

# Madikwe Collection Newsletter

## April 2010



May is probably one of the finest times to visit the Madikwe Game Reserve and the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Please call us for our autumn specials for April/May and don't miss this special time of the year to visit. Also Mothers Day soon!!

The Madikwe bush is looking spectacular after the recent widespread rains with all the lodges reporting great game viewing experiences. Some of the highlights have been for the twitchers rare sighting of the 'yellow morph' of the Crimson breasted Shrike and Northern Black Korhaan. Lion, Elephant, Rhino and Wild Dog sightings continue to excite all visitors as well as the more regular sightings of Leopard in Madikwe. One of the real benefits of Madikwe, apart from it being Malaria free, it offers probably one of the widest cross section of game species to be viewed compared to other parks in South Africa.

### **Madikwe Collection Lodges**

The Madikwe Collection offers a one stop shop for any visit to Madikwe Game Reserve. The Madikwe Collection lodges are mostly 5 star however each lodge offers slightly different experiences and niches. Our two community lodges, Buffalo Ridge and Thakadu River Camp offer uplifting stories of how communities can own and run their own lodges. The passion of these communities is evident with any visit to these community owned lodges. Tuningi's child program has been well received by families with exceptional hosting by the Tuningi team resulting in many repeat visits. Both the Bush House and Villa type Motswiri are 10 bed camps and for anyone wishing to have exclusive use of the camp, their 10 beds work well, for either families or corporates. Their waterholes offer good game viewing. For ultra luxury, Madikwe Hills and Morukuru are a once in a life time experience.

Madikwe Collection visitors are offered a recently introduced helicopter service to Madikwe apart from our daily fixed wing shuttle. Please call for any Charter or Shuttle Requirements at (011) 805-4888.

### **2010 World Cup**

Excitement is rising to fever pitch with the final releases of tickets for the anticipated success of the 2010 World Cup. Despite some good bookings we still have space available for anyone either watching or getting out of the hussle and bussle of the World Cup at our lodges.

### **Johnny Clegg Music Weekend 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

For the last weekend of May 2010 we have scheduled a weekend with an unplugged musical experience around the campfire in Madikwe Game Reserve with Johnny Clegg. Johnny Clegg is a real African icon and we are very privileged to have him playing for us.

### **Conferencing and Team Building – May Special**

With all the challenges and opportunities of the new South Africa, why not spend some time strategizing, team building or conferencing in the Bush. Our Madikwe packages for April and May only start at R1250

per person per night and our De Hoop packages at R950 per person per night, inclusive of all game drives, meals and conference facilities.

## **Weddings at Madikwe**

We have recently hosted some exceptional weddings in the bush at the Big 5 Madikwe Game Reserve. Because the lodges are smaller we generally spread the wedding guests amongst the various Madikwe Collection lodges and do the ceremonies and functions centrally.

What better way to spend time reconnecting with old friends and family over an action packed weekend celebrating a wedding. The winter months are a great time for these as prices are particularly tailored for the local South African market.



## **De Hoop Nature Reserve**

As a result of our efforts in helping to develop the Madikwe Game Reserve into the success it is today, we were approached by Cape Nature to help develop the tourism facilities in their flagship reserve, The De Hoop Nature Reserve. These efforts culminated in us tendering and being awarded the first tourism Public Private Partnership in South Africa at De Hoop. Now we can add the best Whale Viewing available in Southern Africa to our list.

## **Whale Viewing Season Starting at De Hoop**

De Hoop is world renowned for its viewing opportunities of the highest densities of Southern Right Whales to be seen on the African coastline, with 40% of the worldwide population calving in the De Hoop Bay. The whales start arriving in May, with the peak months being August to October, but whale viewing is only one of the facets offered at De Hoop. As the flagship reserve of Cape Nature it is a world heritage sight as well as a Ramsar site with exceptional birding, general game viewing, fynbos viewing experiences plus much more. No visit to South Africa or the Overberg in the Western Cape is complete without a visit to this magnificent reserve.

## **Fig Tree Restaurant at De Hoop**

At our Fig Tree Restaurant in De Hoop, we have stocked all the wines from the Cape Agulhas area, including those from Elim and Napier. The area has created great excitement in wine circles with its new wines and has become known for its unique “terroir”. We recommend anyone visiting De Hoop to experience a wine tour to the Elim or Napier area either en route to/from De Hoop or as a day outing from the reserve. Black Oystercatcher Wines have recently opened their new restaurant at the estate near Elim. Renaissance Restaurant owned by Jean Daneel in Napier also has an excellent restaurant and showcases some of the wines from the area. Call 028-5421253 for reservations at the Fig Tree Restaurant which is open for breakfast, lunches and supper as well as teas.

Madikwe Collection Contact details: Tel: +27 (0) 11 805 9995  
Email: [reservations@madikwecollection.com](mailto:reservations@madikwecollection.com)

De Hoop Collection Contact Details: Tel: 0861 33 4667

Email: [res@dehoopcollection.co.za](mailto:res@dehoopcollection.co.za)

[www.dehoopcollection.co.za](http://www.dehoopcollection.co.za)

[www.madikwecollection.com](http://www.madikwecollection.com)

[www.morukuru.com](http://www.morukuru.com)

