



Kambaku  
River Lodge



# KAMBAKU JEWEL ON THE CROCODILE

by Pat Botha | Photos courtesy Kambaku River Lodge

**M**emories of some places tend to stay with you forever – the inside and layout of a room you spent a night or two in, the ambience and the warm memories. For us, one such place is the Kambaku River Lodge, situated on the banks of the Crocodile River. It offers a riverside view of the Kruger National Park where you can spend hours watching animal and bird activities in luxury, comfort and warmth.



## PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE



Aerial view of Kambaku River Lodge, overlooking the Crocodile River and KNP.

### KRUGER MAGAZINE

showcased Kambaku in Issue 4, back in 2018 and shared its history, described the accommodation and all it offers. Tony and Leanne Santana invited us back to Kambaku in May this year, and it really felt like coming home. The luxury, warmth and splendour were familiar – and greeting the staff was like seeing old friends again. Kambaku has grown – not in physical size but has become mature and settled in luxury and comfort while embarking on extras added for its guests.



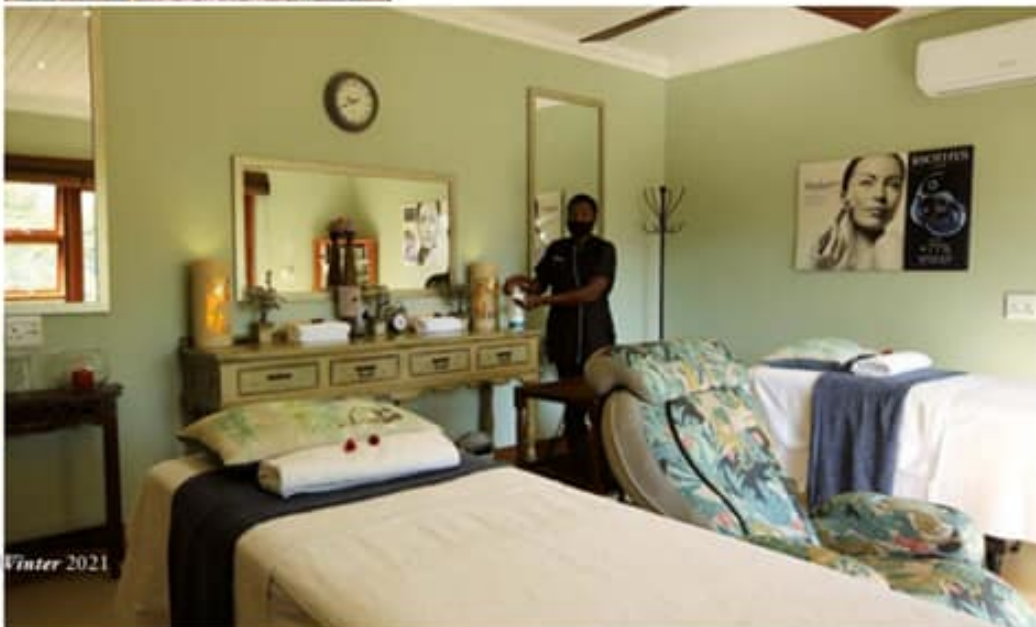
**Watch this!** Scan the QR code or visit <https://youtu.be/tCutedbSfHA> to watch the video: 'Dzombo Spa at Kambaku River Lodge for an ultimate spoil and relaxation'. Published by Kambaku River Lodge.



Kambaku's Dzombo Spa has its own in-house massage therapist experienced in all kinds of treatments. You can either treat yourself to an indulging pampering session at the spa or in the comfort of your suite. The well-known OPI nail products and aromatherapy massages will leave you relaxed and invigorated.



Kambaku's Dzombo Spa.



Kambaku has acquired its own open safari vehicle and experienced guides are ready to take you on game drives offered daily. You can book the game drives with Kambaku, self-drive or just stay at the lodge – the choice is yours. Excursions to the Panorama route are also on offer, as well as trips to Eswatini (Swaziland) and Mozambique. For the avid golfer, Kambaku will book a game of golf at the famous Leopard Creek Golf Course for a day's fun. Airport transfers are also offered.



Open safari vehicle with professional guide Elvis at the helm.

African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana*).




**Watch this!** Scan the QR code or visit <https://youtu.be/T6oJacOMcgl> to watch the video: 'Kambaku River Lodge Activities'.  
Published by Africa Travel Channel.

## PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) – named the Biyamiti Weir Female.



Leanne is involved in the KNP Leopards of Malelane group on Facebook where they are busy building a data base of the leopards, their habits and territories in the Malelane area.

