

Thornybush

NKELENGA

OUR TENTED BUSH VILLA

Together in the Wild

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WELCOME TO Nkelenga

Set on the edge of a game-rich dam in Thornybush Nature Reserve, Nkelenga is an exclusive-use safari villa created for families and small groups seeking privacy, space and a close connection to the wilderness.

Just an eight-minute drive from Thornybush Game Lodge, the villa feels wonderfully secluded. Its position overlooking the dam offers exceptional wildlife viewing, with elephants, buffalo and plains game often gathering just beyond your doorstep.

Three Meru-style tented suites and a spacious family tent accommodate up to eight guests. With your own private safari vehicle, expert guide and tracker, every day unfolds entirely at your pace.

[VIEW RATES](#)



TRANSFERS TO Nkelenga Villa

1 Hoedspruit Airport (HDS) to Thornybush:
25km (45-60 minute drive)





Lodge Overview

An exclusive-use safari villa overlooking a game-rich dam, just eight minutes from Thornybush Game Lodge.	Game vehicle, guide & tracker
x3 Standard tents – Twin beds x1 Family tent – King with 2 twin beds	Brunch and dinner
Meals are prepared by a personal chef	Children of all ages welcome: Babysitting available on request at an additional charge
Spacious dining area	Wi-Fi
	Swimming pool

Our Tents

Air-conditioning	USB/int. adapter	Private vehicle
Hairdryer	Private meals	Fan
Laundry (On request)	Slippers	Toiletries
Shower	Gratuity information	
Wi-Fi	Kettle/coffee machine	
Bar	Safety box	



Included in your stay

-  Morning and afternoon game drives
-  Walks on request, can be arranged with your guide
-  Brunch, high tea & dinner
-  Laundry (On request)
-  Local beverages included on published 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 & gym at Thornybush Game Lodge
- External activities (Panoramic tours or hot-air ballooning)
- Community Visits

Other information you may like to know

- An electric fence surrounds the camp
- Check-in 14:00 | Check-out 10:00
- All credit cards accepted except American Express

Children policy

- Children of all ages are welcome
- All kids are able to go on game drive
- Children under 16 years of age are not permitted on bush walks

Average seasonal temperature ranges			
SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
September to November	December - February	March to May	June to August
Low: 20°C 68°F High: 30°C 86°F	Low: 23°C 73°F High: 38°C 100°F	Low: 22°C 72°F High: 31°C 88°F	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)
	Brunch served on return from game drive
	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 closest doctor would be in Hoedspruit – a 50-minute drive. 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.



Nkelenga Villa *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	NKELENGA VILLA 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	From R112 000 pn sole-use for 8 people
One main tented bedroom plus two separate interleading suites	3-bedroom, sole-use villa	1 main family tent (sleeps 4) and 3 meru style tents
Air conditioned	Air conditioned	Air conditioned
Spacious deck and an outdoor shower	Spacious deck and an outdoor shower	-
Private plunge pool	Private plunge pool	Private pool
Dry riverbed views	The house looks out onto the bush	Overlooking an active waterhole
Gym with sauna and ice bath and spa facilities at Thornybush Game Lodge	Spa facilities and gym	Gym with sauna and spa facilities at Thornybush Game Lodge
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	Dining Options: Private Chef
Children of all ages, but not allowed in the main area	Children of all ages	Children of all ages

