



Mhondoro Safari Lodge and Villa- Five Star Elegance

Coco Chanel once said, "Elegance is when the inside is as beautiful as the outside." Combine chic, neutral coloured décor with sumptuous modern African cuisine, luxurious accommodation and unexpected personal touches, all encapsulated within an exquisite African bush setting, add to that passionate and service orientated staff, and you have the very essence of elegance - Mhondoro Safari Lodge and Villa.



Situated within the 35 000 hectare Welgevonden Game Reserve in Limpopo; less than three hours drive from Lanseria Airport; the five star Mhondoro Safari Lodge and Villa has risen from the ashes of a devastating fire a few years ago and now sits proud and bold and beautiful in its bushveld landscape.

Having stayed at many private game lodges over the years and knowing what to expect it was genuinely refreshing to experience what I can only describe as “next level”.

We were met on arrival at the Welgevonden Game Reserve gate by the audacious Ivan Ueckermann, who was to be our personal game ranger for the duration of the stay. After a refreshing drink and some snacks, we set off on the 45-minute transfer to the lodge through the reserve, with Ivan at the helm of his open game-viewer happily chatting away to his new guests and pointing out various animal sightings along the way.

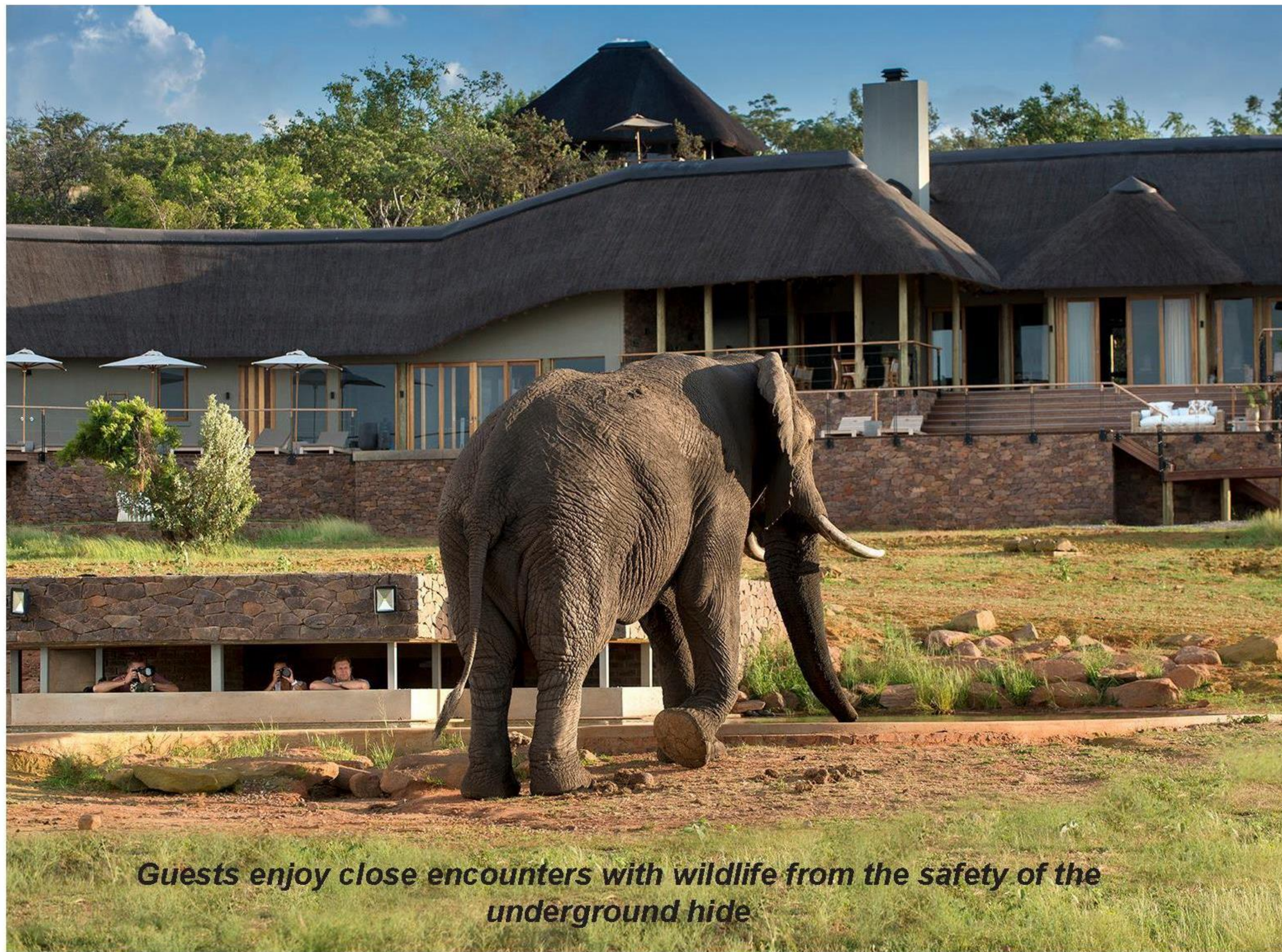
Welgevonden Game Reserve is Big 5 territory situated in the malaria-free Limpopo province. The animal and bird life is prolific with over 300 species of bird having been identified including the rare blue crane. Throw brown hyena, pangolin, aardvark and aardwolf into the mix along with its biodiversity of habitat, and you have the makings of one of the finest reserves in the country.

