

WELCOME TO

Leshiba  
WILDERNESS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [OVERVIEW](#)
- [CONTACT US](#)
- [LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS](#)
- [VEHICLES](#)
- [MOUNTAIN TRANSFERS](#)
- [CATERING](#)
- [DAILY SCHEDULE](#)
- [ACTIVITIES](#)
- [ELECTRICITY/POWER](#)
- [CELL / MOBILE PHONES / Wi-Fi](#)
- [FACILITIES OVERVIEW](#)
- [ACCOMMODATION](#)
  - [VENDA ART LODGE](#)
  - [HAMASHA](#)
  - [LUVHONDO](#)
- [WHAT TO BRING](#)
- [CHILDREN](#)
- [ADVISORY](#)
- [FUEL](#)
- [WATER](#)
- [MALARIA](#)
- [TEMPERATURES](#)
- [FIRE HYDRANTS](#)
- [LANGUAGES](#)
- [CANCELLATION POLICY](#)
- [GRATUITIES](#)
- [PAYMENT](#)

## **OVERVIEW**

Leshiba Wilderness is a 2500-hectare private game reserve located on top of the Soutpansberg Mountains (approximately 1200m above sea level) in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Located in one of South Africa's most bio-diverse environments, Leshiba is home to a vast range of flora and fauna, many of which are rare and endangered. Our closest town is Louis Trichardt.

## **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Leshiba is committed to preserving and encouraging the culture and heritage of the indigenous Venda people. Leshiba's artworks include massive snakes carved out of wood, sculpted statues and ceramic urns. Many of the artists are world renowned, including Noria Mabasa who transformed the Venda Art Lodge into a sculpted wonderland.

Leshiba, in conjunction with the local Venda Community established its Centre for Indigenous Knowledge to research, develop and promote the rich culture and heritage of the people of the area. This facility, known as Luvhondo Camp, is available for workshops, retreats, and celebrations, as well as accommodation for families and friends.

## **CONSERVATION**

As caretakers of Leshiba, we aim to conserve the natural wilderness and protect the fauna and flora within the reserve and our surrounds. To this end, we employ a full-time anti-poaching team. We follow an environmental impact assessment policy. We maintain the correct number of fauna of each species to allow for optimum grazing for the wildlife that live here. We have a huge diversity of flora and many protected species.

As part of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, we honour our responsibility to take care of the land under our protection as well as the surrounding area and the Soutpansberg as a whole.

Our local community plays a major role in the success of Leshiba. All our employees are from the surrounding community and many of our staff were born on Leshiba. We are committed to supporting the community and encourage our guests to enquire about the projects we are involved in that they may wish to contribute towards.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT AT LESHIBA**

The wildlife at Leshiba includes giraffe, zebra, leopard, wildebeest, waterbuck, warthogs, red duiker, klipspringer, mountain reedbuck and many more. Leshiba's birdlife includes nesting pairs of Black and Crowned Eagles, Bat Hawks, the rare Narina Trogon and Knysna and Purple crested Turacos, along with approximately 255 other species.

We have three accommodation venues, all available on an exclusive basis: Our Venda Art Lodge, Hamasha Bush Camp and Luvhondo Bush Camp. Self-catered and catered options are available. At Leshiba we offer self-guided walks and hikes, guided walks to Bushman rock paintings, game drives and mountain biking (bring your own bikes or rent one of 2 we have available) as well as a variety of massage therapies.

Leshiba has been certified by Fair Trade in Tourism in South Africa.

## **CONTACT US:**

### **Lodge Managers:**

Joyce +27 (0) 72 710 6880

Lukas +27 (0) 79 542 6556

### **General Manager:**

Kathryn +27 (0) 83 444 0456 WhatsApp only or mobile call on +27 (0) 83 266 9502.

### **Emergencies:**

Kathy: +27 (0) 83 266 9502 or Avril: +27 (0) 82 881 1237

## **LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS:**

Leshiba Wilderness is situated on the top of the Soutpansberg Mountains in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. 36km to our turn off, west of Louis Trichardt.

GPS Co-ordinates for RECEPTION at Leshiba: [-22.983651, 29.558496](#)

Entrance to Leshiba off the tar road: [-23.040907, 29.599339](#)

Main Gate: [-22.994068, 29.579492](#)

Airfield: [-22.990247, 29.562916](#)

**\* PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON YOUR GPS AFTER POLOKWANE. IT WILL LEAD YOU TO A GRAVEL ROAD THROUGH PRIVATE LAND WITH LOCKED GATES.**

**Once you reach Polokwane, you can put Louis Trichardt in to your GPS, follow the N1 and you will be fine but DO NOT put Leshiba Wilderness as your destination – you will get lost!**

**OUR WRITTEN DIRECTIONS WILL GET YOU TO US SAFELY – PLEASE FOLLOW THEM.**

\*Please note that the route to Leshiba via the N1 is a Toll Road.

Toll Gate costs amount to approximately +R350 one way from

JHB to Louis Trichardt. There is one Toll Gate coming from the North along the N1.

**Travel times in order for guests to plan their arrival at Leshiba:**

- Johannesburg to Leshiba via the N1 **5 hours**
- Louis Trichardt to Leshiba via the R522 **1 hour**
- Louis Trichardt to the transfer / meeting point via the R522 **30 minutes**
- Transfer point at the bottom of the mountain to Reception **30 minutes**
- Vivo to Leshiba Reception via the R522 **1 hour**
- Vivo to the transfer / meeting point via the R522 **30 minutes**
- Polokwane to Louis Trichardt or Vivo via the N1 or R521 **1 hour**
- Pont Drift Border Post (Mashatu/Tuli) to Leshiba **2.5 hours**
- Punda Maria Gate (KNP) to Leshiba via Louis Trichardt **2.5 hours**
- Tzaneen to Leshiba via the R36 **2.5 hours**
- Durban to Leshiba – various routes **12 hours**
- Cape Town to Leshiba – follow directions from Johannesburg **As above**



**VERY IMPORTANT:**

When you reach Louis Trichardt or Vivo (depending on the route you choose), please call our managers on Mobile or WhatsApp to inform the lodge of your ETA or to arrange for your transfer:

**Joyce +27 (0) 72 710 6880**

**Lukas +27 (0) 79 542 6556**

**Kathryn +27 (0) 83 444 0456** WhatsApp only or mobile call on **+27 (0) 83 266 9502**.

**Please make sure you reach somebody.** Do not leave a message. For emergencies or if you are unable to reach the Lodge, call Kathy +27 (0) 83 266 9502 or Avril +27 (0) 82 881 1237. **Please note that there is limited cell phone reception at Leshiba.**

### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH:**

- Take the M1 North out of Johannesburg
- Get onto the N1 North to Polokwane
- At Polokwane continue north, staying on the N1 to Louis Trichardt
- At Louis Trichardt, the first main 4-way stop that you come to, turn left on to Rissik Street.
- This becomes the R522 to Vivo and follow our directions

### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH / SOUTH via VIVO:**

- On arrival in Vivo turn on to the R522 towards Louis Trichardt and travel for 37km to our turn off. Follow directions from our gravel road.

### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH via LOUIS TRICHARDT:**

- On arrival in Louis Trichardt turn right into Rissik Street / R522
- The BP garage that you will come to on the left (after turning on to Rissik St) is one of the last fuel stations in Louis Trichardt. The last fuel station and ablution facilities are in Louis Trichardt or Vivo.
- Put your speedometer to 0 at the first four way stop at Rissik Street. It is 36.1km to the Leshiba turn off.
- Take Rissik Street all the way out of Louis Trichardt and  $\pm 31$ km from the town you will cross over a railway line. Drive carefully due to the road conditions, beware of potholes.
- Carry on over the railway line for  $\pm 4.7$  km and you will cross over the SAND RIVER Bridge
- After the bridge  $\pm 300$ m down the road you will see the Leshiba Wilderness sign on the right-hand side
- Turn right onto the gravel road
- Follow all signs to Leshiba Wilderness
- There are a number of gates along the road, which may or may not be closed.
- Please go through the gates and leave these as you find them.
- Carry on along the gravel road. After  $\pm 1$  km you will come to a large open shed on your right.
- If you have pre - arranged a transfer (at an extra charge per vehicle used each way) and have called to inform the lodge of your time of arrival, please wait here and someone from