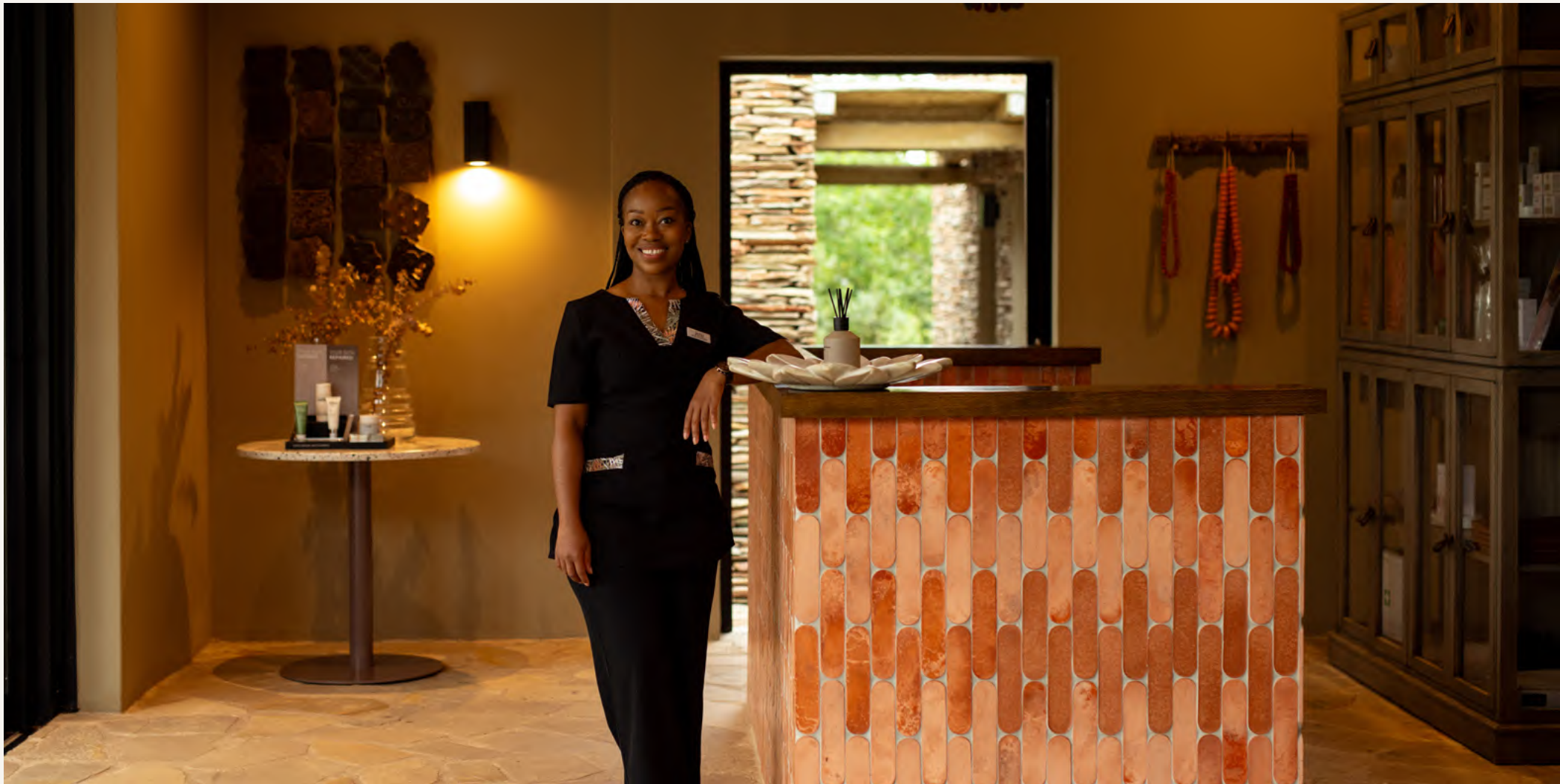


Thornybush Wellness

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

The Wellness Centre at Thornybush Game Lodge offers an array of facilities, including:

-  Three treatment rooms including 2 double/couple treatment rooms
-  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



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



Thornybush
COMMUNITY



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 Kamara House and plan the perfect Greater Kruger safari.

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NKELENGA

BEAUTIFUL
LODGES

SPECTACULAR
SIGHTINGS

EXPERT
GUIDES

PASSIONATE
PEOPLE

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT