THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

ROYAL MALEWANE

Activities & Excursions

Activities at Royal Malewane

DAY AND NIGHT GAME DRIVES

Take a drive on the wild side

The Guides and Trackers at Royal Malewane make up the most qualified team in South Africa. They are exceptionally skilled at interpreting the sights and sounds of the bushveld, and making the ecosystem come alive for you.

Game drives are the core experience around which each day on safari revolves, and are the very best way to see the varied landscapes of The Greater Kruger National Park and encounter the many diverse species that live there.

Your Guide and Tracker share an intuitive bond, each using their unique yet complementary skills to create thrilling yet entirely safe experiences that you will never forget. Whatever you're most interested in, your Guide and Tracker can tailor your game drives to focus on your passions.

GUIDED WALKING SAFARIS

Explore The Greater Kruger National Park on foot

All human journeys began in Africa, and now you can write the next chapter as you feel the ground beneath your feet and embark on an adventure that will engage all your senses. Discover how even the smallest creature or tiniest detail has a role to play in maintaining the health of the Greater Kruger National Park ecosystem.

A guided walking safari is an opportunity to explore Royal Malewane at a different pace, as our expert Guides and Trackers point out the tracks and signs that tell the hidden stories of the creatures we share the wilderness with.

All our bush walks are led by highly qualified Guides who have undergone years of training and hold the highest professional qualifications as a testament to their skill and dedication, so you can rest assured that you're in very safe hands.

Activities at Royal Malewane

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Capture the moment

Each day on safari contains many memorable moments, and if you travel with a camera, you can capture these for posterity as you take advantage of Africa's astonishing light. Your safari images let you share your experiences and relive those moments again and again.

Many of our Guides are passionate and knowledgeable photographers themselves. They know how to get you into exactly the right place at the right time for the perfect shot, as well as offering advice on lens choices and settings. Their knowledge of animal and bird behaviour means that they can very often anticipate what will happen next, giving you the best possible chance of recording jaw-dropping action or breath-taking beauty.

From the drama of a hunt to the serenity of a sunset, or the playful antics of baby animals, you'll return home with images that you'll treasure forever.

BIRDWATCHING AT ROYAL MALEWANE

Enjoy the colour and beauty of wild birds

Over 300 different bird species have been recorded at Royal Malewane, and a focused birding safari can help you add a great many "lifers" to your list. From the world's largest living bird and heaviest flying bird to tiny "LBJ's", if you enjoy watching and identifying birds, you'll be in heaven at Royal Malewane.

Our Guides and Trackers are all exceptional birders, and will use their knowledge of habitats, behaviour and calls to help you spot species you've never seen before – and perhaps some you haven't even heard of.

While you may not always be in sight of a mammal on your game drives, there is rarely a time when birds cannot be seen or heard, and deepening your interest in ornithology will add nuance and richness to your time at Royal Malewane.

Activities at Royal Malewane

STAR SAFARIS

Experience the beauty of the African night sky

Far away from the light pollution of the cities is a special place where the details of the galaxy are revealed in all their undimmed glory. At Royal Malewane, stars, planets and meteors can be admired as they have been by humans for millennia.

On a Star Safari, you'll learn to recognise the major constellations and discover some of the local myths and legends that surround them. Your Guide and Tracker will also point out the fascinating nocturnal creatures who own the night.

BEVERAGE EXPERIENCES AT ROYAL MALEWANE

The perfect pairing with your safari

South Africa is renowned not only for the quality of its wines but also for thrilling wildlife experiences. During your stay, you can combine the excitement of being on safari with the exquisite pleasure of a guided tasting of some of our finest vintages. Whether it's within the intimate setting of our wine cellars or beneath the African sky watching the sun set, you'll find the ideal location for an exploration of some of the very best South African beverages.

Additionally, we offer a diverse range of beverage experiences, including gin tastings and whisky tastings, all meticulously curated to cater to your individual preferences.

