



Eco Friendly Tintswalo

ECO-FRIENDLINESS OF TINTSWALO LAPALALA

Here at Tintswalo Lapalala we are not only focussed on creating an unforgettable experience for each and every guest that stays with us, but also on the impact that we have on this stunning haven that has been gifted to us. We believe in the delicate balance between giving and receiving in our environment and continue to show the gratitude we have towards our beautiful biosphere by being conscious about everything we use and how we use it.

Some projects we have put in place are visible to our guests and some are not. We wanted to use this opportunity to give you an in-depth behind-the-scenes look into what we have achieved in the last year.

SOLAR ENERGY

In early 2018 the entire Lapalala Wilderness Reserve joined an effort of removing all the municipal power lines that were installed on the reserve. We did not only want to be a singular entity that moved away from traditional power sources but wanted to be part of a bigger movement by setting the standard for everyone wanting to join in the Lapalala family and moving over to cleaner alternative energy.

The lodge was previously only used occasionally and had minimal power usage with only a small solar plant which was enough to sustain a maximum of 5 guests and 5 staff. When Tintswalo moved in we quickly realised the challenges of opening a commercial lodge with only solar power. This restricted us quite a lot from our traditional way of thinking and everything that we were used to in the industry had to be adapted to adopt a greener mindset. Simple things like hairdryers and kettles were a big obstacle as our little solar plant could not handle the load.





In August of 2018 we “upcycled” a solar plant from a lodge that needed an upgrade to their grid, thus the first step towards our greener thinking. The grid is now strong enough to sustain a full camp but we still implement a different way of thinking to help our staff, as well as guests, understand their energy usage and the impact thereof on the environment.

We have also installed energy-saving light bulbs in the lodge and rooms as well as opted for no kettles in the rooms, low energy consuming hairdryers and inverter aircons which minimalizes the energy consumed by these appliances, still giving you the luxurious feel of a 5-star lodge.

ZERO WASTE COFFEE BOX

There is nothing better than a fresh brew on your deck in the mornings while watching the antelope graze gracefully. As part of our commitment to cleaner greener living. A personalised and discreet water delivery at the time of your choosing. We boil hot water on the gas stove and bring a large flask of hot water for you to your room which in turn uses much less energy.



As part of your genuine safari explorer experience, a box has been installed outside of your room and we are proud of the fact that we have no wastage from this box. There are no plastics spoons, sugar sachets or tea bags that need to be thrown away. We use organically grown loose leaf teas which can be composted after use and we provide beautiful jars with sugar and filter coffee inside. The filter coffee is also used as a component in our composting heap.

BIO-WAY & NATURAL MOSQUITO SPRAY

Some focus on the bigger things when looking at being eco-friendly but often forget what a big impact small things may have on your environment.

Although we do not encourage its usage, guests may find an unwelcome visitor in their rooms in the form of a spider or beetle. Traditionally you would use a product filled with chemicals to get rid of it, but have you ever thought of what that does to the delicate balance of our eco-system? If a bird or small mammal eats this spider or beetle it will ingest all these chemicals which could have devastating effects. We at Tintswalo Lapalala have gone out of our way to look for an eco-friendly alternative called Bio-Way. It does not contain harsh chemicals and if a bird does eat one of the critters there are no side effects from this product. We have also opted for a gentle mosquito repellent with the most basic ingredients and is made inhouse with a carefully selected range of organic essential oils.





ECO AMENITIES

We use a well know brand called Africology which is locally produced in South Africa. They use all-natural products such as Aloe, Rooibos and Marula which are free of chemicals such as parabens and other synthetic materials. They are also cruelty-free and do not test any of their products on animals, right within the scope of what we are aiming to accomplish here at Tintswalo Lapalala.



