



# ZULULAND LODGE

*Northern KwaZulu Natal | South Africa*



## FACT SHEET

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## ZULULAND LODGE

Zululand Lodge is a privately owned tented camp on the 200 hectares Msinene Conservancy, approximately 20km north of Hluhluwe town, in northern KwaZulu Natal. The Lodge offers breath taking views of the Msinene River valley and its surrounding bushveld. This is an extraordinarily productive natural environment with abundant plains game and birdlife.

Individually positioned to offer privacy, the nine comfortable en-suite safari canvas units comprise twin or double beds and private decks to relax and appreciate the tranquillity of the bushveld. The main lodge offers a dining area, lounge and library, with an open air boma for those conversations around an open fire. There is also a raised lounge with panoramic views across the conservancy.

A game walk along the Msinene river presents bird-watchers with a myriad of species, and opportunities to see the shy Nyala antelope. We are very proud of our resident leopard population and the hippo pods.

Taking the lead in self-sustaining tourism, we have incorporated solar power into the build of our lodge. This system powers all electricity including LED lighting, and we remain completely self-sufficient. We utilise gas geysers for hot water. Through careful conservation of rainwater and use of biodegradable soaps we are able to minimise our influence on the pristine reserve. The majority of our friendly lodge staff are proudly Zulu and have close ties to the area and the interesting Zulu culture.

The lodge is ideally located on the northern South Africa self drive route, between the Kruger lowveld region, and the KwaZulu Natal midlands and the uKhahlamba Drakensberg. There is easy access to Sodwana, the northern parks of Zululand and the Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland). An ideal multi-day inclusion into a southern African safari tour for both FIT and small group bookings.

We are looking forward to welcoming you.

## AT A GLANCE

- Located on the private Msinene Conservancy bordering iconic big 5 game reserves in northern KwaZulu Natal
- 9 en-suite canvas tented rooms – sleeps up to 18
- Swimming pool
- Central dining area with elevated deck and expansive views
- Shaded boma with fire pit
- Modern, bright ethnic décor
- Ideal location for touring through northern South Africa: hub for iSimangaliso St Lucia / Sodwana / Hluhluwe-Umfolozi
- Abundant plains game and an extraordinary birding hotspot
- Rates include a guided bush walk

## GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION FACILITIES

The lodge offers 9 tastefully decorated en-suite permanent canvas rooms sleeping up to 18 people. Our elegantly furnished central lodge area allows you to put your feet up and relax in the open-air cushioned lounge area. Enjoy tasty home-made meals in the spacious dining area included in your lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast rate. Venture upstairs to our viewing deck which offers uninterrupted scenery, boasting spectacular sunsets for enjoying sundowners.

### FIT & Small Groups

Each safari tent has generous spacing between them allowing for privacy making Zululand Lodge ideal for FIT as well as small group bookings. Served on a LDBB basis, the options exist for buffet style meals for small groups of up to 18 pax.



## ACTIVITIES

### Onsite Activities:

Our locally guided bush walks give the opportunity to observe the abundant birdlife of the area, and to try and spot some of the wildlife on our reserve and perhaps even leopard, hyena or hippo.

### Offsite Activities:

For big 5 game viewing, any of the close by game reserves are great options, with local open vehicle operators offering guided game drives while outdoor enthusiasts would find a boat cruise on the Lake St Lucia estuary fascinating. Scuba divers will not be disappointed at the iconic and nearby Sodwana Bay. Zululand Lodge is an ideal base to explore northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, nearby game reserve day-trips:

- Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve
- Mkhuze Game Reserve
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Cape Vidal, Lake St. Lucia and False Bay
- Zulu Croc snake and crocodile center
- Ilala Weavers Hluhluwe
- Sodwana Bay and Lake Sibhayi
- Kosi Bay, Thembe Elephant Reserve and Ndumo Game Reserve

## LOCATION

Zululand Lodge is nestled in northern kwaZulu Natal, approximately 20kms north of the town of Hluhluwe, in the private uKuwela conservancy, within a stone's throw from major big 5 game reserves and wetlands. The N2 highway allows excellent access on the northern South Africa self drive route, between the Kruger lowveld region, and the KwaNatal midlands, and the uKhahlamba Drakensberg with easy access to eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), this becomes an ideal multi-day inclusion into a southern African safari tour for both FIT and small group bookings.