- Leshiba will meet you here and unlock the gate to park your car in the shed.
- NB. Please note that this shed is not on Leshiba Wilderness and belongs to our neighbours. Parking is at your own risk. Neither Leshiba Wilderness nor our neighbours are liable for any damage, theft or any other loss. There are no ablutions at the parking area.
- Carry on along the gravel road following Leshiba signs. You will pass a farmhouse on your left. After the farmhouse, a few hundred metres up ahead, the road forks - keep to the right.
- Continue following the signs that say Leshiba.

## **VEHICLES**

- The last 3 kilometres to the entrance to Leshiba Wilderness takes you up a relatively steep incline to the top of the mountain.
- The road is not suitable for vehicles with a limited ground clearance although the road is not limited to 4x4 vehicles only.
- Most vehicles make it up to us with little difficulty, but we do recommend a vehicle with good clearance underneath as we have drainage bumps that can knock the undercarriage of very low vehicles.

## **IMPORTANT TIPS WHEN DRIVING UP THE MOUNTAIN:**

### **THE MOUNTAIN ROAD**

- The last three kilometres to the entrance to Leshiba takes you up a relatively steep incline to the top of the mountain
- The road is not suitable for vehicles with a limited ground clearance although the road is not limited to 4x4 vehicles only
- We do recommend a vehicle with good clearance underneath as we have drainage bumps that can knock the undercarriage of very low vehicles
- If you are driving a 4 x 4 with low range, engage low range 3rd gear for an easy ride up or engage normal 4 x 4 and keep in a low gear
- Keep all other vehicles without low range in first gear the whole way up
- Try not to use your clutch too much
- Try to take the drainage bumps at an angle rather than driving straight over them. If you find your wheels start spinning on the gravel – decelerate
- When you come through the gate at the top of the mountain, stay on the main road and follow signs to RECEPTION
- Keep straight at the first sign that says RECEPTION
- At the next intersection, which is a large 4-way intersection, turn right to RECEPTION
- You will pass a sign on the left that says HORSE & HOUND. Carry on straight and after ±80m, turn RIGHT at the next sign / road to the right. Carry on following RECEPTION signs

- You will drive through the valley and the road curves right. Cross the valley up to the VENDA ART LODGE where you will find our RECEPTION

### **MOUNTAIN TRANSFERS – BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT ONLY**

(Not applicable to Hamasha Bush Camp)

- We offer transfers from the bottom of the mountain to the top at an extra charge
- Transfer up the mountain between 14h00 and 15h00 hours.
- Transfers down the mountain are at 09h30
- Guests' vehicles can be left at the bottom of the mountain and we will then arrange a mountain transfer at an extra charge EACH way per vehicle used (NOT per person)
- Guests must arrive during daylight hours due to the nature of the mountain road
- Guests must contact the lodge not less than 24 hours prior to arrival. **Lodge Managers Contact details:** Lukas: +27 (0) 79 542 6556 or Joyce: +27 (0) 72 710 6880
- Guests must contact us en-route to ensure timeous arrival and pick up
- If guests are delayed en-route and will be unable to arrive at the meeting point they must contact the lodge at least an hour before arrival in order to make alternative arrangements.
- You are required to have your own 4x4 or high clearance vehicle if you are staying at Hamasha Bush Camp

### **CATERING**

Our cuisine is African-Western Fusion. We will cater to dietary requirements wherever possible. Dietary requirements must be communicated two weeks in advance or on confirmation of your booking

- Leshiba offers both full board and self-catered options.
- Dietary Requirements – these must be communicated on confirmation of your booking
- We cater for all dietary needs
- Self-catered reservations must make all purchases before coming up – the last grocery stores and shops are located in Louis Trichardt or Vivo.

