



FAQ

www.metsilodge.com / +27 63 106 4279 (Whatsapp) / +27 11 083 6958 (Landline)

What is the best time of the year to visit Metsi Lodge ?

Metsi Lodge is fantastic all year round, it all depends on what you are looking for!

From November to the end of March, it's summertime!

It can rain during the day or at night (usually short rains, such as thunderstorms in the evening). The bush is green: leaves on the trees and high grass. Visibility is not as good as during the dry season, but the temperatures are warmer (between 25 and 30°C during the day, 18-20°C at night on average). This is the season when days are the longest.

Due to the heat, morning safaris start earlier (we recommend between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.). Evening safaris can extend until 8:00 p.m. and beyond, to enjoy the pleasant evening temperatures.

It's also the season when we welcome migratory birds from Europe. So it is the ideal season for ornithologists and photographers, or for those who wish to see a great diversity of birds (more than 350 species in the reserve at this season).

From April to the end of May, it's autumn!

The rains stop, and the vegetation dries up. Water points become scarce, waterholes and rivers dry up. All day long, wildlife gathers around the few remaining waterholes to drink, including at Metsi Lodge's private waterhole. Morning and evening temperatures cool down, but it is still possible to go out on safari early in the morning and late in the evening without it being too cold, and to enjoy the swimming pool during the day.

From June to mid-August, it's winter!

A very relative winter, as daytime temperatures range between 20-25°C. But nights are much cooler (8-10°C). So, it's advisable to bring sweaters and long pants for morning safaris and evening returns. Morning safari departures are later (wildlife, like humans, wait for the sun to warm the bush up before venturing out onto the plains). It's the perfect season for those who like to sleep in and who enjoy cozy evenings by the fire!

The bush is dry, visibility is excellent, and our private waterhole, just in front of the lodge, is one of the few remaining water sources. Therefore, it attracts a variety of wildlife throughout the day!

From late August to November, it's spring!

Outside temperatures rise to 25°-30°C, the pool is inviting again, the bush is still dry and water points are scarce. Visibility is still excellent, and you can depart on safaris early in the morning and return later in the evenings.

Which vaccinations should I get?

No vaccinations are necessary or mandatory in South Africa. It's an ideal destination for those adverse to needles or medical clinics!

What about Malaria?

There is no malaria in the Waterberg or in the Welgevonden Game Reserve, where Metsi Lodge is located. The only malaria zone in South Africa is in the Kruger Park region, hundreds of kms from us! So leave the little white pills at home, and come see us stress-free with children, babies, and grandparents! Additionally, being situated at altitude, mosquitoes are almost non-existent and completely harmless.

Do I need a visa to visit South Africa?

For European, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens, no visa is required to visit South Africa. Upon arrival at the airport, a customs officer will stamp your passport, and you are allowed to stay in the country for up to 3 months. You just need to have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your date of entry into the country. Easy and completely free!

Which airlines fly to South Africa?

- From **Paris**: direct flights to Joburg with Air France
- From **London**: direct flights to Joburg with British Airways or Virgin
- From **Frankfurt**: direct flights to Joburg with Lufthansa
- From **Zurich**: direct flights to Joburg with Swiss
- From **Dubai**: direct flights to Joburg with Emirates
- From **Mauritius**: direct flights to Joburg with Air Mauritius
- From **La Réunion**: direct flights to Joburg with Air Austral
- From **Kinshasa**: direct flights to Joburg with Air Ivoire

Which South African Airport will I land at?

OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg

What is the duration of the flight between Europe and Johannesburg?

Depending on your departure point, your flight time will be between 10 to 11hours. It's long but most international airlines offer rich movie and music playlists! And most flights are overnight...so before you know it, you'll have landed!

Should I get travel assistance and repatriation insurance for my trip?

Yes, this is recommended, but not mandatory.

What is the local time?

South Africa is in the UTC+2 time zone all year round. In practical terms, this means that we are at the time as France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland in summer. In winter, SA is one hour ahead of these countries.

How do I get to Welgevonden Game Reserve?

- *Self-drive /Car rental (international driver's license or translated national license required). This is usually the cheapest option.*
- *Or we can arrange a private transfer*
 - *By road with a private shuttle if you do not wish to self-drive*
 - *Or by private charter plane*

Which driver's license do I need if I wish to rent a car?

An international driver's license (or translated national license). If using a translated version of your national driver's license, the translation must be done by a sworn translator. The simplest solution is to obtain an international driver's license before departure (it's free!)

How long should I plan to stay at Metsi Lodge?

It all depends on your desires and passion for wildlife. We recommend a minimum stay of 3 or 4 nights. For wildlife enthusiasts, there are no limits!

Who will we be sharing the lodge with?

During your stay, you will have the lodge for your exclusive use. So, you won't share the space with anyone else other than those who are joining you on your holiday (your friends or family).

For solo travelers or couples who don't want such a large space for themselves, we work with partner travel agents who organize trips to Metsi Lodge for groups of 6, 8 or 10 guests. Let us know if you would like to consider this option, and we will put you in touch!

I'm having trouble understanding your pricing. How does it work exactly?

It's actually very simple! Since you are booking the entire lodge, we apply a minimum price to open the lodge (below that price we lose money!). This price corresponds to what 4 visitors would pay. So whether you are alone, two, three, or four people, you pay the price of 4. If there are more than 4 guests in your party, we charge a small additional fee per guest in addition to 4. We believe this is fair as it allows smaller parties to enjoy the exclusivity of the lodge without having to pay the price of 10!

We often host couples who book the lodge just for themselves, but we can also accommodate up to 10 visitors (and even a few more if there are children). So, it's up to you to find the formula that suits you best!

What clothing should I bring?

- *Light clothing (T-shirts, shorts) for the daytime*
- *A sweater and long pants for cooler evenings and mornings*
- *A pair of closed-toe shoes for safaris (sneakers or others)*
- *A bathing suit and flip-flops for the pool.*

Is the water at the lodge drinkable?

Yes, the water is drinkable and filtered.

Is there internet at the lodge?

There is free and unlimited internet access in the main lodge.

Will I be able to make/receive phone calls?

The GSM network in our area is very unreliable. When at the lodge, we recommend making/receiving your calls via the internet: whatsapp, skype, teams, messenger, etc.

Is smoking allowed?

You can smoke outside of your rooms or on the deck. For safety reasons, smoking is prohibited inside buildings and during safaris (fire risk).

Do I need to bring power adapters?

No need to bring adapters, you will find everything you need in your rooms and in the main lodge!

Should I fear sunburns?

Yes! We are at altitude. Don't forget your sunscreen, especially for children!

I have fragile health, will I find a pharmacy on site?

There is no pharmacy in the reserve. Don't forget to bring all the medications you may need with you. We have a first aid kit at the lodge for minor injuries (band-aids, disinfectant, pain relievers).

Do I need to bring nature guides and binoculars?

No need to! You will find guides and binoculars at the lodge, available on loan. Don't forget your cameras!

Should I bring South African currency with me(rands)?

It's unnecessary. We accept Euros and dollars for extras and tips.

Can I pay for my extras with a credit card?

Yes, extras can be paid for by credit card (Mastercard or Visa), or through a secure online payment link.

What is a typical day like at Metsi Lodge?

At Metsi Lodge, nothing is set in stone: activities, mealtimes and schedules revolve around you, based on your preferences and constraints. Nothing is mandatory! Below is an example of what a day can look like:

- *Morning safari departure between 5:30 and 7:30 am depending on the season, after a light snack;*
- *Return to the lodge around 10:00 am for breakfast;*
- *Relaxation, pool, games at the lodge;*
- *Lunch at around 1:00/2:00 pm depending on your wishes;*
- *Afternoon safari departure between 4:00 and 5:00 pm, depending on the season*
- *Return to the lodge between 7:00 and 8:00 pm*
- *Dinner*

From what age are children allowed on safari?

At Metsi Lodge, there is no minimum age and no age limit. All children, regardless of their age, are welcome at the lodge and on safari.

What other activities do you offer besides safaris?

Swimming pool, petanque, Molki, badminton, billiards, darts, slackline, reading, relaxation... There is also a nearly one-kilometer walking trail around the lodge, within the fenced area for those who like to walk or... run!

Are there any dangerous animals?

Yes, we are in a "Big Five" reserve, with lions, elephants, buffaloes, snakes, etc. But everything is done to ensure that you can observe them safely.

I have a disability, can I still come to Metsi Lodge?

Yes, of course! The lodge is all on one level, and everything is wheelchair accessible, including bathrooms and showers

What else can I do after my stay at Metsi Lodge?

Many things... Discover the Cape region, taste the wines of Stellenbosch, watch whales in Hermanus, go hiking in the Drakensberg, immerse yourself in the Kalahari Desert, explore the beaches of the Indian Ocean, extend your trip to Mozambique, Botswana, or Namibia , etc.

Where can I find more information about South Africa?

South Africa is an easy destination for a great holiday, with excellent first-world infrastructures, high quality services, and of course, a multitude of locations and activities to explore. Forget stereotypes about safety or racism and come discover South Africa as it really is, welcoming and captivating! There are plenty of travel agencies which can organize your trip to South Africa and an infinite number of websites to help you plan your trip yourself. The official government website is: <https://www.southafrica.net/fr/fr/travel>

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Metsi
SAFARI ECO-LODGE

