

# W E D D I N G S

Ulusaba  

SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S  
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

# dream weddings at ulusaba



First of all, congratulations are in order on your engagement! We're delighted you're considering celebrating your wedding at Ulusaba Private Game Reserve, as we love weddings! Our team has organised over 100 weddings over the years and it's fair to say that it's one of the highlights of our job.

Our priority is you, your partner and all your guests (if you choose to have them!), and ensuring that your wedding day is all you had hoped for. We can arrange everything from intimate ceremonies just for the two of you to larger celebrations for your entire pride, and we've come up with some of our favourite suggestions and ideas.

Talk to us about what you'd like, and of course if you've got your own ideas just ask - we're used to extra special requests!



## ABOUT ULUSABA

Before we get too excited, we should tell you a bit more about ourselves. Ulusaba is Sir Richard Branson's Private Safari Game Reserve located in the Sabi Sand Reserve – that's adjacent to the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Although your wedding is the main attraction, Ulusaba is known for the quality of its safari experience, with some of the most experienced Rangers and Trackers in the area.

Our team is encouraged to let their personalities shine through, so you can relax as soon as you step off the plane at our private airstrip. In addition to all the extras detailed in this brochure, all visitors to Ulusaba can expect luxurious accommodation, outstanding food, twice-daily game drives, safari walks, unforgettable views and plenty of smiles while you're here with us in the African bush.

## How big a wedding can I have?

Ulusaba has 20 rooms and suites spread over two lodges. Rock Lodge is perched high on the summit of a koppie with views over the South African bush below. Nearly 500 metres away is Safari Lodge. Built along the banks of a dry riverbed, Safari Lodge guests cross swing bridges between the exquisite tree house style rooms.

There are restrictions in place in the Sabi Sand Reserve on the number of guests and vehicles permitted at any one time and so the maximum number of guests we can accommodate when both Rock and Safari Lodges are booked exclusively is 40. Hired separately, the maximum number we can accommodate at Rock Lodge is 20, and the maximum number of guests at Safari Lodge is 20.





## The Ceremony

Say 'I do' in the heart of the South African bush, on the edge of the dam where the hippos come to play or from the deck at Rock Lodge - the possibilities are endless and it's totally up to you. You may decide to wait until you arrive at Ulusaba to choose your preferred location, but here are just some of our favourites:

### THE LOWER DECK AT ROCK LODGE

Our most popular location with a view to die for! You can time it just right so you can exchange vows with the setting sun as your backdrop

### THE MABRAK DRY RIVERBED AT SAFARI LODGE

A picture postcard setting surrounded by African jackalberry trees

### THE BEACH

A beach? In the middle of the african bush? Well yes... At the far side of Xikwenga Dam near Safari Lodge is an area we call 'the beach'. We love this spot because it's very exclusive - perfect for smaller weddings

### XIKWENGA DAM

Another great spot at the dam is on the side banks; no one else can see you, except maybe the hippos

### THE GRASSLAND SPOT

A clearing tucked away in the bush close to Marula, our bush dinner site, and ideal for larger numbers

### ROCK LODGE LOUNGE

An all-round winner! Large windows make for stunning views without losing the cosy atmosphere of this intimate space

### SAFARI LODGE WINE CELLAR DECK

Safari Lodge has its own wine cellar stocked with a full selection of outstanding South African and international wines. It's also very romantic and a lovely spot at dusk



## The Reception

There are almost as many choices of location for your reception as there are for your ceremony. The location will also be dependent on the size of your group.

### FOR SMALLER, MORE INTIMATE GROUPS

- Dine under the stars at our Stargazing Observatory in the heart of the bush – suitable for a maximum of six.
- Join us on the Treehouse Suite deck with great views over Xikwenga Dam where the hippos come to play.

### FOR ANY SIZED GROUP

- Dinner in the bush – a more informal setting lit by flame torches with the authentic sounds of wild Africa to set the mood. *(can also be more formal)*
- Dinner in Rock Lodge or Safari Lodge main lounges – an opportunity for those who like to get dressed up, but if you plan to be a bit more relaxed that's fine too!



