KAPAMA

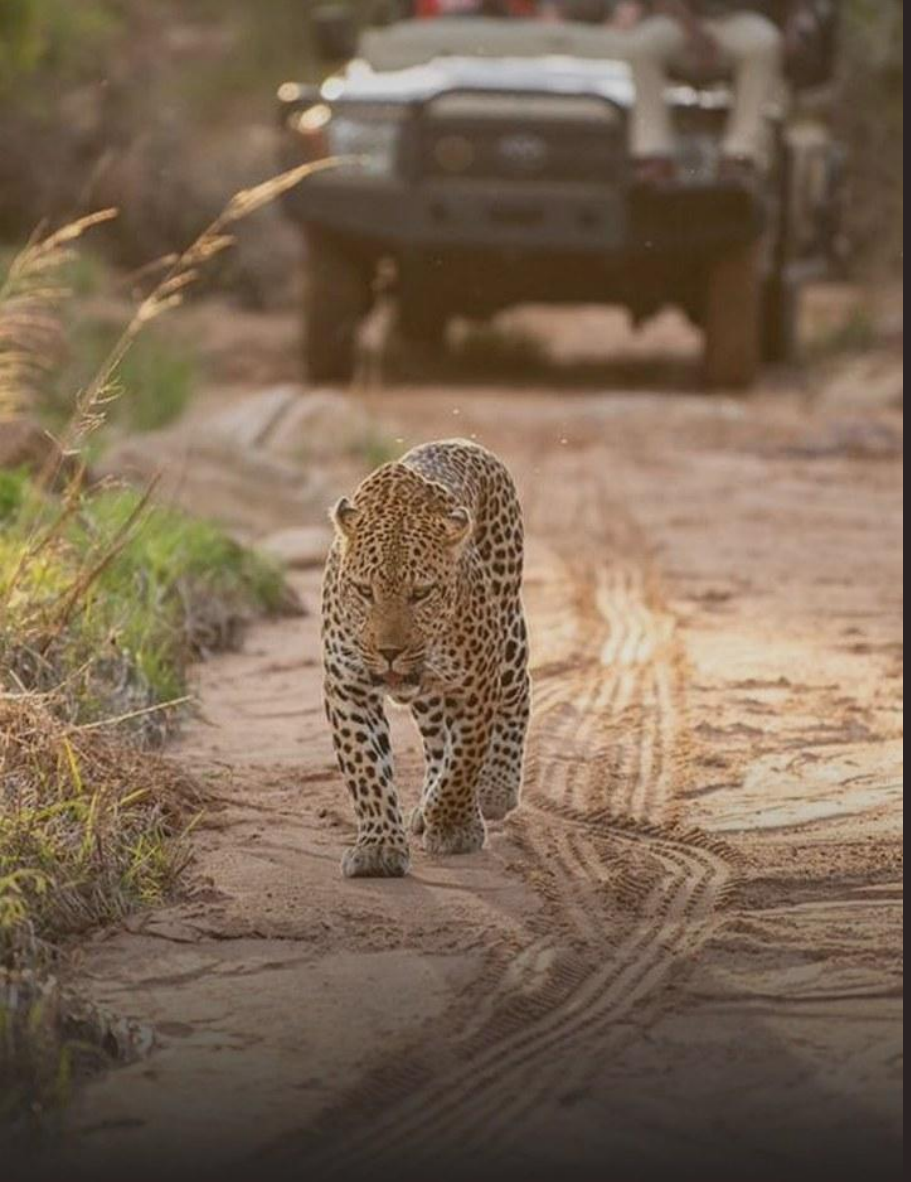
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

THE KAPAMA FACT SHEET

A private Big Five reserve in the Greater Kruger region

Four distinguished lodges | One extraordinary wilderness





CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
LOCATION MAP	4
RECOGNITION	5
LODGES AT A GLANCE	6
RIVER LODGE	7
BUFFALO CAMP	8
SOUTHERN CAMP	9
KARULA	10
WELLNESS	11
DINING	12
SAFARI EXPERIENCES	13
CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY	14
GETTING TO KAPAMA	15
GOOD TO KNOW	16
CONTACT	17

INTRODUCTION

A sanctuary of quiet luxury

Kapama Private Game Reserve spreads across 15,000 hectares of Big Five bushveld, between the northern Drakensberg and Greater Kruger. The perennial Klaserie River winds through a living, balanced ecosystem, and four distinctive lodges, each with its own atmosphere, pace and level of seclusion, welcome you into it.

