

The Re-imagination of MalaMala



2017 marks ninety years since MalaMala, probably South Africa's most iconic Private "Big 5" Game Reserve, came into existence. With this important milestone comes what the owners are calling the "re-imagining" of MalaMala Main Camp and Sable Camp. Michele Throssell Interiors has been appointed as the design team and a massive refurbishment will begin in October 2017, taking place in 3 carefully planned phases so that guests are not affected.

MalaMala has always been known for leading by example. They were the first private game reserve to completely ban hunting and focus solely on luxury photographic safaris, providing a blueprint for others to follow – and are still, today, the largest tract of private "Big 5" private reserve at 33,000 acres. The land is now owned by the local N'Wandlhamari Community with an the operating company, MalaMala Game Reserve Pty Ltd (a partnership between the community and the former management team, headed up by Alison Morphet) leasing this world renowned tract of game viewing land and running the camps thereon.

MalaMala has the perfect location! Wedged between the famous Kruger National Park (12 miles of MalaMala's eastern boundary are unfenced to allow for the natural movement of game) and the Sabi Sands Wildtuin to the west. The life-giving Sand River runs the length of the reserve drawing vast numbers of wildlife to it guaranteeing unrivalled game viewing – with all 3 camps right on the riverfront! They also have no access roads to the east of the river and allow no other vehicles traversing rights so you will never see a "queue to view" in MalaMala. There are so many reasons why MalaMala is so epic in terms of safaris, and for the animals that call it home - which can be seen on their [website](#).

For the duration of the refurbishment, Sable Camp will not be open for bookings as a separate camp but will be used to accommodate some of the Main Camp bookings and provide central facilities when needed to minimise disruption for guests. Phase 1 of the makeover will run from October – mid December 2017 including 5 rooms at the southern end of the camp including Sable Camp. Then from mid January till mid March they will redo the Main Camp central facilities area (lounge, dining room, bar and safari deck) and 8 rooms. Phase 3 will run from mid March until the end of June 2018 and will refurb the last 8 rooms on a rolling basis until all are completed. All works will be discretely hidden from sight.



Rattray's on MalaMala



Rattray's on MalaMala has also had a few changes including a la carte breakfast and lunch menu and a change in their drinks policy – with all drinks, excluding premium alcoholic brands, now included as complimentary.

They have also made their sleeping configurations more adaptable with two Khaya's (suites) now able to accommodate twin beds and two khaya's (suites) are able to add a third bed (triple share). Rattray's on MalaMala continues to offer a maximum of 4 guests per safari vehicle.

Behind The Lens

There is a dedicated photographic vehicle which can be hired for 24 hours at a time at an additional cost of US\$ 660.00 with a dedicated photographic ranger. It has been specially adapted for photographers with 3 rows of 2 bucket seats with a sliding camera mount per row, bean bags for camera stability, storage boxes for camera equipment and under-seat lighting.



Peter Short was recently crowned MalaMala's Guest Photographer of the year and this [short video](#) shows the sighting behind the photo. Video by ranger Morné Coetzer



MalaMala - #itsallaboutthewildlife