

  
**Babanango**  
GAME RESERVE

**ACTIVITIES  
ON OFFER**





# INDEX

INTRODUCING BABANANGO GAME RESERVE	3
ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW	4
<b>SAFARI EXPERIENCES</b>	
GAME & NATURE DRIVES	5
GUIDED WALKS	6
<b>SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE</b>	
OGOMENI TRAILS CAMP	7
<b>CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE</b>	
WILDLIFE MONITORING	8
<b>CULTURAL EXPERIENCES</b>	
ZULU HOMESTEAD EXPERIENCE	9
<b>HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE</b>	
BATTLEFIELD TOURS	10
<b>UNIQUE EXPERIENCES</b>	
COPPERMINE TOUR	11
<b>ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES</b>	
ZIPLINE ADVENTURE	12



MADWALENI RIVER LODGE



ZULU ROCK LODGE



VALLEY LODGE

# INTRODUCING BABANANGO GAME RESERVE

Set in the heart of Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal, Babanango Game Reserve is one of South Africa's most ambitious and meaningful rewilding projects—where conservation, community upliftment, and luxury safari experiences come together.

Spanning over 20,000 hectares of dramatic and diverse landscape, the reserve is defined by rolling valleys, rugged mountains, and the winding White Umfolozi River. This rich and varied terrain creates the perfect habitat for an abundance of wildlife, including the Big Five, as well as rare and endemic species.

What sets Babanango apart is its sense of space and exclusivity. With a low vehicle density and a strong focus on immersive, unhurried experiences, guests are able to connect with the bush in a more authentic and personal way.

Beyond wildlife, the reserve is deeply rooted in Zulu heritage and history, with world-renowned battlefields such as Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift located nearby—adding a powerful cultural dimension to every stay.

At Babanango, every experience is shaped by purpose—offering travellers not just a safari, but a story worth sharing.

Babanango offers a range of accommodation styles designed to suit different traveller preferences, each delivering a distinct perspective of the reserve. Madwaleni River Lodge provides a five-star luxury safari experience, set along the White Umfolozi River with a strong sense of privacy and immersion. Zulu Rock Lodge offers a four-star experience perched on the mountainside, known for its panoramic views and striking setting. Valley Lodge, also four-star, delivers a more relaxed and accessible safari experience, ideal for a wide range of travellers.

Each lodge is seamlessly integrated into the landscape and offers access to Babanango's full range of activities, ensuring a consistent yet personalised safari experience across the reserve.



# ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

Babanango offers a curated collection of immersive experiences designed to showcase the full diversity of the reserve while catering to a wide range of traveller interests.

From classic Big Five game drives and guided bush walks to culturally rich battlefield tours and authentic Zulu cultural experiences, each activity is thoughtfully designed to connect guests with the landscape, wildlife, and heritage of Zululand.

Guests can enjoy intimate wildlife encounters in a low-density reserve, explore the finer details of the bush on foot through guided walks and immersive walking safaris, or engage in conservation-led experiences such as wildlife monitoring.

Cultural experiences, including visits to a traditional Zulu homestead, offer meaningful insight into the living heritage of the region—connecting guests with local communities, traditions, and ways of life.

For those seeking variety, experiences such as bush dining, coppermine tours, and zipline adventures add memorable and diverse touchpoints to any itinerary.

Whether focused on relaxation, adventure, culture, or conservation, Babanango's activity offering allows for flexible and personalised itineraries suited to both leisure travellers and special interest groups.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*Activity is subject to weather conditions and availability. Our reservations team will gladly assist in tailoring experiences to your itinerary.*



# GAME & NATURE DRIVES

Embark on an unforgettable adventure with our exhilarating game drive experience, designed to immerse guests in the wonders of the African wilderness. Traverse the diverse landscapes of the reserve in one of our high-quality 4x4 game vehicles, in search of the magnificent Big Five and a wide array of fascinating wildlife.

From graceful klipspringers to elusive servals and even the enchanting porcupine, experienced guides lead the way—offering insight into animal behaviour, ecology, and the unique ecosystems that define Babanango. With a low vehicle density, sightings are unhurried and immersive, allowing guests to fully appreciate each encounter.

Capture unforgettable moments and experience the untamed beauty of the surroundings, as each drive reveals something new within this remarkable landscape. Morning and afternoon drives are carefully timed to maximise wildlife activity and ensure optimal viewing conditions.

## Minimum Age:

Madwaleni River Lodge & Zulu Rock Lodge: 8 years

Valley Lodge & Matatane Camp: 6 years

## Group Size:

Madwaleni River Lodge: Maximum 6 people (larger groups on request)

Zulu Rock Lodge & Valley Lodge: Maximum 10 people

Matatane Camp: Maximum 10 people (pre-booking required; not included in stay)

## Includes:

Snacks and beverages

## Additional Information:

Two game drives daily; times vary seasonally and are subject to weather conditions.



## GUIDED WALKS

Guided walks offer an interpretive experience for guests looking to explore the reserve on foot, and can be enjoyed as an alternative to a scheduled game drive.

Step away from the vehicle and into the rhythm of the bush, where this immersive yet accessible experience allows guests to engage more closely with the natural environment.

Led by knowledgeable guides, guests are introduced to the finer details of the bush, from animal tracks and birdlife to plant species and insects. At this slower pace, the wilderness reveals itself in subtle and unexpected ways—from the flutter of wings to the scent of wild herbs underfoot.

Designed to complement a traditional safari experience, guided walks offer a deeper appreciation of the ecosystem and a more intimate connection to the surroundings..