Activities at Royal Malewane

SPA TREATMENTS

Reconnect with yourself

Combining the thrill of being on safari with the tranquillity of our spa spaces makes for the perfect stay and allows you to focus on your wellness and the excitement of spending time in the wild. Being in nature can help you feel more grounded, while leaving behind the stresses and strains of everyday life.

At the Royal Waters Spa at Malewane Lodge, you can take a dip in the heated 25m lap pool or choose from our extensive treatments menu. Our experienced therapists combine elements of traditional healing and herbal knowledge into each treatment. Farmstead features a double spa treatment room, while the Reflections Spa at Waterside channels the cleansing power of pure running water to enhance the healing process.

Wellness treatments are available at all of Royal Malewane's lodges and villas, whether at one of the spas or in the comfort of your suite.

WELLNESS

Yoga in the heart of the wild

Spending time at Royal Malewane can help you connect with nature and let go of any stress and anxiety that you may be carrying. Through gentle movements, stretching and mindful breathing, you can transform your mood and your outlook on the day.

While the bushveld forms the ideal backdrop for focusing on wellbeing, your suite's secluded deck overlooking the wilderness, or the yoga and meditation room at Waterside, provide calming spaces in which to slow down and look inwards as well as outwards as you enjoy grounding ceremonies.

Time spent here contrasts wonderfully with the adrenaline and thrill of being on a game drive or guided bush walk and contributes to a holistic wilderness experience that promotes a sense of profound wellbeing.

Activities at Royal Malewane

FITNESS CENTRES

Maintain your healthy lifestyle

A safari holiday provides the perfect break from your usual routine, but that doesn't mean you have to give up on your fitness goals. Safaris offer rich mental stimulation, and in the quieter moments between game drives, you can maintain your routine at one of our fitness centres. Each is equipped with world-class equipment, allowing you to train comfortably and effectively in a peaceful bush setting.

Fitness centres are available at all of Royal Malewane's lodges and are designed to offer a well-rounded workout experience for guests throughout their stay. Whether you're looking for a light session to stay active or a more focused workout, you'll find thoughtfully equipped spaces that support your fitness requirements.

DISCOVER OUR CONSERVATION HUB

Engage with researchers

The Conservation and Research Centre (CRC) at Royal Malewane is a vital resource for researchers and conservationists who are studying and protecting the wildlife of The Greater Kruger National Park. It provides a space where they can meet and share ideas, and a venue for lectures and presentations on their work. We also provide accommodation for researchers, so that they can spend more time observing the species they are working on.

As a guest at Royal Malewane, you can visit the CRC to learn more about conservation challenges, and how we are working together with stakeholders to find innovative, sustainable ways to overcome these. Visiting the CRC will give you deep insights into what we stand for, and a renewed appreciation for the bushveld.

Activities at Royal Malewane

SAFARI ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Making learning fun

Royal Rangers is our dedicated educational programme that's designed to help our younger guests get even more out of their Royal Malewane safari holiday. Our Guides and Trackers enjoy the chance to share their knowledge with children, and to inspire the conservationists of tomorrow.

The bushveld is an ideal classroom, with new and fascinating things to discover every day, even in the areas surrounding each lodge. Children will learn bushcraft skills such as identifying and following tracks, and enjoy discovering a world of wonders. While their children are learning and having fun, parents can take advantage of the chance to enjoy some quality time together.

FINE DINING IN THE WILD

Meals to savour

There's nothing like spending time in the fresh air to help you work up an appetite – and the Royal Malewane chefs will delight your taste buds with personalised menus consisting of meals and snacks served with a side order of wildlife viewing.

Our completely flexible approach to dining means you can choose where to enjoy each meal, whether it's an intimate dinner for two in the privacy of your suite, or a leisurely brunch on a deck overlooking a waterhole. You'll have the chance to enjoy all the traditional safari treats, including homemade rusks with morning coffee on a game drive, delicious snacks to accompany sundowners.

Bush dinners make for an unforgettable dining experience, and with each meal, our team will recommend pairings from our extensive list of world-class wines.

