



Babanango

GAME RESERVE

GUEST INFORMATION

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SAWUBONA AND WELCOME TO BABANANGO GAME RESERVE

Tucked away in the rolling hills of northern KwaZulu-Natal, with a history dating back to the origins of the Zulu nation, Babanango Game Reserve is a trailblazing success story that's protecting a vast African wilderness while uplifting rural community in the process...

"Nothing but breathing the air of Africa, and walking through it, can communicate the indescribable sensations." - William Burchell



AFRICAN HABITAT CONSERVANCY

About African Habitat Conservancy

African Habitat Conservancy (AHC) was established to support the conservation of African wildlife through sustainable investment in central KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The first African Habitat Conservancy project, Babanango Game Reserve, consists of 22,000ha of pristine wilderness encompassing rich biodiversity and plenty of room for growth for many species of flora and fauna, including the Big Five.

As the reserve falls within the Umfolozi Biodiversity Economy Node (UBEN), a region that is in dire need of socio-economic upliftment, AHC has founded a trust - the African Habitat Conservancy Foundation (AHCF) to support the ongoing upliftment of the local communities, through the development of several exclusive lodges and tented camps offering accommodation, game viewing and outdoor education facilities. AHC offers education, training, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to the surrounding communities.

Envisioned as a greenfield conservation project, Babanango Game Reserve offers an unparalleled sense of wilderness. Under the custodianship of German investor Hellmuth Weisser and AHC's Jeffrey van Staden, this legacy investment of four years in the making aims to put more land and wildlife under conservation and comprises of several private game farms and community land. The communities will also benefit from the project through various initiatives undertaken by the AHCF.

"We want the AHC collection and any hospitality offering and property associated with our name to have a meaningful link and partnership with the local community. We want to create sustainable solutions that in some way give back and empower local communities in need."

Jeffrey van Staden, Director of African Habitat Conservancy





ABOUT BABANANGO GAME RESERVE

OUR VALUES

Mindful Development

Sustainable conservation and support of natural systems alongside restorations of endemic species and eco-systems.

Respect for All

Upliftment of local communities through job creation and growth of skills, respect and growth for all staff.

Walk with purpose

Collaboration with global industry partners for the greater good of humanity, wildlife and our planet.

The sound of the African bush never ceases to impress... Soft wind moving over undulating terrain, tall riparian trees bowing to its will along densely wooded river banks, birdcalls filling the air... It's hard to find true wilderness in South Africa, but Babanango Game Reserve has managed it.

This reserve was purposely created by a unique partnership between conservationists, private investors and the local communities to conserve and protect 22,000ha of mistveld grasslands, thornveld and riverine thicket that also includes a 23km stretch of the White Umfolozi River.

Two hundred years ago, this was a stamping ground of the invincible Zulu nation, created by the inimitable Shaka himself, whose impis once roamed Babanango's hills. Today, it's home to abundant game from buffalo, giraffe and plains game species like zebra and impala to the more elusive aardwolf and aardvark.



The birdlife is exceptional, an abundance and variety of bird species found here. Eventually, the reserve will be home to all of the Big Five - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo.

The creation of Babanango has been years in the making and realises the local communities' dream of creating a wilderness area that would attract tourism and stimulate the local economy through direct beneficiation. Babanango has created a wealth of new jobs, 90% of which have been filled by local people with more in the pipeline as the reserve and its tourism offerings grow. It has also encouraged entrepreneurship in the local communities, helping people to start businesses that provide services to the reserve and its lodges.

The opportunities for locals furthering their prospects are exciting with many new "spinoff" businesses and procurement opportunities in the pipeline. Ideas include a shuttle service providing staff transportation, a refuse removal company and the growing of fresh produce for use in the lodges.

Conservation is at the heart of Babanango, with the aim of restoring the land to a pristine wilderness filled with the species that would have been found here hundreds of years ago. Buffalo were recently released onto the reserve and other key species have been translocated and introduced, with plans to have all of the Big Five on the reserve by 2022.



BABANANGO VALLEY LODGE

With views out over the beautiful Babanango Game Reserve, Babanango Valley Lodge has nine tastefully decorated and spacious rooms sleeping up to 18 people. Two rooms have interleading doors to create a comfortable four-bed family unit. The generous honeymoon suite, slightly separate from the lodge, offers the perfect retreat for newly married couples or those looking to indulge in a little alone time.

When it comes to food, South African-inspired cuisine is on the menu. Guests can look forward to four-course traditional dinners featuring “Saffrican” stalwarts like bobotie, milk tart and malva pudding.

