



SIMBAMBILI
by
Thornybush

A SAFARI FOR ALL SEASONS

Refined Bush Escape

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WELCOME TO Simbambili Game Lodge

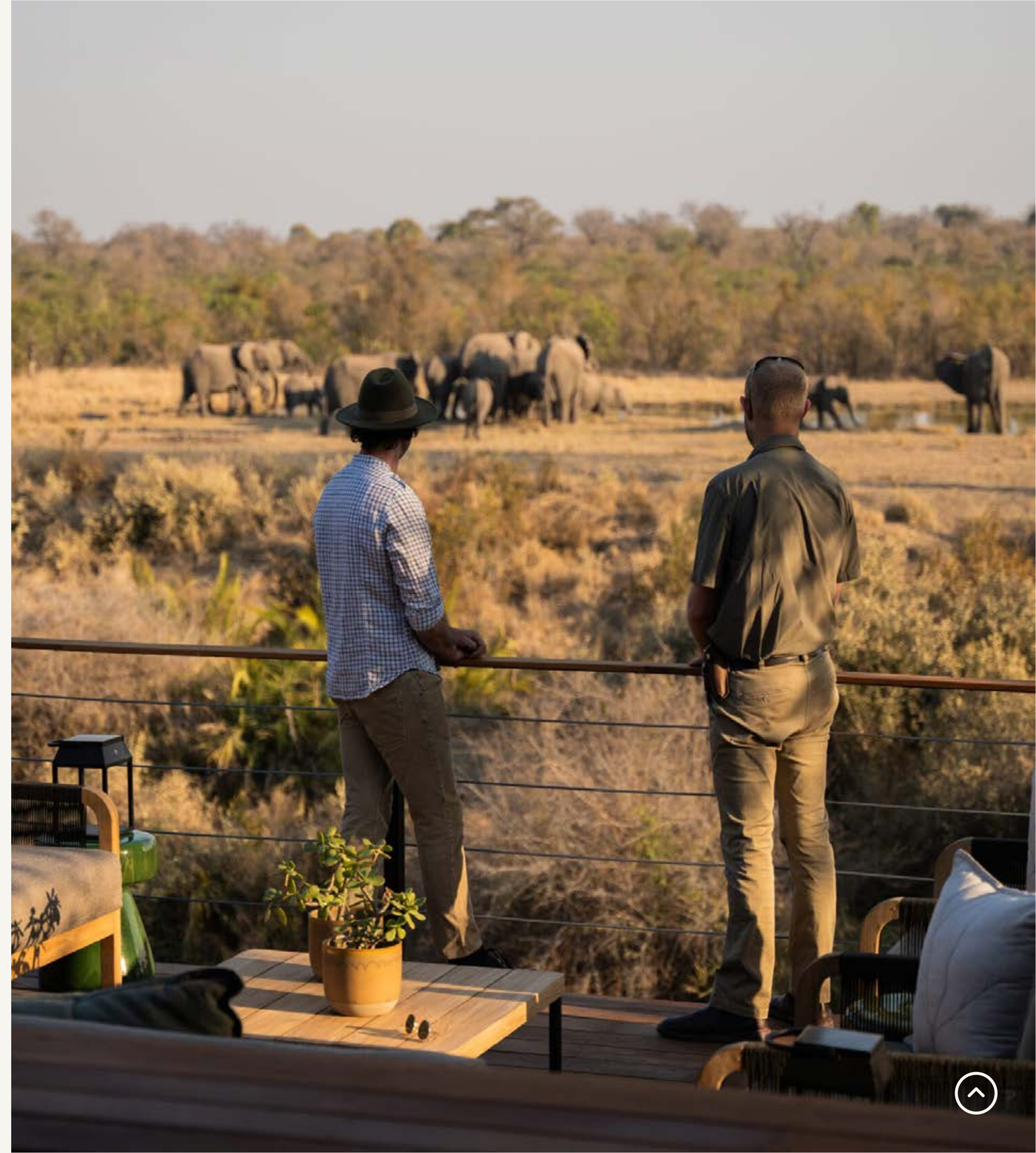
Tucked beneath Jackalberry and Knobthorn trees in the iconic Sabi Sand Reserve, Simbambili is a stylish and serene safari escape – loved for its prolific leopard sightings, peaceful setting, and warm, personalised service.

Overlooking a busy waterhole and shaded by ancient Jackalberry and Knobthorn trees, the lodge blends seamlessly into its surroundings. Each of the nine elegant suites has its own plunge pool, shaded Sala bed, and private deck for relaxed game viewing between drives.

Hosts Mike and Tania Cowden have managed Simbambili for over a decade, creating a welcoming atmosphere where personal service and attention to detail shine.

Meals are fresh and seasonal – from boma dinners to pizza lunches and bush breakfasts – all made with ingredients from the Thornybush Community Garden and local suppliers.

The wellness area offers a tranquil space to recharge, with a spa, gym, library and pool. But it's the skilled guides and trackers who truly set the experience apart, leading unforgettable drives, walks, and fireside stories under the stars.

