

# Shakati Private Game Reserve in Malaria-free Waterberg/Vaalwater -only 2 hours from Pretoria



*Marakele National Park*

## **Waterberg.**

There is so much to see and do....

Waterberg is the area of magnificent views, panoramic savannah and bush landscapes, spectacular mountains and cliffs, crystal clear streams and an unbelievable abundance of wild animals, trees and flowers.

Game viewing in the Waterberg area is absolutely fantastic and recognised among the best in the country –hence the Waterberg is one of the preferred eco-tourism destination in South Africa. Furthermore Waterberg with its unspoilt nature has been designated as UNESCO “Savannah Biosphere Reserve” –the first in Southern Africa.

And Waterberg is MALARIA-free...

**Shakati Private Game Reserve** is hidden away on the lush banks of the Mokolo river in the deep heart of the untamed Waterberg bushveld paradise. Near Vaalwater and only 2 hours drive from Pretoria.

Time spent at Shakati Game Reserve is about getting away from city life, work, traffic and stress. It is about peace and tranquillity, clean fresh air and clear skies with the brightest stars you have probably ever seen. It is about being quiet and listen to the jackal calling at night, to the paradise flycatcher singing in the morning. It is about seeing and walking with the animals, touching the fruits of the bush willow -and wonder about nature. It is about quietly sitting at the water hole watching game and taking life easy

*Its time to leave the city sounds,  
the hustle, the bustle and find some place  
that speaks to you who you really are inside.  
Better yet, find a place where there  
is no speaking at all*





**Shakati** means 'place of abundance' and **Shakati Game Reserve** boasts:

- River frontage, rocks & ridges, spectacular views and large indigenous bush and savannah areas
- Plenty of wildlife -Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, Gemsbok, Hartebeest, Eland, Waterbok, Blesbok, Warthog, Impala, Leopard, Jackal, Porcupine etc. Absence of Elephant and Lion makes it safe to walk around in the reserve
- Prolific birdlife –one of the highest bird diversities in the Waterberg
- Small luxurious safari lodge with 3 self catering chalets: 2 bedrooms, lounge w. TV, + 2 beds, kitchen, bathroom, verandah, private braai area accommodating 12 people comfortably and 18 at maximum
- Complex with beautiful lush garden, swimming pool, separate guest lounge, lapa and braai area
- Guided game drives and night drives in safari vehicle, guided or unguided walks etc.
- Hunting camp with hunting in neighbouring areas (no hunting at Shakati)

## Activities

**Shakati Game Reserve** offers a number of activities and we also tailor activities to your interests and ensure a quality stay.



**Game drives:** Experience the bush wake-up on the **morning drive** in a open safari vehicle. Or join the **evening/night drive** to the river or the savannah enjoying sweeping views of the bush veld. Watch the sun setting behind Marakele National Park while sipping sparkling wine or soft drinks. Then meet the "wildest" night-life of the bush: Aardwarks, Porcupines, Bush babies, Brown Hyena and Nightjars in the spotlights

**Bush walks:** Go on a self-guided or guided bush walk to feel and touch the wildlife and flora.

**Birding.** Shakati is a very bird rich area. Use the reserve bird list and bird books. Borrow a set of binoculars. Do your own birding trips or join our reserve manager, who is a keen birder. Join birders from universities who guide special trips. Or sit quietly on your verandah, watching singing and breeding birds in the lush garden. We support Birdlife South Africa and comply with the birder-friendly establishment concept catering for birders





**Star gazing.** The clear, unpolluted sky of Waterberg provides some of the finest and brightest star watching opportunities in the country. It is easy to spot the most common star constellations and planets with the naked eye. However, with a set of binoculars you will see much more of i.e. the fascinating planets such as Jupiter with its four visible moons or Saturn with its intriguing rings. The reserve manager or the reserve library books can assist you. Or you can get a daily update of interesting stargazing phenomena on the following internet link: <http://skytonight.com>

