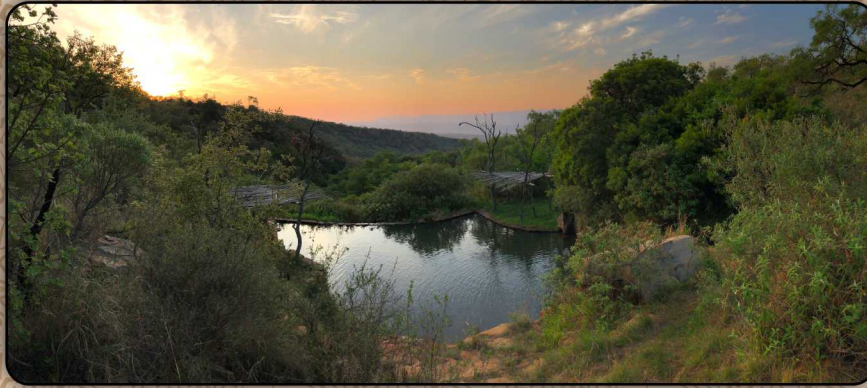




Sima Kade

Guest Information Manual



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### NB:

- Check-in from 2pm / Check-out up till 10am
- There is no covered parking available at SK.
- Cell-phone reception is unreliable.
- WiFi can be affected by weather or tower issues.
- You cannot use appliances like hair dryers, irons, heaters or microwaves.
- Gate code needed to enter property.





## **Sleeping in the Forest** **Mary Oliver**

**I thought the earth  
remembered me,  
she took me back so tenderly,  
her dark skirts,  
her pockets full of lichens and seeds.  
I slept as never before,  
a stone on the riverbed,  
nothing between me  
and the white fire of the stars  
but my thoughts,  
and they floated light as moths  
among the branches of the perfect trees.  
All night I heard the small kingdoms  
breathing around me,  
the insects, and the birds  
who do their work in the darkness.  
All night I rose and fell,  
as if in water,  
grappling with a luminous doom.  
By morning  
I had vanished at least a dozen times  
into something better.**





# DISCLAIMER



1

*You are responsible for you.*

**Sima Kade** is a **wilderness area**. In the wilderness, or 'bush', there are potential dangers and threats that you will be exposed to. Some of these apply to daily life anywhere (like sunburn) and some are specific to the bush (like thorns). The various hazards, many of which are included in this manual, are an integral part of the bush and cannot be removed without disturbing and destroying the very ecosystem that makes Sima Kade somewhere you would like to visit. For this reason, we as a venue, indemnify ourselves from any responsibility for your wellbeing. We have done as much as possible to ensure that **you are safe**, and out of harm's way, while on our property. This waiver simply affirms that **you are still responsible for yourself** and your belongings. If you are taking part in a retreat, workshop or group booking then **the Facilitator/Organiser is in charge** and responsible for you and the group - having accepted the terms of this waiver on your behalf.

## **Sima Kade Bush Retreats, R96, Hekpoort ('the Premises')**

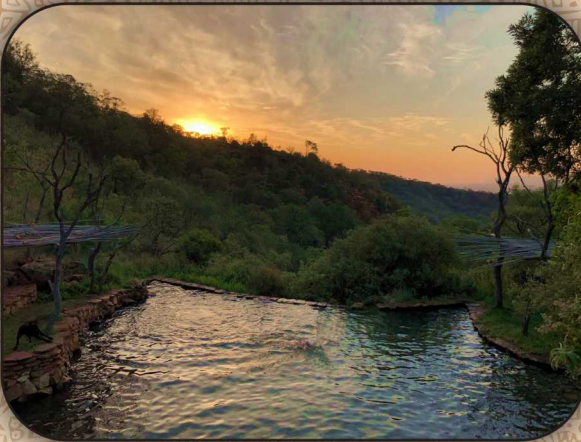
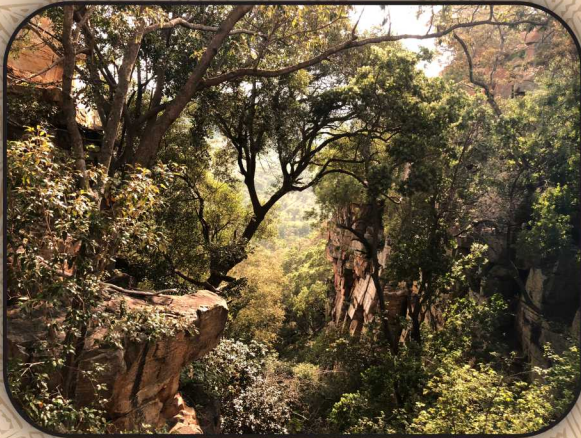
This indemnity applies to all persons who enter the Premises, whether as casual visitor, overnight guest, user of any of the facilities on the Premises or participating in any activity on the Premises or arranged by Sima Kade (collectively referred to as '*the Visitor*'). The Visitor acknowledges that he/she has **read & understands** this indemnity & **agrees to be bound** by the following:

- I enter and use the facilities, parking areas, surrounds, stairs, infrastructure, buildings, services, equipment, grounds, natural features, trails on the Premises & participate in any activities at the Premises entirely at my **own risk**.
- **Right of admission is reserved** by the Premises.
- I warrant that I have been advised of & am aware of & accept that I will be exposed to a variety of risks & dangers at the Premises & to **risks and dangers** at the Premises which have been explained to me (see following sections for details) in detail & that I comprehend the risk & the implications thereof.
- Such **risks and activities** include without limitation pools, ponds, recreational areas, paths, staircases, roads, fireplaces, insects, plants, animals, wildlife and weather conditions.
- I agree to obey at all times any **warning notices and instructions** of Sima Kade, and Sima Kade staff..
- I **hold harmless and indemnify** the owners, management, staff, directors of Sima Kade and other guests ('*the Indemnified Parties*') against any consequences of visiting, participating in any activities or incidents at or arranged by Sima Kade and waive any claims I may have.

This includes **any loss of/damage to personal effects/property, any indirect, consequential or special loss/damage, financial loss, illness, injury, harm** (as defined in the CPA) **or death** howsoever caused & legal costs (attorney & own client scale) that the Indemnified Parties may incur, unless such claim falls within the ambit of section 61 of the CPA (Act 68/2008)

I acknowledge that any **assistance** that the Indemnified Parties may render or arrange is done without any admission or acknowledgement of fault or liability and as a show of empathy & goodwill.





## WELCOME TO SIMA KADE

Sima Kade is a private nature conservancy in Magaliesburg - comprising of a small secluded valley. Over the years we have built accommodation and venues here, giving people a chance to visit and enjoy the serene, bushy environment and escape the rush of day-to-day life.

There is a lot to take in, enjoy and be aware of while visiting, so we have compiled this information resource to give you more detail and texture in various aspects of life here in the Sima Kade valley.

As you will see on the map SK has several venues. These are private spaces that are usually booked individually. As a guest you have access to all of the shared trails and areas of the valley, but must always respect the privacy of other guests by not wandering into the other venues uninvited or causing a disturbance.

This valley hosts a cornucopia of indigenous plant and animal life, thriving on a small stream of natural spring-water that flows from water-falls and rock pools, down into forests and small gorges. Walking paths allow for day excursions around the valley along the tall cliffs and into the beautiful indigenous forests. The valley has a cosy ambience, surrounding the tranquil venues with plush green slopes in summer and warm golden grasses in winter. Looking out NW over the Magalies valley which rolls up against the Magaliesburgs famous southern cliffs for picturesque sunsets.

The stream that flows through SK emerges from a marshy spring at the top of the property, just above the Rock Pool. It brings life to the valley and is the reason for the wide variety of plant and animal life. While the slopes that surround it are rather dry and sparse in comparison to the luscious green of SK. The stream joins up with the Magalies River just across the main road, linking the valley to the heart of the Magaliesburg.



# MAP



SIMA KADE VALLEY



- Managers
- Melissa's Kitchen
- Office & Laundry
- Workshop
- Bottom Parking
- Staff Houses

GATE

- drive slowly stay on roads
- No feeding of animals
- tortoises crossing!

- Distances**  
- map not to scale -
- Sky Terrace to Bush Camp:**  
10 minute walk
  - Bush Camp to Cave House:**  
10 minute walk
  - Bush Camp to Rock Pool:**  
15 minute walk
  - Cave House to Rock Pool:**  
15 minute walk
  - Amphitheatre - Ruins - R. Pool:**  
1.5 hour hike
  - Bottom Parking - Top Gully:**  
1 hour hike
  - Full Valley Loop:**  
3 - 4 hour hike

**Legend**

- Dirt Road
- Tar Road
- Maintenance Road
- Stream
- Forest
- Water Feature
- Point of Interest
- Ridge / Cliff
- Venue
- Tagged Trails
- Unmarked Trails

Look for paths marked by:  
-rock cairns (piles)  
-painted markers hung in trees  
-respect other guests' privacy.

Magalies River

R96

## GENERAL

- Follow demarcated paths and roads.
- Keep noise pollution to a minimum.
- Turn music off after 10pm.
- No music in shared spaces or on walks.
- Provide privacy to the other venues.
- Leave it as you found it.
- Do not feed the monkeys or other animals.
- No hairdryers, irons, microwaves, toasters, etc. (see Batteries & Power)
- No flying of drones without permission.

## FIRES

- Do not make outdoor fires if it is windy!
- Make fires only in the fireplaces.
- Do not leave lit fires unattended.
- Do not leave hot coals unattended if windy-ash can easily be picked up by the wind.
- Use the hose-pipes or covers provided at the venues to extinguish outdoor fires before leaving them.
- Do not use flammable objects, liquid or gas to start fires or add to existing fires.
- Do not use your hands to move burning coals, logs or sticks.
- No collecting of firewood from the bush or cutting dountrees is allowed.



## SECURITY

- The valley is well secured with fences and a community of vigilant neighbours. It is still good to be cautious, look after your belongings and not provide temptations for long fingers by leaving your valuables lying around.
- Do not leave valuable items or personal belongings unattended or in unlocked rooms.
- If you have valuable items in your room it is advisable to keep the room locked while you are not there.
- There is a nightwatchman, Joseph, who patrols the valley at night.

## CHILDREN

- Children are not allowed to swim, or play in water, unless under close adult supervision.
- Do not leave children unattended.
- Do not let children wander off out of sight.
- Do not let children climb trees.
- Do not let children run in long grass or lift rocks (this is where snakes and scorpions live).
- Children often find it fun to throw stones. For the sake of animals, windows, and other guests, throwing stones is not allowed.
- Do not let children eat plants or berries found in the bush. Children like to eat things, especially juicy red berries. There are plenty of poisonous wild plants.





## BUILDINGS & VENUES

- If you leave doors and windows open while you are not around there is the possibility that monkeys, or other animals, will enter.
- Do not remove beds or furniture from the rooms for use outside.
- There are several separate venues on the property used by separate groups of guests. Please let them have their privacy by not deliberately wandering into their space and using their facilities.
- **There is no smoking allowed inside the rooms or buildings** - enforced by blacklisting & cleaning fees.

## DRIVING & PARKING

- **Drive slowly and carefully.** The roads have traffic coming both ways.
- **Look out for tortoises** and other animals in the road. Also birds and owls at night.
- Please do not park your vehicles in the road.
- **Off-roading is not allowed** on any part of the property.

## PETS

- **We are pet friendly.**
- **SK can be dangerous for your pets**, with lots of space for them to get lost and dangerous animals they might want to play with. If they are prone to running off then maybe its not a good idea to bring them with.
- **They should be trained and socialized** as there are other pets on the property.
- **Pets are not allowed on the beds or furniture**, so bring theirs with.
- If unfamiliar pets join you it is usually one of our very friendly dogs (see right) - let us know and we will come collect them.
- **Throwing toys or sticks for the dogs can be dangerous.** Please be careful where you, and your children, are throwing them. **Not over ledges, into long grass or rocky terrain.**
- **Do not feed pets that are not yours.**

## WATER

- Try not to waste water.



## LITTER

- At Sima Kade we have a **zero-tolerance policy for litter and cigarette butts.**
- Do not throw, or leave, rubbish in the bush or on the ground. Use the provided bins at the venues.
- **DO NOT THROW CIGARETTE BUTTS ON THE GROUND!** This is the most common cause of fires and it is difficult to clean them up. Discard the stompies into a well-lit fire or bin.
- **Smoking is not allowed in the rooms**, cabins or any other closed in structures on Sima Kade - which is also partly why we have the list mentioned above.
- **Keep bin lids closed!**

## DAMAGES

- If you break something please just let us know, so that we can fix/replace it.
- If you accidentally take some of the kitchen equipment, or anything else, home with you let us know so we can arrange to have it returned or replaced.
- **Unnecessary use of the fire extinguishers is dangerous, messy and costs a lot to refill** - this is another thing that has ended up with people being on the list from above.





NB!: There is a first aid kit located in the kitchen of each venue.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<b>Premises Managers:</b>	Melissa Palframan	074 102-7405
	Laurence Brown	082 902-4060
<b>Alternative Contact:</b>	Ivan Brown	076 980-9974
<b>Local Police Department:</b>	Hekpoort SAPS	014 579-9109

## NEAREST MEDICAL CARE

<b>Netcare Pinehaven Hospital:</b>	011 950-5400 Pinehaven Estate, 1 Gateway Road, Pinehaven, Krugersdorp. By Car: 25 mins (32km) 24-hour emergency department, emergency helicopter landing pad, decontamination shower/room, and Netcare 911 EMS base operating from the hospital.
<b>Hekpoort Medical Centre:</b>	014 576 1198 R560 Main Road, Hekpoort. By Car: 5 mins (5km) Open Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm Pharmacy and GP available at this location.
<b>Vet / Animal Hospital:</b>	011 660-3110 51 Cecil Knight St, Rant-En-Dal, Krugersdorp. By Car 20-25 mins (35km) Veterinarian & surgeon - open 7 days a week.

## INJURY

- Do not move the person if it appears, they have injured their spine or neck.
- Several of the plants and trees on the property can cause minor skin reactions.
- For minor injuries (burns, cuts, allergic reactions, etc) there is a first-aid kit at all the venues, found in the kitchen.
- Nearby hospitals can dispatch ambulances, but **it will always be quicker to drive the injured person to the hospital yourself**, as long as you are in a safe state to do so.
- If no one is able to drive immediately contact the Premises Manager (listed above) who will arrange transport to the hospital.



## FIRE

- In the event of a **fire that has become out of control**, either in a building or in the bush, **immediately retreat to a safe distance**.
- **Alert other guests** of the fire and ensure everyone is out of harms way.
- Immediately **contact the premises manager** and make them aware of the fire. They will dispatch a team to help control the fire and alert the local fire department.
- If anyone is hurt, **locate the first aid kit** (if it is not near the fire) and tend to their injuries.
- There are **fire extinguishers and hoses** located around the venue. Fire extinguishers are good for putting out small fires in a kitchen or building. For larger fires, or trees and grass, spraying water from a hose is best.
- If the **fire is small** and not a danger to your person you may attempt to put it out with the extinguisher and hose.
- Be aware of the direction of the wind and try to stay behind it.
- If the fire is spreading rapidly, evacuate the venue.

Despite our best efforts at prevention, there are occasionally veld fires that move through the property. Veld fires occur in the dry period towards the end of winter when high winds spread fires, jumping roads and fire breaks. It is a part of natural regeneration for the bush to burn every 5-7 years - helping plants germinate and clearing dead foliage.

We clear dry grass and vegetation around the venues every year to protect the structures and venue sites. So veld fires are not particularly dangerous at SK, however the smoke can fill the air making breathing uncomfortable. If a fire reaches the SK valley it may be preferable to evacuate the property until the fire has passed and the smoke clears. The Premises Manager will advise on the best course of action under these circumstances.

## SNAKES

We definitely have snakes at SK. They are generally shy creatures that prefer to slither away than confront a person. Some of the snakes at SK are venomous, so **don't take any chances**.

- **If you see a snake leave the area**, and alert other guests to its presence.
- **Do not try to chase them away** or pick them up. Some snakes can spit venom at you with incredible aim.
- **If someone is bitten keep them still** as much as possible - movement can cause the venom to spread faster.
- **Do not attempt to suck venom out with your mouth**.
- **Take the person to the hospital** or contact the premises manager to arrange transport.
- If a person or pet has been **sprayed or spat** with venom, in either the eyes or onto exposed skin, **wash the area with cold water**. Use a hose pipe and flush the eyes thoroughly for at least 10 minutes. **Don't use eye drops**.
- If possible and safe, try to **identify some features of the snake** like colour, markings and size.

When venomous snakes make their homes close to the venues we catch them, take them far away and release them. Snakes are a very important part of the natural ecosystem so we do not condone killing them.





## NB:

- Check-in from 2pm / Check-out up till 10am
- There is no covered parking available at SK.
- Cell-phone reception is unreliable.
- Some of the venues have outdoor bathrooms.
- There is WiFi at all the venues but we cannot guarantee it will work seamlessly at all times, as weather can affect it.
- You cannot use appliances like hair dryers, irons, heaters or microwaves (see Batteries & Power).
- Gate code required to enter property. Please share it with all the members of your group.

## ROAD CONDITION

The road is unpaved and rough - especially during rainy times. You will need a car with high clearance to access the venues. A 4x4, SUV or mini-SUV will be fine. Sports cars, low hatch-backs, sedans or luxury city cars will struggle.

## WHAT TO BRING

See the venue pages for details on facilities and equipment provided. This is just a check list to help you when packing:

- Sunblock, hat, walking/trail shoes & water bottle.
- Swimming costume & swimming towel (bath towels provided).
- Food, drinks, ice, spices, oils & recipes.
- Charcoal or briquettes for braaing.
- Binoculars & bird book.
- Cards & other games.
- Cooler box & ice for drinks - there are fridge/freezers for once you arrive.
- Bubble bath for venues with baths.



## ARRIVAL

We generally leave things ready and open for a self check-in. There are signs that will guide you up to your venue. If it is your first time at SK one of the managers can meet you at the bottom of the valley or at the venue, just let us know when you arrive.

## WATER

Our water comes from a fresh, groundwater spring that feeds the stream running through our property. The water is collected at the source and piped to the bathrooms and kitchens at all the venues. The water has been tested and is perfectly healthy to drink, with an abundance of natural minerals and nutrients.

When it has been raining heavily the run of from the catchment area often turns the water a bit brown. When the rain stops, we flush the pipes out and let fresh, clear water back into the system. If there is heavy rain and the water is brown, we will provide bottles of clear water for drinking and cooking.

If the water coming out of the taps is a bit brown let it run for a few minutes to clear.

The spring feeds the small eco-system of the valley, so it is essential that the water is used sparingly, especially in the dry winter period, and kept clean and free of pollutants/chemicals.

## STAFF TIPS

Please feel free to leave tips at the venues, somewhere easy to find or in the provided jar, envelope or box.



## FIRE PLACES & BRAAIS

A campfire is the centre of any camping trip. Just like a moth to a flame, we gather around it to tell stories, cook food and share laughs. In winter, when fires are the most desired for their warmth, it is the most dangerous time to light outdoor fires. The grass and trees are dry and winds can come out of nowhere to spread sparks from your fire to the surrounding bush. So please, never leave a lit fire or hot coals unattended, and don't make fires when it is windy.

- We provide **fire-lighters**, although sometimes we may have overlooked an empty box, so let us know if they have run out, or bring your own just in case.
- There are **slow combustion wood burning fire places** in some of the venues. These are started the same way as a normal fire (see below) but they have airflow controls (lever or slide). When starting the fire, open the airflow fully. Once the fire is going, reduce the airflow, which will make the wood last longer and cause more heat to radiate from the fireplace.

## Making a Fire

### 3. FIREWOOD

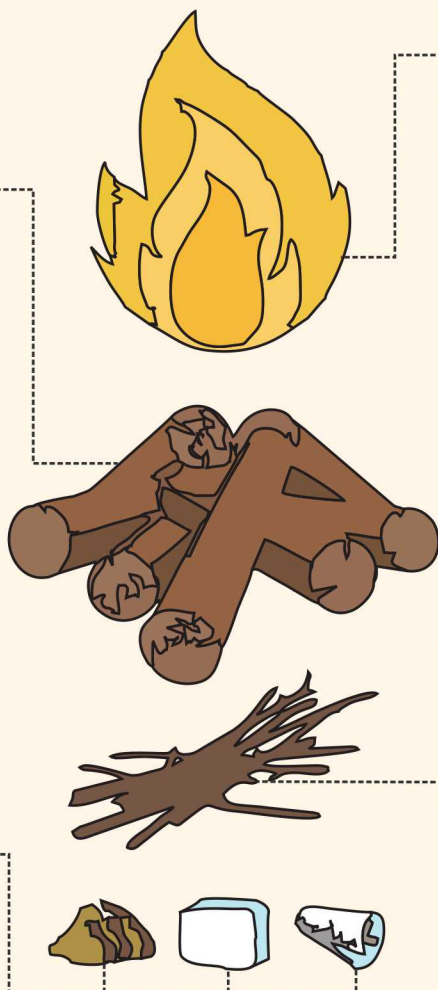
- Feed the fire with wood
- Use only dry wood.
- Keep the fire as contained as possible, placing the wood directly on top of the burning stack.

#### Tips:

- Add smaller pieces of split wood at first.
- Remember, for cooking and roasting marshmallows, coals are your best friend.
- Leave room for airflow.

### 1. TINDER

- Use cardboard, paper or firelighter as the base.
- Light on fire using matches or a lighter.
- Do not use flammable liquid or gas.



### 4. FLAMES

- More flames means less smoke.
- Fan or blow air into the fire to catch newly added logs or to restart the flames.

#### Tips:

- Make a teepee of kindling over your tinder before lighting.
- Use a few split pieces of bigger wood to hold the kindling down, close to the tinder.

### 2. KINDLING

- Use small twigs and sticks (finger size) to get the fire going.
- Try to bundle the kindling together in a bunch.
- Gently blow into the flames to speed up the catching.



## KITCHENS

The kitchens are equipped with the general equipment you would expect: pots, pans, knives, cutlery, plates, bowls, cups, glasses, bottle openers, etc. If you have specialised equipment, a poitjie pot or a favourite knife you can bring it with, just make sure you remember to take it home.

**NB! Appliances** that require power must be checked against the following lists, but as a general rule any device that heats or cools must not be run on the batteries (unless you want no lights for your stay) and should only be used with a generator.

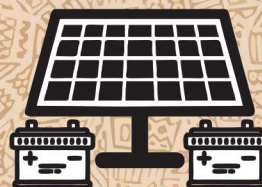
### Battery Safe:

- Blenders / juicers
- Smoothie machines
- Mixers / beaters
- Cellphones & laptops
- Speakers
- Lights



### Battery Killer:

- Kettle
- Toaster/ snackwich
- Microwave
- Coffee machine
- Fryers (air or otherwise)
- Slow cooker
- Oven (convection or otherwise)
- Ice cream maker
- Ice machine
- Hair dryers, curlers or iron
- Electric blanket
- Electric heaters of any kind
- Clothes iron



## FRIDGES

To save energy we leave the fridges off when there is no one staying in the venues. We switch the fridges on before you arrive, but please check when you arrive.

Some of the fridges run on gas. The standing fridges have an indicator on the bottom. The chest fridges have a flue pipe at the back right that lets out hot air when on. Please let us know if they aren't on.

Electric fridges can be switched on wherever they are plugged in.

## FOOD STORAGE

There are monkeys and mice that will attempt to steal your food. Most of the animals won't try to steal the food when you are nearby, but as soon as you leave they will be into your rusks and avocados. **So, put stuff away when you aren't around.**

## STOVES

Our stoves also run on gas. Push the knob in and turn it to the right, it should spark and ignite the gas.

If the stove has no sparker you must use a match or lighter (an empty lighters spark can still work) to ignite the gas.



## BATTERIES & POWER

The venues at SK run on solar power, which is stored in batteries and used for the 12V lighting. We also have inverters at all the venues which convert the battery power to 220V for plugs that can be used to charge devices and power certain appliances.

Some appliances will cause the inverter to trip and drain the batteries leaving you with no lights or charging. As a general rule appliances that heat or cool will use too much power. If tripped the inverter needs to be reset, leaving you without power until someone can come fix it.



**DO NOT PLUG IN, OR ATTEMPT TO USE THESE APPLIANCES:**

- Hair dryer, curler or iron
- Clothes iron
- Microwave, stove or oven
- Toaster, kettle or cooker
- Coffee machines
- Heater or air-conditioner



## REFUSE & WASTE

We recycle waste materials. Extra rubbish bags are available in the kitchens. To assist rubbish handling and recycling processes please:

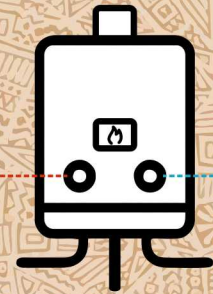
- **Clean the rubbish before it goes in the bin.**
- **Put organic waste in a separate bin (marked and provided)**

By cleaning all the food waste out of and off tins, bags, trays and other packaging the job of the recyclers is easier and healthier. We compost the organic waste so please only put biodegradable stuff in those bins.

## GEYSERS

We use gas water heaters at all the venues, for the kitchens and bathrooms. The gas geysers work quickly, heating up the water as it runs through them. Although, if the geyser is not very close to the taps, the hot water may take a while to reach the outlet. It is difficult to tell if a gas bottle is nearing empty, so **sometimes the gas will run out. If this happens let us know and we will come to replace the bottle.**

The gas geysers also have settings which control the temperature of the hot water. We change the settings for summer, spring, autumn and winter. If the temperature is not right please let us know and we will adjust it - or adjust the setting dials as shown in the diagram.



### Gas Flow:

- **More = hotter**
- **Less = colder**

### Water Flow

- **More = colder**
- **Less = hotter**

**FLUSH**

ONLY

*toilet paper*

AND NATURAL WASTE

NO FEMININE PRODUCTS, TISSUES OR WIPES.

*Thank You*

## SEPTIC TANKS

Septic tanks are brilliant solutions for saving water and protecting our environment. They work by collecting waste mater, separating and draining safe water out into the ground. They don't work if you put anything other than human waste and loo paper into them.

### Never Flush:

- Tampons or sanitary pads
- Condoms
- Diapers
- Earbuds, cotton pads/balls



## CATERING

For groups of 10 people or more bookings can include delicious vegetarian catering. Contact us to request a catering price list. The meals are prepared by our amazing chef: [@melissa\\_and\\_the\\_kitchen](#) - Instagram



## FIRE WOOD

- Price on request
- We can provide firewood for your venue. We will make sure it is more than enough wood for your stay, and if you run out we can always bring more.
- The firewood is sourced from a local project that trains people to work with timber and, over time, gives them ownership of the equipment they need to continue in the business on their own. The wood they supply is black wattle, an invasive, non-indigenous tree, which has a medium-hard density - good for cooking.



## MASSAGES

- We work with a local business, The Paradise Mobile Spa, to offer massage treatments to our guests. After the pandemic this group of skilled therapists and a local entrepreneur teamed up, starting their own business offering services to smaller accommodation and venues, like ours, without a dedicated spa.
- Please request the Mobile Spa Treatment Menu - bookings are made directly with the spa.
- Treatments will take place at your venue at your chosen time.



## CLEANING

- The venues are all self-catering and do not include staff to clean during your stay.
- For long bookings we will have rubbish collected and bins emptied.
- If anything is not up to a decent level of cleanliness or has been overlooked during house keeping please let us know right away so that we can resolve it.



self  
cleaning

## TRANSPORT

The road into the valley is manageable in most cars, however, low cars will struggle. There is secure (not covered) parking at the bottom of the valley for parking these cars. We do have vehicles at SK that can transport guests and luggage to and from the venues. The SK vehicles may be busy, so there can be a lot of waiting involved. If you can, try to bring a car that will be more happy on dirt roads, or, if you are in a group, plan with someone who has a higher car to lift people up to the venue. Plan with us in advance if you think you'll need a lift up.



## FURNITURE

Like our style? Want to take some furniture home with you? Check out our design website [www.dongadesign.co.za](http://www.dongadesign.co.za). Or visit our workshop at the entrance to the farm. We use reclaimed materials, wood, leather and steel to create unique and modern design elements, with Africa as the central, unifying inspiration.

## MR BROWNS HONEY

We have beehives here and there at SK. We harvest honey from them every so often, and bottle it for guests to buy. The honey is raw, unadulterated and flavoured by the wide variety of wild, indigenous flora that SK offers.

**Request prices - honey will be delivered to your venue.**

Our hives are also unique, coming from one of our other enterprises: Beegin. We invented a revolutionary new concrete beehive. Check it out at: [www.beegin.co.za](http://www.beegin.co.za)



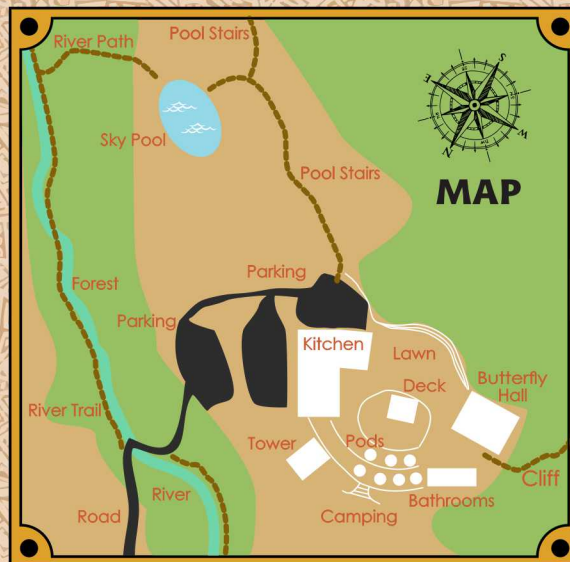


## BACKGROUND

Construction at Sky Terrace began in 2012, prior to which we had come to the conclusion that, in our valley, there existed not one square meter of level ground. That was when we stumbled upon this hidden hillside habitat. Granted it was only fairly level, but it was wide, with open space and relatively clear of rocks and trees, like someone had used it before. With its huge Red Ivory tree and massive boulders strewn about at the edge the terrace quickly became one of our favourite spots. The cliffs above and the views of the rest of the valley led us to believe we should develop this wide-open space (and level it out a bit more).

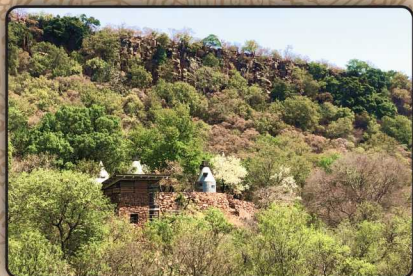
Initially we built the terrace for camping with an open-air kitchen, massive dining area and independent bathrooms. However, as we began to realise the potential of the location, the Terrace grew into a village, much like its predecessor, the Bush Camp, but on a whole new level - closer to the 'Sky' as it were. In its current form the Terrace is evolving into a unique venue for hosting events, gatherings, functions, retreats, groups and ceremonies. With sprawling lawns, a raised covered deck and a large round hall.

The kitchen and dining area is designed to cater for large groups, with accommodation for up to 16 - 18 people. The main lawn area is surrounded by stone amphitheatre-seating looking towards a covered stage structure. Another two terraced lawns extend behind the stage connecting the large kitchen and dining areas, on the right, with the bathrooms and showers, on the left. Along the two back terraces are 7 repurposed, mobile, grain-silo bedroom-pods. Positioned on a lower terrace is a stone-tower with two beautiful bedrooms. The main lawn leads to the round, gathering "Butterfly Hall", with its wooden floors, wrap-round wall-top windows and 11 double doors. Further up the slope, towards the cliffs, is another terrace where there is a farm-inspired swimming pool and lawn, surrounded by majestic mountain views.

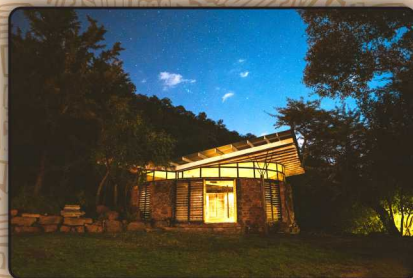


## CAPACITY

The Sky Terrace can only be booked by one group at a time and we require a **minimum of 10 people** for a booking. The terrace can accommodate groups of up to **16-18 people sharing rooms**. There are 16 beds - with bedding provided. **There are 9 bedrooms 7 capsules & 2 cabins** that can comfortably sleep 2 people per room (sharing). A gatherings hall that is an ideal space for holding meditation, yoga, dance and drama workshops. The 2 bathrooms are located next to the capsules, with en-suite bathrooms in the 2 cabins. For overflow there is shaded camping space where tents can be pitched at a separate rate.



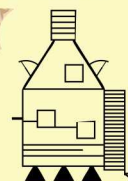
**Tower**  
Tall rock structure perched on the slope with large glass windows and a butterfly roof.



**Butterfly Hall**  
A large round hall with a strong wooden floor and stone walls broken up by 11 double doors.



**Silo-Capsules**  
Repurposed grain-silos turned into mobile bedroom-pods, with two beds (bunk-style) in each.



## FACILITIES

- Large kitchen with scullery and pantry
- Covered patio dining area (seats 32)
- Gas fridge, stove, oven and geysers
- General kitchen, braaing & eating equipment
- Large grass amphitheatre with stone seating
- Ladies & mens bathrooms
- Open-air fire pits
- A stone tower with 2 rock bedroom cabins (en-suite)
- 7 re-purposed grain-silo bedroom capsules (2 beds each)
- Shaded terraces & camping space
- WiFi available only in the common areas
- Covered wooden stage area in front of Amphitheatre
- Large, round closed-in gatherings/events hall with wooden floor and fireplace
- Solar powered LED lighting & inverter providing 220V at plug points

A mixture between an Incan village and a modern, bush-veld glamping experience.

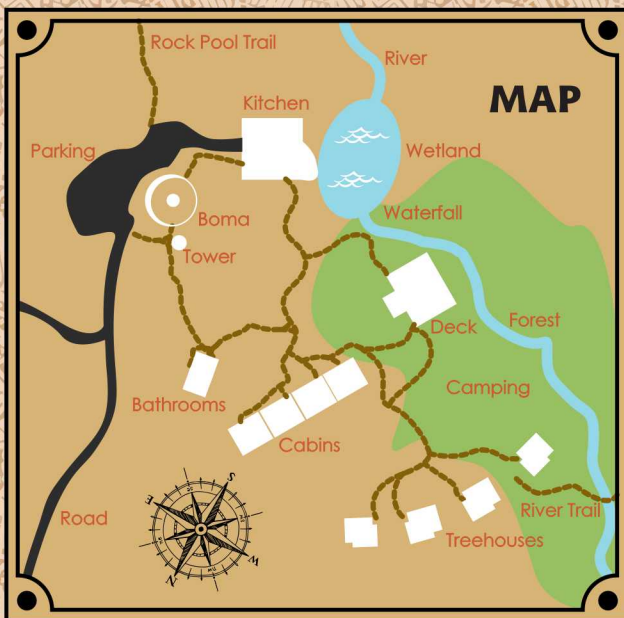


## BACKGROUND

The Bush Camp was the first venue built at SK, beginning in 2007, as just a campsite. Located in the centre of the valley it comprises of a sprawling set of spaces that switch between forest, river, veld and bush.

The original project of the valley, the Bush Camp has evolved over the years, growing and improving, while maintaining its unique directive. The aim when designing and building the independent structures that make up the camp was to create a sprawling village of separate utility areas that each offer a different view of the surrounding environment, allowing the nature to encroach between the areas, blending the camp in seamlessly with the setting. The camp consists of 5 areas closely linked by stone pathways: kitchen & dining, fireplace boma, bathrooms, cabins, treehouses and the deck.

The covered kitchen and dining area is perched on a raised embankment that overlooks a natural pool in the river with reeds and birds galore. The fire boma is at the top of the camp, with an open sky for starry nights and large bon-fires. The cabins and treehouses are nestled down along the edge of the forest that runs along the river, and the deck is buried in the forest beneath the canopy. The bathrooms are close to the cabins and the paths are lit-up at night for easy meandering between the areas. From the camp it is a short 15-minute walk to the rock pool.





A rustic, outdoor camp sprawling along the riverside in the heart of the valley, made up from a series of interconnected areas, linked by winding paths that take you from one beautiful space to another.



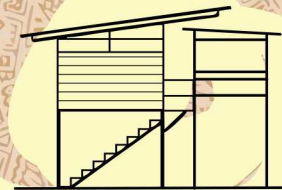
## CAPACITY

The Bush Camp can only be booked by one group at a time and we require a **minimum of 10 people** for a booking. The camp can accommodate groups of up to **16 people sharing rooms**. The Bush Camp is a retreat venue (ie. no loud parties).

There are 16 beds - with bedding and bath towels provided based on number of people. There are 8 bedrooms: 4 cabins (shared bathrooms) and 4 tree houses (en-suite), that can comfortably sleep 2 people per room (sharing). A wooden deck that is an ideal space for holding meditation, yoga, dance and drama workshops. The 2 bathrooms are freestanding, located in a small structure close to the cabins.



The wooden deck is 10x8m, with a small stage and a cantilevered roof. The three open sides look out into the forest.



The 4 treehouses are wood-clad bedrooms, mounted high-up on stilts, in amongst the trees - with daybeds and private toilets.

## FACILITIES

- Large open plan kitchen with scullery and pantry
- Enclosed lounge with fireplace
- Large covered dining area
- Gas fridge, stoves and geysers
- General kitchen, braaing & eating equipment
- Open-air lounge joining dining area
- Boma with chairs & bon-fire pit
- Wood fire hot tub - 6 seater
- 4 cabins - two bathrooms with showers & toilets
- 4 tree houses with daybeds, toilets and basins
- 2 additional semi-outdoor showers
- Covered wooden deck with stage
- Lookout sunset tower
- WiFi available only in the common areas
- Solar powered LED lighting & plug points



The 4 cabins are cozy bedrooms, with large glass windows looking out into the valley.





## BACKGROUND

Welcome to our house in the hill. The valley is located in an area famous for its ancient fossils and stone-age impliments that connect us to our distant anesestors who used to live in these very hills. Something about this site in the valley just invoked in us the urge to build a cave. The cave was created by excavating into the mountain side and building into the cavity a deep rock lined bunker. Once a thick concrete slab had been cast to cover the space, the slope was pulled back on over, hiding the internal structure.

The Cave House is located at the top of the valley, over-looking a gorgeous forested amphitheater. The house is open plan with a large fully equipped kitchen, bedroom with wooden flooring and dining area with a wood-burner fireplace. A long glass sliding door opens out onto the terrace where evenings can be spent around the fire beneath the starry sky. The terrace has a large roof, to one side, suspending a hanging day-bed and sheltering an outside dining area. The Cave was designed to stay warm in winter and cool in summer, making it an ideal escape at any time of year.

## CAPACITY

The Cave House can accommodate groups of up to 4 people sharing the space (ie. no bedrooms). We require a minimum of 2 people for a booking.

There are 4 beds inside (1 double, 2 singles). There is also a covered double bed outside. Bedding and bath towels provided based on number of persons. For overflow there is flat camping space where tents can be pitched at a separate rate. The cabin/site is not baby/child proof and not very safe for inquisitive little ones - so children under 12 aren't allowed.

## FACILITIES

- Open plan living space - lounge, bedroom, kitchen, dining area.
- Can sleep up to 4 people (sharing)
- Gas fridge, stove, oven and geysers
- General kitchen, braaing & eating equipment
- Furnished outer terrace area - with hanging bed
- Inside wood-burner fire-place & outside fire pit
- Inside bathroom - shower & bath
- Spare outside bathroom - shower & bath
- Outside dining area (seats 4)
- Solar powered LED lights & charging

*A solitary fortress in the mountainside. A sanctuary of comfort amidst the bushveld. A strange home full of wonder and paleolithic sentiments.*





*A romantic tiny-home,  
nestled in a hidden forest.*



## BACKGROUND

The Kama Cabin (Cabin of Desire) is a double-story tiny-home, specially designed for a beautiful spot at the heart of the Sima Kade valley - a hidden ridge that offers incredible views of the cliffs and the Magalies mountain. The ridge is capped by a red-ivory tree and looks over a small river-side forest. The cabin features a window-wall that slides out of sight, opening the house up to the bush-forest. The living room flows out to the fire-boma, with an outside bath positioned on the edge looking onto the cliffs.

Built during the first lock-down, the Kama Cabin is the newest addition to Sima Kade. An experiment in prefabricated building, we constructed the majority of the structure off-site and towed it into place, taking about 2 months to complete. The cabin has the feel of a sail boat, with everything between the bedroom, kitchen and living area perfectly proportioned to save space. The Cabin is designed for couples, but also has a couch/bed in the downstairs living/kitchen room. We always wanted to build on this site, and are glad to have taken our time to understand how the location changes through the different seasons.

## CAPACITY

The Kama Cabin is designed for 2 people - 1 king sized bed. Bedding and bath towels provided based on number of persons. The cabin/site is not baby/child proof and not very safe for inquisitive little ones - so children under 12 aren't allowed.

The shower is outside and the cabin is located in a bush conservancy - there are animals and insects. They're happy for you to visit, you'll have to be okay with the possibility of them visiting.

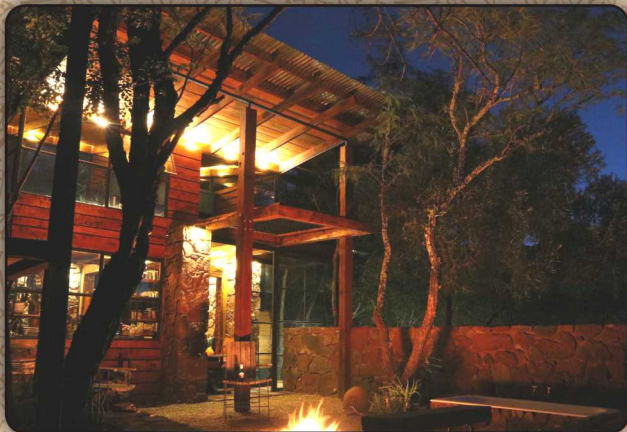
## FACILITIES

- Open plan living space - lounge, bedroom, kitchen, dining table.
- Gas fridge, stove, and geyser.
- General kitchen, braaing & eating equipment.
- Fire boma area with chairs.
- Inside wood-burner fire-place.
- Outside (covered) bathroom - shower and toilet.
- Outdoor bath.
- Solar powered LED lighting & battery inverter for charging devices.
- Outside covered daybed





A luxury cabin with an epic view, the sounds of the river and magical forest.



## BACKGROUND

The Venus Cabin, named for the evening star that follows the sunsets framed by the main view of this site. A double-story tiny-home, special designed for a stunning site - nestled on a slope half in forest and half looking out over the Sima Kade valley. The stream starts ascending towards the rock-pool nearby, giving you the gentle sounds of water falling. The cabin features large sliding doors that open it up to the front terrace with a fire place and outdoor bath. The back door leads to a forest terrace with outdoor shower, daybed and dining table.

Larger than the Kama Cabin, this one was designed to have an upstairs bathroom and bigger kitchen, while keeping the cozy, warm cabin feel. The wood burning fire-place will keep you warm in winter and the forest will keep you cool in summer. The cabin is also located just 5 minutes walk/hike from the rock pool and high up on the hillside with a perfect view of the Magalies valley. We even built a yoga deck out in the front facing the view for meditations and salutations.

## CAPACITY

The Venus Cabin is made for 2 people with 1 super-king bed. Bedding and bath towels provided based on number of persons. The cabin/site is not baby/child proof and not very safe for inquisitive little ones - so children under 12 aren't allowed.

The shower is outside and the cabin is located in a bush conservancy - there are animals and insects. They're happy for you to visit, you'll have to be okay with the possibility of them visiting.

## FACILITIES

- Open-plan, tiny-home, cabin living space.
- Downstairs - kitchen, lounge & counter dining/seating.
- Upstairs - super-king bed, bath, sink & toilet.
- Inside wood-burner fire-place.
- Outside bathroom - shower and toilet.
- Outdoor bath, yoga deck and covered daybed.
- Gas fridge, stove, and geyser.
- General kitchen, braai & eating equipment.
- Fire boma area with chairs.
- Solar powered LED lighting & battery inverter for charging devices.
- Parking not covered & cabin accessed via stairs.





*Floating in between Earth and Sky - found on the edge of the horizon*



## BACKGROUND

Situated on the edge of a secluded ravine the cabin merges with the breathtaking natural surroundings of cliff faces and forest canopies above and below. It is an architectural celebration of spatial experiences with a reverence for the materials from which it is built. The spaces sequence themselves around a stone walled courtyard, each space giving different views and interactions to the encompassing nature: the daybed onlooking stunning views of the cliffs; the fire boma for the night's starry skies; the raised outdoor covered dining veranda for all types of weather; the plunge pool which overlooks the koppie.

The cabin itself is open plan – generous sliding doors make way to the kitchen, lounge & wood-burner fireplace held by strong stone walls leading down to the bedroom. The bedroom floats out over the edge of the ravine. The bed is a front row seat to watch the full moon rising from the silhouette of the mountain. The bathroom offers its own experience of magnificent views. The bathtub lends itself to a large sliding door opening to the outdoor shower.

## CAPACITY

The Luna Cabin is made for 2 people with 1 king bed. Bedding and bath towels provided. The cabin/site is not baby/child proof and not very safe for inquisitive little ones - so children under 12 aren't allowed.



## FACILITIES

- Open-plan cabin living space.
- Kitchen with kitchen-island seating area
- Lounge with big L-shaped couch
- King-size bed
- Indoor bath, sink, toilet and open-air shower
- Inside wood-burner fireplace
- Outdoor covered daybed
- Outdoor covered dining table
- Solar powered fridge, gas stove, and gas geyser
- General kitchen, braaiing & eating equipment
- Fire boma area
- Plunge pool
- Solar powered LED lighting & battery inverter for charging devices
- Parking not covered & cabin must be accessed with an SUV or other high clearance vehicle



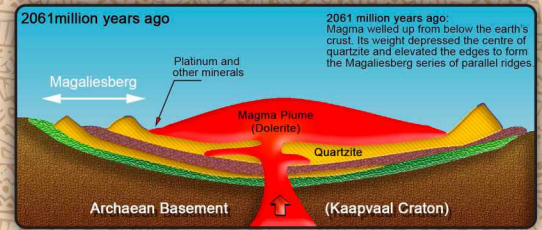


## GEOLOGY

The Magaliesberg has ancient origins. Its composition is ascribed to successive geological processes over a very protracted history. Its quartzites, shales, chert and dolomite were deposited as sediments in an inland basin on top of a 3 billion year old Archaean Basement Complex, known as the Kaapvaal Craton. This process of sedimentation lasted for about 300 million years. About 2 billion years ago, a massive upwelling of molten magma resulted in what is now known as the Bushveld Igneous Complex. The enormous weight of this intrusion depressed the sediments that lay beneath and tilted the sediments along the edges so that the broken escarpments faced outward and upward, and the gentler dip slopes inward.

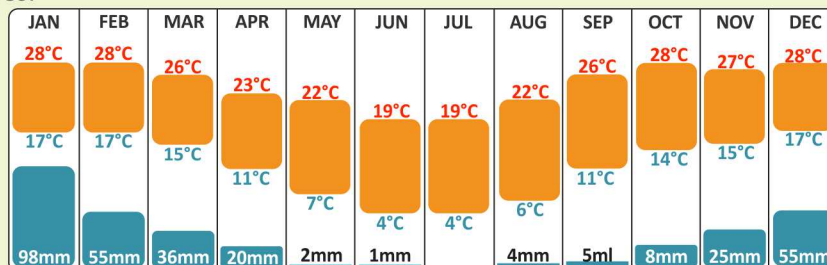
During the same period, these sediments were fractured and igneous intrusions of dolerite filled the cracks. With the passage of time these intrusions eroded, especially on the dip slopes, forming deep kloofs or ravines providing rock-climbing potential to modern man. This large dog-leg-shaped area is now termed the Transvaal Basin and includes the lofty escarpment of the Transvaal Drakensberg overlooking the Lowveld in the eastern part of the country. Massive outpourings of igneous material—volcanic lava—of the much younger Karoo Supergroup later covered the Transvaal Basin, but this was subsequently eroded so that it only remains along the Transvaal Basin's southern rim.

The Sima Kade valley is situated on the Witwatersrandburg which forms the southern slope of the Magaliesburg valley. The SK valley was formed by two natural springs which occurs at the top of the property. Over millions of years these rivers, along with rainfall, eroded a gorge.



## CLIMATE

The range forms a natural barrier between the lower lying Bushveld to the north and the cooler Highveld to the south. The range receives rainfall in summer in the form of thunderstorms, with an average of 650 mm (26 in) annually. In winter, frost occurs frequently in the valleys on the southern side of the mountain, but almost never on the northern slopes.





The area around the Magaliesberg range has seen extremely lengthy occupation by humans dating back at least 2 million years to the earliest hominid species (such as Mrs Ples) in and around the Sterkfontein Caves, which lie at the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. We often find stone and iron age implements in the SK valley. The San people were the regions earliest sapien inhabitants, leaving evidence (tools and rock paintings) of their presence from as early as 8000BCE.

Around 1200CE these hunter gatherers were gradually forced out of the area by the southward migration of the Bantu-speaking people (originating in West-Africa) who settled in the region, becoming the Sotho and Tswana. These settlers brought with them rich cultural traditions, agriculture, livestock, mining and various skills/crafts (ironmongery, pottery, stone construction, carpentry, leather work, etc.) that were plied to a trade network that was, at times, linked to the East-African Arab Empire.

In the South-East corner of Sima Kade, above the amphitheatre, there are rock wall ruins of an old settlement - likely occupied 400-800 years ago. Ideally located near to water (the spring that feeds SK) and high up on a slope overlooking a fertile valley the settlement is also concealed between two ridges so that fires would not be seen at night by other groups. The ruins demonstrate a typical village design - 2 wide circular walls for cattle and goats, a group of small buildings for the general population and a large encampment of spacious rooms for the headman or chief. There is also evidence of someone living in the amphitheatre beneath the cliffs and rock overhang - possibly a healer or Sangoma (distanced from the main population).

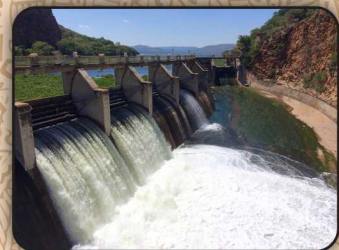
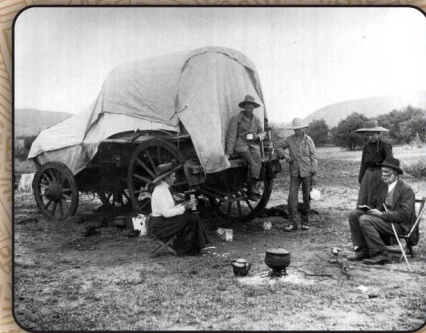
In the mid-1800s the mountain range became known as Magaliesburg (lit. Mogale's mountain) after Kgosi Mogale. "Mogale" means "sharp" or "brave" person, but is also the common word for a warrior or Tswana soldier, in Sotho bogale means "sharp" and mogale is "brave". In 1822, Shaka, the leader of the Zulu Kingdom, sent his most trusted commander, Mzilikazi, to conquer the Sotho tribes of the region. After accomplishing this task, Mzilikazi decided to break away from Shaka and found his own nation, the Matabele. As he feared an attack from Shaka if he returned home, he settled in the Magaliesburg region.

On 17 January 1837, after some Voortrekkers had been attacked and killed by Mzilikazi's impis, they counter-attacked and, under the leadership of Hendrik Potgieter and Gerrit Maritz, and with the help of local Sotho-Tswana chiefdoms, drove the Matabeles north across the Limpopo River. As the re-conquest of the region was a cooperative venture of the Boers and the Sotho-Tswana against the Matabele, the Boers and Sotho-Tswana had friendly relations at the beginning of white settlement. These friendly relations are reflected in the name of the main Boer town, Rustenburg (lit. resting town), because it seemed to them that they would not have to engage in any more fighting against African communities.

The Boers initially settled south of the Magaliesburg in the Highveld, leaving the Bushveld north of the Magaliesberg mostly to their Sotho-Tswana friends; according to Sarah Heckford's memoir, *A Lady Trader in the Transvaal*, the Boers would move into the Bushveld to visit their Sotho-Tswana neighbors during the winter. According to oral testimony by Tswana headmen recorded around the turn of the 20th century, many individual Boers formed close friendships with prominent individual Tswana chiefs, especially for the purpose of forming hunting parties to gather ivory and other products from further north. Subsequently, the Boers began settling in the valleys of the Magaliesberg Range and the Bushveld north of the Magaliesburg, turning the region into productive farmland. While displacing their former allies and confining them to locations and reserves.

The area saw some heavy fighting during the Second Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902. The Boers, being extremely familiar with the mountains, used secret pathways across the mountains to launch guerrilla attacks on the British soldiers. In response, the British forces built blockhouses on top of the mountains in order to restrict the movement of the Boer forces; ruins of these structures are still to be seen on the mountain. Control of the Magaliesberg Mountain Range was of great importance to both the Boer and the British forces, especially the two routes between Pretoria and Rustenburg. As a result, many battles, such as the battles of Buffelspoort, Nooitgedacht and Olifantsnek were fought in the area.

In 1923 the Hartbeespoort Dam, situated in one of the valleys of the range, was completed. It became a popular holiday and weekend destination for the inhabitants of Johannesburg and Pretoria, and the villages of Hartbeespoort and Kosmos developed as a result. At present, the Magaliesberg area is still largely agricultural, although tourism is a rapidly growing industry in the area.



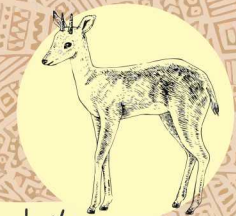
These are the most common animals that, if you are quiet and patient, may be seen at Sima Kade. We are grateful to share this space with these beautiful creatures. They are rare, beautiful and have lived in this area for a long time. If you do not feel comfortable being in a place with these creatures then perhaps the bush is not for you.

Please be aware of the following:

- **Do not feed the wild animals.**
- **Luckily the baboons are shy of people.** They hear people and move off, never visiting the venues while people are around. If you run into them on a path give them some time to move on and try not to cross between them.
- **The vervet monkeys (small, light grey) are very cheeky.** They are not as shy as the baboons and are prone to stealing food while you aren't looking. If they come into your space make a bit of noise by shouting and banging and they will run away. **Do not throw stones at them.**
- **There are snakes.** Some are dangerous. Walk in good shoes, keep an eye out and if you see them stay clear.
- **There are wasps, hornets, bees and scorpions.** They can sting. Usually the pain will subside and there may be some slight swelling. Anthisan cream and Allergex tablets are good for stings. If you have a bad reaction, like excessive swelling, difficulty breathing or swollen glands it may be a good idea to visit the hospital.
- **There are spiders,** although very few will actually bite you. Wave a stick in front of you while walking on trails to identify and remove webs.
- Snakes and scorpions live under rocks. Lifting and moving rocks is a good way to get stung or bitten.

## MAMMALS

- Dassie (Rock Hyrax)
- Duiker
- Klipspringer
- Porcupine
- Jackal
- Baboon
- Vervet Monkey
- Brown Hyaena
- Ground Squirrel
- Mice (various)
- Civet
- Wildcat
- Mongoose
- Hare
- Honey Badger
- Bush Baby



duiker



baboon



klipspringer



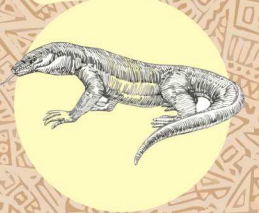
puff adder

rock monitor



hare

hyaena



civet

porcupine



jackal



bush baby



dassie



cobra



honey badger

mongoose

## REPTILES

- Leopard Tortoise
- Monitor Lizard
- Chameleon
- Gecko
- Skink (striped lizard)
- Brown House Snake
- Red lipped herald
- Mole Snake
- Wolf Snake
- Blind Snake (thread)
- Egg Eater
- Puff Adder
- Night Adder
- Mozambican Spitting Cobra
- Rinkhals Spitting Cobra



## BIRDS

There are hundreds of birds that visit and live in the valley - over 400 recorded. 46% of the bird species recorded in the Southern African sub-region have been identified in the Magaliesburg: so best break out the bird book! Living at SK we have: Guinea fowl; Francolin; Owl; Eagle; Weaver; Swallow; Kingfisher; Nightjar; Hornbill; Hoopoe; Bee-eater; Oriole; Hawk; Ibis; Vulture; Barbet; Bulbul; Warbler; Shrike; Lark; Woodpecker and many more, each with various sub-species.



kingfisher



cuckoo

woodpecker



barn owl



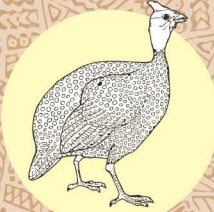
hoopoe



barbet



guinea fowl



francolin



bee eater



bulbul



vultures



Weaver

## AMPHIBIANS

There are a great many frogs and toads species here. Mainly they are found in, or near to, the river. The African Common Toad (fat, mud camouflage skin) like to find dry places to burrow, and often ends up inside our houses. **Gently scoot them with your foot or find a dustpan to take them outside.**

## INSECTS

Oh, the bugs you will find! There are countless beetles, dragon flies, fireflies, flies, bees, water striders, ants, spiders, termites, moths, butterflies, worms, caterpillars, stick insects, mantis', crickets, wasps and mosquitoes. **The mozzies disappear when it gets cold (May-August) and they do not carry malaria.**

### The Little 5



lion ant



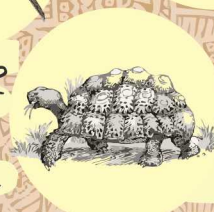
buffalo weaver



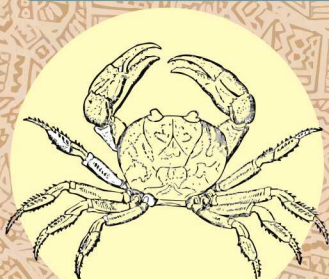
rhino beetle



elephant shrew



leopard tortoise



## CRUSTACEANS

- Fresh water crab

There are over 100 different species of indigenous trees and shrubs at Sima Kade alone. Along with a wide range of seasonal grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants). Most of the vegetation in the biosphere is listed as endangered or vulnerable. The wide variety of plant life is what makes SK so special, so a huge part of our stewardship of the land involves protecting and nurturing the indigenous flora. For identifying plants please consult one of the books provided at the venues. The Magaliesburg Biosphere (UNESCO) is at the interface between 3 different biomes, each of which SK provides examples of:

- **Grassland** (Rand Highveld ): characterised by flat open areas with long grass, rocky outcroppings, scattered shrubs and isolated trees.
- **Savanna** (Magaliesburg/Hekpoort Mountain Bushveld): characterised by thinner grass with open to closed thickets of small trees and woodlands. Generally flat but often surrounded by mountains and ridges.
- **Forest** (Magaliesburg/Hekpoort Mountain Bushveld): characterised by tall trees creating a thick canopy. Found along cliffs and steep, water-rich valleys. The Magaliesburg forests mark the western most occurrence of this vegetation type.

Please be aware of the following:

- **Do not eat** any of the fruits, berries, leaves or other parts of the plants and trees found in the valley. Most are poisonous and almost none are tasty.
- **Avoid touching any plants that look furry or have bristles.** These are usually nettles and can leave you with a nasty rash.
- Please be aware if you climb trees that very few are strong enough for climbing and the ones that are big enough are precious to us - climbing them leads to bark damage that can harm the trees.
- **Look out for thorns.**