NOTE: **There is no restaurant or grocery shop at Leshiba Wilderness** – we cater for each individual booking with a set menu – there is no à la carte menu. Beverages are available for purchase from the Honesty Bar at the Lodge and will be billed on departure.

### **FULL BOARD RATES**

- Rates include accommodation, early morning tea / coffee, breakfast & dinner\*. A variety of herbal teas, coffee, fresh fruit and homemade cakes and

biscuits (throughout the day), one game activity per day (either guided walk or game drive).

- Rates exclude all beverages, mountain transfer, conservation levy, other activities and gratuities.

\* A light lunch is available on request

**SELF-CATERED RATES:**

- Include accommodation ONLY.
- All game activities, mountain transfer, conservation levy, meals, etc. are EXCLUDED\* and must be booked at the lodge.

\* Should more than 1 meal be requested (either breakfast or dinner) – the full board rate will apply.

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

<b>Basic Full Board Itinerary</b>
<p><b>Day 1 - Arrival</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check in Time: Between 14:00 and 17:00</li> <li>• Welcome drink on arrival - <b>*No lunch served.</b></li> <li>• Afternoon tea with freshly baked goods – 15:30</li> <li>• Game Drive – normally between 16:00 &amp; 16:30 (2 hours) (If the game drive is not taken on Day 1 then it will be offered on Day 2)</li> <li>• Dinner – 19:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Day 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea / coffee with homemade crunchie biscuits and rusks – 07:00</li> <li>• Game walk - 07:30 (+2 and a half hours)</li> <li>• Brunch - 10:00 / 10:30</li> <li>• Afternoon Tea with freshly baked goods – 15:30</li> <li>• Game Drive – normally between 16:00 &amp; 16:30</li> <li>• Dinner 19:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Day 3 – Departure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast (time arranged the night prior)</li> <li>• Check out 09:30</li> </ul>
<b>OR Full Day Cultural Tour by prior arrangement</b>
<p><b>Day 3 – Cultural Tour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Early breakfast</b> (7:30) at Leshiba Wilderness</li> </ul>

Self-drive, or take our transfer down to the pick-up point, to use the guests' vehicle for the day trip – Leshiba's tour guide accompanies the guests in their vehicle, either from the lodge, or from the pickup point.

This visit puts the whole day's sights, fabrics, sculptures, traditional attire, etc. into context, with lunch at **Caesar's Chicken** - A traditional village restaurant.

- **Return to Leshiba** - Fetched from the pickup point or drive back up to the lodge around 16:30. Time to freshen up for dinner!

#### **Day 4 – Departure**

- Breakfast (time arranged the night prior)
- Check out 09:30

## ACTIVITIES

- We offer game drives & guided walks
- Guided walks in the morning depart between 07:00 & 07:30 – the duration varies from 1.5 - 2.5 hrs
- Game drives in the afternoon depart between 16:00 & 16:30 - the duration is around 2.5 hrs
- Specialised walks integrating tracking, birding, medicinal plants, trees and archaeology
- There are 10 well-marked hiking trails and guests are welcome to walk without a guide
- Clamber down and along gorges with seasonal rock pools
- There are seven San Bushman Rock Art sites, which can be visited on one of the guided walks
- We have 12 km of single track for mountain bikers and trail runners. **Bring your own bikes**
- We offer a variety of massage therapies (subject to availability of a therapist)
- Venda Art Lodge Walkabout (subject to availability)

**\*Please note, we do not allow any self-drives**

## EXPERIENCES THAT CAN BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE

- Spectacular stargazing experiences
- Venda Rural Lifestyle Tours which include visiting local wood carvers, artists and local markets. **\*Full Day Cultural Tour must be booked at least two weeks in advance.**

## ELECTRICITY/POWER

- There is no municipal electricity at Leshiba Wilderness
- The Venda Art Lodge has a combination of solar power, electric fridges and gas appliances. There are no plug points in the Standard Rooms.
- Hamasha has a solar lighting system, gas stove and oven and an electric fridge and freezer.
- Luvhondo has solar power, electric fridge and freezer and gas stove and oven. There are no plug points in the rooms at Luvhondo.
- No hairdryers, GHD's etc. can be used on our systems.
- To charge up items, please communicate this to the Managers and these will be charged in the mornings only between 07h00 and 13h00

## CELL / MOBILE PHONES / Wi-Fi

There is free Wi-Fi at the Venda Art Lodge, Hamasha and Luvhondo.

