



The ideal holiday destination to start exploring St. Lucia

Welcome | Bienvenue | Willkommen

Dear Guests,

Welcome to The St. Lucia Eco Lodge! The owner and team are delighted you have chosen to stay with us in St. Lucia, iSimangaliso. We pride ourselves on warm, personal service and genuine hospitality, aimed at making your "SAFARication" memorable.

Please observe and follow any hippo warnings in and around the village of St. Lucia.

SAFARication.

noun [suh-fahr-ee-kay-shuhn]

Where the splendour of unspoilt nature meets modern comfort for an authentic outdoor South African experience.



135 Hornbill Street, St. Lucia, Kwazulu Natal, 3936, South Africa
info@stlucia-ecolodge.co.za | Tel: +27 35 590 1082
www.stlucia-ecolodge.co.za



Important Information

WiFi password: Ecolodge@135

Social Media

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and tag us in your posts
#stluciaecolodge #shakabarkertours

Reception is open 07:00 – 20:00

(extended to 21:00 in August and December).

For after-hours assistance, please contact:

- Off-Duty Reception: 063 622 7659
- Police Station: 035 590 1221/4

Check-out time is 10:00

Late check-out may be possible upon prior arrangement at reception.

Breakfast is served from 07:00 to 10:00

Breakfast packs are available on request – please enquire at reception.

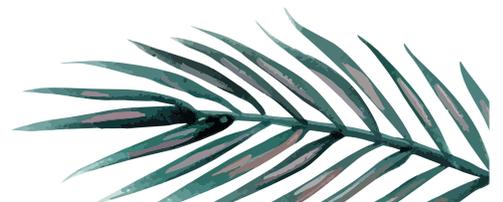
Lunch and dinner are available on request.

Kindly place your booking at reception before 15:00.

Be sure to try our Afro Gourmet Braai, a true South African experience, or choose from our menu selection ranging from fresh fish to lamb dishes.

Airconditioning and lights

When leaving your room, we kindly ask that you switch off the air conditioner and lights.





Caution

Please note that while we make every effort to manage and control small mammals and reptiles, the lodge is adjacent to a major natural World Heritage Site. As a result, we may receive occasional visits from various local wildlife species. Hippo also enter our property from time to time at night. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

Should you encounter any unwanted visitors, please report them to reception and our team will gladly assist.

Tours and Excursions

Our reservations office can provide general information on St Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Tours and excursions can also be arranged should you wish to explore this remarkable area with a knowledgeable guide.

Shakabarker Tours

Whether it's a hippo and croc sunset boat trip, a magical turtle tour, a night safari or a beach picnic and snorkelling in Cape Vidal, Shakabarker Tours have many different options on offer. For those who enjoy a little exercise, we offer guided birding walks and bike rides. Shakabarker Tours and safaris depart daily from reception. Exclusive Shakabarker Tours are available on request.

Information and booking at reception or on our website: www.shakabarker.co.za

SHAKAbarker TOURS

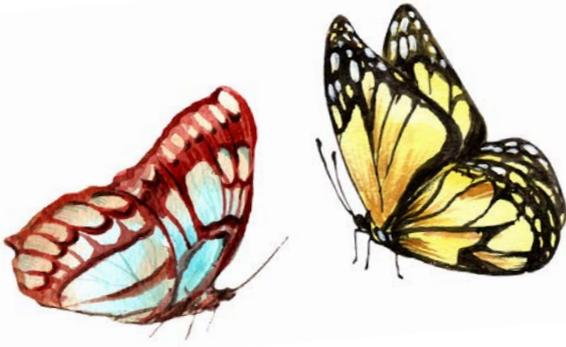
Tours, safari & accommodation in St. Lucia, South Africa



www.shakabarker.co.za

035 590 1162/1071 | info@shakabarker.co.za

Our boats, bikes and safaris leave from your doorstep in St. Lucia Village.