Eastgate Airport sits on the reserve boundary, and Kapama's own branded Pilatus PC-12 lands on a private runway within it. Your safari begins the moment you arrive.

15,000	4	1,200 km	350+	40+
HECTARES OF PRIVATE WILDERNESS	DISTINCT FIVE-STAR LODGES	OF PRIVATE ROADS	BIRD SPECIES	MAMMAL SPECIES



Est.1987

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THE BIG FIVE



LION



LEOPARD



ELEPHANT



RHINO



BUFFALO



JOHANNESBURG TO HOEDSPRUIT
±55 MIN

CAPE TOWN TO HOEDSPRUIT
±2 HRS 45 MIN

HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT TO KAPAMA
1 MIN

HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT
1 MIN TO KAPAMA

GATE

MAIN GATE

RIVER LODGE

SOUTHERN CAMP

BUFFALO CAMP

KARULA

AIRSTRIP

GREATER KRUGER REGION

Klaserie

Umbabat

N

TIMBAVATI
GAME RESERVE

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

THORNYBUSH
GAME RESERVE

Manyeleti

SABI SANDS
GAME RESERVE

- 4 LUXURY LODGES
- 15,000 HECTARES
- BIG FIVE TERRITORY
- IN THE GREATER KRUGER REGION
- 1 MINUTE FROM HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT

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Loved by guests. Recognised by the world.

Tripadvisor
TRAVELLERS' CHOICE | BEST OF THE BEST 2026

#1

Luxury Hotel in the World

Kapama Karula
Top 1% of 8 million listings worldwide

TRIPADVISOR BEST OF THE BEST 2026 | TOP 10 LUXURY HOTELS, AFRICA

#1	#3	#6	#7
Karula	**River Lodge**	**Southern Camp**	**Buffalo Camp**
Tripadvisor 2026 Flagship	Tripadvisor 2026 #20 luxury hotel worldwide	Tripadvisor 2026 Family safari	Tripadvisor 2026 Luxury tented camp

MORE RECOGNITION FOR KAPAMA KARULA

MICHELIN KEY	Condé Nast JOHANSENS	Haute Grandeur GLOBAL AWARDS
MICHELIN Key 2026	**Best Immersive Experience**	**Best Game Lodge Spa, Globally**
Awarded by the MICHELIN Guide after anonymous inspection	Awards for Excellence 2026	Karula Spa & Wellness Centre

LODGES AT A GLANCE

Four lodges. One reserve.

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	RIVER LODGE	BUFFALO CAMP	SOUTHERN CAMP	KARULA
CHARACTER	Vibrant, social, open and airy	Intimate treetop tented camp	Warm, relaxed, family-focused	Flagship: private, glass-walled, riverfront
ACCOMMODATION	Tamboti, Marula, Leadwood, Leadwood Family and Royal Suites	10 luxury tents on elevated decks	7 Thatched Villas with private pools, 3 Family Villas	10 Superior Villas and 2 Superior Family Villas, each with a heated pool
IDEAL FOR	Couples, friends and young families	Couples, honeymooners, adult travellers	Families and multi-generational groups	Couples, honeymooners, seekers of seclusion
CHILDREN	All ages welcome	16 years and over	All ages welcome	All ages welcome; private vehicle with Family Villas
WELLNESS	River Lodge Wellness Centre	Treatments at River Lodge	Complimentary shuttle to Karula	Karula Wellness Centre
SIGNATURE	600+ South African wines	Lantern-lit elevated walkways	Private-pool villas	MICHELIN Key 2026

KAPAMA RIVER LODGE

Wide open spaces, a festive heart

The largest of Kapama's lodges pairs five-star comfort with a convivial spirit: a rim-flow pool and River Bar, open-fire boma dinners, and elephants drifting to the waterhole below. Vibrant, social and effortlessly elegant.

ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCES

Tamboti Superior Suites Newly built, with floor-to-ceiling glass, a deep-soak bath over the wilderness and interleading options for families.

Royal Suites Separate lounge, extended deck with recliner couches and dual showers: made for romance.

Marula Suites Spacious, air-conditioned, with a private patio and uninterrupted views of the reserve.

Leadwood Suites Rustic elegance and solid oak, with a natural-stone bathroom and deep soaking bath.

Leadwood Family Suites Open plan with a king bed and a sofa-bed alcove; 2 adults and 2 children under 12.

IDEAL FOR

Couples, friends and families

DINING

Xitsumbeni, Siyadla and the open-fire Boma; 600+ South African wines

WELLNESS

River Lodge Wellness Centre with six treatment rooms





KAPAMA BUFFALO CAMP

Old-world safari, high in the treetops

Ten luxury tents rest on elevated decks beneath a canopy of ancient trees, linked by wooden walkways. Kapama's smallest camp and its only tented camp is intimate and romantic, with the charm of the safaris of old.

ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCES

Ten Luxury Tents En-suite canvas suites on stilts with decks over a seasonal riverbed, air-conditioning, heated under-blankets, minibar and Nespresso.

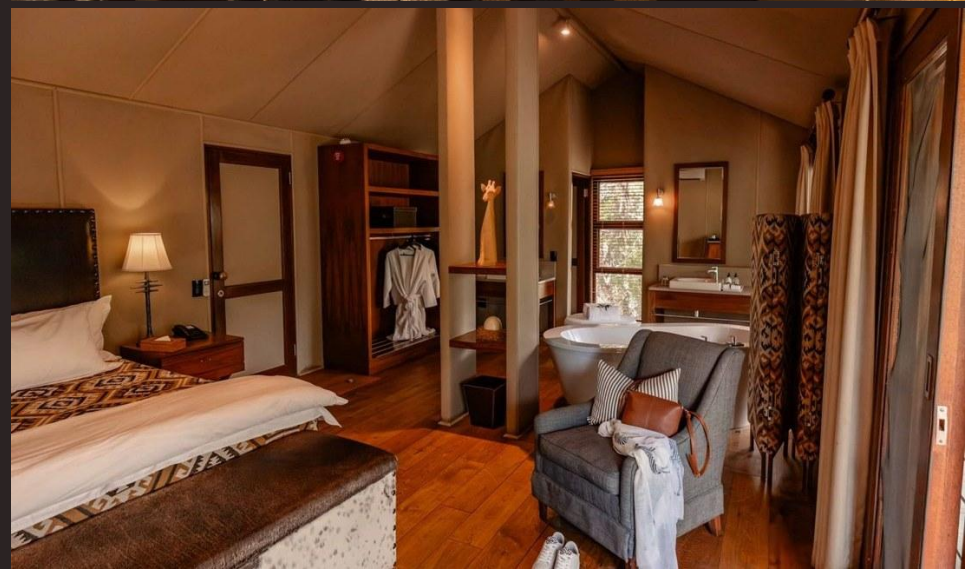
Rim-Flow Pool & Lounge An elevated pool, bar and open-air lounge overlooking the riverbed.

Campfire Dining Roaring campfires, lantern light and dinner beneath the stars.

Wellness Treatments at the River Lodge Wellness Centre.

