





Buffalo



Xhosa ladies



Cheetah



Kariega Game Reserve

# Safari Eastern Cape

A safari in **Eastern Cape** provides a natural and exciting conclusion to your Garden Route journey. Port Elizabeth, the Gateway to **Addo Elephant National Park** and many **private game reserves**, is only a 3-hour drive from Plettenberg Bay. After visiting the interactive Western Cape animal sanctuaries, here you will have the opportunity to see the Big Five in their natural habitat!

**Big Five game viewing - River cruises & canoeing - Game walks - Beaches**

Addo Elephant National Park, established in 1931 when only 11 elephants remained in the area, is now home to the densest elephant population in the world. Plans are underway to expand the Park down to the coast, to include a marine zone for sighting species such as the Southern Right whale and Great White shark, making this the first 'Big Seven' destination. Whilst you can self-drive

around the park and stay in budget accommodation, we recommend River Bend Lodge.

Since 1992, Shamwari Game Reserve has pioneered the return of the legendary Big Five to this region after over a century of farming had destroyed the game and degraded the land. Owners, the Mantis Collection, have received numerous awards for

this conservation work and Shamwari has now grown to 25,000 hectares in size, incorporating the Bushmans River and the headquarters of the Born Free Foundation.

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, meaning 'Place of the Blue Crane' (South Africa's highly endangered national bird) is operated by CC Africa, the continent's leading ecotourism company. This diverse and fascinating 25,000 hectare reserve in the Great Fish River region, was a hotly contested border during the Frontier wars (1779-1878) and the reception building is a fortified homestead from this period.

If you are interested in a safari 'afloat' then, in addition to Kwandwe, we recommend considering Amakhala or Kariega Game Reserve. Although these are smaller than Shamwari and Kwandwe, thus not supporting the same numbers of game, they offer the

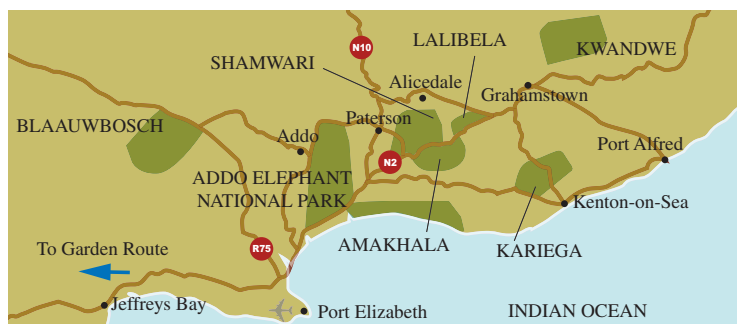


opportunity for additional activities such as river cruises and canoeing. Other recommended private reserves include Blaauwbosch in the arid Karoo, ideal for those seeking a 'boutique' safari experience and Lalibela, home to several comfortable Lodges including Mark's Camp, offering an excellent children's programme for the under 8's.

### Accommodation

Most of the Reserves offer a selection of luxurious accommodation options, including some stunning 'exclusive use' villas, ideal for those travelling as a larger group or looking for total privacy. With styles varying from Colonial Homestead to Funky Farmhouse, your choice of Lodge will add character to your safari adventure!

Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min temp °C	18	18	17	14	12	9	9	10	11	13	15	16
Max temp °C	25	25	25	23	22	20	20	20	20	21	22	24
Rainfall (mm)	36	40	54	58	59	62	47	64	62	59	49	34



# Eastern Cape Accommodation



## Kwandwe Private Game Reserve ★★★★★

Kwandwe offers superlative Big Five game viewing, enjoyed whilst traversing 5 distinct habitats, including the scenic Great Fish River. Fascinating nocturnal wildlife such as aardwolf are also encountered and the Reserve is home to 238 bird species, including the threatened blue crane. &Beyond's 'Planet Manager's Programme' will delight youngsters of all ages whilst helping them best appreciate Africa's flora and fauna.

### Activities (please note some age limits may apply)

**Game Drives:** Experienced rangers and trackers will lead you on interpretive game drives in open 4 x 4 safari vehicles.

**Guided river walking/hiking or fishing:** Guided bush walks in the pristine wilderness bring you face-to-face with wild Africa at its best. Hiking along the river is especially rewarding for those interested in birds and fishing is available for enthusiasts.

**Canoeing:** Catch sight of some of Kwandwe's incredible birdlife while paddling along the Great Fish River in a sturdy canoe.

**Rhino Tracking:** Experience the thrill of tracking rhino on foot under the guidance of an experienced ranger and tracker.