Activities around St. Lucia

On-site & Lodge Activities:

- Estuary boat cruises, including exclusive charters
- Night drives along the Eastern Shores
- Western Shore Safaris
- Night turtle tours
- Any of the above tours can be reserved on an exclusive basis
- Birdwatching – 530 species recorded, 236 at the lodge
- Conferencing, team-building, weddings, special functions and birthdays

Wildlife & Nature:

- Cape Vidal & Wetland Park game drives (Big 5) - exclusive option available
- Eastern Shores excursions - exclusive option available
- Guided Big 5 walking trails (Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park)
- Night Chameleon drives, hiking trails, marine mammal experiences (seasonal)
- Crocodile Centre

Water & Adventure Sports:

- Snorkelling, scuba diving (Sodwana Bay), deep-sea and fly fishing
- Bicycle and mountain bike tours

Cultural & Local Experiences:

- Zulu cultural village tours (Khula Village)
- Historical sites, craft markets, unspoiled beaches

Day Trips & Golf:

- Tembe Elephant Park, Sodwana Bay, Mkuze Game Reserve
- Tiger fishing at Lake Jozini (arranged prior)
- Golf at Monzi Country Club, Umfolozi Country Club and KwaMbonambi Country Club
- **Transfers to and from airports etc.**





About St. Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park

The St. Lucia Eco Lodge is situated in the St. Lucia Estuary, a charming coastal village surrounded by South Africa's first World Heritage Site, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. iSimangaliso Wetland Park was listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 15 December 1999. It is the most ecologically and historically diverse protected area in southern Africa, encompassing a remarkable range of cultural and natural features including Zulu heritage, Lake St. Lucia, the Maputaland coral reef system, extensive wetlands, freshwater lakes and a RAMSAR site.

Covering approximately 1 300 000 hectares, the park consists of nine interlinked ecosystems, creating a unique blend of nature, history, and culture. It also forms an important migratory corridor for many aquatic, aerial and terrestrial species.

Situated on the southern end of Africa's east coast, this tropical coastline is bathed by the warm Agulhas Current. In summer, sea temperatures can reach a balmy 30°C, nurturing vibrant coral reefs that are home to more than 1,200 fish species, as well as turtles and dolphins. During the cooler months (May to September), large migratory populations of humpback whales pass by on their journey to calving grounds north of Madagascar. Throughout the year, this region is a paradise for aquatic and safari lovers.

These warm tropical waters rise and fall against mineral-rich coastal dunes – the highest vegetated sand dunes in Africa and among the highest in Africa at 187m. The restless sands protect ancient nesting grounds of the world's largest reptile, the leatherback turtle, creating a powerful and unique sense of place.

Ancient, east-facing trees greet the sunrise over the Indian Ocean, weathered by salty sea spray. To the west, lush forest and jungle-like vegetation form a tropical paradise, home to a variety of frogs, insects, birds (over 530 bird species), antelope, and primates. This west facing forest borders vast coastal grasslands that stretch northwards along the coastline. These coastal plains are home to a wide variety of large and small mammals.



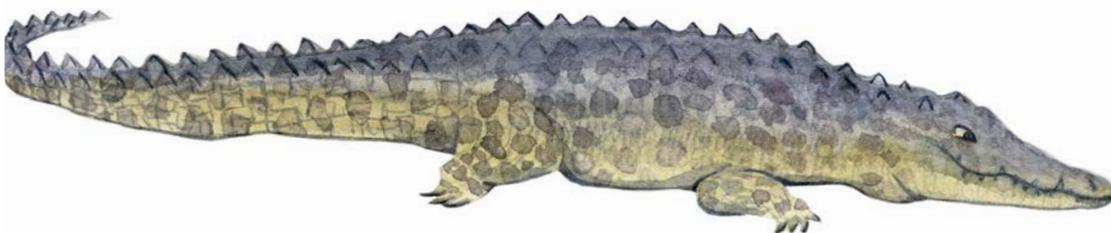
Once afforested with industrial pine trees during the Apartheid era, this landscape has been restored to its natural state. The region is a complex network of water tables, including the deepest peat swamp in the southern hemisphere, sacred Zulu lakes, freshwater streams, and wind-swept grasslands covering ancient marine sand deposits formed as the sea retreated thousands of years ago.