Activities at Royal Malewane

RHINO DEHORNING

Conservation activities

Dehorning rhinos is proving to be an effective deterrent to poachers, in combination with other security initiatives.

Rhino dehorning is an ongoing project that requires considerable resources to be successful. By donating financially and contributing in person, you can help ensure that future generations will also get to see rhinos in the world.

Please Note: Rhino dehorning is not a scheduled activity and cannot be pre-booked. While this important conservation work is ongoing, guest participation is only possible when specific opportunities arise, often at very short notice.

We appreciate your understanding that this activity is not guaranteed and may not be available during your stay, even if requested well in advance.

HELICOPTER PATROL FLIGHT

Conservation activities

Viewing the reserve from above offers a unique perspective on the dedication it takes to keep the wildlife safe, showcasing the careful work behind every element of the reserve's management. An aerial view of The Greater Kruger National Park reveals just how closely human activity borders the wilderness, putting into perspective the ongoing challenge of balancing conservation with agriculture. It highlights the responsibility of ensuring that both communities and wildlife can coexist sustainably.

You will fly in a small helicopter alongside a bush pilot and our reserve representative, joining either a rhino monitoring patrol (tracking specific rhinos or identifying the areas they frequent to guide forward planning) or participate in a visibility patrol, flying along reserve boundaries and vulnerable areas to maintain a strong protective presence.

This experience is subject to operational availability and circumstances, therefore pre-booking is essential.

Activities at Royal Malewane

APNR SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL PROJECT

Conservation activities

The Southern Ground-Hornbill Project has been conducting vital research and conservation work on these remarkable birds in The Greater Kruger National Park for over 20 years. Known as the Thunderbird because of its unmistakable booming call, these large black birds are highly endangered due to habitat loss and the very slow rate at which they breed. The increase in population of Southern Ground-Hornbills in The Greater Kruger National Park is directly attributable to the crucial research conducted by the Southern Ground-Hornbill Project.

At Royal Malewane, you can learn more about this fascinating species and join experts as they visit active nests to monitor the eggs and nestlings. You can also request an informative talk by project leaders & researchers Kyle Middleton and Carrie Hickman.

K9 UNIT DEMONSTRATION

Conservation activities

The counter-poaching dog unit at Royal Malewane, known as Tango K9, comprises Field Rangers and highly trained detection and tracker dogs. The Rangers are trained in dog handling and have bonded with the dogs to form an extremely effective counter-poaching team.

The remarkable capabilities of the K9 Unit dogs far exceed human technology and have helped to dramatically reduce incident response times. As the reputation of the K9 Unit has spread, the number of incursions into the reserve has dropped significantly. Patrols, snare sweeps, preventative maintenance of the reserve boundaries and community education work are all helping to limit the impact of poaching.

You can book a demonstration with these incredible working dogs and their adept handlers, witness a training exercise and see how the unique relationship between dogs and handlers is proving to be a powerful force for good.

Activities at Royal Malewane

EWT WILD DOG CONSERVATION

Conservation activities

African wild dogs are amongst the most effective predators in Africa. They are also highly endangered – only 5,500 free-ranging dogs remain on the continent, according to an estimate by The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). The Greater Kruger National Park remains a stronghold for these "painted wolves", thanks to the dedicated work of the EWT Wild Dog Conservation Project.

Project scientists are able to follow the movements of the free-roaming wild dogs and capture vital information that promotes understanding and helps keep them safe from human-wildlife conflict.

As a Royal Malewane guest, you have the unique opportunity to meet the team and learn about these fascinating animals. You may also be able to join them in the field as they locate the pack, fit a new collar, or gather data.

This experience is subject to operational availability and circumstances; therefore pre-booking is essential.

Excursions Away from Royal Malewane

MOHOLOHOLO WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE

A second chance for injured creatures

Every year, wild animals in the Greater Kruger National Park region are injured by fences, vehicles and poachers. Fortunately, many of them get a second chance to live out their lives in the wild thanks to the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Hoedspruit.

