

South Africa Safari with Big Five Experience: Award-winning Luxury Tented Stay and Private Reserve

5-Night Classic Safari for 2 in a Luxury Impala Tent, with Big Game Drive, Bush Braai & Hosted Airport Transfers

You have wanted to do this your whole life, and tonight is the night somebody finally hands you the keys to Africa.

This Experience for 2 Includes

- 5-night Classic Safari for two in a brand-new luxury Impala Tent at Hippo Lakes
- Round-trip transfers from Johannesburg to Hippo Lakes
- Daily game drives with a professional ranger, plus a Big Game Drive into a neighboring Big Five reserve
- All meals, plus two house drinks per guest per day
- Bush Braai dinner under the stars
- Winspire booking service and a personal Hippo Lakes concierge

Highlights of Your South African Journey

Hippo Lakes, in the Waterberg

- Small, privately run, boutique safari lodges in South Africa's Waterberg, north of Johannesburg, rated 99% 5-stars on TripAdvisor, Google and Facebook
- Winner of the prestigious Travelers' Choice Award consecutively in 2025 and 2026, ranked in the top 10% of all global destinations on TripAdvisor
- Recently featured in National Geographic Traveller
- Red rock ridgelines, open plains, and lakes that pull game in at dawn and dusk
- A malaria-free region, so no antimalarial tablets and no side effects; no vaccinations required and no visa for US passport holders
- Roughly 5,000 feet above sea level, so the climate stays comfortable, the air is drier than the lowveld, and there are far fewer insects than in lower-lying safari regions
- Small enough that the staff know your name by the first evening
- Main lodge areas are ramp-accessible, with front-row ranger seating for guests with limited mobility; (the only noticeable steps are at fire pits)

Your Luxury Impala Tent

- The newest tents on the reserve, privately positioned along a quiet ridgeline with sweeping acacia views stretching unbroken to the horizon
- Cabin walls with a Canvas ceiling, a king bed (or twins), an ensuite bathroom, a private patio, and the beautiful sounds of the bush at night
- Air conditioning, heated blankets, Wi-Fi, and a coffee and tea bar in the tent
- All meals included throughout the stay, chef-prepared, with every dietary need accommodated
- Two house drinks per guest per day included (beer, wine, and soft drinks); additional house drinks, premium spirits, and bottles from the lodge's wine cellar are available for purchase on site
- One lodge for five nights, so you unpack once and stay put
- Complimentary access to all Hippo Lakes Lodges and Amenities

Your Daily Game Drives

- Daily game drives included, in an open vehicle with a professional ranger
- Out in the hours when the bush is most alive, around sunrise and sunset
- Five nights builds a feel for the land that two nights never will
- Blanket over your knees, coffee in hand, nowhere else to be

The Big Game Drive

- An excursion to a neighboring private Big Five reserve

- Lion and elephant country, with the chance to complete the Big Five your home reserve started
- The drive guests talk about for years afterward
- A Big Game Drive is included for two in the package, not an upsell

The Road from Johannesburg

- Round-trip road transfers in luxury vans, shared with fellow Hippo Lakes guests and hosted by a member of the Hippo Lakes team
- The journey is part of the safari: a welcome at the airport, refreshments on board, and the landscape opening out as the city falls away
- A relaxed lunch stop at an elephant sanctuary along the way, where an up-close elephant interaction is available as an optional extra
- No bush plane to catch and no connection to make; you are met when you land and delivered to the lodge door

Bush Braai Dinner

- One evening, dinner moves out of the lodge and into the bush
- South Africa's open-fire barbecue, cooked over coals under the sky
- Enjoy two traditional South African mixed shots, including the renowned "Springbokkie"
- The meal everybody remembers, and it is included

Why Donors Love This Package

- **Bucket-list appeal.** An African safari tops more wish lists than any trip on earth, and most people in the room have wanted it for decades.
- **Nothing left to plan.** One lodge, one unpacking, and the transfers, meals, drinks, and daily game drives all arranged before the paddle goes up.
- **Big Five Country.** Hippo Lakes and the included Big Game Drive together give guests the chance to see all of the Big Five on a single trip, on private reserves rather than crowded national parks.
- **Breadth of appeal.** It sells to couples, to milestone anniversaries, to retirees with time on their hands, and to families who buy two.
- **No blackout dates.** Travel is available year-round, so the calendar never becomes a reason to stop bidding.
- **Malaria-free.** The Waterberg is a malaria-free region, so no tablets and none of the side effects that put people off Africa.
- **Stress-free travel.** Winspire books every detail, and a personal Hippo Lakes concierge takes the traveler from name to arrival, with pre-trip guides and live information sessions along the way.
- **Customization.** Extra nights, additional guests, and tent upgrades can all be arranged, with options to extend the trip beyond safari and see more of Africa.
- **Overall value.** A luxury tented lodge, all meals and daily drinks, daily game drives, a Big Five reserve excursion, a bush braai dinner, and hosted transfers, for two.

Key Details

- Blackout dates: Travel is available year-round, subject to availability
- Hippo Lakes is in South Africa's malaria-free Waterberg region
- Arrivals are Sunday only, with the five-night stay running Sunday through Friday
- Must be booked within one year of purchase, with travel completed within two years
- Reservations must be booked at least 60 days in advance of travel
- Minimum guest age at the property is 10 years
- International airfare is not included

Auction Close - Winspire Style

"Picture a Sunday with Johannesburg behind you, a Hippo Lakes transfer host at the wheel, and the road north opening into country you have only ever seen on a screen. Ahead of you lie five nights in a brand-new luxury tent on a private reserve, in a malaria-free corner of Africa where every meal is taken care of, the drinks are poured at sundown, and a ranger who has read this land his whole life takes you out when

the bush is most alive. One day carries you into lion and elephant country, with the chance to see all of the Big Five. One evening, dinner is cooked over an open fire beneath the stars and nobody wants to go back to the lodge. You unpack once, you plan nothing, and you go. Somebody in this room is about to hand two people the trip they have been talking about for twenty years, and every dollar of it goes to the work we are here for tonight. Who is starting us off?"