



ZIMANGA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

OUR THOUGHTS ON SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The best time to visit is “When you are here”. We believe we have a great product year-round. Each season has its advantages and disadvantages but with the variety of hides and game drive areas we have available our guides will ensure you have many excellent wildlife experiences and photographic opportunities. Which season suits you best largely depends on your personal preferences and which activities you are most interested in.

South Africa is well known for its sunshine and the majority of our days have sunny weather. In summer the weather is usually hot and humid with daytime temperatures in the high 30s. Zululand is a summer rainfall area, often in the form of thunderstorms after a hot day. Autumn has some of the most consistent weather with temperatures cooling and generally little or no rainfall, but the bush still generally being green with touches of summer's lushness. Winter is characterized by cool mornings and evenings and mild, drier days. (An odd Winter shower or 2 is not impossible... but generally unlikely.) The veld slowly turns browner, drier and dustier as winter progresses. Early Spring can be very dry until the first decent rainfall results in a flush of vibrant green shoots.

The Mkuze river and several large dams, together with the pools at the hides provide various sources of permanent water, so there is never a season without surface water.

Summer visitor birds and the breeding plumage of many species start appearing in mid October and depart at the end of Summer.

All hides and are open year-round, although seasonal activity is taken into account when sessions in certain hides are planned.

Overnight hide activity seems to be most consistent in the drier months from May to October.

Lagoon hide is open year round, but night time photography is only available from November until February.

Scavenger's hill is active year round and has no seasonal variations

Mkhombe and Bhejane hides have the most consistent activity in the drier months from May to October.

Bee-eater, Forest and Tower hides are all seasonal hides, very dependent on nesting activity of the target bird species.

Our new photo boat, while available all year, is generally aimed for Summer when our elephants regularly go swimming in the large Hlambanyathi dam.

PRIVATE VEHICLES

Package rates do not include a private vehicle.

It is a Zimanga operations and conservation policy to keep vehicle numbers low on the reserve and for this reason only 3 game viewing vehicles are available to guests at any time on Zimanga.

This allows for uncrowded sightings, with no time limits on sightings and a minimal chance of a vehicle in the background of an image.

The only way to book a private vehicle on Zimanga is to make a Doornhoek Homestead reservation, which has a dedicated vehicle and guide, or to make a 6 person reservation at the main lodge.

It is important to note that up to 6 guests and at times a 7th tour leader or private guide, are allocated per vehicle.

While this might sound crowded, our scheduling is done in such a way that 99% of the time, half the guests are dropped off for a hide session while the other half continue on game drive and therefore guest numbers on the vehicle during the actual game drive are low.

CAMERA GEAR

If you have any questions regarding which camera gear to bring along, please do not hesitate to email the guide team. The guide team can be reached on guides@zimanga.com.

No beanbags are available at the lodge, but rice is supplied to fill up each guest's personal bean bag.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) are not allowed on Zimanga.

It is strongly advised that guests wear black clothing in the hides. Furthermore, please pack in extra socks, as we do not allow shoes or walking barefoot in the hides.

MEDICATION AND INSURANCE

Please keep in mind that Zimanga Main Lodge is some distance away from the nearest doctor and/or hospital. It is essential to bring your own chronic medication, some personal medication that you might need for common ailments as well as prescribed medication for insect bites and stings (eg. bee stings). These can not be dispensed at the lodge or be easily obtained. Please consult your medical practitioner regarding travel medication.

The nearest private hospital is in Richards Bay, (2 hours away (160 km)). There is a general practitioner (GP) in Mkuze, (20 minutes away).

According to the latest National Department of Health guidelines and maps, Zimanga Private Game Reserve is **not located in a malaria area**, although the low risk malaria area starts from the Lebombo Mountains visible in the distance.

African tick bite fever is present on Zimanga. It can be contracted after coming in contact with infected ticks found on wild animals. It is inconvenient but not life threatening. Guests should follow the advice and guidelines provided to minimize the risk of tick bites.

Zimanga does have comprehensive medical evacuation insurance and a doctor's advice is available 24 hours a day on their Crisis Call Centre. This in no way replaces your normal travel insurance and while emergency evacuation to the nearest hospital is guaranteed should you suffer either severe illness or injury, this does not cover the cost of treatment once in hospital. It is essential that guests inform the lodge of any notable medical conditions before arrival as there are certain medical exclusions that require pre-approval.

CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of each guest to familiarise themselves with South African Customs regulations regarding import / export of high value items such as photographic equipment. It is highly recommended to travel with the relevant documentation of your personal photographic equipment.

MONEY

The following are all accepted methods of payment at Zimanga Lodge. The lodge currency is South African Rand (ZAR)

- ZAR
- USD Notes (post 2006 bills – “big-headed” bills)
- Euro Notes
- Pound Notes
- Visa card
- Mastercard

GRATUITIES

It is customary for tourists visiting South Africa to leave a gratuity for guides and hospitality staff. Zimanga is confident that the service provided by Zimanga guides and lodge staff is of the highest standards and gratuities are much appreciated.

This can be done upon check out, either by cash (including foreign currency) or card (added onto your bill).

Envelopes are available at reception.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Zimanga Lodge offers a complimentary laundry service available at the Lodge and the Homestead.

CONTACT DETAILS

Reservations	reservations@zimanga.com
Lodge Manager	lodge@zimanga.com +27 (0)83 376 7433 (WhatsApp available on this number)
Guide Team	guides@zimanga.com