IDEAL FOR	CHILDREN	SIGNATURE
Couples, honeymooners and adult travellers	16 years and over (exclusive use excepted)	Elevated walkways and treetop privacy





KAPAMA SOUTHERN CAMP

Where warmth meets wonder

A relaxed, hospitable retreat designed for families and multi-generational journeys. Thatched suites and villas, a library and lounge overlooking a waterhole, and a calm pace between game drives.

ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCES

Standard Suites Thatched, light and airy, with private patios and picture windows.

Thatched Villas Separate living areas, open-plan bathrooms and a private pool, spaced apart for privacy.

Family Villas A connected second en-suite bedroom for children and a private pool; 2 adults and 2 children under 12.

The Camp Library, bar and lounge, pool and deck, and refined Pan-African dining in an open-sided room and under the stars.

IDEAL FOR	CHILDREN	WELLNESS
Families and multi-generational groups	All ages welcome; dedicated family villas	Complimentary shuttle to the Karula Wellness Centre





KAPAMA KARULA | THE FLAGSHIP

The crown jewel of Kapama

Karula, the “place of peace”, rests on a tranquil bend of the perennial Klaserie River. Twelve glass-wrapped villas, each with a private heated pool, offer deep seclusion, river views and an unhurried safari rhythm.

ACCOMMODATION & EXPERIENCES

Superior Villas Ten villas with wrap-around glass doors, a private deck and heated pool, outdoor shower, Nespresso and minibar.

Superior Family Villas Two villas with open-plan living, a second en-suite bedroom and a private vehicle with guide and tracker included.

Bar Lounge & Library A river-viewing deck, fire pits and handcrafted cocktails.

Dining A glass-fronted dining room, fire-pit dining, the boma, or privately on your own deck.





HONOURS

MICHELIN Key 2026; #1 Luxury Hotel in the World

IDEAL FOR

Couples, honeymooners and families seeking seclusion

WELLNESS

Award-winning Karula Wellness Centre

WELLNESS IN THE WILD

Restoration, wrapped in glass

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After the wilderness, the stillness. Kapama's wellness centres pair African-inspired therapies with sweeping bushveld views, so even a treatment room becomes a vantage point.

KARULA WELLNESS CENTRE

Best Game Lodge Spa, Globally

Encased in glass and set among the bush, the flagship spa offers revitalising massages and bespoke beauty rituals, an intimate hydrotherapy bath area, a steam room and a state-of-the-art fitness centre.

RIVER LODGE WELLNESS CENTRE

Renowned among Africa's finest safari spas

Six elegant treatment rooms, a spectacular lap pool overlooking a dam, steam and hydrotherapy, and signature African-inspired treatments timed gracefully between game drives. Booking in advance is advised.

EVERY LODGE, WELL CARED FOR

Wellness for all four lodges

Southern Camp guests enjoy a complimentary shuttle to the Karula Wellness Centre. Buffalo Camp guests are welcome at the River Lodge Wellness Centre. Spa treatments are charged in addition to the daily rate.

DINING

Every meal, an occasion

Menus are curated with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and thoughtfully paired with South African wines. Dietary requirements are gracefully catered for, and kosher meals are available on request at River Lodge, Southern Camp and Buffalo Camp.

RIVER LODGE

Xitsumbeni, a lavish dining room with open-air fire pits; Siyadla, rustic and chic; and the reimagined open-fire Boma. A cellar of more than 600 South African wines.

KARULA

Glass-fronted dining, a dedicated fire-pit area, the traditional boma, or privately on your villa deck. Decentralised and unhurried.

SOUTHERN CAMP

Refined Pan-African cuisine in a light-filled open-sided dining room, with dinner under the stars in the outdoor boma.

BUFFALO CAMP

Campfire evenings and lantern-lit dining beneath the canopy.





SAFARI EXPERIENCES

The wild, beautifully guided

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GAME DRIVES

Two daily drives in open vehicles with an experienced guide and assistant guide, in search of the Big Five. Included in your rate.

BUSH WALKS

Feel Africa underfoot with a highly trained guide, learning the finer details of tracks, plants and smaller wildlife. Guests aged 16 and over; included.