# celebrate the ulusaba way

We know you have lots of choices on where to hold your wedding, but the key is standing out from the crowd. Ultimately you want your guests to be talking about your wedding for years to come, and that's where we come in. Our advice? Keep some surprises up your sleeve for that extra 'wow' factor.

## Those little (and big) touches that mean so much...

- **Local Marimba Band.** These groups consist of about eight members who play homemade xylophones - trust us - they're phenomenal and excellent both for background dinner music but also great for parties. Previous guests have danced the night away to these sounds.
- **Performances from the Shangaan Dancers.** The Shangaan are the area's predominant tribe. They will entertain you with beautiful African inspired-tribal singing and dancing to kick off the celebrations and to get everyone up on the dance floor. This works exceptionally well for bush dinners, and guests are encouraged to get up and get involved.
- **Gumboot Dancers.** A tradition born from the workforce in the South African mines: 12 traditional Shangaan dancers in mining overalls, hard hats and gum boots perform a traditional mine dance which consists of a hand-clapping ritual along with slapping of the boots to create a fantastic sound and beat. These guys have some seriously impeccable timing!
- **Ulusaba Choir.** The Shangaan are well known for their singing and dancing and talent abounds throughout their culture. The choir is made up of around 15 Ulusaba staff members who sing Shangaan songs and perform traditional dancing. It's a vibrant and dramatic show guaranteed to warm the heart.
- **Justicia Best Boys.** A boys choir that excels in creating beautiful harmonies. The boys interact with our guests and are an excellent accompaniment to more formal dinners in the lodges.

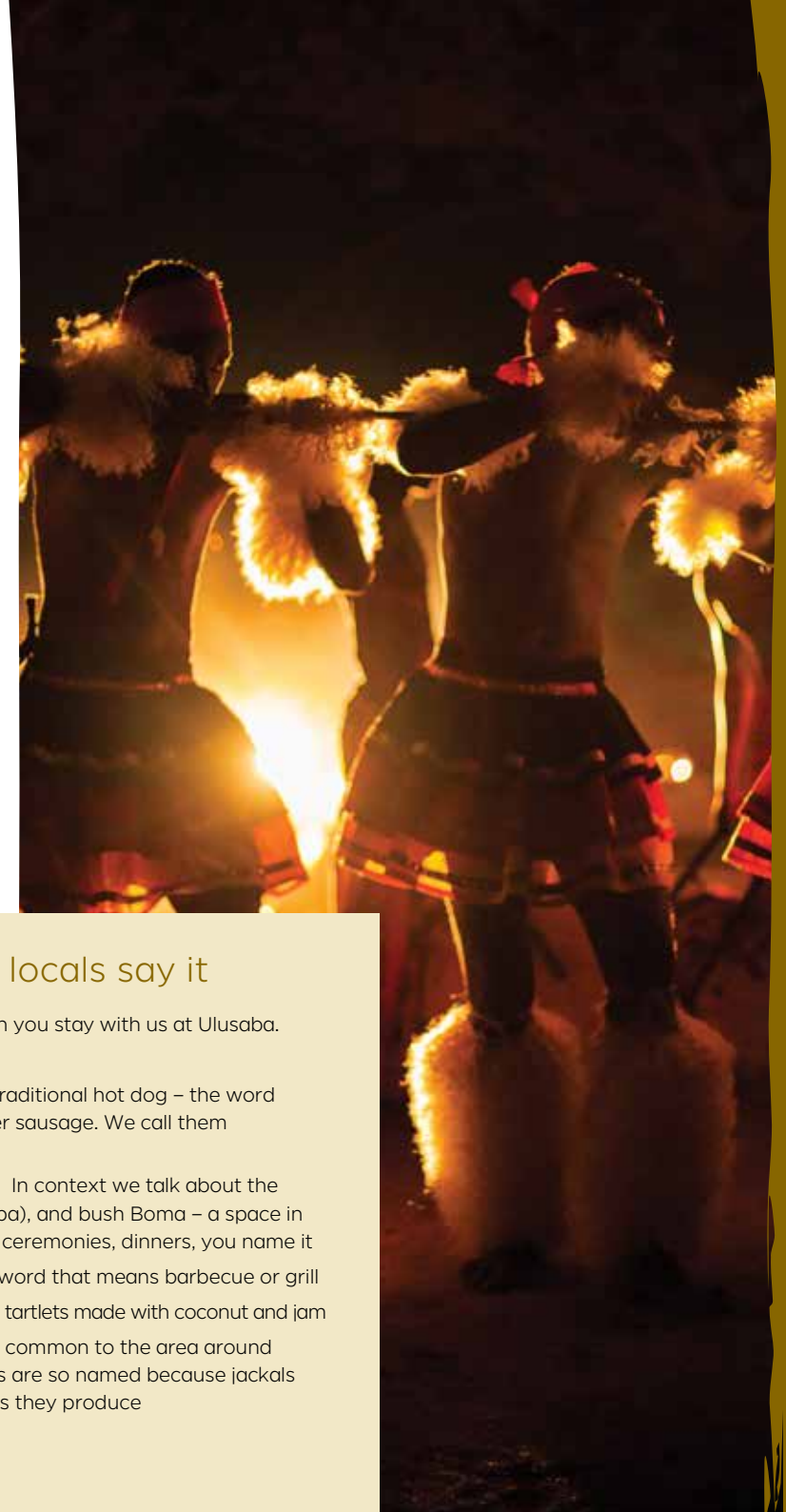
*(All activities are available for an additional charge - please ask for our current rates)*



## Say what?! A guide to how the locals say it

You may hear a few words you're not familiar with when you stay with us at Ulusaba. Here are just a few to help you along...

- **Boerewors rolls** a traditional hot dog - the word literally means farmer sausage. We call them boerries for short
- **Boma** an enclosure. In context we talk about the Aroma Boma (our spa), and bush Boma - a space in the bush we use for ceremonies, dinners, you name it
- **Braai** an Afrikaans word that means barbecue or grill
- **Hertzoggies** pastry tartlets made with coconut and jam
- **Jackalberry trees** common to the area around Ulusaba, these trees are so named because jackals are fond of the fruits they produce



# bachelor and bachelorette parties

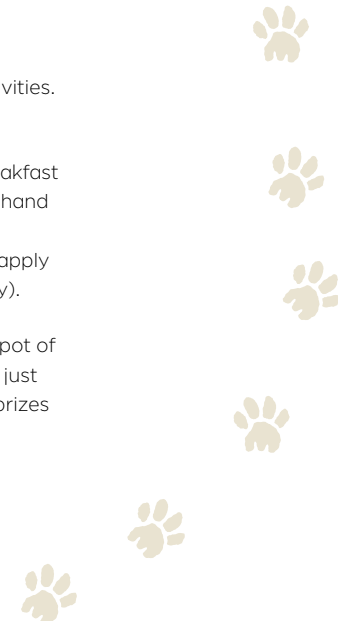


Ulusaba is not just a great place for a wedding - it's also an amazing setting for bachelor or bachelorette parties. Our only piece of advice? Don't plan these parties the night before the wedding!

In addition to parties in the evening, we can also organise some daytime activities. Here are just a couple of ideas:

Get together for an indulgent spa morning at the Safari Lodge pool after breakfast for some serious pampering. Our two Aroma Boma spa therapists will be on hand for heavenly manicures and pedicures while you enjoy a spot of swimming, sunbathing and the odd sip (or two!) of champagne (additional charges will apply for this activity which is only available when both lodges are hired exclusively).

If pampering isn't your thing, head out on a trip to the Xikwengo Dam for a spot of fishing - the rule is: if you catch it you have to eat it. We'll have a braai ready just for this purpose. Afterwards our Rangers will organise 'bush Olympics' with prizes for the star performers.



# the options

## PURE ROMANCE

For those after a more intimate and private wedding without too much fuss, look no further than our Pure Romance package.

