

Take a walk on the wild side with Tintswalo Safari Lodge

Ask any South African when last they took a walk on the wild side and most will describe fighting rush hour traffic. While being stuck on the highway is great for raising your blood pressure, Tintswalo Safari Lodge, based within the Manyeleti Game Reserve, would much rather see you lower your stress levels and experience the beauty of the South African lowveld. A lifelong dream for many international tourists is a South African safari, so why shouldn't locals be just as excited. Tintswalo Safari Lodge offers a few tips on getting the best out of your wildlife experience, whether you're after a family experience or looking for the perfect destination for a corporate breakaway.

When to go

While our moderate weather allows for game viewing all year round, heading to the bush from June to September is ideal as many trees and shrubs are leafless, which helps to spot those elusive and well camouflaged animals. Limited food and water also means that animals are out in the open more often foraging, hunting or grabbing a drink at a waterhole. "While our summer sees the bush at its most lush and green, many of the animals can be lost in dense shadows. Also by going in winter you'll miss most of the holiday makers from Europe, who come in herds for the hot temperatures," explains Rory du Plessis, General Manager of Tintswalo Safari Lodge.

Where to go

South Africa has over 600 parks and reserves for you to choose from, offering any kind of safari experience from utter desolation to vast savannah plains teeming with life in all forms, to self driven trips to guided tours at private reserves. "For the discerning traveller wanting superior comfort as well as close proximity to wildlife, then our award winning Tintswalo Safari Lodge and Tintswalo Manor House offer the ultimate in comfort, dining, and service. In addition, all game drives are done by our experienced rangers and trackers who offer a wealth of knowledge about both the complexities and subtleties of the African bush," continues Du Plessis.

Safari Lodge's Presidential Suite offers the ultimate exclusive safari and a flexible itinerary for the discerning traveller. There are two air-conditioned suites which are connected by a spacious lounge, dining and open plan kitchen area. Guests also enjoy their own private safari vehicle, private guide and tracker as well as a private chef and butler.

What to not do

Many guests head to the bush to see the Big Five and are not interested in much else. Agreed it is amazing to view lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes and rhinos in their natural environment, but there

are so many more amazing animals to add to your viewing list. From the dazzling beauty of the zebra to the nervous twitch of a herd of impalas – as the Manyeleti is teeming with wildlife, guests are never truly short of game viewing possibilities.

What to do

Finally, Du Plessis advises that if you're going to go on safari, then simply focus on going on safari. Don't stress about cell phone signal or worry about Wi-Fi connectivity, rather grab that book you've been meaning to read and relax.

"Besides shivering in the cold dawn air you should come prepared to simply unwind. Guides will be doing their best to tick off a checklist of animals but also take the time to appreciate the land around you, the beauty of a deserted waterhole reflecting the vast African sky or the sounds of a bird far in the distance. Sometimes the most magical moment on safari is when you see nothing at all but you just take the time to enjoy nature," concludes Du Plessis.

So take a walk on the wild side, swop the urban concrete jungle for the picturesque Manyeleti Game Reserve. To make this a reality, simply contact Tintswalo Safari Lodge on 011 300 8888 or email res1@tintswalo.com.

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Editor's Notes:

Tintswalo Safari Lodge is located in Mpumalanga on the private Manyeleti Game Reserve concession – a lush, exclusive lodge nestled between the Timbavati Private Reserve to the north, Sabi Sand Reserve to the south, and open to the Greater Kruger National Park on its fenceless eastern boundary. Resting amidst an ancient sycamore tree grove that overlooks a waterhole frequented by large herds of elephant and other big game, Safari Lodge is a pristine wilderness reserve abounding in big game and spectacular bird life.

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