[VIEW RATES](#)[VIEW VIDEO](#)

TRANSFERS TO

Simbambili Game Lodge

- 1 **Hoedspruit Airport (HDS) to Simbambili:**
92.7km (1h45 minutes to 2 hours drive)
- 2 **Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) to Simbambili:**
163.6 km (3hours 30 minutes - 4 hours drive)
- 3 **Skukuza to Simbambili:**
191km (4 hour drive)





Lodge Overview

9 spacious suites with private plunge pool, sala bed and deck (no triples allowed)

- x7 luxury suites
- xl honeymoon suite, with an outdoor shower
- xl waterhole suite

Wellness centre

Nearby Airstrip

Wifi

Bush breakfast & dinners (weather dependent)

Lounge & dining Room

Babysitting

Mobile coverage

Library

Boma

Outside lounge

Our Suites

 Air-conditioning

 Hairdryer

 Laundry service

 Pool

 Shower

 Wi-Fi

 Mobile coverage

 Mosquito net

 Fan

 USB/int. adapter

 Mini bar

 Phone

 Bath tub

 Gratuuity information

 Coffee/tea station

 Toiletries

 Safety box



Included in your stay

-  Morning and afternoon game drives
-  Walks on request, can be arranged with your guide
-  All meals
-  Laundry included when booked on certain rates
-  Local beverages included when booked on certain rates

Excluded from your stay

- Beverages when booked on certain rates
- Champagne, premium wines and spirits
- Curio shop purchases
- Spa treatments
- Gratuities and levies
- Additional activities

Optional activities at an extra cost

- Spa treatments
- External activities (Panoramic tours or hot-air ballooning)
- Community Visits

Other information you may like to know

The camp is not fenced but has an electric strand to discourage buffalo and elephant

Check-in 14:00 | Check-out 11:00

All credit cards accepted except American Express

Children policy

Children from 12 years of age are welcome

Children under 16 years of age are not permitted on bush walks



Average seasonal temperature ranges

SPRING
September to November
Low: 20°C | 68°F High: 30°C | 86°F

SUMMER
December - February
Low: 23°C | 73°F High: 38°C | 100°F

AUTUMN
March to May
Low: 22°C | 72°F High: 31°C | 88°F

WINTER
June to August
Low: 18°C | 64°F High: 29°C | 84°F



A typical day on safari

	Wake up
	Morning tea and coffee with a selection of homemade rusks, biscuits and fruits will be served on the deck before departing for your morning drive
	Game drive (Approximately 3 hours)
	Breakfast served on return from game drive
	Lunch
	High tea will be served prior to afternoon game drive
	Game drive (Approximately 3 hours)
	Opportunity to enjoy a drink at the bar or freshen up before dinner



Indemnity

All guests are required to sign an indemnity, this can be done prior to arrival or at the lodge, a link for this will be sent along with your booking confirmation.

SATIB insurance

24HR emergency call facility for:

- Any medical emergency involving bodily injury to or life-threatening illness contracted by one of our guests or passengers
- Guests or passengers experiencing any natural disaster, such as a flood or fire

Africa Safe-T

All our lodges are affiliated with Africa Safe-T, a medical rescue organization, which provides an immediate response for emergencies – fixed wing planes and helicopters. Arrangements can also be made should there be a need for a doctor. The cost will be charged to the guest’s account.

Travel insurance

It is the Guests’ sole and absolute responsibility to ensure that they have adequate and suitable comprehensive travel and medical insurance in place to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/ travelling companions. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the booking, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, hometown repatriation expenses, damage and/or theft and/or loss of personal property, baggage, money, and goods.

Thornybush, their representatives, directors, officers, employees, and agents will not be responsible for any damage, loss, costs or expenses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest’s dependents or travelling companions, as a result of or in connection with any of the above mentioned events. Guests will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services they may require and may find themselves in a position unable to access such services should they not be carrying the relevant insurance cover.



Simbambili Game Lodge *Layout*



- 1-7 Suites
- 8 Honeymoon Suite
- 9 Waterhole Suite
- 10 Lounge & dining area
- 11 Lifestyle centre
- Gym & spa
- 12 Reception & curio
- 13 Boma
- 14 Pilot guide room



Suite *Layout*



Lodge comparison

		
THORNYBUSH GAME LODGE Thornybush Nature Reserve Greater Kruger National Park	SASEKA TENTED CAMP Thornybush Nature Reserve Greater Kruger National Park	SIMBAMBILI GAME LODGE Sabi Sand Nature Reserve Greater Kruger National Park
From R19 800 pppns	From R28 000 pppns	From R27 000 pppns
16 suites	8 tents	9 suites
Air conditioned	Air conditioned	Air conditioned
Spacious deck and an outdoor shower	Spacious deck and an outdoor shower	Spacious deck and Honeymoon Suite has an outdoor shower
Normal big, shared pool	Private plunge pool	Private plunge pool and sala
Dry riverbed views for only 15 suites	Dry riverbed views	All suites overlook the dry riverbed, but please note that only the Waterhole Suite offers direct views of the waterhole
Spa facilities and gym	Gym with sauna and ice bath and spa facilities at Thornybush Game Lodge	Spa facilities and gym
Dining options: à la carte dinners Boma dinners Bush dinners under the stars (weather dependent & not private; shared with other guests)	Dining options: à la carte dinners Riverbed dinners under the stars (weather dependent & not private; shared with other guests)	Dining options: à la carte dinners Boma dinners Bush dinners under the stars (weather dependent & not private; shared with other guests)
Children of all ages are welcome. However, please note that children under the age of 6 are not permitted on game drives.	Children 12 years and older	Children 12 years and older



