



SIMBAMBILI GAME LODGE

You could pay buckets more at a splurge lodge in Sabi Sand Game Reserve – but it's unnecessary. Not when the adults-only Simbambili Game Lodge offers nine, honeymoon-deluxe bungalows. Strung along the edge of a sandy riverbed, they have private plunge pools, spacious decks with a sala (outdoor lounge area with double cushioned day-bed) and enormous bathrooms with egg-shaped stone tubs and rain-showers. Fold back the wood-and-glass doors, and you bring the outside completely in. Breakfast and lunch is served in an elegant, thatched-roof dining room with tree-trunk columns, fireplaces and no walls on three sides, overlooking a watering hole, where a moving tableau of warthogs, impala and baboons kept us swapping forks for binoculars. Romantic four-course dinners (still dreaming of the warm lemon soufflé!) alternate with barbecues by lantern light in the dry riverbed or boma.



THORNYBUSH GAME LODGE

This family-friendly safari lodge in Thornybush Game Reserve is one of the few in South Africa that welcomes children, six or older, on game drives. At least one morning during your stay, your kids will be asked if they'd like a pool picnic, treasure hunt, bug walk or biscuit baking. Only two of the lodge's duplex-style suites sleep families of five (they double as honeymoon suites) and have private plunge pools, but all 20 offer indoor and outdoor showers (spot the monkeys swinging from the trees!), bathrobes, candles and electric blankets to warm your deliciously comfy king-size bed in winter. There's a lovely spa too. Meals, afternoon tea, bushwalks, twice-daily game drives (with evening sun-downers) and children's activities are included. ◆