Activities on offer at Babanango Valley Lodge are designed to immerse guests into the breathtaking natural surroundings. Morning and evening game drives are conducted daily and guests can also indulge in guided birding walks.

Trail running and history tours of the nearby battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke’s Drift are also available, as is a visit to the eMakhosini Valley (Valley of the Kings). While watching the dark-eyed bulbul frolic in the pool, guests can take a moment to indulge in their surroundings and know that they are not only enjoying a wonderful bush experience but also playing their part in a brand new conservation initiative that has put more land under protection and is benefiting the local community too.



FROM COP TO COOK



Meet Babanango Valley Lodge's Head Chef, Khumbulani Nzima

Chef Khumbulani Nzima was once a policeman but after learning how to cook to impress his girlfriend, he could no longer deny his true calling.

Having trained at Cape Town's International Culinary Association, Khumbulani transitioned from cop to cook and was soon offered a job at a Drakensberg resort where he worked for six months. He joined Babanango Valley Lodge in May 2019 and is excited about being a hands-on chef.

"I'm thrilled to be part of this project from the start and to be putting my stamp on the food we serve," says an excited Khumbulani.

Khumbulani and his team serve up the very best of South African cuisine as well as other culinary delights with a local flavour. One of these dishes is the time-honoured and delicious bobotie, (a mildly curried and spicy mince casserole). Desserts include traditional milk tart and malva pudding, (a sweet pudding with a spongy caramelised texture that's wickedly delicious served up with custard or ice-cream).

He is currently developing a mini chocolate mousse cake, a four-layered masterpiece with red velvet sponge topped with dark chocolate, white chocolate mousse and chocolate ganache served with raspberry sorbet and orange biscuit tuile. Boma dinners include meat cooked braai-style over open fires, served with sides such as samp and beans, chakalaka and steamed bread.

When asked about what he loves most about cooking Khumbulani says: "Cooking starts with me. I put in all the love and seeing people say WOW makes me happy."



ACTIVITIES ON OFFER

GAME & NATURE DRIVES

Am: 05h30 – 08h30 (summer) / 06h00 – 09h00 (winter)

Pm: 16h00 – 19h00 (summer) / 15h00 – 18h00 (winter)

*Times are subject to change as it is weather permitting, your guide will keep you updated.

STARGAZING

A one-and-a-half hour guide to the Milky Way and the constellations that feature in the fabulous, velvety African night skies. Includes a hot beverage.

GUIDED MOUNTAIN BIKING

Trails available with a guide excludes equipment.

Own equipment to be used.

25 kilometres in total, time depends on guests' fitness levels.

Times range between one to four hours (if the whole course is done with an entry-level fitness).

GUIDED NATURE WALKS

Depending on fitness level and guests needs, the shortest walk is an hour and can be extended to a three-hour walk.

Enquire at the lodge for more information and availability.

GUIDED COPPER MINE TOUR

A unique two-hour experience where guests learn about the history of an old copper mine, mining procedures and the geographical significance of this. Afterwards, the supervised exploration of a mine shaft is carried out. Please enquire at the lodge for more information and availability.

GUIDED TOUR TO ISANDLWANA AND RORKE'S DRIFT (Full day)

During this full-day history tour guests will be hands-on, enjoying role-playing and visual aids. From the lofty heights of the Nqutu Ridge, guests enjoy a panoramic view of both the Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift battlefields.

GUIDED PHOTOGRAPHIC DRIVES

These 3-hour drives are weather, permitting and availability of guides. If exclusively booked can be offered at any time depending on guests. Please enquire at reception for more information.

NB before conducting any activities please ensure you have the duty Managers mobile number.





ACCOMMODATION

ROOM AMENITIES

- Internet Access
- Hairdryer
- Cosmetic Mirror
- Underfloor Heating & Heated Towel Racks
- Ceiling Fans
- Toiletries – Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid Hand Soap, Body Lotion, Room Spray
- Towels
- Tea & Coffee Station
- Drinking Water
- Insecticide & Mosquito Repellent
- Desk & Chair
- Notepaper & Pen
- Mobile USB Charging Unit & Electronic Safe
- Hangers
- Laundry Facilities
- Emergency Torch & Airhorn

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

- Shoe Mitts
- Dental Kit
- Shaving Kit
- Sewing Kit
- Universal Adapters
- Iron & Ironing Board
- Additional Blankets & Pillows

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT TIMES

Check-in time: 14h00

Check-out time: 10h00

No noise after 22h00

OPERATING HOURS OF THE LODGE & BAR

Lodge 06h30 – 22h00 (or until last guest leaves)

Bar 08h00 – 22h00 (or until last guest leaves)

WATER USAGE

To be used sparingly please

DRINKING WATER

The tap water in your room is filtered, however it sometimes appears brown. We do leave a flask of water in your room for you to drink.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

No cash payments and no foreign exchange accepted

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are not compulsory however should you wish to tip our staff for giving you exceptional service and hospitality, the suggested/recommended amounts would be R50.00 per person per drive for guides. General staff such as housekeepers, waiters, chefs or other lodge staff can be based on 10% of your total accommodation bill. Gratuities are at guests' discretion.

BABYSITTING

Babysitting and baby cribs are available upon request and prior arrangement needs to be made. These services are COVID-19 compliant.

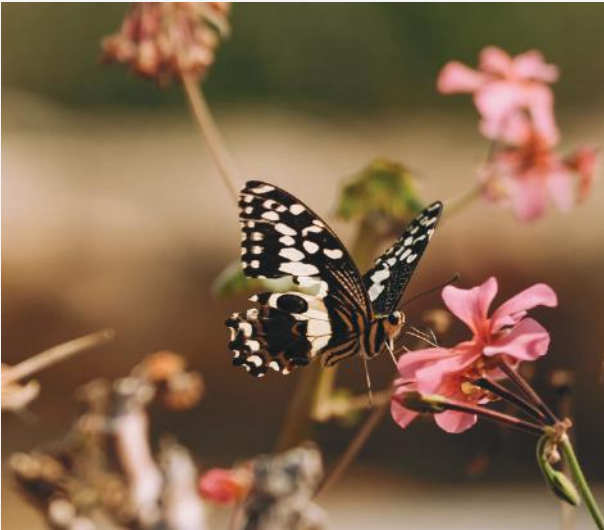
LAUNDRY AND IRONING SERVICES

A laundry list and laundry bag is provided and can be found in your room. Please complete the list and add with garments in the provided laundry bag for your housekeeper to collect. Arrangements to be made with the lodge regarding the ironing of garments. Please note that our laundry service has been adapted to meet COVID-19 protocols and procedures.

CONCIERGE SERVICES

Lodge staff members are available throughout the day to assist with queries or booking extra activities.





FAUNA AND FLORA LIST

Can be found in the main lodge, please ask one of our friendly staff to assist you.

BIRDING AND BUTTERFLY LIST

Can be found in the main lodge, please ask one of our friendly staff to assist you.

BOARD GAMES

Can be found in the main lodge, please ask one of our friendly staff to assist you.

ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

The lodge can offer rooms specially equipped to accommodate handicapped guests, as well as wheelchairs. Should you need assistance in this regard, please be sure to make a note when making your booking.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

Please familiarise yourself with our emergency procedures and the location of our emergency assembly points. This information is found on the back of your room door.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Each room is equipped with a fire extinguisher. Please note the location of your fire extinguisher and understand how to use it.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In the case of an emergency or fire, please call the Lodge Manager on **063 698 4316**.

AIRHORN

Only to be used in the event of an emergency or to alert lodge staff that a dangerous animal is approaching.

APPLIANCE SAFETY

GAS

Our appliances are checked and maintained regularly. However, should you notice any gas leaks or gas appliances that do not work, please report these to the Lodge.

ELECTRICAL: 220 VOLTS

Please report any damaged cords or faulty electrical appliances.

THE REST OF THE RESERVE



ZULU ROCK

★★★★★

- 5 Luxury rooms
- 1 Family Room
- 1 Honeymoon Suite

Basic Amenities Include:

- Valley Views
- Pool
- Dining Room
- Bar
- Lounge



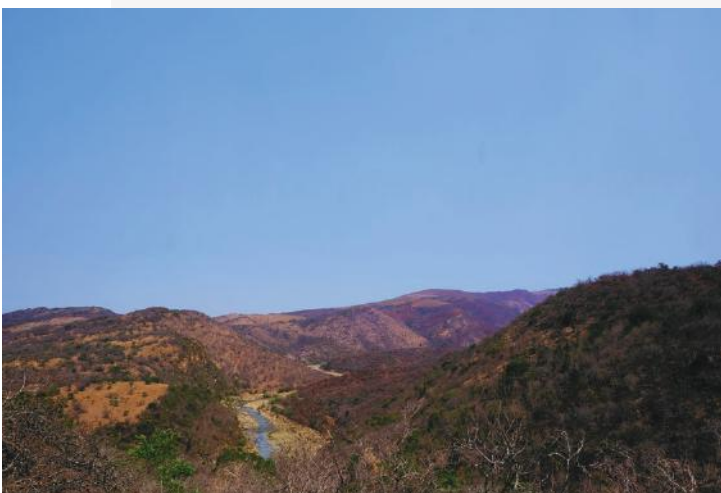
TRAVELLERS CAMP (2021)

★★★★★

- Safari Tented Villas
- Wellness Centre

Basic Amenities Include:

- Pool
- Communal Area



MATATANE LODGE & BABANANGO OUTDOOR EDUCATION

★★★

- 5 Standard Rooms
- 1 Family Room
- 2 Safari Tented Camps

Basic Amenities Include:

- Pool
- Communal Area

RULES & GUIDELINES



Please familiarise yourself with the following rules and guidelines to follow during your stay at Babanango Game Reserve. These rules are in place for your safety and to ensure your enjoyment during your stay with us, as well as the enjoyment of your fellow guests. By adhering to our rules, you are also playing your part in protecting our wildlife and ensuring they can be enjoyed by people for many generations to come.

If you have any questions, please speak to one of our friendly members of staff and they can assist or provide clarity.

COVID-19

Babanango Game Reserve and its facilities are fully compliant with all legislated and recommended COVID-19 protocols and procedures. Please wear a face mask in all public areas and sanitise regularly with the sanitiser provided in your rooms and in communal areas. Your temperature will be taken on a daily basis and recorded by our staff. This is for your health and safety and the health and safety of everyone on the reserve. Please ask for more information on the COVID-19 protocols should you wish to understand what is being done to ensure you are fully protected.

SMOKING

Please take note of the smoking regulations applicable in the reserve. Smoking may only take place in designated smoking areas and cigarette butts must be disposed of in the supplied dustbins located throughout the lodge.

Babanango Game Reserve is a 'high fire risk' area, please do not start any fires and report any you see.

DO NOT throw cigarette butts or ash on the ground but rather ensure it is dead and disposed of in an ashtray or rubbish bin.

NOISE & CONDUCT

The reserve is a conservation area. Behaving in an offensive, improper, indecent or disorderly manner, including the playing of any radio, compact disc player, music system, or instrument, or in any way causing noise in a manner likely to disturb any animal or person is strictly prohibited.

VANDALISM

Buildings and sites of **historical and cultural value** exist within the reserve and these must always be treated with respect. Vandalism of any building or infrastructure is **strictly prohibited** and transgressions will result in a summons being issued.

BUSH WALKING

The reserve is home to potentially **dangerous game***. For your safety, never walk on the reserve alone at any time unless accompanied by one of our game rangers. No self-guided walking is permitted during the day/night.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Do not leave your room, should you spot any **dangerous game*** outside. Use the air horn provided in your room to alert our game rangers, staff and other guests and remain in your room until further notice.

ANIMAL SAFETY:

PETS

No pets (dog, cats, birds or any other) may be brought onto the reserve. Guide dogs for visually impaired guests are one exception, but only in consultation in advance with reserve management.

DANGEROUS WILDLIFE

The reserve is home to potentially dangerous wildlife. We ask that you always respect our wildlife by not approaching any animals, touching them or interacting with them in any way. We are all guests in their habitat, and the conservation of our wildlife is of primary importance.

***DANGEROUS GAME: Lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalo, hippos, crocodiles, leopards, spotted hyena, venomous snakes**

FEEDING WILDLIFE IS PROHIBITED

The feeding or intentional disturbance of wildlife is a serious offence. By feeding any wildlife, including all bird species, you are potentially helping them to become dependent on humans for food. This can make animals aggressive and dangerous.

POOL SAFETY

The swimming pool is there for your enjoyment and is used at your own risk. Please note that no lifeguards will be present at the pools at any time. Therefore, **do not** allow children under the age of 12yrs to swim unsupervised. Plunge pool closed after 17h00.

VEHICLES

Babanango Game Reserve has the right and authority to search any private vehicle on the reserve at any time. General rules of the road apply, the speed limit is 30km/h.

SWIMMING IN DAMS AND RIVERS

Swimming or wading in any of the dams or bodies of water within the reserve is **strictly prohibited**. These are habitats for our wildlife and may be unsafe to enter.

SEASONS

High Season:

01 March – 30 April

01 July – 31 October

01 November – 30 November

16 December – 15 January

Low Season:

16 January – 29 February

01 May – 30 June

01 December – 15 December

TRAIL RUNNERS AND MTB CYCLING

Please always remain on the bicycle tracks and/or roads – no off-roading is permitted.

