



Sabi Sands

Elephant Plains 2024

Photo Safari

Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalized attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.



The Tusk Team



Overview

Embark on an unforgettable photographic expedition in the Sabi Sands game reserve, where you'll encounter some of Africa's most iconic wildlife. Led by expert guides, you'll have the opportunity to capture breathtaking images of not only elusive leopards but also majestic elephants, graceful giraffes, and powerful lions, amongst many other species. The Sabi Sands is renowned for its intimate wildlife encounters, allowing you to get up close and personal with these magnificent creatures.

During your stay at Elephant Plains, you'll experience accommodation with elegant rooms that are both comfortable and stylish. The lodge also boasts excellent facilities, including 2 swimming pools, library and a gym, ensuring that your every need is catered to.

The reserve is unfenced to neighbouring reserves which means that animals roam freely between Sabi Sands and the Kruger National Park, providing a truly authentic wilderness experience.

With a diverse range of habitats, including riverine forest, open savannah, and thornveld, Sabi Sands is a photographer's dream come true. The reserve offers a range of photographic opportunities, from dramatic landscapes to close-up wildlife shots. With the guidance of experienced guides, you'll have the chance to learn new skills and techniques to help you capture that perfect shot.

Come and experience the magic of Sabi Sands, where you'll be able to immerse yourself in the wonders of Africa and capture images that will last a lifetime.



What You Can Expect

Guests will embark on game drives led by experienced guides who will take them through the rugged terrain in search of Africa's Big Five and other rare wildlife species. The Sabi Sands Game Reserve is renowned for its exceptional wildlife sightings, and the area is home to an impressive range of animals, including lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and buffalos. With the help of knowledgeable guides, guests will have the opportunity to capture stunning photos of these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. The photographic safari is an immersive experience that offers guests the chance to connect with nature, learn about conservation efforts, and create



lasting memories of their time in the wild. At Elephant Plains, guests can also expect to enjoy exceptional dining, comfortable accommodations, and warm hospitality from the lodge's staff.

Sabi Sands offers exceptional opportunities to capture the elusive leopard. With expert guides who know the area intimately, guests can expect to be led to some of the most photogenic and relaxed leopards on the continent

Nighttime is one of the most exciting times to be out in the bush, and we offer unrivalled opportunities for guests to capture incredible nocturnal wildlife. With tuition and guidance on how to use different light sources to create stunning images, guests will leave with a unique and impressive collection of nighttime shots.

Elephant Plains and TUSK provides guest with camera supports and gimbal heads on the safari vehicle. This ensures that each guest can capture the perfect shot without any obstructions or interruptions.

To help guests improve their photographic skills, we provide photographic workshops every day between game drives. These workshops are led by professional photographers who are experts in their field and can offer valuable insights and techniques.

To ensure that guests get the most out of their photographic safari, professional Tusk Photo Host photographers who have intense knowledge of the area and photography, will accompany you. These photographers offer one-on-one guidance and tuition to guests to help them capture the perfect shot.

Elephant Plains is a luxury lodge that offers much more than just exceptional photographic opportunities, you will leave with the want and need to return deeply etched in your heart.

Where You Will Stay

Elephant Plains Lodge is a high standard, comfortable and intimate safari lodge located in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve, one of the most prestigious game reserves in South Africa. The lodge boasts a prime location, providing guests with stunning views of the surrounding bush veld.

The lodge features tastefully decorated and air-conditioned suites, each equipped with private viewing decks overlooking the wilderness. The rooms are spacious and elegant, blending traditional African décor with modern amenities such as en-suite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers, and a mini-bar.

Guests can relax and unwind in the main lodge area, which features a cozy lounge with comfortable sofas and a fireplace, a well-stocked bar, and a spacious dining area. The lodge also has a beautiful swimming pool, perfect for taking a refreshing dip after a morning game drive.

The feel of Elephant Plains Lodge is one of exclusivity, luxury, and personalised service. Overall, a stay at Elephant Plains Lodge promises to be an unforgettable experience, filled with adventure, luxury, and relaxation in the heart of the African wilderness.