 So far, this group has named 39 leopards that are seen in the area Kambaku traverses and a further five that have been seen, but not named yet.

A very special addition to Kambaku's offerings is hosting specialised wildlife photographic safari workshops in partnership with Panthera Photo Safaris and award-winning photographer Lance van de Vyver.

Blue wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*) cow protecting her calf from a leopard (named Jabari) – on safari with Kambaku.

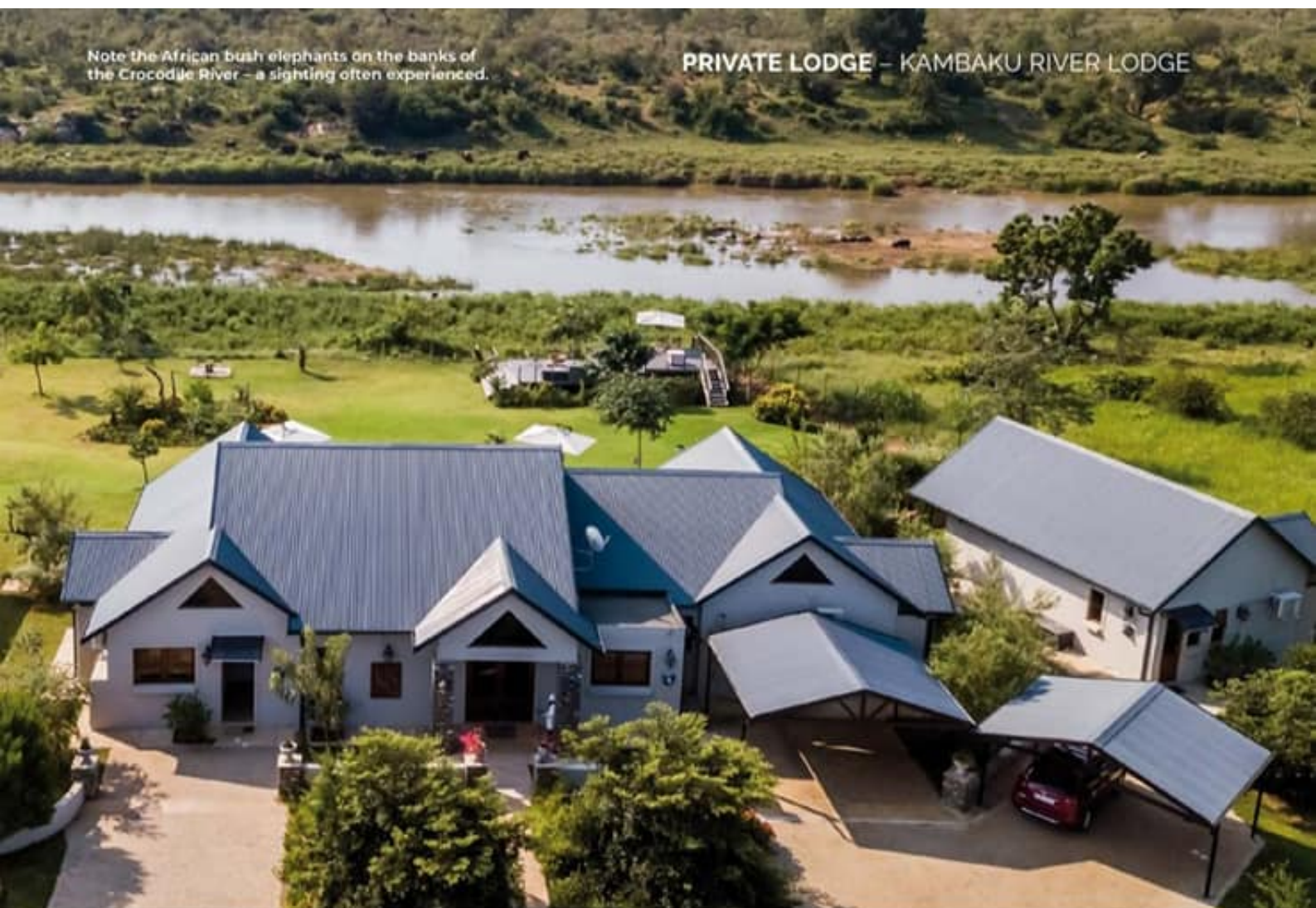


Lion (*Panthera leo*) cub playing – taken on one of the photographic workshops.




Note the African bush elephants on the banks of the Crocodile River – a sighting often experienced.

## PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE



These workshops are designed to get photographers into the best areas to get great photographs and where you take your wildlife photography from 'good' to 'great'. It is a fabulous opportunity to learn the tips, techniques and methods of taking great wildlife images from a professional photographer – so not to be missed as you will gain great insight and knowledge while improving your wildlife photography. Kambaku's open safari vehicle is used for this activity, which includes entering the Kruger National Park, an area renowned for the Big 5 as well as cheetah, wild dog and amazing bird life. A private hide is being built especially for the photographic workshops.

 Kambaku is a birder's paradise with more than 121 species having been identified at the lodge alone and 220 in the surrounding area. This

is a must-visit for avid bird and wildlife photographers thanks to the constant flow of wildlife spotted from your private patio, pool or deck at the fence.

Lilac-breasted roller (*Coracias caudatus*).



## PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE

All bookings are customised to your needs, so you can either book self-catering, or enjoy ordered breakfasts, lunches and dinners or combine both options. You can go for a game drive or stay in. You may even decide to self-cater for the duration of your stay – but you really do have to try at least one dinner and one breakfast, or you will miss out on the fabulous hearty meals Kambaku serves on your private patio. They have also just acquired a fabulous new chef to add to the warm and friendly staff, some who have been with the family for many years.



The covered patio where meals are served.



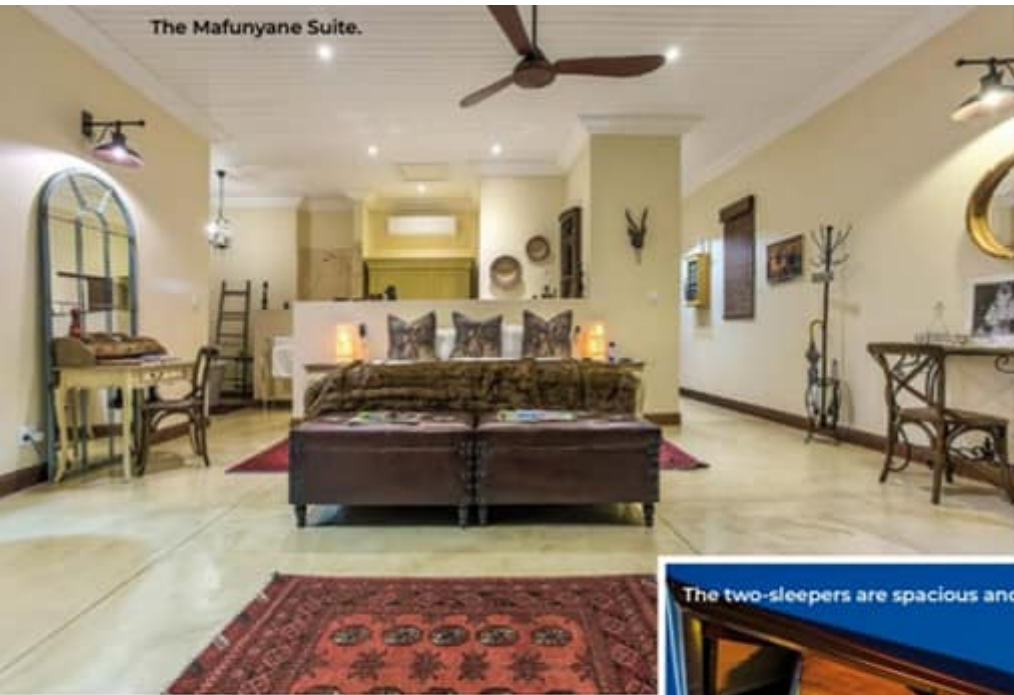
Cuisine at its best – delicious and home-cooked.  
*Food photographs © Lance van der Vyver*



There is a choice of five luxury suites and a honeymoon suite. They all offer river, mountain and Kruger views set in a well-maintained indigenous garden.

The **Joao Luxury River Suite** offers spacious, luxurious accommodation for two guests and is also equipped to self-cater if needed. Attention to detail is found in all the suites and all have a fabulous view of the river, mountains and Kruger.

The Mafunyane Suite.



**i** All these suites have a private covered patio where you can dine and enjoy gorgeous views of the Crocodile River.

Star lit nights can be spent sitting around the fire-pit, listening to the sounds of the surrounding African bush. Late afternoons and evenings are best spent sipping cocktails whilst listening to a herd of African hippo snuffing in the river or the roar of a distant lion.

The **Shawu Luxury River Suite** sleeps two and has an equipped kitchen for those wanting to self-cater. The patio looks out over a sparkling pool and beyond that, the Crocodile River and its regular visits from the Big 5.

