

New luxury lodge under construction in KwaZulu-Natal

The South African tourism industry has received a welcome boost from an international group of companies investing an estimated R200m to develop and operate a new luxury lodge in the Nambiti Private Game Reserve, outside Ladysmith, KwaZulu-Natal.



Known as The Homestead, the new 'conscious luxury' lodge is currently under construction and scheduled to open in the last quarter of 2021.

Development features

The Homestead will be a low-impact lodge, sustainably built and set against the backdrop of the humbling natural beauty of 23,000 acres of the Nambiti Private Game Reserve.

The lodge will accommodate up to 24 guests at any given time in a combination of deluxe suites with private infinity pools and luxury units, all of which will combine privacy with breathtaking views across the reserve.

The main lodge is designed to offer multi-sensory dining venues and experiences, conference facilities, a lavish spa, gym with a view and swimming pool that extends over the edge of the escarpment.

The project is financed by Really Epic Dog (Red), which is headquartered in the USA.

Keeping historical spirit alive

Having purchased the land at the end of 2019, Red has pushed ahead with plans during the Covid-19 pandemic, working closely with acclaimed Durban-based architect, Dean Jay and his team.

The architectural firm has received recognition globally for their work on other leading game lodges such as Singita and Lion Sands .

"The Homestead site evokes a unique spirit of place with the juxtaposition of the existing historical ruins, the lake and escarpment which dates back to 1838," said Jay. "To create a powerfully understated lodge built from endemic ironstone that will harmonise with the history of the landscape."

"As a group of companies, we have a longstanding and deep-held passion for South Africa," said Benjamin Smith, president of the Red Group.

"Although we have all had to deal with what has been an unprecedented time, we have not wavered in our commitment to The Homestead project.

"We not only believe South Africa will emerge from Covid-19 and continue to attract tourists from all over the world, but we want to instill that belief and hope in others by offering our guests a place to reset and reconnect with themselves."

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