

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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SOUTH AFRICA

November 2025

GENERAL UPDATES

Malewane Lodge, will be closed from 15 June to 30 June 2026 for a comprehensive refurbishment. During this refurbishment period, all other Royal Malewane properties will remain fully operational and continue to welcome guests. The Royal Waters Spa at Malewane Lodge will be temporarily closed. Guests staying at nearby Africa House will still have access to treatments in the on-site double treatment room, while guests at Masiya's Camp will be able to enjoy in-room treatments throughout this time.

RockFig Safari Lodge opens in January 2026, introducing a new level of luxury designed to elevate every part of the guest experience. Highlights include a tranquil spa and gym, a boutique curio shop, an extensive wine cellar, and thoughtfully appointed rooms – each with a private heated plunge pool, spacious deck, and indoor and outdoor double showers. The lodge offers an intimate safari experience with a maximum of four guests per vehicle and the option for exclusive-use stays.

Fitzpatrick's at Jock newly refurbished.

Retreat to a newly refurbished private haven in the heart of the Kruger. Fitzpatrick's at Jock combines elegant comfort with the thrill of an authentic safari experience. With just three exclusive-use bedrooms, the refreshed villa offers an elevated level of indulgence and serenity – the perfect highlight for any family or small-group safari itinerary.

Facilities include:

- Heated communal swimming pool
- Sunken firepit
- Indoor and outdoor dining areas
- Exclusive riverbed dining
- Baobab Courtyard for kids
- Private plunge pools
- Outdoor salas

Kapama River Lodge & Southern Camp, are delighted to share two major updates as part of Kapama's ongoing journey to elevate the guest experience:

Kapama River Lodge – Tamboti Superior Suites Opening 15 December 2025

- Introducing the brand-new Tamboti Superior Suites – spacious, contemporary, and ideal for families with interleading rooms and stunning bushveld views.
- These suites complement the Deluxe Suites' elegant design, while the current Spa Suites are closed and will undergo full refurbishment to match the refreshed look and feel.

Note: The 4 Family Spa Suites will be replaced with the interleading Tamboti Superior Suites, and the Standard Courtyard Suites will be repurposed for guide accommodation and no longer available on the guest inventory.

Kapama Southern Camp – Reimagined to a boutique lodge from July 2026

- Southern Camp will soon evolve into a small boutique villa-only lodge, offering an intimate, personalised, and ultra-luxurious safari experience.
- The 15 Standard Suites will be retired, leaving 10 beautifully designed villas to create a serene, boutique retreat.

Boschendal has announced that their new Arum Restaurant will be opening on 25 November 2025.

Reservations are now open. Led by chef-founder Peter Tempelhoff, Arum promises farm-to-fire cooking with an abundance of fruits, herbs, roots, vegetables, and proteins sourced from the Boschendal fields and gardens.

SPECIALS

Royal Portfolio has extended their specials to 2026 (all valid now till 28 February 2027, excluding the dates between 20 December and 05 January):

- **Royal Villa Offer** – Enjoy a complimentary night at Franschhoek House when you book a total of 5 nights across any Royal Malewane Safari Villa and Franschhoek 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. Minimum 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. Complimentary night applies to the lowest lodge rate.
- **The Royal Offer** – Stay for 6 nights, and only pay for 5. Travel may be combined across multiple properties in the portfolio. Complimentary night applies to the lowest lodge rate.

RockFig Safari Lodge – Stay 4, Pay 3 offer

- Valid during the following 2026 periods: 16 January to 31 January; all of February, March, November; and 01 to 15 December.
- Honeymoon Special, 25% off; available year-round in 2026, in celebration of love and new beginnings
- Promotions apply to new bookings and enquiries only
- Promotions are not combinable

Madikwe Hills – Stay 4, Pay 3 offer

- Valid from May to June 2026
- Applicable to new bookings only
- Subject to availability at time of booking
- Terms & conditions apply



FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Destination:	&Beyond Phinda Game Reserve, Kwa-Zulu Natal
Suits which type of traveller:	The six lodge options at Phinda cater to mid-range, high-end leisure travellers, and family-friendly budgets.
Recommended activities:	<p>We were surprised and spoilt to experience an activity called Beyond the Senses. We went for a night game drive with a vehicle fitted with high-definition thermal imaging and infrared cameras and we had wireless headsets. We saw a lion, hippos and porcupine – a nice experience to see animals at night and I would highly recommend this activity. It can only be booked at the lodge directly.</p> <p>E-biking excursion – with rangers leading from the front and the back. We had a cyclist from the local community accompanying us, and the activity was fun and amazing, as were riding through sand forest trees; it took roughly an hour. I would recommend this activity for those who are fit, or comfortable on a bicycle.</p> <p>Game drives – Phinda's vehicles are 6-seaters, where everyone gets a window seat. The landscape is different in the north of the reserve, with sand forest trees, while other parts of the reserve are flat and sandy. During the drive we saw lion, cheetahs, white rhinos, giraffe, nyala, herds of elephants, wildebeest and zebras.</p> <p>Our guide was good, and knowledgeable about the animals and the areas we were driving in. We stopped for a sundowner drink with snacks, gin and wine.</p>
Cuisine:	<p>The food was delicious with various options to choose from. You order from the menu, and they cater for different dietary requirements including gluten free and lactose intolerance. There was also an option to have prawns as a starter, which was good to see</p> <p>Breakfast, which is normally served from 9am, has options of a continental breakfast or a la carte.</p> <p>For lunch, served at 1pm, you order from the menu which also catered for different dietary requirements. Lunch was delicious, served on the deck of the main area.</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>The reserve is 73,800 acres / 29,866 hectares in size, with 30% of the world's remaining sand forest located on the reserve in South Africa. It is home to one of the world smallest blooming orchids, while seven distinct habitats make the wildlife & activity experiences unique & different to any other traditional safari experience.</p> <p>&Beyond Phinda Mountain Lodge is a beautiful property located in the south of the reserve facing a mountain. We stayed at Phinda Mountain Lodge for two nights.</p>

The main area of the lodge has a lounge area with the views of the mountain, as well as a safari shop, a boma, swimming pool and gym.

I stayed in a spacious suite with an en-suite bathroom and indoor and outdoor showers, mini-bar and tea/coffee station, air-conditioning, a safe, and a plunge pool with a veranda.

Phinda Forest Lodge is looking beautiful after going through a refurb, and the amenities of the lodge (pool, gym, firepit, boma and safari shop) are spread out over a short walking distance.

The rooms are in the sand forest canopy and the rooms are spacious, with floor to ceiling windows offering views of the forest from your bath; they also have an indoor shower, mini-bar, tea/coffee station, air-condition, a safe and a private deck.

The highlight of the trip was the incredible staff at both Phinda Forest and Mountain lodges, the amazing sightings we had during the game drives with experienced rangers and trackers, and of course the lovely meals from breakfast to bush dinners, experiencing the e-bike activity through the sand forest, as well as the Beyond the Senses activity. Both lodges are looking great.