Established in 1991, the centre provides expert veterinary care to injured birds and animals, and, if at all possible, helps them to prepare for a return to the wild. During their treatment, injured animals provide vital educational opportunities to safari guests and local school children, and help raise awareness of the dangers wildlife faces, encouraging local communities and businesses to take action.

A visit here will reveal many heartwarming stories of how passionate people can make a real difference.

LEOPARD CREEK GOLF COURSE

Play a round in the wild

You might not expect to find one of the world's top 100 golf courses in the heart of the bushveld, but Leopard Creek is far from being an ordinary venue. The manicured greens segue into pristine bushveld, meaning that spotting wildlife on the fairways is just one of the highlights of this superb course.

Expertly designed to use the natural lie of the land to increase the enjoyment of each round, Leopard Creek even makes use of the Crocodile River as a water hazard. The beauty of Leopard Creek is sure to inspire you to up your game, while the facilities at this luxury resort provide the perfect excuse to relax after your round. Combining the best of safari and golf, Leopard Creek is a must-visit destination for golfers.

Excursions Away from Royal Malewane

SCENIC FLIGHTS

Take to the skies

The scale and majesty of the Blyde River Canyon – the world's deepest green canyon – can only be truly appreciated from the air. On a scenic helicopter flight from Royal Malewane (timed to fit in between your morning and afternoon game drives, so you don't miss a moment on safari), you'll look down on an astonishing landscape.

Think lush green slopes, a winding river and spectacular waterfalls. The transformation from the Lowveld to the mountains could not be more dramatic as you ascend, and then follow the course of the river. Alight for a picnic lunch in a secluded, scenic spot that can't be reached in any other way, and seize the moment to take stunning photos as a reminder of your experience.

ELEPHANT CARE

Meet the gentle giants

Camp Jabulani is known for its exceptional elephant experiences. The herd of rescued elephants at Jabulani are powerful ambassadors for their species, and for the conservation challenges that they and all African wildlife increasingly face. These rescued elephants are not able to be reintegrated into the wild.

On your excursion to Camp Jabulani, you'll meet the elephants and the dedicated team that cares for them. You'll have the opportunity to spend time with the elephants, up close and personal, and watch them go about their daily routines. Camp Jabulani offers a unique opportunity for you to see elephants in a whole new light, and return home with a deepened appreciation for Africa's most iconic species.

Excursions Away from Royal Malewane

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Visit our local partners

Through The Royal Portfolio Foundation, we support young learners at schools and early childhood development (ECD) centres in our neighbouring communities. Through improving facilities, enhancing food security and offering game drive experiences, we're helping to enhance educational opportunities and broaden horizons.

On a visit to the Sigagule and Langutelani ECD centres or the Sihlekisi Primary School, you'll see first-hand how we're able to make a difference thanks to your generous donations.

When you stay at Royal Malewane, a portion of the cost of your stay is donated to The Royal Portfolio Foundation and is used to directly support education access and community projects that are changing lives and transforming dreams into reality through the power of positive change. Including a school or ECD centre visit during your stay may be a life-changing experience for you, too.

TIMBAVATI MUSEUM VISIT

Learn more about all creatures great and small

The Timbavati Museum – also known as the Graeme Naylor Museum – deserves its reputation as a hidden gem of the Lowveld. Around 30 minutes' drive from Royal Malewane, this small museum focuses on the remarkable natural history of the Timbavati and other protected areas that make up The Greater Kruger National Park.

The fabled white lions of Timbavati are the subject of the centrepiece display, but they are by no means the only natural wonder at this fascinating educational centre. Discover lesser-known species, including the frogs and freshwater fish of The Greater Kruger National Park, and discover the secrets of an elephant's six sets of teeth.

THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

ROYAL MALEWANE

Our curated list of activities, excursions and experiences caters to every occasion and preference. Should you be looking for something specific, please do not hesitate to ask us for a recommendation or reservation.

Warm wishes

THE ROYAL MALEWANE TEAM

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