

Mills Manor

- Name

Mills Manor

- Comfort: (rating/premium/boutique luxury)

5-Star Exclusive-use Villa

- Max. Guest amount

10

- Highlights

Experience Bespoke Luxury

Mills Manor is a historic, 100-year-old residence, converted into an exclusive-use villa, perfect for a private safari getaway, especially for families and small groups. Exuding a relaxed, home-away-from-home atmosphere, the Manor includes a private safari guide and vehicle, a chef, and dedicated service staff to ensure a bespoke and personalised experience. Designed in true Edwardian style, the manor features gables, high ceilings, and spacious rooms, all offering expansive views of the surrounding landscape and natural bushscapes.

- Main or Central hotel facilities

Mills Manor offers a range of comfortable facilities designed for relaxation and exclusivity. Amenities include a well-stocked bar, a spacious lounge and dining room, a large swimming pool, sun deck, fire pit, and barbecue area. The wide veranda provides a cool and tranquil retreat, ideal for enjoying the surrounding natural beauty.

Accommodating up to 10 guests, Mills Manor features five air-conditioned bedrooms—three king rooms and two king/twin rooms—each with private verandas overlooking indigenous gardens and valley views. Guests can also enjoy Wi-Fi access in the main lodge areas, and laundry services are available at an additional charge.

- Guest accommodation

Three king rooms feature four-poster beds, high ceilings, and en-suite bathrooms with freestanding baths, walk-in showers, and his-and-her basins. These rooms are not convertible to twins and are perfect for couples.

Two additional king/twin rooms offer flexible bed configurations and en-suite bathrooms with walk-in showers and his-and-her basins, ideal for friends or families.

All bedrooms are air-conditioned and open via wide stack doors to a wrap-around veranda with views of indigenous gardens and the valley beyond. Each room includes a coffee/tea station, personal safe, and Wi-Fi.

- Food & drink

Mills Manor delivers a 5-star private dining experience featuring a private chef who crafts bespoke meals tailored to your preferences. Guests can also enjoy authentic Boma evenings, offering a traditional open-air dining experience around a fire under the stars.

The property includes a fully stocked bar serving a wide range of beverages, from inclusive local drinks to premium, exclusive selections, ensuring every sip complements the luxury of your stay.

- Safari & activities

Your stay at Mills Manor includes two guided game drives per day in a private vehicle with your own dedicated guide, offering an intimate and personalized wildlife experience. The morning drive begins at first light, when the bush awakens and wildlife is at its most active, while the afternoon drive continues into the early evening, providing the chance to enjoy breathtaking sunsets and observe increased animal activity.

With a private guide and vehicle, your game drive schedule is flexible, allowing you to tailor your safari experience to your preferences and interests.

For guests seeking to further enhance their time in the bush, additional activities are available at an extra cost, including:

- Big 5 walking safaris, for a thrilling up-close encounter with the wilderness
- Guided bush walks, revealing the intricate details of the environment on foot
- Night drives, offering a glimpse into the reserve's fascinating nocturnal wildlife
- Catch-and-release fishing excursions, for a serene and relaxing experience in nature

Please speak to your guide upon arrival to learn more about these experiences and arrange bookings throughout your stay.

- Animals

Lalibela Game Reserve is home to a rich and diverse array of wildlife, offering classic African safari sightings across its malaria-free wilderness.

Big Five

You can encounter all of Africa's iconic Big Five species roaming freely in the reserve:

Lion

Elephant

White rhinoceros

Buffalo

Leopard (though sightings can be more elusive)

Other Large Mammals

In addition to the Big Five, the reserve supports a wide variety of other wildlife, including:

Cheetah

Hyena

Hippo

Giraffe

Zebra

Warthog

Various antelope species such as impala, wildebeest, eland, kudu, bushbuck, and blesbok

Smaller & Nocturnal Species

On night drives or with expert guides you may also see:

Jackal

Lynx

Bat-eared fox

Aardvark

Aardwolf

Springhare
Blue duiker and rock hyrax

Birdlife

The reserve is also rich in birdlife, with numerous species flourishing across the varied habitats spread over its ecosystems.

All of these animals roam freely throughout the reserve, creating an authentic and immersive safari experience.

- **Position**

Mills Manor is ideally situated next to Lentaba Lodge within the Lalibela Wildlife Reserve, placing guests in the heart of a pristine wilderness. This prime location offers easy access to the reserve's abundant wildlife, sweeping landscapes, and exclusive safari experiences, all while maintaining the privacy and luxury that Mills Manor provides.

- **Climate & best time to travel**

Lalibela Wildlife Reserve enjoys a temperate, malaria-free climate, making it ideal for year-round safari experiences. The region generally experiences warm summers (November to March) with occasional afternoon showers, which bring lush green landscapes and thriving wildlife. Winters (May to September) are cooler and drier, offering crisp mornings and clear skies, which make wildlife easier to spot as animals gather around water sources.

The best time to visit is during the summer months, from November to March, when the warmer temperatures and occasional afternoon showers bring lush green landscapes and abundant wildlife activity. This season offers vibrant scenery and the opportunity to experience the reserve at its most alive, with dramatic skies and a lively bushveld atmosphere.

However, the reserve's scenery and wildlife remain captivating throughout the year, offering a different but equally rewarding experience in every season.

- **Arrival (how best to get there but provide all options e.g. flights, road transfer)**

Mills Manor is located within the Lalibela Wildlife Reserve in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

There are several convenient ways to reach the reserve, depending on your preferences for travel style and comfort:

Fly to Port Elizabeth Airport (PLZ)

This is the most popular and efficient option for most national and international travellers:

Port Elizabeth Airport (PLZ) is approximately 90–95 km (about a 1-hour drive) from Lalibela Wildlife Reserve.

From the airport you can choose one of the following onward options:

Self-Drive / Hire Car

Rent a car at Port Elizabeth Airport on arrival.

Drive via the N2 National Highway toward Grahamstown (Makhanda).

Turn off at the signed Lalibela Wildlife Reserve entrance and follow the reserve access road to the parking area.

This route is fully tarred and easy to navigate in a standard rental vehicle.

GPS link via Google Maps for Lalibela Main Gate: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dMVoXBD5PKLJ6o4A9>

Private Transfer

Arrange a private transfer in advance through our trusted partner transfer company.

A comfortable transfer vehicle and driver will meet you at the airport and take you directly to the reception area — ideal for guests who prefer not to drive.

Road Travel from Major Cities

For guests driving from within South Africa:

From Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha): Follow the N2 north for about 90–95 km to the Lalibela Wildlife Reserve turn-off.

From Grahamstown (Makhanda): Drive south on the N2 to the Lalibela turn-off.

From East London: Take the N2 west toward Port Elizabeth and follow directions to the reserve turn-off.

Important Arrival Info

Check-in is from 12:00 to 13:00, as lunch is served at 13:00.

Please let us know your anticipated arrival time so we can prepare for your arrival and ensure transfers are coordinated smoothly.

- Children

Children aged 2 years and older are welcome at Mills Manor, ensuring that families can enjoy the luxury, comfort, and wildlife experiences of the lodge together. The private game drives, flexible schedules, and tailored activities make it easy for families to create memorable safari adventures suitable for all ages.

- Health (e.g. Malaria area or Malaria-free)

Lalibela Wildlife Reserve is a malaria-free area, making it a safe destination for families and travellers without the need for anti-malarial medication.

- Security (e.g. full fenced Safari Lodge, or 24 hour reception/guest services)

Lalibela Wildlife Reserve and Mills Manor prioritize guest safety and peace of mind. The lodge is situated within a fully fenced private reserve and is itself fully enclosed, with all access points carefully controlled to ensure a secure environment for guests.

On-site staff are available to assist guests throughout the day, and there is 24-hour guest services and response for any needs or concerns.

- Accessibility (e.g. Wheelchair friendly)

Please note that Mills Manor is not fully wheelchair friendly. However, the rooms are wheelchair accessible and feature a walk-in shower. A plastic shower chair can be provided if needed.

For safety and comfort, guests requiring mobility assistance must be accompanied by a companion to help with daily tasks and to assist with getting in and out of the game vehicle.

- Operator (e.g. family-owned)

Private owner