**Frontier Adventures\*:** Led by Kwandwe's resident historian and raconteur, this safari explores Eastern Cape's rich historical and cultural past, visiting Bushman rock art sites and neighbouring forts and military towns.

**Carnivore Programme\*:** Learn about the fascinating ongoing carnivore research at Kwandwe whilst observing predators including the African wild dog, cheetah, lion and leopard.

\*Additional charge payable and subject to availability.

## Ecce Lodge 0+

This flamboyant safari lodge, which boasts cutting-edge design, overlooks the spekboom valleys with a backdrop of ecce-shale cliff-faces. Exquisite guest areas can be enjoyed before retiring to one of 6 spacious air-conditioned suites with expansive viewing deck and plunge pool.

Pool - Interactive kitchen - Interpretive centre



### Family

Up to 2 children under 12 can be accommodated on a sofa bed when sharing a suite with parents. Please note the Lodge is not fenced.

## Uplands Homestead 0+

This intimate lodge, occupying a sensitively restored 1905 farmhouse, set within spacious private gardens with pool, effortlessly blends antiques with modern finishes. With 3 air-conditioned en suite bedrooms, interior guest areas and deep verandah, Uplands is perfect for a group of up to 6 guests.

Pool - Sole-use safari vehicle - Private chef



### Family

The Lodge is ideal for families with children under 6 (no age limit on drives and baby seat provided) or those requiring interleaving accommodation.

## Melton Manor 0+

Kwandwe's newest 'exclusive use' Lodge incorporates earthy, organic touches within an elegant design, creating a luxurious retreat for a group of up to 8 guests. 4 en-suite bedrooms, featuring innovative 'butler hatches', are set around a courtyard with pool overlooking the Fish River and afromontane forests.

Pool - Sole-use safari vehicle - Interactive Kitchen



### Family

Melton Manor is ideal for extended families or those with children under 6 (no age limit on drives). Please note the Lodge is not fenced.

“The icing on the cake, 11 out of 10”

Ecce Lodge, Kwandwe



**Shamwari Game Reserve ★★★★★**

Shamwari boasts a variety of eco-systems, including Bushmans River frontage, supporting many types of bird and animal life, including the Big Five. It is also home to the Born Free Foundation which promotes the plight of wild animals in captivity.

**Riverdene Lodge 4\***

This colonial-style Lodge features an enticing pool with stunning views over the Reserve, gardens for relaxation and play and a magnificent boma overlooking the Bushmans River. 9 air conditioned suites ensure comfort after an exciting day in the Bush.

Pool - Restaurant - Bar - Boma

**Family**

Younger guests benefit from a supervised playroom and jungle gym. Up to 2 children under 12 can share on a sofa bed or inter-connecting rooms are available.

Please enquire regarding Shamwari’s alternative Lodges (which only accept adults or children age 12 plus).



Riverdene Lodge, Shamwari



Bayethe Lodge, Shamwari

**Kariega Game Reserve ★★★★★ 5+**

Kariega is home to 3 Lodges, (Main, Ukhosi and River) located on the riverbank or with panoramic views over the Reserve, in addition to a sole-use ‘Homestead’. Guests can enjoy game drives to view elephant and lion as well as river cruising, hiking, mountain biking and canoeing in an alternative section of the Reserve, thereby offering the opportunity for a more active safari adventure.

Pool - Restaurant - Boma - Bar



**Family**

Families with children under 10 are welcome at **Kariega Main Lodge** which consists of 2 and 3 bedroom log chalets with viewing decks, some with pools.

Please enquire regarding Kariega’s alternative Lodges (which only accept adults or children age 10 plus).

**Blaauwbosch Private Game Reserve ★★★★★ 0+**

Nestled in the foothills of the Winterhoek Mountain range, with far reaching views over the arid Karoo, this truly ‘boutique’ Lodge has only 6 luxurious suites, with 4 also available at Kaai’s Camp, all with generous bathrooms, dressing rooms and private verandahs. The Lions are restricted to a specific area of the Reserve, enabling guests to experience the thrill of a ‘Walk and Stalk’ with the Cheetah in safety (min age applies).

Pool - Restaurant - Bar - Boma



**Family**

Bunk or additional beds can be provided to create a Family Suite. Young children are not allowed on general game drives. However, for a daily fee, a private vehicle is available for families with no age restrictions.