ROMANTIC SLEEPOUT

A private sleep-out platform beneath a canopy of stars, with a gourmet dinner. By arrangement, at additional cost; guests 18 and over.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS

A two-day workshop with a leading African wildlife photographer, followed by drives designed for the lens.

KAPAMA KIDS

Educational, nature-based fun for young explorers. Children under six may enjoy a specially arranged “bush bumble” safari.

HONEYMOON & CELEBRATIONS

Candlelit deck dinners, private villas and bespoke touches for newlyweds and special occasions, centred on Karula.

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

A river runs through it

The Klaserie River sustains Kapama. Kapama sustains it back.

32%	1,242	10,000+	590+
lower carbon footprint than 2021	**solar panels at River Lodge**	**plastic bottles saved every month**	**team members, mostly from the local area**

A LIVING ECOSYSTEM

The perennial Klaserie River and a balanced ecosystem shelter more than 40 mammal species and over 350 birds across the reserve.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE

A dedicated Anti-Poaching Unit with tracking dogs works around the clock. Every guest's conservation levy supports its ongoing protection efforts.

SOLAR & WATER

Kapama's solar plant is the first of its size for safari lodges in South Africa. On-site water recycling and glass bottles reduce impact further.

First solar plant of its size for safari lodges in South Africa



GETTING TO KAPAMA

Land. Check in. Safari.

Eastgate Airport (Hoedspruit) sits on the northern boundary of the reserve, so there is no long road transfer.

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BY SCHEDULED FLIGHT

Airlink, CemAir and FlySafair fly daily from Johannesburg (OR Tambo) and regularly from Cape Town to Eastgate Airport. Complimentary transfers by open game-viewing vehicle take you directly to any of the four lodges. Please send flight details to reservations to pre-book.

BY KAPAMA PRIVATE CHARTER

Fly from Johannesburg, Pretoria (Wonderboom) or Cape Town in Kapama's own branded Pilatus PC-12, landing on the reserve's 1.5 km tarred runway. Land or depart when it suits you. About 1 hour from Wonderboom, about 3 hours direct from Cape Town.

BY ROAD

Take the N12 or N4 from Johannesburg to Middelburg, then the R540 and R36 through the Strijdom Tunnel to Hoedspruit. Take the R40 towards Klaserie to the Kapama main gate. Use the main gate only: Argyle and Guernsey gates are for service access.

GPS S 24° 25' 45.5" E 31° 00' 50.0" | R40, Hoedspruit, Limpopo, 1380

GOOD TO KNOW

The practical details, simply put

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INCLUDED IN YOUR STAY

- Accommodation, with twice-daily housekeeping
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus teas, coffees, cakes and snacks
- Local alcoholic and selected premium beverages
- Two daily game drives in open vehicles with a guide and assistant guide
- A guided bush walk (guests 16 and over)
- Complimentary transfers from Eastgate Airport
- Complimentary Wi-Fi