There is limited Vodacom mobile phone reception on the property and occasional MTN reception in limited areas

## **FACILITIES OVERVIEW**

- All kitchens are fully equipped with all cooking utensils, cutlery, crockery and braai (barbecue) equipment including potjie pots
- Dishwash liquid, dishcloths, matches, candles, refuse bags, etc. are all supplied
- The fridges are electric, on solar power and there are gas stoves with gas ovens
- The Venda Art Lodge & Hamasha have an indoor fireplace in the lounge
- The Lavish suites have indoor fireplaces
- The Luxury suites have gas heaters
- All the bedrooms at The Venda Art Lodge & Hamasha have their own en-suite shower & toilet
- The Luxury suites, Lavish suites and Hamasha all have their own outdoor showers
- The Luxury & Lavish suites have a bath, shower, toilet, outdoor shower & private plunge pools \*(except Miloro, but it is in close proximity to the lodge's pool)
- Tea and coffee, sugar, salt and pepper are supplied at all camps
- One load of wood, toilet paper, soap as well as all bedding and towels are supplied
- Extra wood, toilet paper, soap and essentials are available for purchase

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **VENDA ART LODGE**

STANDARD ROOMS - MARULA, LEMON TREE, WILD PLUM, MBEKI AND NORIA

- Only available on a full board basis
- We have five standard rooms, all en-suite
- Our standard rooms are thatched huts with original works of Venda art
- The huts sleep 9 pax - 2 x doubles, 2 x twins, 1 small single suitable for guide/child
- All have en-suite bathrooms (shower only)
- Toiletries provided
- Thatched dining lapa overlooking the valley
- Deck with sunken fire pit and swimming pool
- Lounge with fireplace
- Central kitchen with beautiful views
- There are no plug points in the Standard Rooms

### **VENDA ART LODGE**

LUXURY SUITES – MWEDZI AND DUVHA

- Available on a self-catered or full board basis
- Two luxury suites, both en-suite, with views across the valley

- Each is secluded with a King size bed (can convert to twins), dining room & lounge
- Each has an en-suite bathroom with a bath, double showers and outdoor shower
- Toiletries provided
- Dressing gowns
- Gas heater
- Plunge pool
- Fully equipped kitchen with fridge & freezer, gas stove and oven
- Barbecue/braai equipment

## **VENDA ART LODGE**

### NALEDZI, TADULU AND MILORO LAVISH SUITES

- Only available on a full board basis
- Three lavish suites, all en-suite
- These flagship suites have views across the valley
- Secluded luxury units with King size bedrooms and wood burning fireplaces
- Lounge with sleeper couch and pull-out bed for up to 2 children (Tadulu and Naledzi)
- Each has an en-suite bathroom with a large bath, shower and outdoor shower
- Toiletries and dressing gowns provided
- Mini-bar fridge, as well as a tea and coffee making station
- Plunge pool (Tadulu and Naledzi)
- Wraparound deck, outdoor firepit, and seating

## **HAMASHA BUSHCAMP**

- Only available on a self-catered basis
- Remote six-bedded bush camp, five kilometres from Venda Art Lodge
- Two separate cottages
- Cottage one – Queen bed with an en-suite bathroom with a shower and toilet, as well as an outdoor shower and outdoor bath. Couch bed can sleep two extra pax
- Cottage two – Two rooms: 1 x Queen bed with an en-suite shower and toilet, outdoor shower, and outdoor bath. 1 x twin room with an en-suite shower and toilet, as well as an outdoor shower
- Fully equipped open-plan kitchen with an electric fridge, freezer, gas stove and oven
- Open plan lounge and dining room with a wood burning fireplace
- Central outdoor braai/barbecue area with an open fireplace
- The camp is run off solar power with solar and gas water heaters
- No mobile reception
- Free WiFi

\* Please note: A 4 x 4 or high clearance vehicle is required to reach the camp

## **LUVHONDO BUSH CAMP**

Luvhondo can sleep 16 people in 8 rooms and can sleep up to a maximum of 28 people sharing as follows:

- One large rondavel divided into two en-suite twin rooms sleeping two in each
- Three large rondavels divided into two, each sleeping two to four people configured as twins or bunk beds
- Two outside communal bathrooms each with two showers, two toilets and two washbasins
- A large open-plan thatched kitchen, lounge and dining room with wraparound veranda offering a place to relax and interact
- Luvhondo is solar powered and grey water is filtered into a nearby dam, which attracts wildlife to the immediate area
- All the systems have been designed to be eco-friendly and self-sustainable
- Free WiFi

### **WE SUGGEST THAT YOU BRING THE FOLLOWING:**

- A good flashlight/torch
- Binoculars
- A good selection of clothing
- Good walking sandals, shoes or boots
- Warm jacket and raincoat
- Sunhat, sunscreen
- All food, drinks & provisions for self-catering. The nearest shop is a one-hour drive away down the mountain in Louis Trichardt, our closest town
- Extra towels for swimming in rock pools
- Insect repellent essential for repelling ticks. We recommend Peaceful Sleep or Bayticol for spraying on clothing
- Extra camera/video camera batteries and adaptors as we are not always able to charge these

### **ADVISORY**

- **CHECK IN: 14h00      CHECK OUT: 09h30**
- There are artworks and high drop offs at the Venda Art Lodge
- All swimming pools are unfenced
- Breakages will be charged for
- Leshiba is unfortunately not suitable for wheelchairs due to its rugged terrain

## **CHILDREN**

- Children of all ages are welcome
- As our lodges are in wildlife areas, all children under the age of 12 must be under the care of a parent/guardian/adult, at all times
- We do not offer babysitting services
- A camper cot and baby bath can be arranged

## **FUEL**

There is no petrol or diesel at Leshiba Wilderness.

The last fill up stations are at Louis Trichardt or Vivo.

## **WATER**

The tap water is safe to drink at Leshiba, and drinking it helps reduce your carbon footprint

## **MALARIA**

Leshiba is not known as a malaria area. However, if you will be travelling throughout the Limpopo, we recommend you speak to your local travel clinic and take the necessary precautions

## **TEMPERATURES**

In summer the temperatures average between 18 and 35 degrees Celsius and winter temperatures range from 0 to 23 degrees Celsius. We are often in early morning mist and when it rains the temperatures can drop quite low even in summer.

Our rainfall season is between the end of October and April. This is when the wilderness is at her prettiest and our streams / rock pools are running depending on the amount of rain that falls.

In autumn and winter the wilderness is not as green but the walking is fantastic and there is a greater opportunity to see game because the bush is not too dense. The rock pools are generally empty at this time of the year.

## **FIRE HYDRANTS**

Fire extinguishers are placed throughout the facilities

## **LANGUAGES**

- English
- Afrikaans
- Venda

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

### **Payment Details:**

- A 50% deposit is required In order to confirm the booking
- Balance is due 14 days before arrival
- All prices include VAT & are subject to change without prior notice

### **Should the reservation be cancelled the following costs will apply:**

- Between six and four weeks of arrival                      25% of the total amount
- Four weeks – 48 hours before arrival date                      50% of the total amount
- Less than 48 hours before arrival date                      100% of the total amount

## **GRATUITIES**

If you are satisfied with the service you have received, any gratuity that you may wish to leave for the staff will be greatly appreciated.

We pool all these gifts of appreciation and divide them equally. This is entirely at your discretion. There is a gratuity box at Reception. Any currency is acceptable but please note that local banks do not change foreign coins. We accept Master and Visa credit cards for gratuities

## **PAYMENT**

EFT, Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted