



Real Africa Real Close to Cape Town The Big 5 - Cape Town

Over 10,000 hectares of Big 5 Conservancy



FAST FACT SHEET 2020

Aquila is undertaking the very exciting project of creating a specialist Day Visitor Centre and upgrading its current restaurant for exclusive use for visitors staying overnight. This project should be complete by December 2019. Once complete it will allow specialised attention to these separate groups/markets offering a full continental breakfast for day visitors and options of hot or cold for lunch.

ACCOMMODATION

4 Star accommodation is available in Cottages and Lodge rooms. Aquila sleeps a total of 182 guests sharing and 81 single occupancy. **ALL UNITS FEATURE** tea and coffee making facilities, safes, **air conditioners**, fridges. Guest amenities include shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap & robes.

ROOM TYPE	NO OF UNITS	MAX CAPACITY	UNIT NUMBER	MAX CAP & BED CONFIG	BATHROOM	SPECIAL FEATURES	ROOM SIZE
AQUILA COTTAGES							
KAROO COTTAGES	20	42	11 & 12	3pax – 1 X SNG & DBL	Bath en suite with alfresco shower	Stone, wood, some thatch, Patio, Fireplaces & fans	Room 16.6 m ² , Bathroom 3.9m ² , Patio 12 m ²
			13 - 30	2 x twin			
FAMILY LUXURY COTTAGES - 4 Sleeper	6	24	32 to 37	4pax Queen 2 x SNG in loft	Bath en suite, Bidet & alfresco shower	Stone, wood, thatch, Patios, fireplaces & fans. 2 guests sleep downstairs with another 2 in loft area.	Patio 12 m ² , Family Room 30 m ² , Family Bathroom 6 m ²
FAMILY LUXURY COTTAGE - 8 Sleeper	2	16	31 & 38	8pax Queen with singles in loft	3 bathrooms - 1 x bath en suite & 2 x shower en suite	Stone, wood, thatch, Patios, fireplaces & fans, 2 en suite bedrooms downstairs, with loft shower en suite.	Patio 12 m ² , Bedroom 30 m ² , Bathroom 6m ²
PREMIER COTTAGES	5	12	7, 8 & 10	2pax twin sharing	Bath en suite, his & her vanity, bidet & alfresco shower	Stone, wood, thatch, Outside seating area, fireplaces & fans, Patios.	Balcony 8m ² , Bedroom 40 m ² , Bathroom 20 m ²
			6	4pax Twin sharing		The above plus double bunks	
			9	2pax King		Stone, wood, thatch, Patios, fireplaces & fans & Jacuzzi	
AQUILA LODGE							
STANDARD LODGE ROOMS	22	44	Even numbers 102 - 112 202 - 212 302 - 312	2 pax Twin sharing	Shower en suite	Each Std room is connected to a Premier lodge room by a common corridor. Sold separately or combined as family suite.	Room 16.8 m ² , Bathroom 3.65 m ²
PREMIER LODGE ROOMS	22	44	Odd numbers 101 - 111 201 - 215 301 - 315	2 A 1 C (Sleeper couch 1.6 x 1.4)	Shower & Bath en suite	Room 101 disabled friendly. Large balconies overlooking the reserve	Smallest room size: Room 23.6m ² , Balcony 10.8m ² , Bathroom 7.5m ² ,
OR							
Please Note: The Standard and Premier Lodge rooms can be sold individually or combined as a Luxury Family Suite							

NOTE TO BED CONFIGURATION: all twin sharing rooms can be converted to doubles with the exception of 32,33 & 34.

OVERNIGHT SAFARIS ITINERARIES

Day one:

Welcome drink on arrival

Lunch is served from 12h30 to 14h30

Room Check in is at 14h00

14h30 or 15h30 tour of the Eco Synergy Systems (departure time is dependant on seasons)

Game drive (Departing Aprox 15h30 to 16h45 dependant on seasons) duration 2 hours (aprox)

Dinner is served 19h00 to 22h00

Star safari (weather dependant) once sun has set to aprox 22h00

Day two:

Aprox 06h00 to 07h00 – 1 ½ hour (aprox) early morning safari

Full English Breakfast is served from 08h00

Check out 10h00

2- & 3-DAY PACKAGES

Stays of 2 nights may substitute a game drive for a horseback safari

A 3-night stay may substitute two game drives with a horseback and quad bike safari.