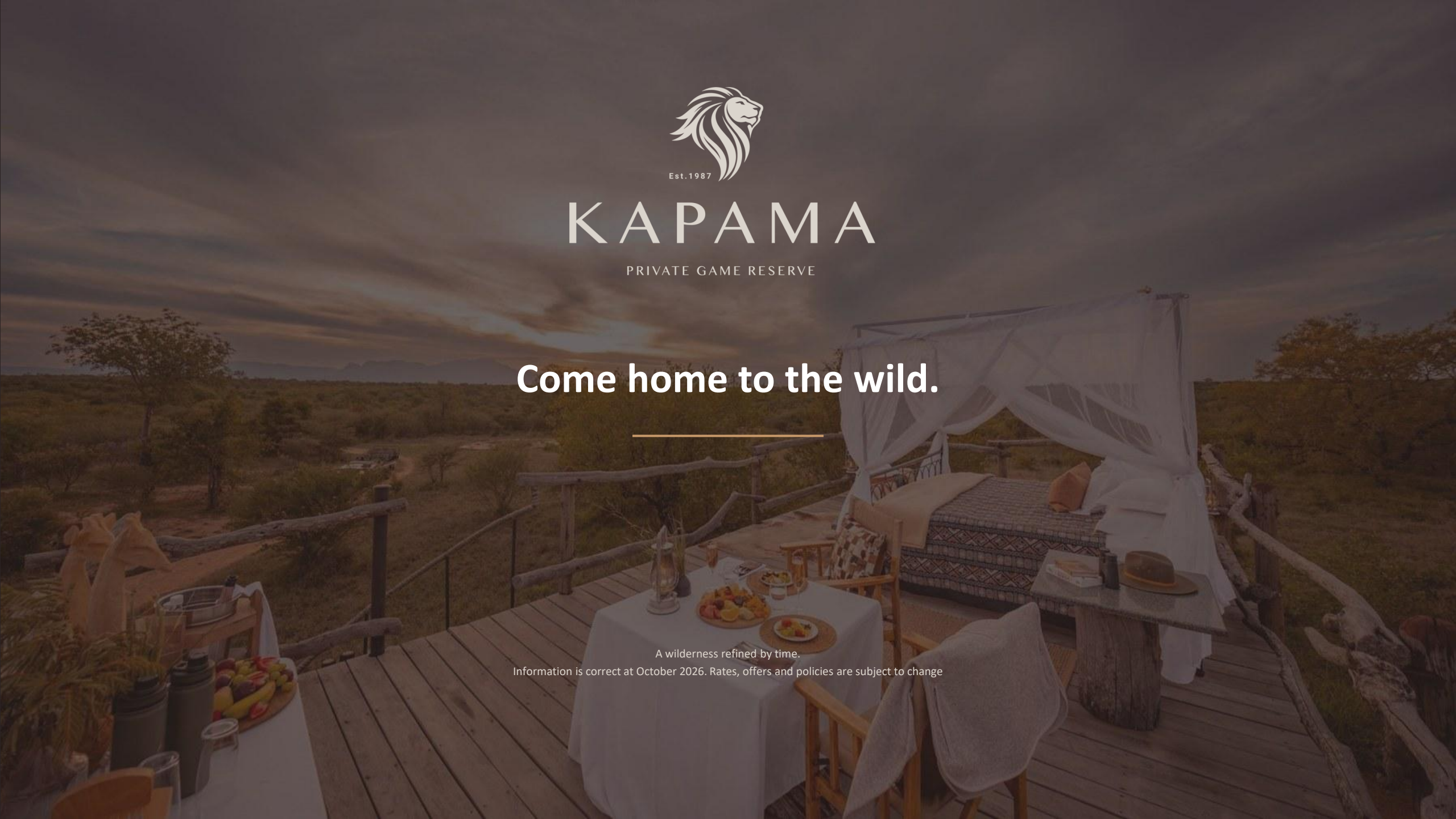
NOT INCLUDED

- Conservation levy, per person per night (all ages)
- Spa and wellness treatments
- Private safari vehicle (included with Karula Family Villas)
- Telephone calls, shop purchases and laundry
- Beverages beyond the included selection
- Charter flights and special bush dinners
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

POLICIES & PRACTICALITIES

- Check-in 14:00, check-out 11:00
- Children welcome at River Lodge, Southern Camp and Karula; Buffalo Camp is 16+
- Game drives: ages 6+ at the ranger's discretion; under 6s enjoy a "bush bumble" or a pre-booked private vehicle
- Children under 12 sharing with two adults pay 50% in select rooms
- Malaria region; guests sign an indemnity on arrival
- No pets are permitted

Rates, inclusions and policies are reviewed regularly. Please confirm current details with Kapama reservations before quoting or booking.


Est.1987
KAPAMA
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Come home to the wild.
A wilderness refined by time.
Information is correct at October 2026. Rates, offers and policies are subject to change