Please **do not** cycle counter flow, the arrows indicate the direction of flow.

Always cycle with a helmet and report any trail maintenance to management i.e. holes in trails, fallen trees etc. Motorcycles and Quadbikes are not prohibited.

GENERAL

No fireworks.

No littering.

No plant, animal, wildlife or any natural or cultural items may be removed from the reserve without permission. To cut, damage, destroy or have any plant or part thereof, including dry wood or firewood is a serious offence. Importing of any specimen of an alien or listed invasive species into the reserve is prohibited.

No disturbing, injuring, killing or feeding of animals is permitted.

Buildings and sites of historical and cultural value exist within the reserve and these must always be treated with respect. Vandalism of any buildings or infrastructure is strictly prohibited.

Please report any suspicious or unusual activities i.e. dead animals, domestic dogs etc.

No drones or camera traps may be flown or put up in Babanango Game Reserve.

CHILDREN AT BABANANGO GAME RESERVE

RATES

Children under 4 Years Old - Free of Charge

Children Age 5-11 Years Old - 50% of Rack Rate

Children Age 12 Years Old and Over - 100% of Rack Rate

POLICIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE GAME RESERVE

Babysitting services can be booked in advance for **R 150.00** per hour.

Bookings can be made when making your reservation or when arriving at the Lodge.

A maximum of three hours for each babysitter can ensure children do not get distressed.

Children are permitted at this lodge, kindly note a **no noise policy** is always applicable.

Children are always to **be attended to** at the swimming pool by an adult.

Children **under seven yrs are encouraged to dine in the family-friendly** spaces before 18h00, this can be pre-booked and arranged with your Lodge Manager.

Family units can have **private family dining arranged for children.**

CHILDREN AROUND ANIMALS

Be advised to keep to low noise levels and act calmly when around wildlife. We always ask that this be considered to ensure a relaxed environment for our animals and other guests.

Avoid running around the lodge and camps.

CHILDREN ON GAME DRIVES

No children under the age of seven yrs are permitted on vehicles.

Should you wish to book a private game drive for your family this can be arranged at an additional fee of R3000 per drive. Kindly note that the guide will use their discretion at certain animal sightings for children under the age of seven for their safety.



PLACES OF INTEREST



Guests staying at Babanango Valley Lodge can self-drive to several places of historical and ecological interest in and around Babanango.

EMAKHOSINI VALLEY

Not far from Babanango on the road between Eshowe and Vryheid, a plunging valley that encompasses the white and black Umfolozi rivers was once the hunting ground of several Zulu kings. Known as the eMakhosini Valley or Valley of the Kings, this is the cradle of the

Zulu nation and holds the graves of several influential Zulu kings including Phunga, Mageba, Ndaba, Jaba, Senzangakhona (King Shaka's father) and Dinuzulu. Visitors can enjoy the view and the "khamba pot" monument which pays homage to the traditional clay pots the Zulus use to drink "mqombothi", their home brewed beer.

BATTLEFIELDS

The battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift took place on the 22nd and 23rd January 1879. When the Zulus, under the leadership of King Cetshwayo, refused to accept an ultimatum requiring them to disband their army and swear allegiance to Queen Victoria, three British columns under Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford invaded Zululand. Underestimating the Zulu might, 20,000 warriors overran British troops at their Isandlwana camp where 1,357 soldiers perished. A further 4,000 warriors went on to attack the British garrison at Rorke's Drift where an 11-hour battle ensued. Both conflicts were seen as the first significant battles of the Anglo-Zulu war.





ESHOWE






This town in Zululand was besieged during the Anglo Zulu war in 1879. There is a gallery in the town with images of the Eshowe Fort, Lutheran Church, Street Scenes, Eshowe Old Goal, Fort Nonquayi, King Cetchwayo's monument and many of the old residences dating back to the early 20th century.

VRYHEID

This town was in a section of land granted to the Boers by Dinuzulu and initially formed part of the independent Nuwe Republiek. After the Boer War it was incorporated into Natal. Vryheid CBD as well as being close to many battle sites, has many buildings of historical significance, schools, churches (especially the NG Kerk) and old homes.



ROOM	NO. SLEEPS	BED TYPE
Room 01	4	 Dbl Sleeper Couch
Room 02	4	 Dbl Sleeper Couch
Room 03	2	
Room 04	2	

ROOM	NO. SLEEPS	BED TYPE
Room 05	2	
Room 06	2	
Room 07	2	
Room 08	2	
Room 09	2	 Honeymoon Suite

Interconnecting Doors

LODGE LAYOUT