The reserve managements' deep commitment to the conservation of the environment and all its inhabitants is unwavering as is seen by their constant efforts to find new ways to protect our endangered rhino (see page 61 for more details on this programme)

The Experience

The main lodge forms the heart of Mhondoro. Expansive raised wooden decks, comfortable outdoor seating and dining areas and sparkling heated swimming all overlook a waterhole which entices any number of animals to come and drink from its life-giving waters. Zebras, warthog and large herds of elephant are regular guests at this waterhole rewarding their human counterparts with fabulous game viewing opportunities right from the comfort of their swaying wicker chair. During our stay the ellies came to visit the lodge on both nights and on the second night came within touching distance as they drank the water from the heated pool. They must have decided the warm pool water was just what their bellies needed that cold night.

An impressive 65m tunnel constructed under the main lodge leads guests to a very special underground hide. Positioned alongside the waterhole and at eye level with the waters' edge, guests can enjoy watching the wildlife that comes to drink there from a unique perspective. Looking up at a lone elephant drinking water less than a meter away from you; it staring at you inquisitively through the reeds before sauntering off into the late afternoon sun, is a memory forever cherished and never to be forgotten.

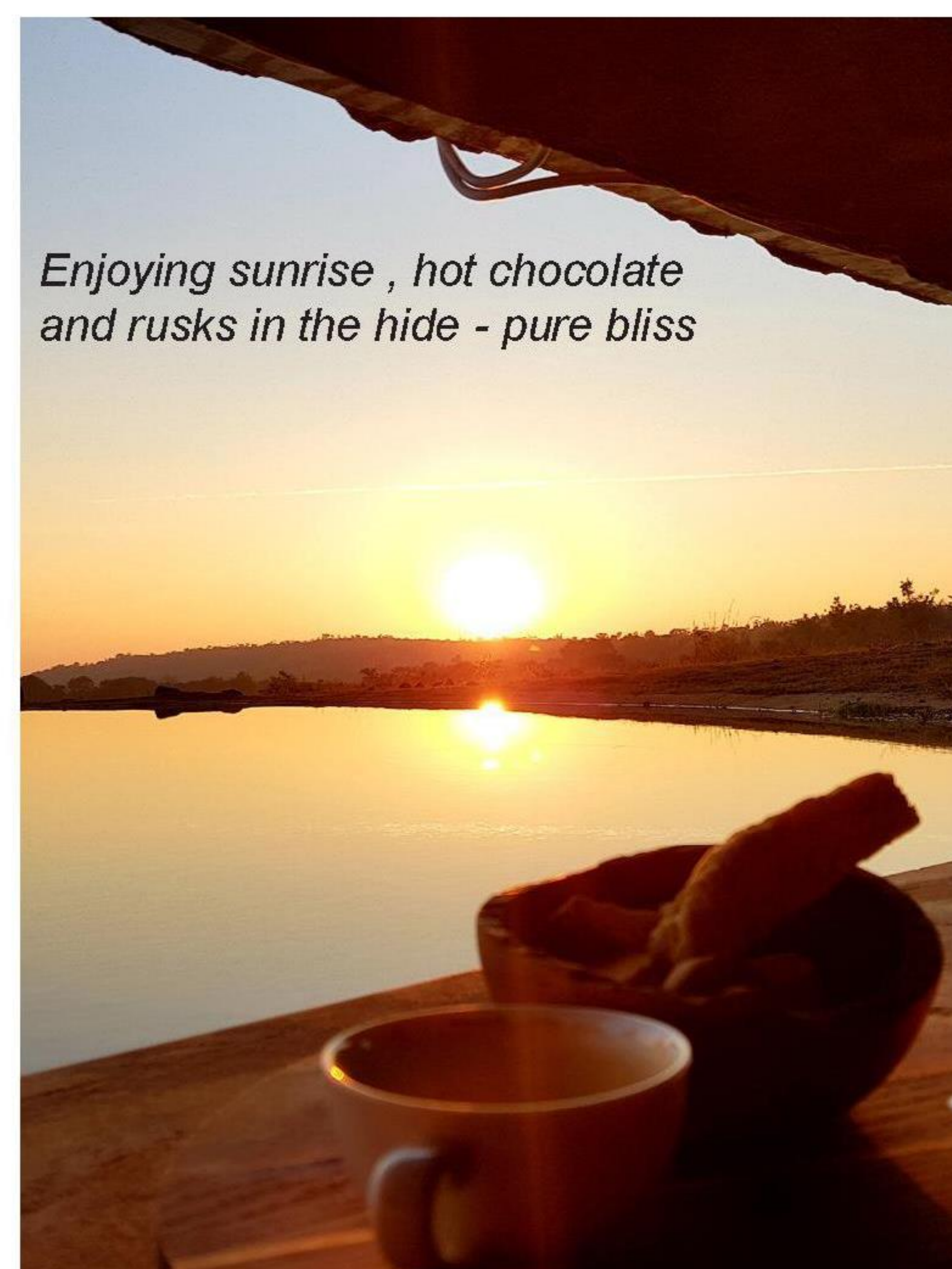


Guests enjoy close encounters with wildlife from the safety of the underground hide



So too is skipping the morning game-drive in favour of spending some quiet time in the hide just before sunrise, steaming cup of hot chocolate clasped firmly in your hands, watching a mischievous warthog wonder over for a drink; aware but not too afraid of our presence. Pure bliss and absolute heaven for photographers.

The Main Lodge is flanked on either side by luxuriously appointed guest suites on one side and the crème de la crème of accommodation being Mhondoro Villa on the other. This three bedroomed villa sleeps a total of six people and is for the exclusive use of your group of friends or family. It comes complete with a private butler and housekeeping staff, private chef, private yoga room, gym and heated swimming pool plus a private game viewer and personal ranger. It is the epitome of luxury.



Enjoying sunrise , hot chocolate and rusks in the hide - pure bliss

Energetic and enthusiastic staff are continually ensuring your every need has been taken care of. Surprise pancake stops in the middle of game drives alongside a shimmering dam create a space for one to admire the beauty of your surrounds while enjoying freshly made pancakes filled with fresh strawberries and Nutella. Boma dinner evenings under the stars next to the warmth of a mesmerizing fire; early morning and evening game drives huddled under fluffy blankets with the thoughtfully added luxury, not seen at many other lodges, of a hot water bottle to make the chilly mornings or evenings on an open vehicle so much more enjoyable. Listening to African folklore stories being told by our intrepid ranger – the memories go on.

Mhondoro Safari Lodge and Villa has undoubtedly managed to revitalise my perception of private game lodges. Their impeccable attention to every detail and ability to ensure that everyone has a memorable time means that each guest who passes through their doors leaves feeling enriched for having stayed there.

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FACT TRACKER

Mhondoro

How to get there:

GPS Co-ordinates to Welgevonden Game Reserve Main Gate:
S 24° 12.150' E 027° 54.099'.

Accommodation

Main Lodge: 1 Honeymoon Suite
1 Executive Suite - sleeps four
2 Deluxe Suites - sleeps two
1 Family Suite - sleeps four

Private Mhondoro Villa

Three bedroomed villa sleeps six
Booked as exclusive use only

Rates: incl. all meals, two game activities, soft drinks, local beers, houswines, coffee and tea, laundry

Activities and Features

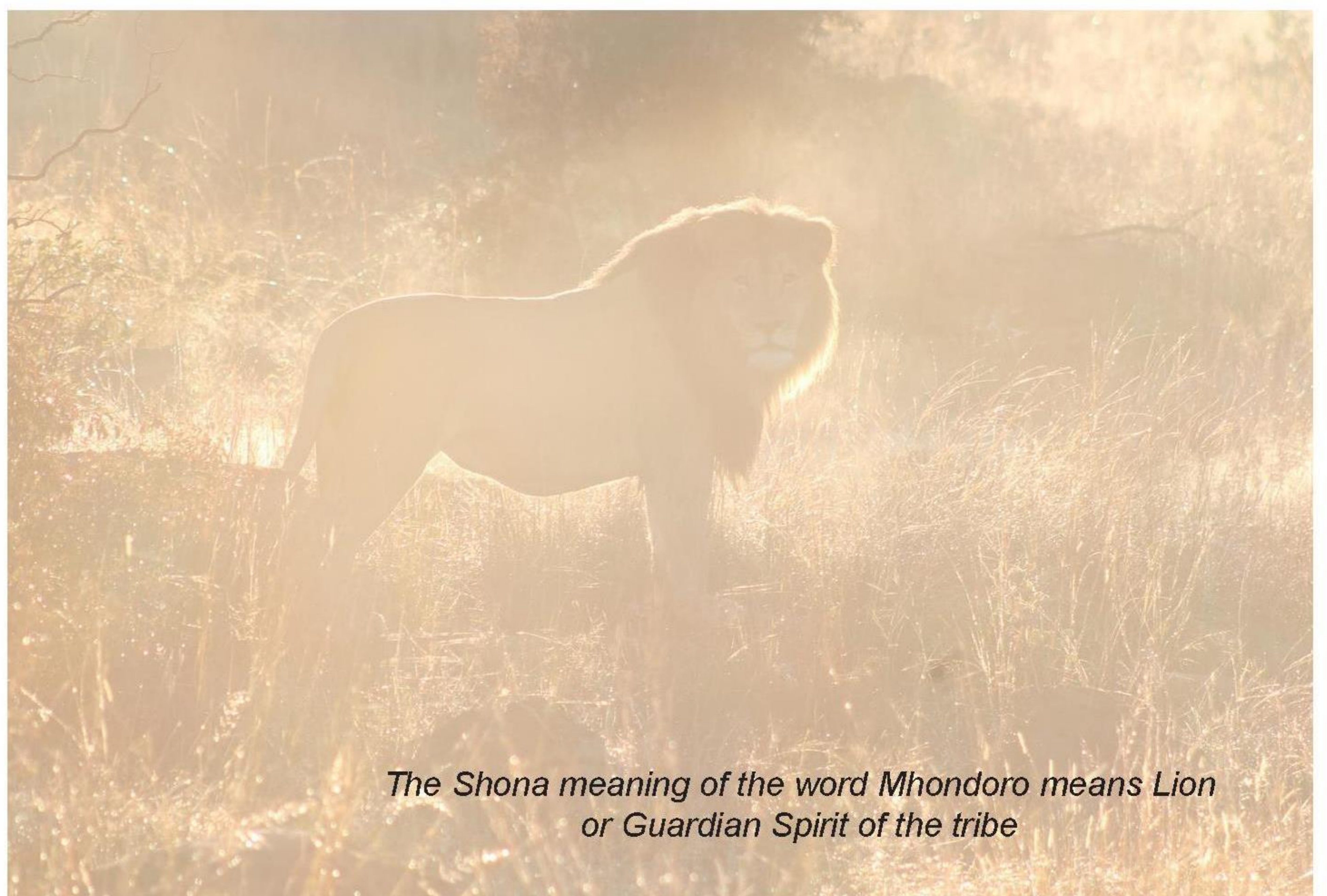
Children Allowed - yes
Children on safari - over 6 years when booked at main lodge.
When booked at Villa - any age
Curio Shop
Guided Walks
Spa
Gym
Kiddies Bumble drives (on request)
Target Shooting
Stargazing

Contact Details:

Reservations:
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Email: res@mhondoro.com
Website: www.mhondoro.com



Surprise stop to enjoy delicious pancakes filled with fresh strawberries and nutella



The Shona meaning of the word Mhondoro means Lion or Guardian Spirit of the tribe