

AQUILA FACT SHEET 2020/2021

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INTRODUCTION

Aquila Private Game Reserve & Spa is Big 5 safari destination situated just under 2 hours' drive from Cape Town. We offer half day, full day and overnight safari package options making it easy for the safari traveller no matter what their time constraints are.

For an alternative safari option, saddle up or get ready to ride on our horseback or quad bike safari, experiencing the natural wonders of the Karoo veld.

[Download Aquila Reserve Map](#)

AQUILA COTTAGES

Aquila Safari offers a range of cottage options. Bed Configuration: all twin sharing cottages can be converted to doubles with the exception of Family Cottage 32, 33 and 34.









KAROO COTTAGES

-  Units: 20
-  Max Capacity: 42
-  Unit: 11 & 12 (3pax: 1 x single loft bed & 1 x double)
-  Unit: 13 to 30 (2pax: twin sharing)
-  Bath en-suite with alfresco shower
-  Indoor fireplace, air conditioning, fan, minibar fridge, hairdryer and safe. Complimentary tea and coffee making station. Stone and wood finishes with a private patio
-  Room 16.6m² | Bathroom 3.9m² | Patio 12m²



FAMILY LUXURY COTTAGES - 4 SLEEPER

-  Units: 6
-  Max Capacity: 24
-  Unit: 32 to 37 (4pax: 2 x queen and 2 x single in loft)
-  Bath en-suite, Bidet and alfresco shower
-  Indoor fireplace, air conditioning, fan, minibar fridge, hairdryer and safe. Complimentary tea and coffee making station. Stone and wood finishes with a private patio. Self-drive parking adjacent to units.
-  Patio 12m² | Family Room 30m² | Family Bathroom 6m²











FAMILY LUXURY COTTAGES - 8 SLEEPER

-  Units: 2
-  Max Capacity: 16
-  Unit: 31 & 38 (8pax: 2 x queen bedrooms with 4 x singles in loft)
-  3 bathrooms: 1 x bath en-suite & 2 x shower en-suite
-  Indoor fireplace, air conditioning, fan, minibar fridge, hairdryer and safe. Complimentary tea and coffee making station. Stone and wood finishes with a private patio. Self-drive parking adjacent to units.
-  Patio 12m² | Bedroom 30m² | Bathroom 6m²

PREMIER COTTAGES



-  Units: 5
-  Max Capacity: 12
-  Unit: 7, 8 & 10 (2pax twin sharing)
-  Unit: 6 (2pax twin sharing and adjacent double bunk)
-  Unit: 9 (2pax king) with outdoor jacuzzi
-  Bath en-suite, double vanity, Bidet and alfresco shower
-  Indoor fireplace, air conditioning, fan, minibar fridge, hairdryer and safe. Complimentary tea and coffee making station. Stone and wood finishes with a private elevated wooden viewing deck.
-  Complimentary bottle of house wine at check-in, access to spa facilities and one game drive can be substituted for a horseback

safari.

🛏️ Balcony 8m², Bedroom 40 m², Bathroom 20 m²

AQUILA LODGE

The Aquila Lodge building is situated next to the the main restaurant and offer access via stairs or a glass lift. Please
Note: The Standard and Premier Lodge rooms can be combined as Family Lodge Units sleeping 4 pax twin sharing and a sleeper couch sleeping one child.



STANDARD LODGE ROOMS

- 🏠 Units: 22
- 👥 Max Capacity: 44
- 🛏️ 2pax twin sharing
- 🚿 Shower en-suite
- ♥️ Each room is connected to a Premier Lodge room by a communal corridor. These rooms do not have a balcony or view of the reserve. Complimentary tea and coffee making station, hairdryer, safe, mini bar fridge and air conditioning.
- 🛏️ Room 16.8m² | Bathroom 3.65m²



PREMIER LODGE ROOMS

- 🏠 Units: 22
- 👥 Max Capacity: 44
- 🛏️ 2pax twin sharing and sleeper couch (1 x child)
- 🚿 Shower and bath en-suite
- ♥️ Each room is connected to a Standard Lodge room by a communal corridor. These rooms have a balcony with views of the reserve. Complimentary tea and coffee making station, hairdryer, safe, mini bar fridge and air conditioning.
- ♿️ Room 101 disabled friendly.
- 🛏️ Smallest room size: Room 23.6m² | Balcony 10.8m² | Bathroom 7.5m²



OVERNIGHT SAFARIS ITINERARIES

DAY OF ARRIVAL:

- Welcome drink on arrival
- Lunch is served from 12h30 to 14h30
- Room check-in at 14h00
- Eco-synergy Tour (Summer: 14h30/ Winter: 15h30)
- 2 to 3 hour traditional game drive with drinks stop (Summer: 15h30 / Winter: 16h45)
- Dinner is served from 19h00 to 22h00
- Star Safari (weather dependant) from sunset to 22h00

DAY TWO:

- 1.5 hour early morning safari with hot beverages and rusks (Summer: 06h00 / Winter: 07h00)
- Full English breakfast served from 08h00
- Check-out at 10h00
- Guests on scheduled transfers back to Cape Town depart at 12h30

2 & 3 DAY ITINERARIES

A TWO NIGHT STAY may substitute a game drive for a horseback safari. Guests enjoy complimentary access to the spa facilities (treatments are optional at an additional cost). Subject to availability.

A THREE NIGHT STAY may substitute two game drives with a horseback and/or quad bike safari. Guests enjoy complimentary access to the spa facilities (treatments are optional at an additional cost). Subject to availability.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:



HORSE-BACK SAFARI

A horseback experience can be included in your itinerary and it is advisable to prebook.

- Minimum age requirement: 16 years old.
- Max weight: 95kg.
- Maximum of 8 people per horseback safari.
- One person per horse.
- Duration: Approximately 1 ½ hour.



QUAD BIKE SAFARI

A quad bike safari can be included in your itinerary and it is advisable to prebook.

- Minimum age requirement: 16 years old.
- Max weight: 95kg.
- Maximum of 10 people per horseback safari.
- One person per quad bike.
- Duration: Approximately 1 ½ hour.



STAR SAFARI

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



ECO-SYNERGY TOURS

The award-winning eco-synergy project at Aquila was implemented to reduce our carbon footprint. This program consists of a number of eco-synergy systems that co-exist. These include: a waste management program, worm farm and biogas plant. The project hosts a community vegetable plot, herb garden and an aquaponics system.

Tours are scheduled daily from reception.



JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

This programme can be booked at an additional cost and minimum numbers will apply. Children booked on the activity will depart after breakfast.

Children under the age of 6 will be hosted in the Aquila Kids Adventure Zone, while children over 6 (and accompanying adults) will be taken on a game drive into the reserve where the program will include a variety of activities. These include basic veld survival skills, spoor tracking, and conservation.

DAY VISITORS KAROO VISTA CENTRE

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 activities, Aquila offers horseback adventures and quad bike experiences.

DAY TRIP SAFARI OPTIONS

FULL DAY VISIT

THE FULL DAY MORNING SAFARI, HORSEBACK AND QUAD BIKE SAFARI ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- › Welcome Drinks
- › Continental Breakfast
- › Morning Safari Activity
- › Eco-synergy Tour
- › Lunch

THE FULL DAY COMBO SAFARI ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- › Welcome Drinks
- › Continental Breakfast
- › Morning Game Drive
- › Lunch
- › Horseback or Quad Bike Safari

HALF DAY VISIT

THE EARLY MORNING SAFARI ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- › Welcome Drinks (Tea, Coffee and Rusks)
- › Morning Game Drive
- › Continental Breakfast

THE AFTERNOON DAY TRIP ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- › Welcome Drinks
- › Lunch
- › Afternoon Game Drive

THE SUNSET SAFARI ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- › Welcome Drinks
- › Tea and Snacks
- › Game Drive

DINING



ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

This venue is for the exclusive use of our overnight safari travellers. This triple volume restaurant is perfectly situated next to the infinity pool serving traditional South African buffet meals. The building includes a beautiful terrace that runs the length of the restaurant.

- › Elephant Restaurant: Size:190m² | Seating capacity: 200
- › Terrace: Size:65m² | Seating capacity: 65



KAROO VISTA CENTRE (DAY VISITOR CENTRE)

This facility is for the exclusive use of our day visitors. This building hosts the day visitor reception and safari departure point. All meals are buffet. The Karoo Vista Centre can be booked for private group functions or events. The multilevel seating includes two separate indoor areas and outdoor terraces.

- › Karoo Upper Indoor: Size: 95 m² | Seating Capacity: 80
- › Karoo Lower Indoor: Size:310m² | Seating Capacity: 150
- › Upper Outdoor Covered Terrace: Size:160m² | Seating Capacity: 150
- › Lower Outdoor Open Air Terrace: Size:320m² | Seating Capacity: 200



STONE COTTAGE

This exclusive bush dining venue is accessed by a short game drive into the reserve. The venue can be exclusively booked by private groups for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Traditional entertainment like Zulu dancers, gumbboot dancers and marimba bands can also be arranged.

- › Size: 300 m² | Seating Capacity: 120

FACILITIES



LEVEL-UP BAR LOUNGE

Overnight guests are invited to make use of the mezzanine level bar and lounge which is situated above the main restaurant. It is accessible via stairs or an elevator.



POOL BAR

Aquila has an inviting swimming pool with a poolside bar that seats approximately 20 guests, serving cocktails and beverages with sweeping views of the Karoo mountains.



CURIO SHOP

The curio shop is situated at the main reception of the lodge. The shop showcases an array of curios and gifts from stylish African figurines and soft toys to genuine ostrich-leather purses and safari hats. The shop also sells limited essential goods.

The shop is open from 08h00 to 20h00 daily.



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.



SALAH PRAYER ROOM

Having always embraced Halaal travellers, we have recently upgraded our on-site prayer facilities.

The Salah prayer room is equipped with basin and water-friendly services, prayer mats, the Quran, and seating for the elderly.



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.

The conference venue hosts two breakaway rooms:

- > 10m² (2mx5m)
- > 5m² (2mx5m)

Seating Capacity:

- > 48 pax (8 x 6 tables) including dance floor and buffet setup inside with bar setup at reception
- > 92 pax (8 x 12 tables) dance floor, buffet and bar setup in boma area
- > 80 pax cinema style with tea and coffee station at reception or in boma area
- > 56 pax U-shape style with 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, greyback, 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.



- ☆ 2015 & 16 winner of the Lilizela Provincial Service Excellence Award.
- ☆ Winner: 2014 National Lilizela Imvelo Award for best economic impact by a large tourism establishment in South Africa for 2014.
- ☆ Winner: 2015 National Lilizela Imvelo Award for sustainable development.
- ☆ National Finalist: Best single resource management program - Energy.
- ☆ Winner of the 2014/15/16/17 and 2018 World Luxury Hotel Award for best Luxury Eco Safari Lodge in Africa.
- ☆ Top Destinations national award winner: Best Game Lodge.
- ☆ 2017 and 18 Provincial Lilizela winner: Best Game Lodge.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

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)

An unforgettable 40min helicopter fly-in experience from Cape Town, over the hex River Pass – including complimentary luxury private CBD transfers and welcome drinks on arrival.

Minimum 2 people to fly.

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 transferred to the airfield.

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 AND RESERVATIONS

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

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MAP





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