It is not only Africa's largest land mammal, the elephant, that attracts visitors. The sandy tropical grasslands are also home to unique reptiles, birdlife, and fascinating nocturnal creatures.

After dark, over 1,500 hippos emerge from Lake St Lucia to graze on the surrounding plains. Hippos play a vital role in the lake's ecosystem, fertilising the waters with nutrients that support one of East Africa's most important fish and prawn nursery grounds. By day, hippos can be seen wallowing in the waters of Lake St Lucia alongside more than 1,000 crocodiles, as well as countless fish, birds, and invertebrates. At night, they roam across the landscape in search of grass to satisfy their enormous appetites - even entering the quirky village of St. Lucia!

The lake is fed by five rivers and is linked to the Indian Ocean by a narrow channel known as The Narrows, maintaining a delicate salt gradient within the ecosystem. The largest of the northern rivers, the Mkuze, flows through a vast delta at the northern end of the lake, forming a maze of channels and reed beds. The rivers originate in the park's savannah and woodland ecosystems, where the mineral-rich western shores support classic African fauna and flora. The Umfolozi and Msunduzi rivers feed water into this system at the mouth of the Lake St. Lucia estuary.

iSimangaliso is also home to diverse communities. The southern region centres around the lively tourist town of St Lucia, while the vast wilderness stretches northwards to Sodwana Bay, ending at Kosi Bay on the Mozambique border. Here, the Kosi Bay fishing community continues one of the world's most sustainable and traditional fishing practices.





More about St. Lucia Eco Lodge - sun, sea, sand and safari!

Set amidst indigenous and exotic trees, cycads, palms, and lush vegetation, the lodge provides a tranquil, tropical atmosphere. Relax by our sparkling swimming pool overlooking the wetlands or enjoy sundowners on the pool deck.

The lodge is peaceful yet within walking distance of St. Lucia village, with shops, cafés, and restaurants.

Accommodation

Our lodge is designed for comfort and convenience:

- Spacious bedroom/lounge area
- Full bathroom with shower
- Fully equipped kitchenette
- Veranda with garden furniture or individual balconies
- Air-conditioning, ceiling fans, and daily housekeeping
- Lodges can be self-catered, or guests may dine at our restaurant, The Hog 'n' Hippo Bistro (prior arrangement)

Additional amenities

- Full breakfasts, light lunches, and dinner menus available
- Same-day laundry and ironing services
- Wi-Fi in lodge and common areas

Dining – The Hog 'n Hippo Bistro

- Afro Gourmet Braai – traditional South African BBQ with a gourmet touch
- Unique soups, including Biltong & Mushroom
- Ten flavours of Rooibos tea
- Boerewors grilled on the braai
- Classic Mielie pap (African grits)
- Indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the wetlands





Conference & Event Facilities in a World Heritage Site

The St. Lucia Eco Lodge is a rare conference venue on KwaZulu-Natal's Elephant Coast. Just a short drive from Richards Bay airport, it's set amid wetland lakes, forests, and game reserves. We offer a range of comfortable accommodation, including 19 one-bedroom en-suite lodges, 4 two-bedroom family lodges, 2 driver/guide rooms, and 5 luxury Eco Cottages, accommodating up to 73 guests. Overflow delegates can be accommodated at nearby lodges and B&Bs.

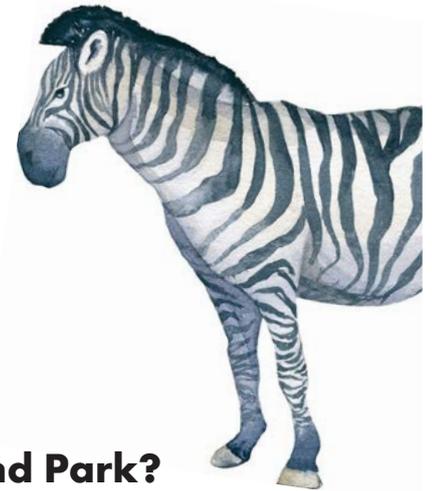
For events and conferences, the lodge features two well-equipped conference venues, a swimming pool and deck overlooking iSimangaliso, and a 120-seater bistro serving seafood and traditional South African cuisine. The bar and deck offer stunning sea views, creating a relaxed tropical atmosphere paired with professional service. Over the years, the lodge has hosted national and international workshops, with delegates from around the world. It has also welcomed VIP guests, including King Goodwill Zwelithini, senior government ministers, researchers from the Max Planck Institute, and members of the NEC and David Blaine – all supported by media coverage from the lodge.