2- & 3-Night stays have **free** access to the Spa Facilities - Treatments are optional at an additional cost.

All of the above are subject to availability.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Horse-back Safari: Can be booked at an additional cost, it is advisable to pre-book. Minimum age requirement is 16 years old.

Max weight 95kg. Maximum of 8 people per safari.

Duration: 1 ½ hours (Aprox)

Quad Bike Safari: Can be booked at an additional cost, it is advisable to pre-book. Minimum age requirement is 16 years old.

Max weight 95 kg. Maximum of 10 people per safari. 1 guest per vehicle.

Duration: 1 ½ hours (Aprox)

STAR SAFARI

Each evening (weather conditions permitting) after dinner we invite you to join us at the Boma for marshmallow roasting and to view the stellar sights of the Karoo skies!

ECO SYNERGY TOURS

Eco Synergy Systems tour focuses on sustainable tourism. Learn more about how we recycle using Aquaponics, Hydroponics, and organic gardening. At the Eco Synergy Centre, you will also be introduced to a miracle plant called "Spekboom". It is able to fight climatic change and improves the quality of breathable air. It is known to have the capacity of taking in about 4 to 10 tonnes of carbon from a hectare's environment. This it does by acting like a carbon sponge that sucks in all the unwanted carbon. Each bedroom at Aquila has a small Spekboom plant.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

At an additional cost. Departs daily after breakfast with a minimum of 4 pax and is open to children of all ages. Children under the age of 6 will be catered for in the Aquila Kids Club and children over 6 (and adults) will be taken on a game drive and lessons in animal identification will be given using spoor and animal droppings. The ancient people that roamed the plains at Aquila are known as the Khoi San. They left behind them a rich and diverse collection of rock art. Our students are taught how to create their own work of art. They will also learn more about the daily lives of these ancient people, covering, hygiene, hunting, cooking. For advanced students the geology of the region is fascinating. You will be taken back in time to when this landscape was crafted by nature and learn how the plant life adapted to the new climate changes.

DAY VISITOR SAFARIS – KAROO VISTA CENTRE

Aquila offers Overnight and Day Trip Safaris. Day trip safaris are offered as full day or half day options starting from the Karoo Vista Centre.

Aside from the ever-popular Game drive day trips, Aquila offers Horseback Safaris and Quad Bike Safaris or a combination of all three. Meals are buffet, with continental buffet breakfast and lunch. From December 2019 all day visitors are hosted in the Karoo Vista Centre.

DAY TRIP SAFARI OPTIONS

FULL DAY	HALF DAY
MORNING SAFARI, HORSEBACK AND QUADBIKE DAY TRIP ITINERARY Welcome Drinks – Continental Breakfast - Morning Safari – ARC – Lunch	EARLY MORNING SAFARI ITINERARY Welcome drinks (Tea, Coffee & Rusks) – Game Drive – Breakfast
COMBO SAFARI ITINERARY Welcome Drinks – Breakfast - Morning Game Drive – Lunch - Horseback or Quad bike Safari	AFTERNOON DAY TRIP ITINERARY Welcome drinks on arrival – Buffet Lunch – Afternoon Game Drive
SUNSET SAFARI ITINERARY	

DINING

ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

For exclusive use for guests staying overnight at the reserve. All meals are buffet.

This triple volume restaurant has a terrace that runs the length of the restaurant.

Elephant Restaurant Size:190m² Seating capacity: 200

Elephant Restaurant Terrace: Size:65m² Seating capacity: 65

KAROO VISTA CENTRE (DAY VISITOR CENTRE)

For exclusive use for guests visiting on any one of the day visitor programs. All meals are buffet.

