris – no under 16's, conservation levies, gate entry fees, personal expenses, and any items not specifically listed as included.



The main lodge is built around towering indigenous trees and features:

- A swimming pool with sun loungers
- A fully stocked bar
- Dining hall
- Multiple lounge and relaxation areas
- Wildlife viewing deck and lookout point
- A traditional outdoor boma for fireside dining
- Beautiful landscaped gardens
- A curio shop

Meals celebrate fresh, locally inspired flavours and are served in scenic locations throughout the lodge — from relaxed breakfasts after morning safari drives to memorable dinners under the stars around the boma fire (weather permitting).

ON SAFARI

Located within the world-renowned Sabi Game Reserve, inside the Sabi Sand reserve, Umkumbe Bush Lodge offers exceptional game viewing in a private reserve that shares an unfenced border with Kruger National Park.

This allows wildlife to roam freely through the region, creating an authentic and ever-changing safari experience.

Guests enjoy two daily game drives, led by experienced guides and skilled trackers who work together to locate wildlife while sharing fascinating insights into the ecosystem. Sunrise Safaris are only with the guide and no tracker. Sunset Safaris are when skilled trackers join.

From tracking big cats to explaining the smaller details of the bush, every drive offers something unique.

Morning safaris depart at sunrise when the bush is at its most active and typically include a scenic coffee stop.

Afternoon drives head out as temperatures cool, often pausing for classic safari sundowners before continuing into the evening for possible nocturnal sightings.

The reserve is renowned for exceptional wildlife diversity, offering the chance to encounter everything from elusive predators such as leopard, lion, cheetah and African wild dog to iconic species like elephant, rhino, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, hyena and a wide variety of antelope.

No two game drives are ever the same — each safari offers a new opportunity to witness the beauty and unpredictability of the African wilderness.

A TYPICAL DAY AT UMKUMBE BUSH LODGE

Check in is from 1pm and check out time is 11am. Below is a typical time guide for a safari stay at Umkumbe. Meals and game drives are at set times, but the daily safari schedule will vary depending on the time of year. Meals are served in a variety of locations throughout the lodge, for breakfast and lunch guests will dine in the dining hall.

The evening dinner will be served in the Boma under the night sky and around a flickering fire. (Subject to weather conditions)

	Summer	Winter
Wake-up	5:00	5:30
Morning Game Drive Departs	5:30	6:00
Return To The Lodge	8:30	9:00
Breakfast Is Served	8:30	9:00
Lunch Is Served	14:00	14:00
Afternoon Game Drive Departs	16:30	16:00
Return To The Lodge	19:30	19:00
A Boma Dinner Is Served	20:00	19:30

*Guided Bushwalks are between breakfast & lunch (extra activity at an additional cost)



LOCATION & GETTING THERE

UmkumbeBush Lodge is located in the exclusive Sabi Game reserve, inside the Sabi Sand reserve, one of South Africa's most sought-after safari destinations. Positioned within a secluded riverine setting surrounded by indigenous trees, the lodge enjoys a prime location for both wildlife sightings and peaceful relaxation.

The lodge is easily accessible by both road and air and Self drive or Transfer.

- Approximately 6 hours by road from Johannesburg
- Approximately 1 hour flight from O.R. Tambo International Airport to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport
- Road transfers from KMIA to the lodge can be arranged and take approximately 2.5 hours
- Skukuza transfers take approximately 1.5 hours. Shuttles
- from Skukuza Airport to the lodge take approximately 50 minutes via Toulon Gate.

Please note: Do not drive via Newington Gate or Newington Road, as this route does not provide access to the lodge.

UMKUMBE GPS Co-ordinates
24° 52' 24" S 31° 32' 41" E

Gate entrance fees at Shaw's Gate (left SGR Gate) for private vehicles are:

- R345 (2026)
- R375 (2027)
- R405 (2028)



CHILD POLICY

Children aged 10 and over are welcome at Umkumbe Bush Lodge. Children 12 year and older pay the full adult rate. Children under 12 years of age pay 50% of the adult rate. The Luxury Tent can accommodate up to 1 child. Superior Tents can accommodate up to 2 children, or a maximum of 3 children when an additional single bed is added alongside the sleeper couch.

