

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

News and Updates

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SOUTH AFRICA

June 2025

GENERAL UPDATES

Ellerman House has launched a new fine-dining restaurant, **Curate**, alongside their One Eighty Restaurant. At the helm of Curate is Ellerman House's Head Chef Kieran Whyte. The new restaurant is situated in the iconic Wine Gallery at Ellerman House – an immersive space that serves not only as a showcase for fine wine, but as a living art installation in its own right.

Thornybush Saseka Tented Camp will undergo a temporary closure from 28 January to 13 April 2026. This planned closure is part of an exciting evolution of the camp as they enhance their offerings to provide an even more exceptional safari experience.

Here's what to look forward to:

- a new dining room and boma;
- beautiful new natural wood decking throughout the suites and main area;
- Little Saseka will be expanded to accommodate 6 guests, making it the perfect **exclusive-use retreat** for families or small groups seeking privacy and flexibility.

Kambaku Safari Lodge will close due to refurbishments from 03 February to 16 March 2026. The focus will be on enhancing the creature comforts you have come to expect from Kambaku, creating an even more inviting and elevated experience for our guests.

Lion Sands Ivory Lodge will reopen on 22 September 2025 with exciting enhancements featuring several new additions to enrich your stay, including:

- a wine room & deli;
- botanical house reception;
- safari lounge;
- open-air water closet;
- artist residency;
- fire deck.

Fish Eagle Residence will reopen on 22 September 2025 with updates that include:

- a third en-suite bedroom;
- expanded viewing and fire decks;
- a new arrival platform;
- wine room and back-of-house kitchen for an elevated, private-dining experience. Looking forward to welcoming you back to a refreshed and reimagined Ivory Lodge.

Lion Sands Kruger National Park has the following updates:

- new Mack & Madi kids' facility at Tinga Lodge;

- creative lab for keen photographers at Tinga Lodge;
- planning new three-bedroom residence at Tinga Lodge to open in July 2026;
- a never-before-seen dining venue on the Sabie River.

Inyati Game Lodge will temporarily close for refurbishment from 09 April to 30 June 2026. They will be upgrading the facilities to further enhance the guest experience and ensure even more memorable stays in future.

Londolozi and Mala Mala have partnered with Federal Airlines to streamline air traffic by coordinating shared use of airstrips. To minimise environmental impact and enhance guest experience, only pressurised aircraft – specifically the Beechcraft 1900, Pilatus PC-12, and King Air 200 – will be used. Cessna Caravans will no longer operate on this route.

Landing Protocol:

- Beechcraft 1900: Lands at Londolozi;
- Pilatus PC-12 / King Air 200: Land at Mala Mala, unless there are no Mala Mala guests – then they land at Londolozi.

Passenger Grouping:

Guests traveling to Londolozi and Mala Mala will be grouped together for flight-planning purposes.

Flight Schedule:

- Departure from OR Tambo (JNB): 11:30 → Arrival: 12:30;
- Return Departure: 12:45 → Arrival at OR Tambo: 13:45.

Transfer Times to Lodges:

- Londolozi: Approximately 5 minutes;
- Mala Mala: Approximately 10–15 minutes.

Additional Services:

Lodge hops and flights to/from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) will continue as scheduled, utilising their respective independent airstrips.

Kateka Safari & Wellness' new tarred airstrip is ready for take-off. They're thrilled to announce that the brand-new 1.2km tarred airstrip at Kateka is officially complete.

SPECIALS

Santé Wellness Retreat & Spa is offering 25% off on all the Wellness Programmes, valid until 31 August 2025. From light "rest, relax, rejuvenate" programs to more intensive programmes that range from 3 to 21 days, there is something for everybody.

Oyster Collection Hotels specials below:

The Pod Hotel

- Book three nights directly with POD Camps Bay and only pay for two;
- The cheapest night is complimentary;
- This offer is applicable for stays from 01 April to 31 August 2025;
- This special cannot be used in conjunction with any other special.

Blackheath Lodge

- Book 5 nights at Blackheath Lodge and pay only for 4;

- The cheapest night is complimentary;
- This offer is applicable for stays from 01 May to 31 August 2025;
- This special cannot be used in conjunction with any other special.

Avondrood

- Book 4 nights at Avondrood Guest House and pay only for 3;
- The cheapest night is complimentary;
- This offer is applicable for stays from 01 May to 31 August 2025.

La Fontaine

- Book 4 nights at La Fontaine and pay only for 3;
- The cheapest night is complimentary;
- This offer is applicable for stays from 01 May to 31 August.

Royal Portfolio has released the following new specials, over and above The Royal Offer. All the below are valid for new bookings for travel before 19 December 2025:

- Royal Villa Offer – Enjoy a complimentary night at Franschoek House when you book a total of 5 nights across any Royal Malewane Safari Villa and Franschoek House at La Residence;
- Masiya's Camp Offer – Enjoy a complimentary night at The Silo Hotel when you book a combination of 5 nights at Masiya's Camp and The Silo Hotel. Min 3 nights at Masiya's;
- Royal Malewane Combination Offer – Enjoy a complimentary night when you book a combination of 5 nights at any two Royal Malewane lodges. Comp night applies to the lowest lodge rate;
- The Royal Offer – Stay for 6 nights and pay only for 5. Travel may be combined across multiple properties in the portfolio. Comp night applies to the lowest lodge rate.