- 1,250 m² of versatile space
- Eco Auditorium – solar-powered, 100% plastic-free, equipped with projector, surround sound, air-conditioning, flip charts, whiteboard, and personalized folders
- Bar and 120-seat Hog 'n Hippo Bistro (including outdoor seating)
- Atrium/exhibition area
- Break-away meeting areas
- Wooden decks with cane furniture and stunning views
- Reception with business centre and covered arrival/departure area
- Swimming pool overlooking wetlands
- Lush tropical gardens for relaxation or photography
- Industrial standby generator for power outages

Seating capacities:

Schoolroom: 60 | Cinema: 80 | Outer U-shape: 38 | Inner & Outer U-shape: 62

The lodge is ideal for conferences, team-building, weddings, product launches and private events.



How well do you know the iSimangaliso Wetland Park?

Covering 1 300 000 hectares of stunning natural beauty, **iSimangaliso is officially South Africa's second largest park and first World Heritage Site**, listed in December 1999 for its outstanding natural values:

Exceptional biodiversity
Unique ecological processes
Superlative scenic beauty

Destinations & Ecosystems:

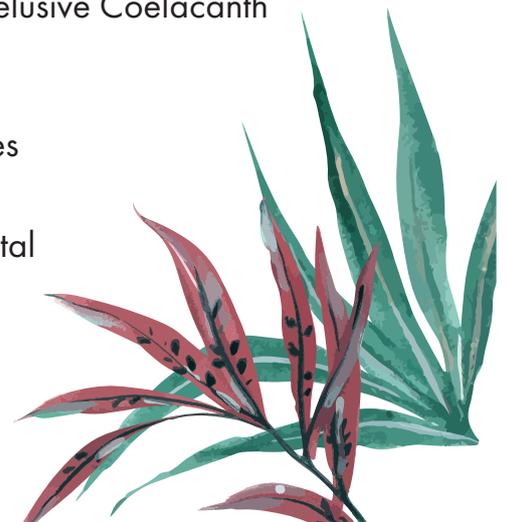
- Nine unique destinations: Mapelane, Lake St Lucia, False Bay, Cape Vidal, Sodwana Bay, Mkuze, Lake Sibiya, and Kosi Bay
- Eight interlinking ecosystems
- Africa's largest estuary: Lake St Lucia – 350 km² of water surface
- Highest vegetated coastal sand dune in Africa – visible from The St Lucia Eco Lodge

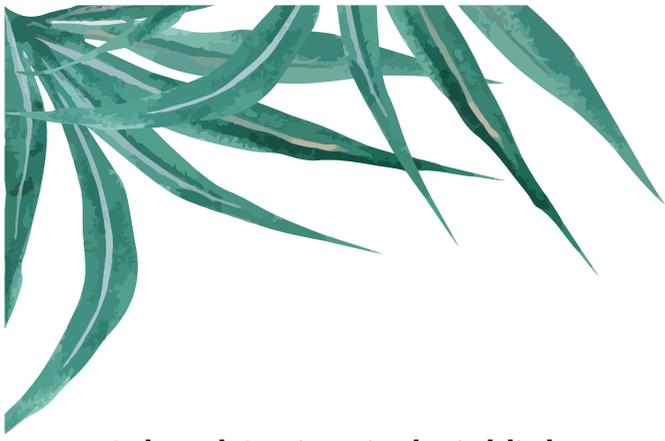
Wildlife & Marine Life:

- Greatest concentration of hippos and crocodiles in South Africa
- Last significant Southern African breeding grounds for giant leatherback and loggerhead turtles
- BIG 5 game reserves, including cheetah and wild dog populations
- 1,245 species of fish and over 100 species of coral
- Sodwana Bay – one of the world's top 10 coastal reefs and dive sites
- Refuge for 105 endangered species of fish, including the elusive Coelacanth