Your Pure Romance package is:

**ZAR 16,500**

*in addition to your accommodation rate*



### What's included?

- 3 nights' accommodation for the happy couple
- All your meals and beverages (*including special wedding meals*), fine wines and unlimited bubbles
- The ceremony at any one of a variety of stunning locations either within the lodges or in the bush (*transfers included*)
- A minister, preparation for the ceremony and processing of all legal documents
- Wedding cake
- Fixed credit towards spa treatments for the married couple
- Twice daily game drives in the bush
- Complimentary room upgrades (*subject to availability*)
- Optional second room for one of the marriers on the eve and/or day of the wedding (*subject to availability*)
- Optional private dinner for two on the eve of the wedding
- Optional breakfast in bed on the morning after the ceremony
- Pressing of outfits for the married couple to be
- A wedding gift from us and plenty of other little extras and surprises!

### Want to add any extra special touches to your 'Pure Romance' package?

We can organise extras such as photography and flowers, tailored to your needs - just ask a member of the team (additional cost).







## PREMIUM EXCLUSIVE

For those who want to celebrate with their nearest and dearest with all the trimmings, this one's for you. Hire one (or both) of Ulusaba's lodges exclusively for a wedding celebration to remember!

### NIGHTLY

7 January - 30 June

1 September - 19 December

### PEAK

1 July - 31 August

### EXCLUSIVE USE RATES FOR ARRIVALS IN 2024

*All prices are for up to 20 guests sharing Safari Lodge or 25 guests sharing Rock Lodge for a 3 night stay.*

	NIGHTLY	PEAK
Safari Lodge	ZAR 1,162,800	ZAR 1,213,200
Rock Lodge	ZAR 1,299,000	ZAR 1,354,200

### What's included?

*All the goodies from the Pure Romance package, plus:*

- 3 nights' hire of one lodge for up to 20 guests and private use of game vehicles, with extra nights available
- An additional fixed credit towards spa treatments for the married couple and/or their guests
- Special wedding turn down service in the happy couple's room
- Bouquets and button holes for the married couple and wedding party, plus flowers for decoration
- Assistance from staff for the bridal party including dressing, make-up, hair etc.
- Pre-wedding dinner party for each marrier, to be arranged at two different locations at the lodge

Speak to a member of the team to organise any of the activities listed, or if you know in advance what you want to do please speak to our reservations team when making your booking. Charges may apply for some activities where indicated.



## Available on request

*(not included in the rates)*

We have lots of exciting extras available on request including a spectacular helicopter flight through the Blyde River Canyon to take in God's Window, followed by a romantic picnic with views of The Pinnacle, a place of breath-taking beauty high above the world! We can also arrange extra flowers, hairdressing, flights, table gifts – in fact pretty much anything.

## The formalities

It is easy to get married in South Africa as a non-resident. There are however a few things that you need to know to further assist you with your planning. We will be able to help you with every stage of this process.

**We can host and arrange both religious and secular ceremonies, and included in our wedding rates, we will organise:**

- A minister who will process all the legal documents in preparation for the ceremony and prepare your marriage certificate.
- Following the ceremony you will receive an abridged Marriage Certificate. The minister must then apply for a full marriage certificate, which takes approximately two months to be processed by South Africa's Department of Home Affairs. As soon as this is completed it will be mailed to your address.



## What about children?

If you choose to get married at Rock Lodge, children of all ages are welcome to stay and join the ceremony and reception. However you may be pleased to know that complimentary babysitting is available throughout your stay.



## Photography

There's not much point having an amazing wedding if you're not going to have some equally amazing photographs! Photographs are taken in the following order:

- The bridal party getting dressed  
*(1 hour before the ceremony)*
- Duration of the ceremony
- Formal groups, family and friends
- Wedding couple
- Wedding Reception  
*(1 hour from the arrival of the bridal couple)*
- There are various photographers available for hire  
*Rate will include all the photographer's travelling expenses, gate fees and courier costs*

### Photography Option 1

*This option includes:*

- Up to 400 high resolution, edited images in digital format
- 4 – 5 hours wedding coverage

### Photography Option 2

*This option includes:*

- 400 - 500 high resolution, edited images in digital format
- Unlimited hours wedding coverage



Talk to us to start planning your wedding

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