Dates | Costs | Prices

Dates	Cost	Rooms	Nights
20 - 24 March 2024	R23990	6	4
24 - 28 March 2024	R23990	6	4
24 - 28 April 2024	R23990	6	4
28 April - 2 May 2024	R23990	6	4
1 - 5 June 2024	R23990	6	4
5 - 9 June 2024	R23990	6	4
2 - 6 July 2024	R23990	6	4
6 - 10 July 2024	R23990	6	4
3 - 7 August 2024	R23990	6	4
17 - 21 August 2024	R23990	6	4
7 - 11 September 2024	R23990	6	4
11 - 15 September 2024	R23990	6	4
28 Sep - 2 Oct 2024	R23990	6	4
2 - 6 October 2024	R23990	6	4
2 - 6 November 2024	R23990	6	4
6 - 10 November 2024	R23990	6	4

Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at R23990 per person sharing. R11995 Single Supplement. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

Itinerary

DAY 1

After a short briefing and refreshments, your first afternoon drive departs from the lodge. Search for crepuscular and nocturnal animals. Return to camp for a gourmet dinner.

DAYS 2-5

Rise early

The vehicles leave early morning to increase your chances of magical sightings.

Capture wonderful shots of various wildlife species in their natural habitat and enjoy a stop for coffee and treats.

Head back to the camp for breakfast.

After breakfast, choose an activity such as photography tutorials, a quick nap, a swim, a workout, or a guided walk.

Climb back onto your vehicle for an afternoon game drive,

DAY 5:

After your morning game drive and breakfast, depart back to civilisation with full memory cards. End of tour



What You Get

INCLUDED:

- Services of Tusk Photo hosts
- All meals, teas & coffees
- 4 nights' accommodation
- All activities
- Photographic workshop and tuition

EXCLUDED:

- Visas
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature
- Travel costs to Elephant Plains either driving or International flights.