# Eastern Cape

## Accommodation



### River Bend Lodge ★★★★★ 🏠 📶

Flanked by the Zuurberg Mountains, River Bend is situated within a 17,000 hectare private concession within the Addo Elephant National Park. Watch herds of elephants feeding a short distance away and listen to the songs of some 300 bird species as you explore the African Bush ranging from open savannah to hillsides rich in Fynbos. Lion have now also been released in to the Park, completing this unforgettable Big Five experience.

#### Activities (please note some age limits may apply)

**Game Drives:** These are conducted inside Addo or in the private 5,000 hectare Intsomi Reserve, home to additional species such as Giraffe and White Rhino. Night drives under the stars in search of nocturnal animals can also be arranged.

**Guided Walks:** These take place in Intsomi where your guide will also focus on the smaller creatures and plants.

**Bird-watching:** Search for the elusive Knysna Touraco in the forested mountain slopes, the Blue Cranes nesting in the grassland or the majestic Black Eagle soaring overhead.

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Tours:** Take a guided tour to the rehabilitation and breeding projects in Intsomi. Here you can learn how the animals are cared for, before being released back in to the wild.

**Cultural & Historical Excursions:** Learn about the medicinal values of the flora and fauna or take a self drive tour to the frontier town of Grahamstown, 80 km away.

**Citrus Tours and Picnics:** Take a guided tour of the citrus farm with over 217,000 trees producing oranges and lemons before enjoying a picnic in the orchard shade.

### River Bend Main Lodge

The spacious guest areas of the Colonial style main lodge are linked by brick paths meandering through the pretty landscaped gardens. Luxurious cottages house 8 air-conditioned and tastefully decorated suites with mini bar and satellite TV opening on to private terraces overlooking the Park.

Pool - Restaurant - Bar - 2 Lounges - Library - Health Studio



#### Family

There are no age limits on game drives although younger children can be baby-sat at the Lodge. Bunks beds are available for sharing or Family Suites offer 2 en-suite bedrooms, whilst the playroom and fenced gardens provide space for play.

### Long Hope Villa

Dating back to the early 1900's, the farmhouse has been restored to its former glory with original details and authentic finishings yet enhanced with modern comforts. The villa sleeps a maximum of 6 guests in 3 en-suite bedrooms and comes complete with personal butler and chef to ensure your every whim is taken care of!

Pool & garden - Open-plan living areas - Sole-use 4 x 4



#### Family

The farmhouse provides ideal luxury accommodation for larger family groups seeking privacy and a flexible, personalised safari experience within the parameters of the Addo Elephant National Park.

“ The most wonderful place we have stayed – we thought we were in heaven.”  
River Bend Lodge



Family Chalet

**Lalibela Game Reserve** ★★★★★ 6+

The 7,500 hectare reserve, incorporating riverine forest and acacia woodland, is home to the Big Five as well as the rare Wild Dog. Intimate Tree Tops Lodge is ideal for couples whilst Mark’s Camp, featured below, welcomes families.

**Mark’s Camp**

This traditional stone and thatch Lodge nestles in a valley, overlooking a waterhole. Decorated in a relaxed Pan-African style, the 7 chalets with ceiling fan and private decks can accommodate up to 20 guests.

Pool - Lounge/Dining Area - Boma

**Family**

The Lodge has a special children’s vehicle and ranger to take guests under 8 on twice-daily game drives with their family. There is a Recreational Rondavel and up to 3 children under 12 can share a chalet with their parents.



**Amakhala Game Reserve** ★★★★★ 6+

Amakhala’s 5 Lodges, ranging from colonial homesteads to classic bush lodges, are owner managed by descendants of the 1820 British settlers. In addition to game drives, boat cruises or canoe safaris can be enjoyed. **Leeuwenbosch** offers 8 bedrooms in the colonial Manor House and beautifully restored old shearing shed.

Pool - Lounge - Restaurant - Cellar pub - Gardens - Chapel



**Family**

Several suites and rooms for 2 children sharing with parents are located in the Manor House at Leeuwenbosch.

Please enquire regarding Amakhala’s alternative Lodges



**Dunes Country House** ★★★★★ 6+

Set within its own 600 hectare conservancy in picturesque St Francis Bay, a stay here makes an ideal stopover for those travelling to the Eastern Cape from the Garden Route. Set amongst tranquil gardens, 6 suites and a cottage form your base for local activities include surfing, dolphin watching and frog safaris!

Pool - Spa - Restaurant - Bar



**Family**

Up to 2 young children can share on request but a Family Cottage with 2 rooms forms ideal accommodation for up to 5. The range of outdoor pursuits on offer will keep all ages entertained!

