

# Highlights of Marataba, Marakele National Park



Marataba is our privately-managed section of the greater *Marakele* National Park. Setswana for *Place of Sanctuary*, the Marakele's Waterberg mountains stand sentinel over wildlife-rich plains, hidden San rock art and Iron Age sites, and rivers winding through a landscape that is an Eden for Southern African fauna and flora. A safari here promises both incredible wildlife sightings and scenery.

	MARATABA
Land Agreement	Contractual National Park
Location	Marataba is a privately-managed section of the Marakele National Park - Limpopo, South Africa
Size	21 000ha/51 890ac
Malaria Risk	None
Vegetation and Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Savannah biome - including forest and grassland - with mountainous areas, rocky hills, plains, the perennial Matlabas River, and a wetland</li> <li>Due to the Marakele's <b>location in a transition zone</b> between the dry western and wetter eastern regions of South Africa, the park has <b>an impressive abundance and variety of fauna and flora</b>, including <b>rare yellowwood and cedar trees</b>, as well as <b>ancient cycads and ferns</b></li> </ul>
Wildlife: Signature Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Five - with a <b>healthy population of the critically-endangered black rhino</b></li> <li><b>The world's largest colony of endangered Cape vultures</b> (±800 breeding pairs)</li> </ul>
Wildlife: Rare Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black rhino</li> <li>Pangolin</li> <li>Brown Hyena</li> <li>Aardwolf</li> </ul>
Wildlife: High-density Populations and Largest Breeding Herds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 000 impala, with herds of 20 - 30 individuals</li> <li>±2 000 wildebeest, split into many smaller herds of about 7 - 10 individuals</li> <li>±1 500 zebra, split into many smaller herds of about 5 - 10 individuals</li> <li>400 elephants, with herds of 5 - 20 individuals</li> </ul>
Wildlife: Bird Numbers	±400 bird species
Wildlife: Special Bird Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raptors: booted eagle, peregrine falcon, cuckoo hawk</li> <li>Swallow-tailed bee-eater (distinguished from the other 3 species by its forked tail)</li> <li>Violet-eared Waxbill (beautiful and shy)</li> <li>Temminck's courser (noted for laying its dark-colored eggs in burnt bushes and grass)</li> </ul>
Wildlife: Birding Seasons	<b>September to March</b> , with opportunities to view both resident and migrant species