Flora & Fauna:

- More than 4,800 flowering plants, shrubs, herbs, and trees
- 36 species of frogs
- 530 species of birds – over two-thirds of South Africa's total
- 80 species of dragonflies
- 110 species of butterflies
- 25,000-year-old forested coastal dunes





Cultural & Historical Highlights:

- 700-year-old Zulu fish traps
- Birthplace of five African cultures

Location & Accessibility:

- 250 km of marine reserve coastline
- 3 major lake systems
- Only 2.5 hours from Durban's King Shaka International Airport

iSimangaliso is truly a living treasure trove of nature, wildlife, and culture, making it one of the most remarkable destinations in southern Africa.

5 Geographical Features Near St Lucia Eco Lodge

1. Cape Vidal Lighthouse – the only yellow lighthouse in the world
2. iSimangaliso Wetland Park – 1 300 000 hectares of pristine wilderness
3. Indian Ocean – warm, tropical waters along the coastline
4. Highest vegetated coastal dune in Africa – visible from the lodge
5. Lake St Lucia – Africa's largest estuarine lake

5 Historical Highlights of the St Lucia Eco Lodge Area

1. Oldest Declared African Game Reserve – The St Lucia Estuary and Hluhluwe Game Reserve were established in April 1895.
2. iSimangaliso Wetland Park – South Africa's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. Zulu Heritage – Home to one of East Africa's oldest cultures.
4. Santa Lucia (1554) – Named after the ship Saint Benedict.
5. Leven Point (1822) – Surveyed by H.M.S Leven, captained by Lt. Vidal, who named several locations along the coast.

5 Things Our Friendly Staff Can Do for You

1. Bake a birthday or celebration cake for special occasions
2. Car cleaning services
3. Plan a private campfire dinner on the deck under the stars, just for you
4. Prepare a picnic basket for your outings
5. Arrange a beauty treatment for you



Our Commitment to Sustainability

Energy-Saving Initiatives

1. All lighting is LED
2. Integrated solar-heated water
3. Solar-reflective roof paint reduces room temperatures by 30%
4. Electrical 3-phase balancing technology to optimise electricity usage
5. Induction cookers in the kitchen
6. Ceiling fans to complement air conditioners
7. Regular defrosting of freezers
8. Gas cooking in the kitchen
9. A+ rated washing machines in the laundry
10. 85% Solar energy

Water Conservation

11. Drought-resistant garden plants
12. Rainwater tanks and filtered water for the lodge
13. Reduced lawn, more trees for shade and groundwater conservation
14. Water-saving showerheads
15. Dual-flush toilets
16. Indigenous lawns
17. Indigenous shade plants
18. Resident mongoose family to reduce pests naturally – no poisons
19. Drip-dry wash lines
20. Reuse towels encouraged in lodges
21. On-demand water gardens
20. Showers instead of baths
21. Insulated hot water pipes
22. Showers instead of baths
23. Insulated hot water pipes
24. Use of watering cans

Sustainable Food Practices

25. Locally sourced fruits and vegetables
26. Kitchen herb garden
27. Foil-wrapped butter to reduce waste
28. Cloth serviettes
29. Grilled menu options
30. Locally produced honey
31. Whole foods and barbecue service

Chemical & Material Sustainability

32. Use of organic fertilizers
33. Durable, eco-friendly paints
34. Glass recycling
35. Paper recycling
36. Vinegar-softened linen
37. Reuse of plastic drinking bottles for housekeeping
38. Eco-friendly guest amenities

Nature & Wildlife Conservation

39. Bat houses
40. Owl houses
41. Membership in the BirdLife Association
42. Promote birdwatching, hiking, and biking
43. Glass doors to maximize natural light
44. Composting with tree leaves
45. Worm farming
46. All pets sterilized
47. Resident hippos help cut grass naturally

Eco-Events & Experiences

48. Celebrate and embrace all eco-days
49. Whale watching from your ocean-view veranda

Staff Sustainability

50. Bicycles for staff use

