

Madikwe & the North

The northern stretch of South Africa is vast and varied, extending from the Kruger National Park in the east to the Botswana border in the west. Here you will find dramatic scenery, some superb wildlife viewing and two of the country's major cities, Pretoria and Johannesburg. In the midst of the bushveld, Sun City is packed with hotels, golf courses, casinos and a waterpark. Our favourite part of this region is the Madikwe Game Reserve, one of South Africa's largest malaria-free game reserves. The concentration of wildlife here is excellent, including the Big Five and there is a good chance of sighting wild dog hunting in packs. Birdlife is similarly impressive, with around 350 recorded species found in the varied habitats.



Wild dog, Madikwe Game Reserve



● Wild dog

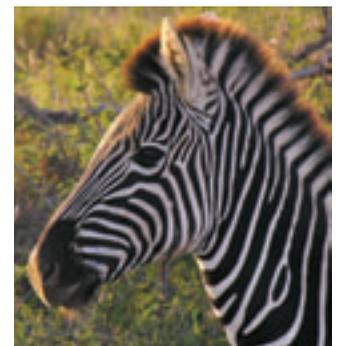
Madikwe Game Reserve is one of the best places in the country to observe these incredible predators.

● Johannesburg Apartheid Museum

A fascinating insight into South Africa's apartheid era.

● Soweto

Take a tour of this sprawling township, which borders Johannesburg, and visit a traditional shebeen (bar).



Zebra, Madikwe Game Reserve

● Malaria-free safari

The lack of malaria makes this a family-friendly safari destination.



Lioness and cubs, Madikwe Game Reserve



Elephant drinking, Madikwe Game Reserve

Madikwe Game Reserve

Tucked away in the far northern reaches of the country, on the border with Botswana, is Madikwe Game Reserve, encompassing an impressive 75,000 hectares. Established in 1991, it was the site of one of Africa's largest ever game relocation programmes, where some 8,000 animals were moved into the reserve. Today the wildlife is well habituated and includes rhino, leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant and most significantly wild dog. Madikwe is one of the best places in South Africa to witness these rare predators, which are famed for their hunting techniques. The terrain is quite unique; vast savannah plains dotted with rocky kopjes stretch endlessly to the horizon, offering a contrast to the dense bush found in other safari destinations in the country.

MADIKWE SAFARI LODGE

This delightful safari lodge occupies a superb position in the northeast of Madikwe, with views of the Dwaarsberg Hills in the distance. There are 20 suites, spread across three exclusive camps, creating a small lodge experience. Two of the camps are family friendly, welcoming children of all ages. Each spacious suite is decorated in warm earthy tones, with thatched roof, fireplace and sitting area. French doors lead onto a balcony with sunloungers and a private plunge pool. The main areas have plenty of comfortable chairs and fireplaces and all boast views of the Marico River weaving across the plains.

Pretoria

This vibrant university city is South Africa's capital and is smaller than nearby Johannesburg. The Union Buildings are a fine example of colonial architecture and are the centre of government. The city is also the starting point for luxury rail journeys on Rovos Rail and Blue Train.



Springbok, Madikwe Game Reserve

Johannesburg

Whilst most visitors fly in and out of Johannesburg without stopping, some itineraries require an overnight stop due to timings. If you have time to spare before you move on, the city offers several areas of interest to visitors and we can arrange a guided tour to include these. One example is the Apartheid Museum, an experience which is informative, humbling and engaging. Displays of photographs, film and texts lead through the precursors to the years of segregation, accounts of life during apartheid, and the historic release from prison of Nelson Mandela. Another option is a guided tour of the township of Soweto which surrounds Johannesburg, perhaps stopping in a shebeen (bar) to sample a locally brewed beer.



Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg

Audley in Madikwe & the North

Game drives in the Madikwe Game Reserve traverse vast open plains, exploring the shadows of the kopjes for leopard, or packs of wild dogs hunting antelope. The vastness of the reserve and variation in the terrain makes Madikwe quite distinctive. The guides at our chosen lodges know the area inside out, ensuring you have the best chance of seeing the majority of the wildlife on offer here. Visitors spending time in the cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria can enjoy some superb restaurants and interesting museums. Pretoria is the prettier of the two cities, with jacaranda-lined streets, pretty parks and the South African government headquarters.

Practicalities

Johannesburg is the main hub for international flights in and out of South Africa, so access to this region is simple. The Madikwe Game Reserve is easily accessed by light aircraft flight right into the reserve. From here you are just a game drive away from your accommodation. Alternatively we can arrange a road transfer for those wishing to experience more of the country. Madikwe has a subtropical climate. Its winters (June-September) are fairly dry making it a particularly good choice during these months.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Madikwe Game Reserve includes a choice of safari lodges. We have been working with these for years, and can assure you of excellent guides, comfortable accommodation and stunning views. In Johannesburg and Pretoria you can choose anything from a city hotel to a boutique property in the suburbs.

Find out more

For more practical information about travel in Madikwe & the North, please see our website.

 www.audleytravel.com/southafrica

Interactive maps and features, further suggested itineraries, accommodation, climate information and articles written by our specialists.

 Discuss your plans with our South Africa specialists **01993 838 550**