**Minimum Age:**

16 years

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 8 people

**Includes:**

Guided walk with experienced guide



# OGOMENI TRAILS CAMP

Ogomeni Trails Camp is a fully immersive walking safari experience designed for guests seeking a deeper and more engaging encounter with the African wilderness. Offered as a standalone trail experience, it provides an alternative to a traditional lodge-based stay.

Spanning multiple days, the trail allows guests to explore the reserve on foot, where wildlife encounters become more immediate and impactful. Accompanied by expert trail guides, guests move through Big Five territory, experiencing the landscape in a way that is dynamic, personal, and always professionally guided.

Each day unfolds according to the rhythm of the bush, with changing terrain, sightings, and insights shaping the journey. The experience is based from a remote wilderness camp set within an open, unfenced environment, offering an authentic connection to the surrounding landscape.

Evenings are spent around the fire under open skies, sharing stories and reflecting on the day's experiences in the heart of the bush.

**Duration:**

2 to 4 nights (trail options available)

**Minimum Age:**

16 years

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 8 people

**Includes:**

Guided walking safari experience, accommodation, meals & selected beverages.

**Additional Information:**

Seasonal experience; operates between March and October.

Please contact reservations for full details.



# WILDLIFE MONITORING

Guests have the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the reserve's most iconic wildlife through this hands-on conservation experience. Spend time with trained wildlife monitors, tracking animals through the bush and gaining insight into their movements, behaviour, and habitats.

Led by expert guides, this experience offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at the work involved in protecting and managing wildlife. As the day unfolds, guests gain a deeper appreciation for these remarkable species and the importance of ongoing conservation efforts within the reserve.

Whether you are a seasoned wildlife enthusiast or a curious beginner, this experience provides an engaging and memorable opportunity to witness wildlife in their natural environment.

**Duration:**

3 to 5 hours

**Minimum Age:**

16 years

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 4 people

**Includes:**

Guided wildlife monitoring experience with trained specialists.

**Additional Information:**

Activities vary depending on conservation priorities and wildlife movements.

**Please Note:**

This experience is subject to availability. Limited slots are offered weekly in line with conservation priorities. Advance booking is essential and confirmed by reservations.



# ZULU HOMESTEAD EXPERIENCE

Discover the rich cultural heritage of Zululand through an immersive visit to a traditional Zulu homestead. This experience offers guests the opportunity to engage with a living culture, gaining insight into traditions, beliefs, and ways of life that have been passed down through generations.

Guests are welcomed in true Zulu fashion with traditional song and dance, setting the tone for an authentic and engaging encounter. A guided walk through the homestead reveals the significance behind its layout, structure, and daily rhythms, offering a deeper understanding of community, ancestry, and cultural identity.

Storytelling plays an important role throughout the experience, with hosts sharing insights into customs, family traditions, and the values that continue to shape modern Zulu life. Guests may also have the opportunity to observe traditional craft practices and sample local cuisine, adding a sensory and interactive dimension to the visit.

This experience provides meaningful cultural context to a safari stay, connecting guests not only to the landscape, but to the people and heritage that define the region.

**Duration:**

±3 to 4 hours

**Minimum Age:**

All ages welcome

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 8 people

**Includes:**

Guided cultural experience and a meal tasting of traditional foods.



# BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Step back in time and uncover the rich history of the Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift battlefields on this immersive full-day historical tour. Guided by experienced storytellers and supported by visual aids, guests gain a profound understanding of the dramatic events that shaped South African history during these pivotal battles.

The tour includes a visit to Nqutu Ridge, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the battlefields. This vantage point provides a unique perspective on the terrain and its critical influence on the outcomes of these legendary conflicts.

Tours are available by prior arrangement and are subject to weather conditions. Our knowledgeable guides will ensure guests are kept informed of any adjustments, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience.

**Duration:**

Full Day

**Minimum Age:**

12 years

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 4 people

**Includes:**

Packed lunch with soft drinks and water, entrance fees, and transportation.

**Please note:**

Additional battlefields are available on request. Please contact our reservations team for the full list.



# COPPERMINE TOUR

Immerse yourself in the intriguing history of the Coppermine Tour, located just 10 minutes from Valley Lodge. Step into the depths of an old mine shaft and embark on a journey through time, uncovering the story behind the search for “fool’s gold.”

Delve into the rich oral history surrounding the mine, once associated with Paul Pollitzer, a dedicated geologist in pursuit of gold. Guests gain insight into his ambitions, the challenges he faced, and the events that ultimately led to the mine’s abandonment in the early 1900s.

The experience also highlights the ecological significance of the site, which is home to a thriving colony of Cape leaf-nosed bats. Guests have the opportunity to observe these fascinating creatures in their natural habitat while learning about their role within the ecosystem..

**Duration:**

±2 hours

**Minimum Age:**

12 years

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 4 people

**Includes:**

Guided tour



# ZIPLINE ADVENTURES

Experience the thrill of soaring through the air with an exhilarating zipline adventure at Matatane Camp. Set within a dramatic river gorge, this 5-platform course takes guests on an adrenaline-filled journey through the natural beauty of the reserve.

Feel the rush of excitement as you glide from platform to platform, taking in breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape along the way. The course includes multiple lines of varying lengths, with the longest spanning an impressive 200 metres, offering both excitement and scenic perspective.

Combining adventure with striking scenery, the Zipline Adventure offers a unique way to experience Babanango from above—making it an unforgettable addition for thrill-seekers and nature enthusiasts alike.

**Duration:**

±2 hours

**Weight Limit:**

40kg to 120kg

**Group Size:**

Minimum 2 people

Maximum 20 people

**Includes:**

Guided zipline experience.

**Additional Information:**

Located at Matatane Camp. Transfers from other lodges may need to be arranged in advance at an additional surcharge for transfers.



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