The Karoo Vista Centre may be booked for evening dining for groups at an additional cost. Minimum numbers apply and all meals are buffet. The centre consists of an upper and lower section as well as 2 terraces one upper the other lower.

Karoo Upper: Size: 95 m² Seating Capacity: 80

Karoo Lower: Size:310m² Seating Capacity: 150

Terrace Upper: Size:160m² Seating Capacity: 150 covered seating

Terrace Lower: Size:320m² Seating Capacity: 200 open air or under umbrellas

STONE COTTAGE

An exclusive bush dining venue in the reserve. May be booked for private groups for breakfast, lunch or dinner at an additional cost & will include entertainment. Minimum numbers apply.

Size: 300 m² Seating Capacity: 120

Zulu Dancers, Gum boot Dancers and Marimba band can be booked at an additional cost at any of the venues.

FACILITIES

“LEVEL UP” BAR LOUNGE

Exclusive use for guests staying overnight. “Level Up” is situated above the Elephant Restaurant and is accessed via a staircase and elevator(From Feb 2020).

POOL BAR

Situated adjacent to the swimming pool and restaurant, seats approximately 20 guests while enjoying the convenience of the pool area and includes a “wet bar”.

CURIO SHOP:

Offers various African souvenirs for sale, as well as locally manufactured items and Aquila branded apparel.

AQUILA KIDS CLUB:

Aquila offers a safari themed indoor and outdoor children’s play area, with a variety of activities aimed at toddlers to pre-teens. The outside area has a mini-golf course, giant chess, a sandpit and a wooden jungle gym to delight your little ones. Offering daily activities and Junior Ranger program. Baby sitting facilities are available at an extra charge.

SWIMMING POOL:

The main swimming pool has a length of 35 meters, and features a wet bar which is well-used in the summer months.

TRANQUILA SPA:

An African spa using natural products. Featuring 1 outdoor pool, 2 indoor pools (1 heated the other cold), Steam Room, Sauna, 10 Treatment rooms, a couple’s room and a domed couple or group therapy room.

MEETINGS

CONFERENCE CENTRE

The main inside area of the conference room is 125m² (25m x 5m) with a thatch circular outside boma area of 36m². Two Breakaway Rooms

- 10m² (2mx5m)
- 5m² (2mx5m)

Seating Capacity

- 48 pax (8 x 6 tables) including dance floor and buffet set up inside – bar at reception
- 92 pax (8 x 12 tables) dance floor, buffet and bar set up in boma area
- 80 pax cinema style - tea and coffee station at reception or in boma area
- 56 pax U-Shape style – tea and coffee station at reception

- 80 pax cocktail style with bars and buffet style

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 10,000 hectare conservancy has a natural wetland and is protected by majestic mountains and valleys, which makes for varied and ideal game viewing.

Wildlife:

Aquila has all of the Big 5 - and is also home to giraffe and hippo black wildebeest, Burchell’s zebra, springbok, gemsbok, steenbok, caracal (lynx), blesbok, bat eared fox, ostriches, klip springer, duiker, greybuck, baboon, black backed jackal, eland and red hartebeest.

. Aquila is also proud to host the first rhino to be born in the Western Cape in 250 years.

Birdlife:

Aquila and its natural wetland is home to 172 species of birds and is also home to several breeding pairs of the rare 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.

SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT PROGRAMME & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:

Aquila focuses most of its social upliftment, job creation, skills development, sustainable charity programmes and empowerment efforts in the previously “doomed” and forgotten town of Touws River, which is situated 12kms from Aquila, where Aquila’s workforce resides. The town was built around a railway servicing plant that closed down in the 1980s leaving 97% unemployment amongst the approximately 12,000 previously disadvantaged residents. Since 2004 Aquila has subsidised a full time teacher at the local school. This ongoing effort investing in the future of the community will ensure that the local community can gain a good education and empower them to succeed in the future. Aquila also continues to host school children from previously disadvantaged local schools on complimentary daytrips to the reserve. We believe that urban children learn more about nature, wildlife, sustainable social upliftment, conservation and responsible tourism in one day, while visiting Aquila and ARC, than could ever be taught in a classroom.