## WEATHER

Northern KwaZulu-Natal, also known as Zululand, enjoys a warm sub-tropical climate. Zululand Lodge is a mere 20km, as the crow flies, from the Indian Ocean and influenced by the warm Mozambique Current. Summer (November to February) is hot with high humidity. Average summer days range from 24-34 degrees celsius, and winter (March to October) is warm with nights seldom dipping below 15, and the days averaging 22 degrees celsius (although 30 in winter is quite common). On the whole the climate is warm to hot.

## WILDLIFE

The Wildlife aspect is the real good-news story of Zululand Lodge! With the conservancy in great hands southern Africa's wildlife assets are continuing to be well protected and will result in rewarding visits for years to come. We have a very detailed and thorough species list that is being continually updated and has been on the go since 2016, please drop us a line if you would like to receive the latest version – perhaps you could add to it.

### Mammals

While uKuwela neighbours big 5 territory, the sightings are already impressive and are destined to become even more rewarding as the fruits of the conservancy initiative take hold. Even now leopard, giraffe, blue wildebeest and a variety of antelope find their home at Zululand Lodge and could be spotted on one of our guided walks.

### Predators

Leopards have been sighted and tracking their trails is an exciting element of our guided trails – distinguishing between the spotted hyena, jackal and leopard tracks on the reserve leads to great fulfilment of experiencing the wonders of bushveld. Lion, elephant, rhinos and buffalos are but a short drive away. Some of the best rhino viewing in the world is in the greater vicinity of the uKuwela conservancy.

### Birdlife

From Martial eagles to Narina Trogons, the birdlife is among the first sector of wildlife to truly benefit from the return to land's natural state. Birding in northern KwaZulu-Natal is near legendary and a good enough reason to stay an extra day or two at Zululand Lodge to spot the lifer or even add to the conservancy's growing checklist. Zululand Lodge is a Birdlife SA recommended accommodation venue.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The camp was designed and built from the ground up as an environmentally sustainable project. We have a solar power system, LED lighting throughout camp, and are completely off grid. Rain water is collected in tanks and used for cleaning, and grounds irrigation, and the small waterhole in front of camp. The black water is treated in a double septic tank system and we provide only biodegradable bathroom soaps. The camp is staffed 90% from the local community and we have an in-house staff training and development program

The conservancy combines pristine riverine vegetation as well as rehabilitated cattle and pineapple farmland which is being restored to its former beauty. The reintroduction of wildlife species including Zebra and Giraffe is a primary goal of the conservancy as well as anti-poaching, soil erosion control, fence removal. This transformation is a valuable addition to the iconic and ancient bushveld, known for its plentiful game and spectacular birding.

While the above is the basis for our lodge sustainability, our conservation work with our neighbours within the greater conservancy is our primary objective. The Msinene River basin is a critical water system within eastern South Africa and our conservation efforts are both demanding and rewarding.

## MALARIA

Zululand Lodge is in an area where non-drug measures are recommended to protect from Mosquito bites. It is always essential to check in with your local travel clinic to get an update on the malarial situation. In general, sound advice is to prevent yourself from being bitten and that means using an effective mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves and long trousers. They are active in the evening, so best to arm up after your first G&T!



## WHAT TO PACK

Zululand Lodge is a fully catered for lodge aside from personal snacks that may take your particular fancy. Basic amenities are included including biodegradable soap which we strongly encourage you to use in the interests of remaining eco-friendly. We have all you need for comfortable accommodation in the lodge and would recommend you pack clothes to suitable for the bush such as neutral and lightweight clothing.

Being layered works as even in the winter, the days get hot. We have solar generated electricity with a twin pin & USB plug in each room that will handle batteries found in cameras and mobile phones. Binoculars are essential along with sun-hats and hiking / walking shoes. Mosquito repellent is useful to have, although not essential. Remember your swimming costume!

## CONTACT INFO

### Telephone:

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**Website:** [www.zululandlodge.com](http://www.zululandlodge.com)

### GPS Co-Ordinates:

S27° 53.985' E32° 18.794'