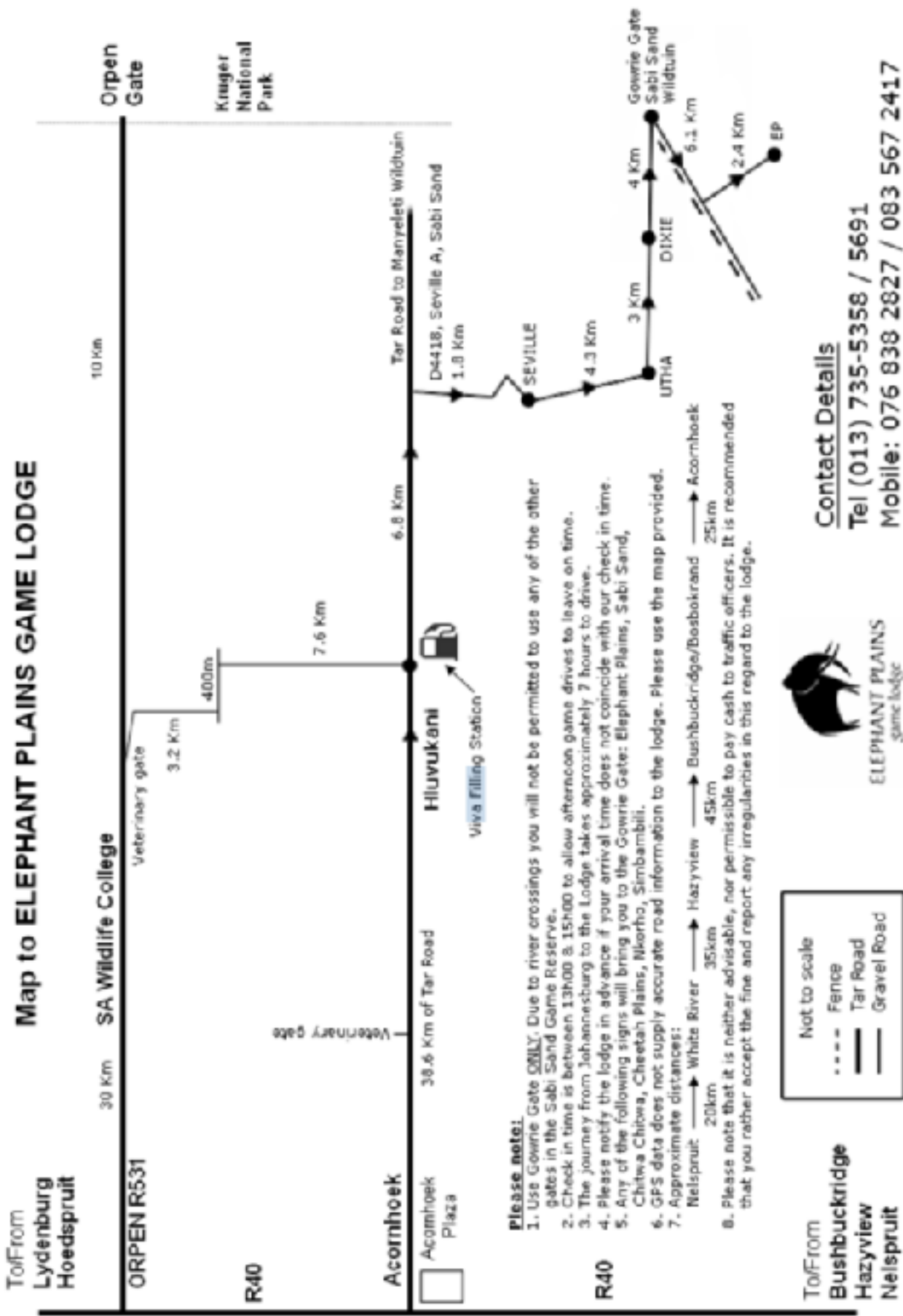
Flights and Transport

There are various options to get to Elephant Plains:

- Option 1 – You can self-drive to the lodge. From Johannesburg its a 7hr journey on tar road with the last +-60km on dirt road
- Option 2 – You can fly into the Sabi Sand with either Federal Air (Charter company) or SA Airlink (Commercial Service)
- Option 3 – You can fly to either Hoedspruit or Nelspruit (KMIA) and arrange transfers or car hire (Car hire for own arrangements) from there to the lodge
- Option 4 – You can arrange a transfer from Gauteng / Johannesburg to the lodge and back again.
- Private charter or own flight into Elephant Plains airstrip.

Please note that there is a R310 per vehicle and R180 per person entrance fee into the Sabi Sands conservancy.

Map to ELEPHANT PLAINS GAME LODGE



To/From
Lydenburg
Hoedspruit

30 Km SA Wildlife College

ORPEN R531

Orpen Gate

Kruger National Park

R40

Acornhoek

Acornhoek Plaza

Hluukani

Viva Filling Station

6.8 Km Tar Road to Manyeleti Wildtuin

D-418, Seville A, Sabi Sand

1.8 Km

SEVILLE

4.3 Km

UTHA

3 Km

DIXIE

4 Km

Gowie Gate

Sabi Sand Wildtuin

6.1 Km

2.4 Km EP

Please note:

1. Use Gowie Gate ONLY. Due to river crossings you will not be permitted to use any of the other gates in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve.
2. Check in time is between 13h00 & 15h00 to allow afternoon game drives to leave on time.
3. The journey from Johannesburg to the Lodge takes approximately 7 hours to drive.
4. Please notify the lodge in advance if your arrival time does not coincide with our check in time.
5. Any of the following signs will bring you to the Gowie Gate: Elephant Plains, Sabi Sand, Chitwa Chitwa, Chereka Plains, Nkorho, Simbambili.
6. GPS data does not supply accurate road information to the lodge. Please use the map provided.
7. Approximate distances:
Nelspruit → White River → 20km
White River → Hazyview → 35km
Hazyview → Bushbuckridge/Bosbokrand → 45km
Bushbuckridge/Bosbokrand → Acornhoek → 25km
8. Please note that it is neither advisable, nor permissible to pay cash to traffic officers. It is recommended that you rather accept the fine and report any irregularities in this regard to the lodge.

