

May 2020: Launching Marataba Conservation Camps

For immediate release

INTRODUCTION

Marataba, a 21,000-hectare privately managed section of the Marakele National Park at the foothills of the Waterberg Massif is located in a transitional zone between the dry western and moist eastern regions of South Africa. The park is a sanctuary for black and white rhino and a diverse variety of flora and fauna, including the Big 5. As a contractual national park, Marataba is a ground-breaking conservation model that paves the way for public-private collaboration to achieve conservation at scale.

Since 2013, Marataba has enjoyed a successful tourism partnership with MORE Family Collection who manage Marataba Safari Lodge and Marataba Mountain Lodge. As the primary tourism operator in the area, MORE has played an invaluable role in successfully creating a sustainable model and raising awareness of Marataba as a safari destination.

Expanding upon the tourism footprint through developing complementary experiences, Marataba is pleased to announce the opening of **Marataba Conservation Camps** later this year. These two new exclusive-use camps, Founders Camp and Explorers Camp, managed by Marataba Conservation, will offer guests a safari experience geared towards active conservation participation and hands-on learning. Marataba Conservation has partnered with Classic Portfolio who will manage sales, marketing and reservations for Marataba Conservation Camps.

HISTORY

Marataba's story begins with Nelson Mandela, South Africa's iconic president, and Paul Fentener van Vlissingen, an ambitious Dutch philanthropist. At the dawn of the country's democracy in 1994, it was clear that Mandela's government needed to secure the protection of South Africa's wild places. With van Vlissingen's wealth and expertise, this dream became a reality and 21,000 hectares of land was purchased and incorporated as a contractually managed section of the Marakele National Park. This land is Marataba.

In partnership with South African National Parks, the country's highest conservation authority, Marataba secures the future of this unique eco-system, preserving it for generations to come. The combined skills, knowledge and resources of the private sector and state favour the optimisation of biodiversity conservation.

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MARATABA CONSERVATION CAMPS

All bookings will be allocated a private conservation guide and vehicle to allow for maximum flexibility where experiences can be chosen on a 'mix and match' basis for a fully tailor-made stay. In addition to daily safari activities, Marataba Conservation Camps' guests will be able to participate in transect walks, camera trap setup and analysis, game census logging and compiling of ID kits, and further opportunities to get involved in specialized experiences with the conservation team. The three-day Rhino Conservation Safari is dedicated to rhino protection, including monitoring and active participation in essential conservation interventions.

Tucked under trees, the exclusive-use **Founders Camp** has four suites overlooking the Matlabas River, which attracts a variety of wildlife. **Explorers Camp** has six tents and two allocated vehicles and conservation guides, allowing for two semi-exclusive bookings. This simple and fun camp has views across a productive waterhole and the dramatic Waterberg Mountains. Both camps are geared towards a connected adventure and accept children of all ages.

Based on a minimum of 4 guests, rates at Founders Camp start from R 38 800, and Explorers Camp starts from R 25 200. Thereafter there is a rate for every additional person. Marataba Conservation Camps are easily accessed from Johannesburg, either by road (3 hours) or private charter (45 minutes).

For further information and rates please contact Classic Portfolio

E: info@classic-portfolio.com

T: +27 21 876 2153