95% of all previously disadvantaged staff members have been trained with no prior experience to be fully competent and certified as game rangers, drivers, waitresses, cooks, registered security officers and anti-poaching guards, cleaners, front and back of house staff, game capture and translocation rangers, environmental and maintenance, etc. Aquila has facilitated hundreds of temporary staff member in learning new building skills, who have subsequently progressed from labourer to brick layer, and then to builder (from minimum wage to several times that).

Training of employees is ongoing, and include Health and Safety, First Aid, Fire Fighting, Computer Training, along with a huge array of operational training in all departments.

AWARDS

Aquila Private Game Reserve is proud to have been Finalist in the Western Cape provincial Lilizela Awards for Service Excellence from 2014 to 2018 and the World Luxury Travel Awards from 2014 to 2018. In addition, Aquila has been a finalist of FEDHASA’s prestigious Imvelo Responsible Tourism awards for 3 consecutive years and winner in 2014 of the Lilizela Imvelo Award, for best economic impact by a large tourism establishment in South Africa, promoting the local economic development of communities for ensuring industry sustainability. In 2015, we added the National Best Social Involvement programme to our list of accolades for our work to revive and uplift the community of Touws River. This award is particularly important to us as we have strong social upliftment policies in place and we take this aspect of our business very seriously. Aquila was first runner up in the National category for Best Single Resource Management Programme, Energy, as well as Best Economic Impact.

In 2015 & 2016 Aquila also scooped the Sanlam Top Destinations award in the Game Lodge category.

Solar Renewable Energy

On the 10th August 2010, after a 4 year negotiation, Aquila managed to introduce and secure a R3billion deal with a world leading international Swiss/German renewable energy company, to build a 44MW CPV solar plant on Aquila’s land in order to supply much needed power to the Western Cape grid, in a time of load shedding, and a power shortage crisis.

This project employed many staff from Touws River on a short term basis during its construction and we expect many long term job opportunities such as cleaning, security, maintenance and management.

A second 120KW CPV solar plant at a cost of approximately R20-R30 million was built at ARC and consists of 12 large CPV panels that produce 120kW of on-site renewable energy that is used by Aquila and ARC, reducing our carbon footprint.

CONSERVATION

Aquila was developed in 1997 to restore the area to how it once was with the Big 5 traversing the Karoo.

Saving Private Rhino

The "Saving Private Rhino" initiative has been established to ensure the future conservation of Africa's rhino and wildlife heritage, by providing the most comprehensive, integrated anti-poaching solution available to every private game reserve in Africa which needs assistance defending its wildlife.

In August 2011 Aquila Private Game Reserve was hit by a horrific poaching incident that saw three rhino attacked, with two of the rhino brutally killed and de-horned.

Free counter-poaching security training courses have been established, to teach rangers how to protect themselves as well as their rhino and wildlife population.

Aquila also offers a "Rhino First Responder" service free of charge to any game reserves that have been affected by rhino poaching. To this end a rhino orphanage has been established to assist with the rearing of any orphaned rhinos.

For more information, visit www.savingprivaterhino.org

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. A double-decker London Bus makes a daily tour of the Matjiesfontein Village.

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). A maximum of 20 vehicles are allowed.

Golf

De Doorns offers a 9-hole course, with 18-hole courses to be found at both Ceres and Worcester.

GETTING THERE;

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 advised on booking. Collection can be arranged from the hotel and xferred to the airfield. The flight takes 20-30 minute.

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

Getting there by Road:

Safaris at Aquila are offered with or without transport to the reserve. Self-drive guests are advised to allow themselves 2 hours travelling time from Cape Town to the reserve. Guests that are booking the safaris with transfers are picked up from their Cape Town City hotel with transfers times being notified telephonically the evening before.

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

Directions:

Take the N1 from Cape Town; 10km before Touws River turn left onto the R46 to Ceres. The entrance is 2km further on the left.
33.3522° S, 19.9356° E

Reservations:

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