Private villa comparison



LITTLE SASEKA @ Saseka Tented Camp Thornybush Nature Reserve Greater Kruger National Park	KAMARA HOUSE @ Thornybush Game Lodge Thornybush Nature Reserve Greater Kruger National Park
From R120 000 pn sole-use for 4 people	From R92 000 pn sole-use for 4 people
One main tented bedroom plus two separate interleading suites	3-bedroom, sole-use villa
Air conditioned	Air conditioned
Spacious deck and an outdoor shower	Spacious deck and an outdoor shower
Private plunge pool	Private plunge pool
Dry riverbed views	The house looks out onto the bush
Gym with sauna and ice bath and spa facilities at Thornybush Game Lodge	Spa facilities and gym
Dining options: Private meals Riverbed dinners under the stars are available (weather permitting). Please note these are not privately catered and are shared experiences with all guests booked at Saseka Tented Camp.	Dining options: Private meals Boma and bush dinners under the stars are available (weather permitting). Please note these are not privately catered and are shared experiences with all guests booked at Thornybush Game Lodge
Children of all ages, but not allowed in the main area	Children of all ages



Thornybush Wellness

From calming spa rituals to the quiet rhythm of nature, wellness at Thornybush is about reconnecting with yourself and the wild.

The Wellness Centre offers an array of facilities, including:

-  Two treatment rooms including a couples therapy room
-  A state-of-the-art infrared sauna
-  Fully equipped Gym
-  Rim flow pool and sun loungers for pre or post-treatment relaxation
-  A wellness juice bar offering healthy and delicious cold-pressed juices and shots
-  Ice bath



Community and conservation



COMMUNITY

We are deeply committed to the upliftment and empowerment of the communities that surround our reserves. Through the Thornybush Community Project, we collaborate with local partners to drive long-term social change. Thornybush is also proud member of The Long Run, a trailblazing community of nature-based tourism businesses united in their commitment to driving holistic sustainability worldwide.

Our community initiatives include:

- **Education Support:** We invest in early childhood development, sponsor local schools, and facilitate access to better educational resources.
- **Enterprise Development:** Supporting small businesses and artisans through mentoring, funding, and creating market access opportunities.
- **Food Security and Wellness:** Promoting sustainable food gardens and nutrition programmes in partnership with local NGOs.
- **Youth & Skills Development:** Training programmes in hospitality, conservation, and guiding help create career pathways for local youth.



CONSERVATION

Our lodges are located in one of the world's most biodiverse regions, and preserving this ecosystem is at the heart of everything we do. Conservation is a way of life at Thornybush.

- **Anti-Poaching Initiatives:** We work closely with local antipoaching units to protect endangered wildlife, including rhino monitoring and surveillance.
- **Habitat Rehabilitation:** Ongoing work to restore indigenous vegetation and remove alien plant species.
- **Sustainable Operations:** From solar energy to plastic-free practices, our lodges are committed to reducing their environmental footprint.

CONSERVATION

COMMERCE

EDUCATION

ENTERPRISE

VOLUNTOURISM



FAQs

What is the weather like?

Daytime summer temperatures (September – April) are high and may soar above 36°C/97°F. Evenings and early mornings are warm. Winters (May – August) have chilly nights and crisp early mornings (minimum 3°C/38°F), but the days are fine and warm. Rainfall occurs predominantly in the summer months from October to April in the form of magnificent late afternoon/evening thundershowers.

What should I pack for my stay?

The dress code is informal and neutral colors are recommended. A warm jacket/scarf and beanies for winter and evening safaris. Comfortable walking shoes, a bathing costume, binoculars, camera and video camera. Sunhats, sunscreen, and sunglasses. A select range of safari clothing and amenities are available for purchase in our Curio Shops.

Should I take Malaria Medication?

The lodges are situated in a low-risk malaria area. Precautions are taken annually to treat the lodges and minimize risk. We recommend you consult your medical practitioner on anti-malaria prophylactics.

Get in touch

Chat to our friendly team, who will help you book your stay at Simbambili Game Lodge and plan the perfect Greater Kruger safari.

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SIMBAMBILI
by Thornybush

BEAUTIFUL
LODGES

SPECTACULAR
SIGHTINGS

EXPERT
GUIDES

PASSIONATE
PEOPLE

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT