



FACT SHEET

Introduction:

Aquila Private Game Reserve, under a two hour scenic drive via the N1 from Cape Town, is named after the rare and endangered Black Eagle that thrives in the area. Proclaimed a Private Nature Reserve in 1985, this 4 star, Big 5, malaria free, 7, 500 hectare conservancy is steeped in Khoi San and Boer War history and boasts 3 pristine biomes of vegetation set in the most magnificent Karoo mountains, valleys, rivers and kloofs.

Aquila has been recognised alongside the major tourist attractions such as Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch and Robben Island etc as a must-see Cape destination.

Accommodation:

Premier Cottages

The Premier Cottages are positioned on the hillside to offer privacy and have been built in harmony with the rock which is a principle focal point in the large bathrooms and alfresco showers. They are constructed from wood, stone and thatch and feature fans, air conditioners and fireplaces. Each en-suite bathroom is unique, with twin hand basins, bath and toilet. The cottages offer a wooden deck with panoramic views across the expanse of the reserve. The Honeymoon Suite (the jewel in Aquila's crown) boasts a private alfresco Jacuzzi.

Room configuration:

Cottage 6: Sleeps 4 (family unit)
Cottage 7: Sleeps 2 (Twin sharing)
Cottage 8: Sleeps 2 (King size bed)
Cottage 9: Sleeps 2 (King size bed)
Cottage 10: Sleeps 2 (Twin sharing)

Luxury Family Units:

These units are semi detached with attention paid to privacy. Units are equipped with mini bars, tea and coffee making facilities and feature indoor fireplaces for that extra bit of warmth and cosiness in the colder months. They are under thatch and feature exterior stone work using raw materials from the area. The large en-suite bathrooms feature corner baths with outdoor showers.

Room configuration:

Luxury Family Units 31 & 38 sleeps 6 guests
Luxury Family Units 32 – 37 sleep 4 guests

Both the Premier Cottages and the Luxury Family Units have tea and coffee making facilities, the option of a mini bar and the highest quality linen is used throughout.

Standard Cottages:

In keeping with the design and flow of the architecture at Aquila, the Standard Cottages do not compromise the experience nor standard. Each has its own patio, corner bath and outdoor rock shower. Cottages are equipped with mini bars, fans and feature 'coal' stoves for that extra bit of warmth and cosiness in the colder months.

Room configuration:

Cottage 11 – 30: Sleeps 2 per cottage (Twin sharing)

Bush Cottages:

Situated in the actual veld of the reserve adjacent to the wetlands area. Originally the reserve staff cottages, these have been beautifully restored and are also equipped with mini bars, fans and uninterrupted views of the reserve and its inhabitants.

Room configuration:

Cottage 1 to 5 Sleep 2 to 4 guests per cottage.

Restaurant:

The new triple volume restaurant is perfectly situated to offer breathtaking views of the reserve. The upstairs viewing area allows guests to enjoy cocktails while watching the sun set behind the magnificent Karoo Mountains. This spacious African character building is the perfect setting for the extensive buffet-style meals served. Meals to suit all culinary/dietary requirements are prepared by our resident Executive Chef, including traditional South African cuisine. Complete with wall to ceiling windows for optimal viewing the restaurant can seat 280 diners in comfort and large log fireplaces set a romantic mood. The restaurant opens up to a sunken boma area – a unique design feature to Aquila.

Cigar Bar:

A sumptuous yet intimate colonial style Cigar Bar that offers one the opportunity of enjoying an after dinner night cap in front of the roaring log fire whilst enjoying the quality cigars on offer.

Pool Bar:

Situated adjacent to the swimming pool and restaurant, the Pool Bar enjoys the same architecture and African design as the restaurant and seats approximately 20 guests while enjoying the convenience of the pool area.

Boma/s:

Conference Boma – Under thatch, the Conference Boma is an addition to the spacious Conference Centre and can seat up to 80 guests (cinema style). It is perfectly positioned to use in conjunction with any conference/team building etc.

Restaurant Bomas – 2 Outdoor sunken boma - situated adjacent to the Restaurant and can seat 64 and 40 guests separately.

Public Lounges:

Aquila offers two public lounges; one is situated in the Restaurant and the other adjoining the Cigar Bar. Both have large leather sofas in which to relax, read a book or catch up with friends. The Cigar Bar lounge has a large feature fireplace and offers DSTV facilities.

Curio Shop:

The boutique style curio shop is situated by reception and offers various African souvenirs for sale, as well as locally manufactured items and Aquila branded apparel. For the guests' convenience, items such as sun block and batteries are stocked.

Swimming Pool:

The main swimming pool has a length of 35 meters, featuring a wet bar is made good use of in the summer months. This is situated next to the restaurant.

The smaller rock style saltwater pool is surrounded by rock features and manicured lawns with comfortable sun-lounges, located next to the lounge.

The Reserve:

Having been proclaimed a Nature Reserve in 1985, the 'veld' (terrain) is in pristine condition, consisting of Renoster veld, Mountain Fynbos and succulent Karoo vegetation types found in 3 beautiful valleys. Situated in the Karoo with its wide open spaces, the 7,500 hectare conservancy has a natural wetland and protected by majestic mountains and valleys, which makes for varied and ideal game viewing.

Wildlife:

Aquila has all of the Big 5, elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and rare mountain leopard and is also home to giraffe and hippo. Aquila is also proud to have the first rhino to be born in the Western Cape in 250 years. Large herds of game are also found on the reserve such as black wildebeest, burchell's zebra, springbok, gemsbok, steenbok, caracal (lynx), blesbok, bat eared fox, ostriches, klip springer, duiker, greyback, baboon, black backed jackal, eland and red hartebeest.

Birdlife:

Aquila and its natural wetland is home to 172 species of birds and is also home to several breeding pairs of the rare and endangered black eagle, after which the reserve has been named.

Karoo chat, rufous-eared warbler, fairy flycatcher and yellow-bellied eremomela can be found on short walks into the surrounding wilderness. Lark-like bunting and black-headed canary move in after the rainy season. In the summer months the booted eagle is a regular visitor and the rainy season attracts flamingos to the reserve.

Safaris:

Aside from the ever-popular Game drive day trips, Aquila offers Horseback Safaris and Quad Bike Safaris or a combinations of all three. Aquila has by far the greatest selection of game in the Western Cape and was rated by SAA's Sawubona In-flight Magazine as 'One of the Best Day Trips', right up there with Cape Point and Table Mountain.

Day trip Safaris - By Road:

These are offered with or without transport to the reserve – self-drive guests are advised to depart Cape Town to coincide with the arrival of guests that have booked the scheduled transport.

Guests have the option to do another activity after lunch such as horse-back or quad-bike safari or visiting our ostrich farm which are all subject to availability. It is recommended to book these activities in advance.

Day trips with arranged transfer:

TBA on booking:

- Collection from hotel or guesthouse and transfer to Aquila.
- Welcome drink on arrival served at the reception area.
- Depart on a 2 to 3 hour safari in safari vehicle with ranger guide – sparkling wine's served at lookout point. (includes visit to ARC - Aquila's Rescue and Conservation Centre positioned close to the Reserve)
- Buffet lunch in the African Boma Restaurant

(Meals offers as per programme booked)

Upon return to the lodge guests are invited use the pool facilities and are encouraged to browse the African curio shop or to enjoy a horse back of quad bike safari at an additional cost.

Optional, complimentary visit to the Karoo Ostrich farm can be enjoyed on the way back to Cape Town.

Depart for Cape Town at 15:30.

Times are subject to change and will be provided for scheduled tours on booking.

By Air: (helicopter or fixed wing)

The itinerary for the Fly-In Day Safari is the same as the above itinerary on the reserve; however the transfer itinerary will be as follows:

TBA on booking:

- Collection from the hotel or Guesthouse and transfer to Cape Town International Airport followed by a 20-30 minute exhilarating flight over the majestic Hex River Mountains & vineyards.
- Welcome drink adjacent to runway. 4x4 transfer to reserve.

(Activities on the reserve as per the Day Trip by Road Safari above)

- After lunch guests will be transferred to the airstrip.
- Return flight over Robben Island and the V&A Waterfront (Cape Point optional)

Fly-In Safari details are subject to change depending on Charter Company that is used.

Overnight Safaris:

By Road

Self drive guests to check in at 14h00 and check out 10h00.

Day one:

If you are using the Aquila transport then a representative of Aquila Private Game Reserve will collect you at your hotel where you will travel via the scenic Du Toitskloof Pass and Winelands to Aquila Private Game Reserve.

- A welcome cocktail will await your arrival whilst you relax by at either one of the swimming pools in summer or enjoying a roaring log fire in our lounge in winter.
- Check in to room
- Depart for a two to three-hour game drive with one of our experienced rangers with sparkling wine served at one of various look out points en-route. (Includes visit to ARC - Aquila's Rescue and Conservation Centre positioned close to the Reserve)
- Return to the lodge and restaurant for an authentic African dinner or traditional South African braai (BBQ) and overnight in one of our Luxury, Premier or Family Luxury Cottages.

Day two:

- Early morning game drive.
- Full buffet breakfast.
- Buffet lunch in the African Boma Restaurant
- Optional, complimentary visit to the Karoo Ostrich farm on the way back to Cape Town.

Times will be provided for scheduled tours on booking.

Activities on the Reserve:

Game Drives: Morning and evening game drives with qualified field rangers in open 4x4 vehicles.

Game drives range between two and three hours.

Blankets and raincoats are made available to guests on the 4x4 vehicles.

Specially designed ladders are used to assist guests embarking and disembarking the vehicles.

Horse-back Safari:

Minimum age requirement is 16 years old.

Maximum of 9 people per safari.

Guided by one of our rangers.

Duration: 2 hours

Quad bike Safari:

Minimum age requirement is 18 years old.

Maximum of 10 people per safari.

Guided by two rangers.

1 guest per vehicle.

Duration: 2 hours

Activities in close proximity to Aquila: The little Karoo enjoys sunshine for most of the year. Summers are dry and warm, winters are dry and crisp. The prevailing weather lends itself to long walks, hiking, cycling and other sports activities.

Matjiesfontein Village –

This historic village has a rich background, dating back to its roots in the late nineteenth century. From its ties with the Boer War, to the pioneering spirit engendered by its founder, James Logan, it is steeped in the history of an era, the echoes of which still reverberate through the streets and buildings. A double-decker London Bus makes a daily tour of the Matjiesfontein Village.

Karoo National Park –

Large herds of antelope and abundant bird life. The Park offers a Fossil Trail, which has wide walkways for wheel chairs and Braille board inscriptions for the convenience of the blind and taped commentary is available for disabled visitors who have their own cassette players. Gondwanaland is explained, and along this 400m route, there are superb examples of fossilised mudstone, silicified trees and a wide variety of fossils, most of which have been found in the Beaufort Series of rock formations.

4x4 Mountain trails –

There are many mountain trails in the Karoo and Breede River area. The most popular one and also nearest to Aquila is Leeuwenboschfontein with route distance of 18 km (4-5 hours). Maximum of 20 vehicles allowed.

Golf –

De Doorns offers a 9 hole course. With 18 hole courses at both Ceres and Worcester. Trout Fishing and Cherry Picking can also be arranged on your behalf by the reserve.

Social Upliftment Programme:

Aquila is the proud to be a finalist two years in a row for the Imvelo Award for Social Involvement Programme.

Aquila provides over 120 jobs to the previously disadvantaged community of Touwsrivier, a town with a 97% unemployment rate. Aquila also sponsors the local cricket team as well as a full time school teacher. Over the past 4 years, Aquila has invested a staggering R20 million into the reserve and in doing so has been in a position to benefit the local community.

Each employee at Aquila provides for approximately 5 people in their immediate family. 20% of 7,900 people in the community benefit directly from the employment offered at Aquila with almost R200 000 per month circulating in the town. Aquila currently employs approximately 180 people. Aquila has gone to extra effort, expense and time in creating employment by having a majority of the doors and windows in their developments made by Touwsrivier locals.

Food supplies, Veterinarian services, Labour, building material and supplies, machinery/mechanical repairs are all outsourced to local companies in the Touwsrivier / Worcester area. Aquila went to the additional expense of cutting down thousands of exotic trees, and treating them for our constructions, rather than buying pre-treated poles. This was also a job creation scheme.

Aquila created jobs by pioneering the commercial use of “vleykiesriet” thatch in the area to be used for thatching. This benefit was twofold, as the cutting of the reeds cleared choked waterways thus allowing for the flow of water to the town and farms all the way to Ladysmith, as well as ridding the town of a high-density reed area that promoted a high crime risk. Aquila has initiated a block-making job creation project. This project was launched to create employment and develop skills by manufacturing building blocks that were used on the reserve. This project currently produces approximately 600 bricks a week allowing this project to remain sustainable. Aquila donated shelving and building materials to one of our staff members and empowered him and his family to start and already viable supermarket in his area.

Skills development:

Pre and post opening and building of Aquila, people from the local community were and still are employed, trained and given craftsmanship skills by professionals in the hospitality, tourism and conservation industries.

The traditions and expert craftsmanship of the Khoi/San people are now being showcased in the Aquila’s curio shop. This allows them the opportunity of earning a living from their craftsmanship. Both local and international tourists are now educated on many levels about the Khoi/San culture.

ARC – Aquila Animal Rescue & Conservation Centre

ARC is situated on a separate piece of land directly opposite the main entrance of the Reserve. Aquila has invested over R1 million building a large outdoor sanctuary comprising of several 1 hectare fenced camps where once doomed “canned lions” can live out the remainder of their lives. ARC is also home to rescued leopard and cheetahs that will become part of a cheetah breeding programme. (complimentary visit with every safari booked)

Solar Renewable Energy

Aquila Private Game Reserve has installed the first 10 panel 60kW CPV solar power facility, which means all the reserves daily energy requirements are covered by solar power and in this way reducing our carbon footprint.

Directions:



Take the N1 from Cape Town; 10km before Touws River turn left onto the R46 to Ceres. Entrance is 2km further on the left.

Reservations:

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