

# Welcome to Owl House

We are pleased to host and wish you a most pleasant and relaxing stay.

## Phone numbers:

Debbie – 082 804 9963

Mike – 082 922 6747

Should you need any further information, the people working at Field Security are another great resource for answering questions.

This is a malaria area, please take the necessary precautions. Close all doors at sunset and sunrise to prevent mosquitos from entering the house. Keep the mosquito screens down unless quickly opening or closing a window.

## Other Contact information:

Field Security	013 792 4207 / 082 828 1043
Housekeeping and manager (Debbie Venter)	082 804 9963
Marloth Park Control Room (for all problems)	013 792 4944
Fire Brigade	10177
Power Failure	082 888 2561
Water Problems	078 803 9965 / 082 802 5687
Law Enforcement Officer	076 141 0458
Noise Reports	072 189 6145
Animals in Distress (Game Ranger on Duty)	082 802 5894
Owner - Leone Labuschagne	082 267 6116
Marloth Park Nature Conservation Office	013 792 4888 / 013 792 4604
Traffic Noise, Speeding, Fire	082 806 1611
Dr Mel Stronkhorst	013 793 7235 / 083 793 4870
Komatipoort Pharmacy	013 793 7235
Snake Bites	083 255 0442
Snake Removal (Frank Permain)	082 561 1832

## Doors:

The house is monkey and baboon proof. Please keep the security doors closed to stop animals from entering the house.

When you leave the house please make sure the windows are closed, because if the wind blows it sometimes moves the curtains and sets off the alarm, generating an unnecessary trip for Field Security. We are charged for these callouts and they will in turn be deducted from your security deposit refund.

### Drinking water:

The water at Owl house is drinkable. If there has been a lot of rain, the water may become discoloured but is still safe to drink. If you prefer, you may buy spring water from the local shop.

### Refuse:

When you leave, deposit your refuse (non-recyclable rubbish/garbage) at one of the dump sites: at the entrance gates or at the dump located near the Bush Centre on Olifant Street.

*Please note: Failure to properly dispose of your garbage will result in a deduction from the breakage deposit.*

### Smoking:

This is a non-smoking establishment. Smoking is only allowed outside and on the patio. Please respect our wildlife area by not leaving cigarette butts or any other rubbish on the ground. Be aware of your cigarette ashes and butts, and dispose of them appropriately; failure to do so could cause a fire.

### Splash pool:

The splash pool is provided for your enjoyment, and for keeping cool on the hot days of summer. Please fill when you arrive and open tap to empty on departure.

### Supplies:

We supply the first toilet roll and a little dishwashing soap and dishtowels. Guests are responsible for providing their own supplies, including dishwashing soap, body soap, toilet paper rolls, paper towels, bags to line the rubbish bin, ect.

### Restaurants:

There are several local restaurants where you may eat and their prices are very reasonable.

- Jabula Lodge, Kurper Street
- Phumula Lodge, Rinkals Street
- Royal Kruger, Oribi Street
- Royal Marlothi , Skerpion Street
- The Watergat, Bush Centre
- The Tin Shack, adjacent to filling station at the Marlothi Shopping Centre

### **Area convenience and services**

#### Marloth Park

There are two shopping complexes in the centre of Marloth Park, located within a kilometre of one another: The **Bush Centre** and the **Marlothi Shopping Centre**, both on Olifant Road.

Ice, wood, charcoal, and pellets for feeding the animals are for sale at both centres.

The **Marlothi Shopping Centre** has a general store with Standard Bank ATM, liquor store, self-serve Laundromat, internet cafe, and petrol station. Lucerne bales for feeding the animals may be purchased here.

The **Bush Centre** has a general store with mini-First National Bank ATM, curio shop, Field Security offices, estate agent, hardware shop, children's playground and mini-golf course, full-services Laundromat, and Die Watergat (a restaurant with ladies bar, swimming pool, and big screen TV)

**Komatiepoort** is 26km east on the N4, home to large Spar grocery, pharmacy, petrol stations, Midas automotive supplies, banks, golf course and many small shops and tea gardens.

**Malelane** is 45km west on the N4, and is the largest town within a half hour drive. It has a large Spar, Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, pharmacies, clothing, sewing supplies, petrol stations, building supplies, and many more shops.

**Nelspruit** is the closest city and home to the nearest hospital and major airport. Most items can be found here. Nelspruit is 105km west on the N4, approximately an hour's drive.

### **Airport**

The Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport provides service to major South African cities and locations within the Kruger National Park.

### **Lionspruit Game Reserve**

Take a game drive in Marloth Park's own game reserve: Lionspruit. The entrance is on Wildgoose Street and there is a small entrance fee. Lionspruit has lion, buffalo and rhino as well as the normal game found in Marloth.

If you drive to gate 2 and turn left into Buffel Street, then onto Seekoei you can drive along the one-way river loops and see game and birds on the banks of the Crocodile River.

### **Birds watcher's paradise**

Owl house and surrounding area provides a bird watcher's paradise. Bring binoculars and a bird identification book!

### **Excursions**

There are local tour operators who offer the following:

- Half and full day game drives in the Kruger National Park
- Swaziland cultural tour
- Maputo historical tour
- Panorama tour (full day tour to include stops at Graskop, Blyde River Canyon, Three Rondavels, Bourke's Potholes, God's Window, and waterfall viewing points)
- Day at the beach in Mozambique
- Custom tours on request

### **Reservations for Kruger National Park**

Further enhance your vacation with day and night game drives into the Kruger National Park (KNP). The drive to Crocodile Bridge gate is approximately 20 minutes and the Malelane entrance is a 40 minute drive. Night drives must be arranged in advance with a guide from

the KNP... well worth it as you will usually see nocturnal dwellers of the park that you otherwise wouldn't see.

Take a trip into Kruger National Park, Crocodile Bridge gate is approximately 22 km east exiting from gate 2. Malelane gate is approximately 35 km west on the N4 existing at gate 1. If there have been heavy rains, please check if crocodile Bridge is open before you set out by calling 013 735 6012.

Should you wish to do a day visit to the Kruger National Park during school holidays and over long weekends, it is suggested that you make a reservation as the park only allows a certain quota of day visitors –by booking ahead of time, you will be not disappointed. SAN Parks web site is [http://celtis.sanparks.org/park/kruger/tourism/day\\_visitors.php](http://celtis.sanparks.org/park/kruger/tourism/day_visitors.php) or you may contact Central Reservations by calling (012) 428 9111.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **Security system operation**

Press the yellow button on the key fob to activate and deactivate the alarm. Press the button only once. You will hear one beep when the alarm has been activated, and two beeps when the alarm is off.

The red button is the PANIC button. The cost of responding to false alarms will be deducted from your security deposit.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are planning to enjoy an evening braai, or any outside activities, we recommend someone carry the security panic button, in case of medical or any other emergency.

When you leave the property, please close all doors and windows and close the curtains. This is in order to stop baboons and monkeys from entering: they are very opportunistic and will try to enter if they can see any food.

When your stay is over, please set the alarm and return the keys to Field Security.

### **Malaria precautions**

Marloth Park is located in a malaria zone.

The best prevention is to keep mosquitos from entering the house. The windows have screens on them. Keep the mosquito screens down (unless opening or closing a window), and keep the doors closed when you are not in the house.

For additional protection, we advise all visitors to research their options and adhere to a medical doctor's instructions. Rather than using anti-malarial medications, many of the locals rely on DEET-based preparations such as Tabard or Peaceful Sleep spray or cream on any exposed skin if they are going to be outside at night; the choice is yours.

## Security tips for Marloth Park

### Visitors

- Should you arrive after dark, please ask Field Security to provide an escort to Owl house.
- Activate your alarm system when you leave the house, even if you will only be away for a short while.
- Secure doors and windows properly when you leave the premises. Keep outside doors locked even when you are in the house. Opportunists will not hesitate to enter through an unlocked door if you are out of sight (this includes opportunistic wildlife, such as baboons).
- Do not leave keys in doors.
- Do not leave valuable close to windows/doors or in motor vehicles.
- There is a disturbing trend with visitors hand-feeding animals. Remember, these are wild animals and although they often appear tame and can be “cute”, they can be unpredictable. The animals should in fact not be fed at all.
- Consider other people who value the peace and quiet of the bush. Noise pollution can be extremely annoying and stressful.
- Dump rubbish either at the main dump site in Olifant Street, or in one of the dump facilities at the main gates.
- Consider other people at the lookout points. Do not make a noise or litter.
- Adhere to the municipal by-laws as well as the national traffic Act.
- Be aware that snakes are particularly active just before winter.