**Fishing:** Enjoy fishing in the reserve river -or just have a swim

**Hunting.** There is **no hunting** at Shakati Game reserve. However, the Shakati reserve manager is a professional hunter and outfitter and can cater for your hunting wishes in neighbouring areas



### **Driving instructions to Shakati Private Game Reserve:**

Go from Jo'burg/Pretoria on the N1 North towards Petersburg/Polokwane. Turn off the N1 at the Nylstroom/Modimolle toll gate. The distance from Pta (N1/N4 intersection) to the Nylstroom toll gate (Kranskop toll plaza) is app. 114 km. When leaving the off ramp turn left (west) into the R33 west heading towards Nystroom app. 12 km away. Go straight through Nylstroom towards Vaalwater app. 60 km away -still following the R33. (In Vaalwater you can call the reserve manager -he will then meet you at the reserve gate) In Vaalwater go right through the town and continue still a few kilometres until you on the left see SPAR supermarket and on the right a road junction saying R33-Ellisras/Lephalale (straight-on goes to Thabazimbi). Turn right following the road Ellisras/Lephalale road for app. 20 kilometers (on hill top with small dwelling at road side). Turn left at the Shakati Game Reserve sign/dwelling into the dirt road. Continue app. 2 kilometres to the (locked) reserve gate, where the reserve manager will meet you and let you in.

## Facilities in Vaalwater:

Shopping can be done conveniently in Spar at the shopping centre just outside (west side) of Vaalwater. Here you will also find a bottle shop, quality African curio, Internet café, filling station/workshop, restaurant & café etc. In Vaalwater there are furthermore a number of restaurants, bistros, supermarkets, workshops/car repairs etc. A selection of contact numbers is listed below.

*SPAR (trading hours mon-fr 8-18:00, sat 8-13:30, Sun 8-13:00, tlf: 014 755-360; Total filling station/24 hour kiosk: 014-755-3612; Liquor store: 014-755-3862; hair cutting: 014 754 4491; Gemsbok motors: 082-368-8040; Van Zyl car repairs: 014 775 3666; Vaalwater tyres: 014 755 3773 or 082 321 6199; beauty salon: 082 695 1516 or 073 011 3367; Black Mamba curio: 014 755 3518; Cell phone repairs/airtime: 072 383 2300; butchery: 014 755 3611; clothing: 014 755 3554; Banks (FNB/ABSA), art gallery and tobacco production: 014 755 3535; Pharmacy Vaalwater: 014 775 3785.*

*Ellisras/Lephalale is the nearest larger town (60 km from Shakati) with a wealth of different shops, hospitals, pharmacy etc.*



## Other Activities

If you are staying at **Shakati Game Reserve** for a longer period you may wish to see more of the Waterberg area. You can choose from a wealth of activities. Here we present a selection of options and suggestions for self-drive or guided tours and trips.

You could start the day with a peaceful morning walk in the reserve or go fishing in the river. Then spend the hotter hours of the day by going on a half day trip to the Rhino museum, the Pedi traditional potters or a crocodile farm. Or buy goat cheese and venison from the farms and butcheries in the area.

You can comfortably be back in time for the Shakati evening game drive enjoying a cool sun downer. And later relax in the swimming pool while the impala steaks are waiting for the coals... Or maybe you would rather go for a full day trip to the Big 5 areas such as Marakele National Park or Pilanesberg National park. Or visit the hot springs in Warmbath. The choice is yours...



# Tour suggestions in the Vaalwater/Waterberg Area

## TOUR 2: Mokolo Dam Nature reserve (half day tour.)

The Mokolo Dam and Nature Reserve is a popular fishing and picnic spot on the Mokolo River app. 50 km west of Shakati. The Mokolo dam is also part of the Africa Ivory Route. The large dam attracts numerous birds and animals from the surrounding hills and wilderness. There are crocodiles in the dam but you can safely fish, sail and hike. Facilities include braai and picnic areas, ablution etc. The reserve is managed by Limpopo province and you pay a small entrance fee. Opening hours are 7:00-17:00

From Shakati turn left on the tar road and go app. 7 km to the Witfontein junction. Turn left here into the dirt road towards Hermanusdorings. At Hermanusdoring turn right into the tar road, carry on a few kilometers and turn right again into the first dirt road heading towards Elmeston. Continue until you reach the Mokolo Dam Nature Reserve on your right



## TOUR 3: The Vaalwater deli-tour; fruits, vegetables, cheese and venison (half – full day tour)

Culmpine citrus plantation. Here you can see a large working citrus plantation with world wide export - and buy farm products such as oranges, lemons and lime.

Go to Vaalwater (Spar junction), turn right into the old Vaalwater-Thabazimbi road and go west a few kilometres until you see a large white signboard saying *Sunpride – Culmpine citrus estate.*

Grapes, vegetables, fruits and other farm products. Go east through Vaalwater towards Nylstrom/Modimolle. On this road section you will find numerous smaller farms and orchards each with their home grown specialities. A number of padstalls sell their products.



Geluksfontein goat milk and cheese farm. Here you can experience goat milking and goat cheese making first hand and indulge yourself in cheese tastings. The farm also has restaurant (booking 083 652 1979) grill and pub. Open 9-17, closed Tuesdays, daily milking 15:00. Driving instruction: In Vaalwater take the road north towards Melkriver. After appr. 33 km you reach a junction Dorset/Sondagslopp. Turn left towards Dorset and immediately after turn right following the sign to the cheese factory.

Game products/venison: When leaving Shakati, turn left into the tar road R 33 towards Ellisras/Lephalale. Continue 15-20 km until you on your right see a butchery. You can't miss it –the butchery is thoroughly signposted for many kilometres on both sides. They have excellent venison, boerevors, salami, biltong, droewors. –you name it.

## TOUR 4: Thaba Kwena Crocodile farm and Warmbath Hot springs resort (half/full day tour.)

Ever been really close to a crocodile?? You will at Thaba Kwena Crocodile farm which is the largest crocodile farm open to the public in South Africa. The breeding crocodiles range in size from 2.5 to 5 meters, are between 10-40 years old and weigh up to 600 kg. Feeding time is every Saturday at 15:00 –and is a MUST. Eggs are harvested and young are reared for skin and meat. You can buy frozen meat and crocodile skin (handbags, wallets, belts etc). There are guided or self guided tours, curio shop. Entrance R 15 adults. Visiting hours Mon-Sundays 9-16 (holidays/long weekends) (014 736 5059)



The Warmbath region was known by the Sotho people as "Bela Bela" (the boiling place -- it has recently been renamed this). Two white settlers noticed in the beginnings of last century a powerful hot spring bubbling up at 62°C amid a mass of soggy vegetation. When the swamp was drained, it was found that the mud had been a death trap for elephants and other wild animals whose skeletons littered the marsh. The government purchased the hot springs, which then became public baths and a holiday resort grew around it. The resort offers day visitors a feast of recreation facilities such as hot mineral baths/treatments, speed slides, river rides, water skiing, mini golf, go carts etc. There is an entrance fee and fee for activities

Driving instruction: Go through Vaalwater to Nystroom where you turn right into R101 towards Warmbath (old Warmbath road). Halfway to Warmbath (app-.15 km) you turn right towards Groot Nylsoog. You will also see the yellow signboard with Thaba Kwena crocodile farm. Go app. 4 km on the dirt road until you reach the farm. Afterwards go to Warmbath by continuing south on the R 101 until you reach the town. The resort is easy to find.

**TOUR 5: Mama Tau Lion Park/Ellisras** (half/full day tour)

Mama Tau Lion Park is a white lion breeding project. The lions come from Kruger park area and are circulating freely in large fenced areas together with normal brown lions. At Mama Tau you can enjoy close encounters with app. 36 brown and white lions. A guided tour in the safari vehicles takes 1 hour. Open 9am-4pm, prior reservation necessary 014 763 3661. Price R 60 (Tuesdays closed). Later you can visit the town Ellisras and do your shopping. Ellisras is rich in heritage and has various festivals and events such as the popular annual Bushveld festival in July. Furthermore the 18 hole Mogol Bushveld Golf Course is hidden away here.

Diving instructions: From Shakati turn left on the tar road (R33) towards Ellisras/Lephalale. After app.23 km turn right into the Beauty sand road. 30 km further turn right again into sand road heading to Visgat. Mama Tau is located 5 km further on your right side –it is well signposted.

When leaving Mama Tau, follow the signs to Ellisras/Lephalale.



**TOUR 6: Pedi Potters-Melkrivier Rhino & Biosphere Museum.** (half day tour.)

Pedi Potters:

Go into Vaalwater, turn left (north) towards Melkrivier, turn left towards Marken at the Marken/Mokopane junction app. 60 km from Vaalwater. Carry on a few kilometres looking for the the green “Pedi Potters” sign. Turn left at the sign into the dirt road and pull up to the traditional African village a few hundred meters away.



In the village women make the traditional Pedi clay pots which you can buy. The Pedi Village itself is a beautifully decorated example of the local Pedi building culture. Leaving the potters you turn back again. At the Melkrivier junction turn right and follow the signs to the Waterberg Biosphere and Rhino Museum.



The Waterberg Biosphere and Rhino Museum close to Melkrivier contains an Environmental Centre, a Rhino Museum and a Rhino Rescue Centre. It is located in old and beautifully restored buildings. The museum describes the Waterberg history, culture and environment including the creation of the Waterberg Biosphere Savannah Reserve and the UNESCO designation of the reserve as the first in Southern Africa. The museum also highlights the rhino conservation efforts, the evolutionary history, habitats and landscapes, the rhino wars, illegal trade and use of rhino horn. A visit to this museum is really worthwhile. There are guided/self guided tours and the centre has restaurant and tea garden. Rates R 5, rhino feeding R20 (adults) and R10 (children). Rhino feeding time 3pm. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays 9:00-17:00, Sundays 15:00, tlf: 014 755 4428

**TOUR 7: Nylsvley Wetlands –International Ramsar Site** (full day tour)

This unique area in the Limpopo Province is a designated RAMSAR site, a Wetland of International Importance. The Nyl floodplain is South Africa's largest floodplain and is surrounded by savannah woodland and grassland. Nylsvley Nature Reserve covers 4.000ha and is run by the Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board. It is open every day from 06:00-18:00. Take your own drinking water and food along. Entrance: R10/R5, Vehicles R20. Driving instructions: Go from Shakati to Vaalwater and further to Nylstrom/Modimolle (R33). At the main 4-way crossing in Nystroom turn left/north onto the R101 towards Naboomspruit (Mookopong) and Potgietersrus (Mokopane). Before the road rejoins the N1 highway, turn left staying on the R101 going towards Naboomspruit and Potgietersrus. Turn right at the Boekenhout station sign with the brown sign Nylsvley. The distance Nylstrom-Boekenhout turn-off is about 33 km. About 7 km down this gravel road it crosses a railway line, the entrance to Nylsvley is about 1 km further, on the left.



**TOUR 8: Marakele National Park –Big Five area** (full day tour)

The Marakele National Park mountains can be seen south-west of Shakati and forms part of the Waterberg Mountains. The Tswana name means 'place of sanctuary' and the park contains an impressive variety of wildlife due to its location in the transitional zone between the dry western and moister eastern regions of South Africa. Contrasting majestic mountain landscapes, grass-clad hills and deep valleys characterize the park. Rare finds of yellowwood and cedar trees, five metre high cycads and tree ferns, are found here. All the large game species from elephant and rhino to the big cats as well as an amazing variety of birds including the largest colony of endangered Cape vultures (more than 800 breeding pairs) in the world, have settled here. Some parts of the park are only accessible by 4x4. A narrow tar road takes visitors up to the top of the Waterberg massif with spectacular scenery. One is also in the proximity of the vulture colony and these large birds will soar past at close quarters.



It is 1-1½ hours drive. From Shakati turn left on the tar road and go app. 7 km to the Witfontein junction. Turn left here into the dirt road towards Hermanusdorings. At Hermanusdorings turn right into the tar road (the old Vaalwater/Thabazimbi road). Continue 10-15 kilometers and turn left towards Thabazimbi at the R 510 road sign. Continue south towards Thabazimbi while you enjoy the Marakele mountains rising on your left. Before you reach Thabazimbi, you turn left at the sign to Marakele National Park and/or Vaalwater/Alma/Bakkerspass. (This road goes south of Marakele National Park and ends-up close to Vaalwater again). After app. 10 km. you reach the main gate at Kwaggas Vlagte, where you will sign in. When leaving the park again, you can either return the same way or continue east on the Vaalwater/Alma/Bakkerspass dirt road going south of Marakele. It is a bit longer and slower but is beautiful and follows the Marakele park southern boundary. There is a fair chance of seeing especially elephants on the plains along the road. You will end up close to Vaalwater.

**TOUR 9: Pilanesberg National Park -Big Five area.** (Full day tour)

The Pilanesberg National Park is the third largest national park in South Africa covering 55.000 hectares. It comprises an area of a 1200 million years old volcano crater with a large lake in the centre. This very scenic terrain lies in the transition zone between Kalahari and Lowveld, and both types of vegetation are found here. In the Pilanesberg National Park today live virtually all the animal species of southern Africa, including, lions, elephants, wild dogs, white and black rhinos, buffaloes, leopards, zebras, hyenas, giraffes, hippos and crocodiles –and over 300 bird species. Most roads in the park (some 200 kilometres) are not tared, but very well maintained and can be travelled with a normal vehicle. The park offers a number of wonderful picnic spots, numerous hides for game watching, huge walk-in aviaries, safe hiking trails, guided safari drives and various restaurants.





Pilanesberg is app. 2½ hours drive. From Shakati turn left on the tar road and go app. 7 km to the Witfontein junction. Turn left here into the dirt road towards Hermanusdorings. At Hermanusdoring turn right into the tar road. Continue 10-15 kilometers and turn left towards Thabazimbi at the R 510 road sign. Continue south towards and through Thabazimbi town going south on R 510 to Northam. Continue further south on R 510 until you reach the Mogwase junction with signs to Pilanesberg National Park and/or Manyane resort. Pass through Mogwase town, turn right at the petrol station still following the signs. At the park entrance you can either drive yourself or you can at Manyane complex book yourself a game drive. The Manyane complex has shops, restaurant and swimming pool for day visitors.

**TOUR 10: Mapungubwe National Park (2-day tour)**

Mapungubwe National park is a world heritage site at the northern edge of the Limpopo province covering 28.000 ha. Located at the confluence of the mighty Shashi and Limpopo rivers this envisaged transfrontier park embraces South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Mapungubwe gives tangible proof by way of the rich fossil deposits, the bushmans art and gold artifacts of ancient civilisations that once flourished here. The giant baobab trees, riverine forests and associated flood plains provide an intriguing mix of habitat for a tremendous diversity of creatures. Here herds of elephant and buffalo roam, and the roar of the lion echoes through the still of the night. The Mapungubwe National Park is situated 60 km west of Musina. Because of the distance from Shakati, it is necessary to stay overnight in the park. You can book in at [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org). The web-site also provides driving instructions



## Map of Waterberg area with tour locations



### Suggestion for tours and activities

- 1: Shakati Game Reserve
- 2: Mokolo Dam
- 3: Deli-farms and shops
- 4: Crocodile farm and Warmbath hot springs
- 5: Mama Tau White Lion Project
- 6: Pedi Potters, Melkrivier Museum
- 7: Nylsvley Wetlands Reserve
- 8: Marakele National Park
- 9: Pilanesberg National Park (outside the map –the South-Western corner)
- 10: Mapungubwe National Park (outside the map –Northern corner)