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

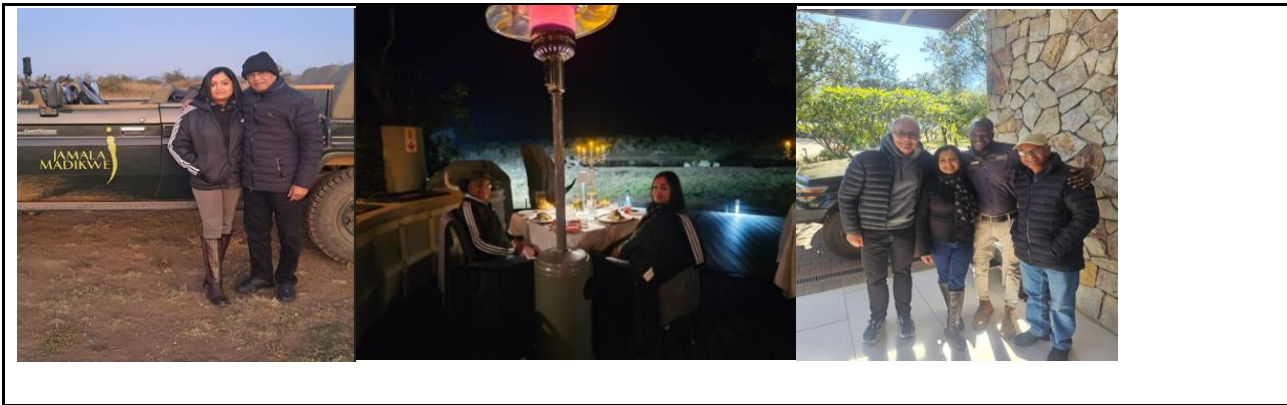
Written by Wilderness Staff

Destination:	Curate – A New Fine-Dining Restaurant at Ellerman House
Suits which type of traveller:	All Ellerman House guests (except children under 12 years), especially those who enjoy a fine-dining culinary experience. Also open to the general public, not just hotel residents.
Cuisine & Offering:	An 8-course, elevated, fine-dining experience that reimagines South African cuisine. Curate is led by Head Chef Kieran Whyte and showcases a meticulously crafted, multi-course tasting menu. Each dish highlights the finest seasonal ingredients, drawing inspiration from Southern Africa's rich culinary heritage and diverse cultural influences.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Your dedicated host meets you at the door and takes you on a tour of the house, highlighting the history of the property and its beautiful art. This creates great context for guests not staying at Ellerman House before they embark on their culinary journey. Each dish is a highlight and taste sensation.

	In between courses you are also taken on a cellar tour. At additional cost they offer a wine-pairing option, with their sommelier taking you on an educational wine journey.
Caveats:	Not recommended for kids under 12 years. Currently open for dinner only Wednesday to Sunday.



Destination:	Jamala Madikwe
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples, honeymooners, nature lovers.
Recommended activities:	The game drives were absolutely phenomenal . We were incredibly lucky to see a wide variety of wildlife, including lions, rhinos, wild dogs, hyenas , and more. The guides were not only knowledgeable and passionate, but also engaging storytellers who brought the bush to life with every outing.
Cuisine & Offering:	Every dish was a masterpiece, blending rich flavours with beautiful presentation. It felt like fine dining in the heart of the bush – a culinary experience we won't soon forget.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>The lodge is simply breathtaking – a perfect fusion of luxury and nature. Every detail has been thoughtfully considered, creating a space that feels both intimate and indulgent.</p> <p>The entire team was outstanding: warm, friendly, and deeply passionate about creating a memorable experience for every guest.</p> <p>One of the most touching aspects of our stay was how personal and thoughtful everything felt – from the beautiful welcome and farewell gifts to the little surprises that added an extra touch of magic throughout our stay. It was clear that the team goes above and beyond to make each guest feel truly valued.</p> <p>The camp is fully wheelchair-friendly.</p>
Caveats:	No children under 16 years.



Destination:	City Lodge O R Tambo
Suits which type of traveller:	General travellers looking for convenient, budget-friendly accommodation near the airport. Not ideal for high-end or luxury-focused travellers.
Recommended activities:	N/A – This hotel is primarily suited for short stays or layovers.
Cuisine:	Only sampled the breakfast offering, which was impressive. It featured a wide variety of options and was of good quality.
Highlights during visit/stay:	N/A
Points to note:	<p>Be prepared for a fairly long walk between the terminal and the hotel.</p> <p>Guests must manage their own luggage at the elevator to access the reception area. A 'Meet and Greet' service would be a welcome improvement.</p> <p>While the accommodation is basic, it is clean, comfortable, and perfectly adequate for an overnight stay.</p> <p>Tip: Request a room away from the restaurant area, as it can get quite noisy.</p>