PLASTIC REDUCTION

We strive to minimise our usage of single-use plastics such as straws and water bottles. At the lodge, we provide each and every guest with a glass water bottle which is refilled from our in-house water filtering system on request and used for their entire stay which they can then take home and use again and again. We also do not have plastic or paper straws, we use glass straws which not only looks fantastic but is much more hygienic, eco-friendly and lasts much longer. We don't use plastic bags, we use corn-starch bags to reduce the carbon footprint impact.



FROM THE KITCHEN

Traditionally a kitchen can create a huge amount of waste both natural and artificial as a by-product of all the wonderful meals they create. One of the methods we used to minimise the wastage is by using our fresh waste to feed our compost heap which in turn feeds our veggie garden. We also do seed banking from the vegetables in the kitchen to ensure we can plant future generations of delicious and organic foods.

We are also committed to free-range eggs to ensure we are doing our part in not only protecting and promoting the health of these animals but also providing only the best organic foods to our guests.





VEGETABLE GARDEN

We have a large vegetable garden on the property, growing a variety of lush herbs and vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumber, mint, basil, micro-greens, edible flowers, broccoli, radish and many more. We have tried our best to close the loop in this system by ensuring we are not buying compost but rather using the waste we already have from the kitchen to make our own.

By collecting seeds from the growing plants to ensure we keep everything as organic as it originally was (only the best harvest) and also using as little water as possible to keep the garden going. We have automated sprayers which spray for a limited amount of time as needed and then switch themselves off. We do however also constantly monitor for rain and switch off this system if there is enough rain to see the plants through. Each dish you have at the lodge has a component from the garden, freshly picked especially for you.



RECYCLING

Although we try our best to upcycle and use as much waste as we possibly can in a constructive way there are some materials we cannot. Such products include plastic, metal and glass. These products are meticulously sorted by our wonderful team, everyone has their own role to play, and sent to different depots who recycle and upcycle the products to create something new that can be used again. By doing this we are keeping waste out of landfills and minimising the human footprint we leave behind.

The deliveries we receive from our main suppliers are in crates which eliminated the usages of boxes and we also receive some of our products in mesh bags to stop plastic from coming into the reserve as a whole.





CARBON NEUTRAL

On top of having solar power, we have also opted for gas stoves and geysers to alleviate some load off of the grid. This is cleaner energy to use and also lasts much longer than you would expect.

We also do not allow private vehicles to drive on the reserve as part of reducing our carbon footprint. With only the lodge vehicles travelling to collect guests we are drastically reducing the number of vehicles that enter the reserve as well as the impact they might have on our fauna and flora.

We make an effort on our end to neutralize the carbon footprint of our vehicles and the occasional generator starting by involving our guest by planting a Spekboom to offset the carbon footprint we created during their stay.

Reason to plant Spekboom everywhere!

- It improves the quality of the air we breathe and helps fight climate change. Spekboom (aka *Portulacaria afra*) is a succulent that helps fight air pollution.
- Spekboom is a proudly South African plant.
- It's water wise.
- Suitable for all seasons and weather conditions.
- Even better, Spekboom is easy to grow.





GIFTS AND CURIOS LOCALLY PRODUCED

We support and purchase only locally South African artisans products for our gift shops in all our lodges. This supports job creation, alleviating un-employment and retain existing job opportunities in the local communities. This is to combat poverty and in-equality in South Africa. The gift shops feature innovative handcrafted jewellery, ceramic masterpieces and brightly coloured printed clothing and the classic leather Veldskoen. Vist our gift shop: #Support local #reduce plastic #support a cause

We hope the souvenirs or gifts you purchased will bring you good memories from your visit and that you always have a piece of Tintswalo and South Africa with you.



Africology Skin & Spa Products



Julia's Ceramics



Range of Veldskoen



Umtha Artisan Jewellery

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

“Living sustainably is about choices and behaviours, both big and small that enhance our lives, care for our environment and encourage us to live within our means. It is the practice of reducing our impact on the earth’s natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint and living healthier lives.”