R40

To/From
Bushbuckridge
Hazyview
Nelspruit

Not to scale

--- Fence

— Tar Road

— Gravel Road



Contact Details

Tel (013) 735-5358 / 5691

Mobile: 076 838 2827 / 083 567 2417

Photography and Gear

- 2 x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind) • Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 300/400/500 or 200 - 400F4
- Medium telephoto lens 70 - 200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) for wider wildlife images - 24 - 70
- Flash (SB 910 / EX 600) or similar
- Flash Battery pack (Although the battery pack is not essential it will cycle the flash a lot quicker)
- A flash bracket such as the Wimberley F1 flash bracket and flash off-shoe cord to eliminate 'green-eye'.
- Notebook or additional storage device
- Brackets on the vehicle are supplied with a Benro/wimberly Gimbal Head, please bring your own arca-swiss plates with you.



Tour Info

INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

- **Vehicle Insurance:**

It is advisable to check if additional insurance is required, as the recovery of a vehicle is the responsibility of the owner. Please consult your insurance company to confirm all the necessary details.

PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- South African Citizens do not require a visa or extra documentation to enter Sabi Sands.
- Please check your country of residence's requirements for entry into South Africa.

MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currency of South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR)
- Visa and Mastercard are accepted widely

HEALTH

- No compulsory vaccinations are required but please note that Elephant Plains is a Malaria area. Please consult your physician before you travel for advice on precautions against malaria.
- If you suffer from any medical conditions that may affect you or your participation on this safari, please inform us about this on your booking form.
- Please consult your physician before you travel for advice.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic.

LANGUAGES

- The local language is Shangaan, but all communication and service will be done in English.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

POWER AND ELECTRICITY

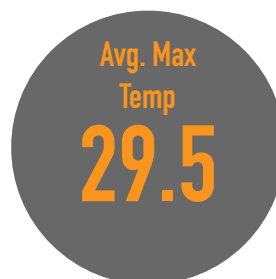
Electricity are provided and plugs and sockets will be type N and type C.



CLIMATE

Sabi Sands experiences moderate and favorable weather throughout the year, making it an excellent destination to immerse yourself in nature's beauty. Here's a brief overview of the seasons:

- Summer (Dec-Feb): Warm and vibrant with abundant sunshine (25-35°C/77-95°F). Nourishing rains create a lush green paradise, accompanied by brief but dramatic showers and thunderstorms. Pleasant evenings offer outdoor activities and serene African night sounds.
- Autumn (Mar-May): Mild temperatures and dwindling rainfall. Ample sunshine (20-30°C/68-86°F) paints the foliage in mesmerizing red and gold hues. Enjoy cozy campfire gatherings beneath the starlit African sky during cool evenings.
- Winter (Jun-Aug): Mild and dry climate ideal for wildlife viewing. Warm days (20-25°C/68-77°F) with occasional chilly mornings and evenings (around 5°C/41°F). The savanna unveils its essence as the grass recedes, facilitating wildlife spotting. Clear skies allow for stargazing and captivating celestial vistas.
- Spring (Sep-Nov): The land awakens with rising temperatures (25-30°C/77-86°F). Colorful blossoms burst forth, adorning the savanna with vibrant splashes of pink, yellow, and purple. Wildlife activity peaks, offering opportunities to witness newborn animals exploring their surroundings.



CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

For your comfort during safari, we recommend packing comfortable, casual clothes that are easy to wash and wear. Opt for muted colors for game-viewing, and keep in mind that early morning and late afternoon game drives can be chilly, especially in winter. Essential items to pack include

- khaki, green, beige, and neutral-colored clothing,
- shirts with long sleeves for sun and mosquito protection,
- T-shirts,
- shorts or a light skirt,
- jeans or safari trousers
- a jacket or sweater for cooler moments,
- comfortable walking shoes and sandals,
- sun protection items like sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat,
- insect repellent,
- moisturizer,
- and lip balm.

GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Ranger: R1500 per room
- Tracker: R900 per room
- Lodge Staff: R700 per room
- Total: R3100 per room

CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Wifi available at lodge. There is reasonable Vodacom, MTN and Cell-C connectivity at Elephant Plains.

Elephant Game Lodge Tel: +27 13 735 5691 (Office Hours)
Tusk Photo PTA Office Tel: +27 12 761 3737



Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritize your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.



**We Are Excited To Host You on Your
Dream Photographic Safari!**