WEATHER

SouthAfrica's Kruger region is considered a year-round destination and has two distinct seasons depending on your desired safari experience. MAY – OCTOBER is the dry season and is regarded as one of the best times for game-viewing opportunities as all life is drawn to the remaining water-sources. Wildlife is more easily spotted in the thinning foliage and open areas during this time of year. You guessed it, It gets chilly in winter, with temperatures ranging from 4°C to 28°C, so remember to pack your beanies, scarves, and varied safari attire for those crisp early mornings and evenings on safari. During these months we relish the crackle of our cosy boma fire and enjoy alfresco fireside dining on clear and starry nights.

The summer rains bring life and colour back to the bushveld from NOVEMBER – APRIL and offers more of a scenic experience on safari. This time of year life abounds the veld as many animals give birth, providing a predator's paradise. The bush is beautiful this time of year with every viridescent shade imaginable, replenished waterholes and flourishing wildlife. The thicker vegetation just means you may have to search a little harder, but bird-watching proves effortless as migratory birds are around for the summer. This time of year the temperatures can reach their 40's, humidity can get quite high and downpours are expected, these don't usually last long and often provide spectacular skies and thrilling thunderstorms.



WILDLIFE

South Africa's Kruger region is home to an abundance of amazing species to search for on safari. This iconic wildlife destination is home to the big-five; leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant & rhino. Exceptional game-viewing is almost guaranteed, but like any wilderness area it's all about being in the right place at the right time and every day is different.

Did you know the Kruger region has over 500 different bird species, 148 mammals, 118 Reptiles, 35 Amphibians, 53 fish and 1,990 differing trees, grasses, shrubs, sedges and succulents? Some of the most sought after wildlife sightings to be had here include: elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, African wild dog, spotted hyena, white rhino, hippo, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, kudu, waterbuck, nyala, impala, blue wildebeest, crocodile, warthog, caracal, vervet monkey, baboon, serval, pangolin, mongoose, honey badger, civet, black-backed jackal, side-striped jackal, steenbok, bushbuck, klipspringer, African wild cat and genets to name but a few.

This region is also a bird-lovers paradise, being home to over 500 species throughout the year, you're bound to tick off a few top species or two. Keep an eye out for: martial eagles, kori bustards, ostrich, lilac-breasted rollers, brown-headed kingfishers, giant eagle owls, red-billed quelea, oxpeckers, grey herons, African fish-eagles, white bellied sunbirds, bee-eaters and barbets. A pair of quality binoculars and zoom lens is always a good idea if birding is high on your list.

WHAT TO PACK

Need some help with your Africa Travel packing list?

We've listed a few essential suitcase items and inspiration: We recommend packing a variety of lightweight, neutral-coloured items. Think shades of sand, beige, tan, khaki, brown and green. You want to blend into the bush when out in nature.

- Winter Essentials: Beanies, scarves, jackets and lots of layers
- Summer Essentials: Swimsuit, raincoat and mosquito repellent
- Suitable walking shoes/Sandals
- Sun Protection: Sunscreen, hat, water, UV protected sunglasses
- Antimalarials & Insect repellent (Consult doctor prior to departure)
- Binoculars/Cameras/Devices/Chargers (Binoculars available in curio shop.)
- Face-mask/Buff Scarf/Sanitiser/Personal First Aid Kit
- Must-read books to bring: Lebombo Journals, Jock Of The Bush-veld, Elephant Bloodline & A Game Ranger Remembers

MALARIA

Before travelling, we encourage our guests to consult their medical practitioner for malaria advice in preparation for their visit to South Africa. The risk of malaria is low here but the region does lie within the malarial belt so it's always best to be on the safe side especially if travelling during or just after the Summer months in South Africa.