*“A very special addition to Kambaku’s offerings is hosting specialised wildlife photographic safari workshops.”*

The **Ndlulamithi Luxury River Suite** has accommodation for two guests. The suite hosts a very spacious bedroom, with an en suite bathroom and when booked on its own is a dinner and breakfast suite only, with the option of also ordering a light lunch from an assorted menu.

The two-sleepers are spacious and luxurious.



Fire pits are lit for evening relaxation.





## PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE

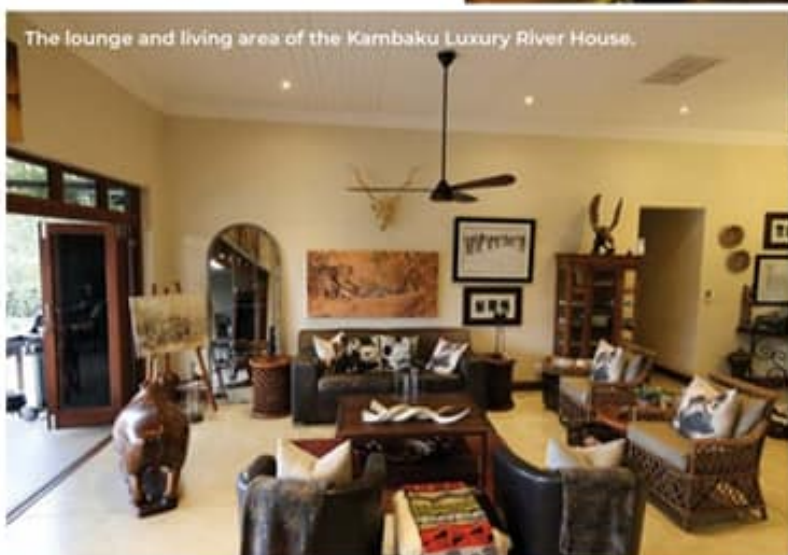
### Kambaku Luxury River

**House** has accommodation for five guests. The house boasts two spacious bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms. The open plan kitchen, lounge, dining room leading out onto a covered patio overlooking the Crocodile River, complete this beautiful guesthouse. A private pool overlooking the river and Kruger National Park is available for the ultimate relaxation. For exclusive use of the Kambaku River House, you need to book both Kambaku and Ndlulamithi if you are a family of six.

An outside view of the Kambaku Luxury River House.



The lounge and living area of the Kambaku Luxury River House.



### Shingwedzi Family Suite

provides luxury, spacious accommodation and is set slightly back from the rest of the suites, giving you more privacy. The accommodation has two bedrooms and a bathroom with a shower. The shower is shared by the second bedroom but there is also a separate toilet and basin for the second bedroom. The suite has a self-catering kitchen for meals. The suite also offers an African outdoor shower that opens out onto the garden, access to a sparkling pool and to the river deck that overlooks the Crocodile River.

The accommodation has a covered patio, private garden, partial view of the river, mountains and the Kruger, which is the perfect place to enjoy a meal.

*The warming African fire-pit is the perfect place to sit on a cold evening and listen to the African orchestra.*

The main bedroom of Shawu Luxury River Suite. Kambaku has a range of South African wines and is fully licenced.





PRIVATE LODGE – KAMBAKU RIVER LODGE

The beautiful sunsets at Kambaku.



The magical night-time ambience.



The Luxury Joao Suite

The suites at Kambaku are all spacious and luxurious with all amenities to ensure a pampering experience. Each suite's private patio and pool ensures privacy, yet you don't feel secluded – rather the opposite. The welcoming warmth and obvious love for hospitality are as tangible as the carefully selected décor and artwork in each suite, which depicts Tony and Leanne's love for nature, wildlife and what they do.

*Thank you again, Tony, Leanne and staff, we enjoyed our stay, and it was good to be 'home' for a while! ■*

**Mafunyane Honeymoon River Suite** offers luxurious accommodation, with its own private plunge pool. This romantic and intimate suite, with a superb view of the Crocodile River, spacious king-size bed, attention to detail in the finishing's, as well as a kitchenette and barbecue/ fire pit facilities, make it the perfect place for visiting couples. When staying in this suite, you can choose to self-cater or take full advantage of the breakfast/dinner options.

Since Kambaku's previous showcase in KRUGER MAGAZINE Issue 4, it has acquired a well-deserved five-star status.



Viewing deck overlooking the KNP.



For more info on accommodation choices at Kambaku River Lodge, go to [www.kambakuriverlodge.co.za](http://www.kambakuriverlodge.co.za)