




THE ROYAL MALEWANE GUIDING TEAM





MEET THE MOST QUALIFIED Guiding team in Africa

Not just anyone can become a Royal Malewane Guide or Tracker. To join this select group, they have to be committed to conservation, passionate about guiding – and have achieved some of the highest qualifications available.

The standards required to pass these assessments is incredibly high – many try, but few succeed. Of those that do, we're proud to say that a number of them work here at Royal Malewane. Between guiding our guests and inspiring the next generation, they hone their bushcraft every day.

Through persistence and dedication, they've taken their knowledge and skills to an incredibly high level. But don't just take our word for it – ask the people who set the tests and write the exams.

Both FGASA (The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) and CyberTracker are known globally for their exacting standards. They are committed to promoting and celebrating both traditional and modern bushcraft. Qualifications from either of these organisations are your guarantee of an exceptional bush experience in the company of exceptional guides and trackers.

FGASA: The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa.

FGASA's philosophy is one of representing and promoting a high standard of guiding and skills development within the tourism industry for its members. FGASA is a well-known, highly regarded and respected brand across the world.

CyberTracker

Originating in South Africa in 1994 when the first CyberTracker assessment took place in the Greater Kruger, CyberTracker Evaluations are now conducted across the globe as one of the only organisations to offer a standardised testing format in tracking. It was a process designed to celebrate and employ ecological knowledge of indigenous trackers in southern Africa (namely the San of the Kalahari) in wildlife research and conservation. While not all the best trackers in the world are certified by CyberTracker, the system does offer a means to identify the skill level of those who have participated.



WHEN YOU CHOOSE A SAFARI DESTINATION,

It's the guides that make the difference.



There are many differences between a good guide and a great guide. Once you've been on a game drive or a bush walk with a Royal Malewane guide or tracker, you'll never look back.

A great guide and tracker will show you the full wonders of the bush, from iconic species to the smallest details. They'll reveal fascinating secrets, and encourage you to ask questions and dig deeper.

They'll also keep you completely safe thanks to their years of experience and instinctive understanding of animal behaviour.

Our guides and trackers excel at interpreting tracks and signs, and sharing their passion for and knowledge of the bush and the plants and creatures that live there.



WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR IN A GUIDING TEAM

Before you book a safari

1.

Diverse skillsets – experts in different fields, who can add new perspectives to your safari.

2.

Professional Trails Guide and Advanced Rifle Handling qualifications – enjoy safe guided bush walks to complement your game drives.

3.

Guides with SKS Birding and Dangerous Game Qualifications – gain incredible insights into animal behaviour and conservation challenges.

4.

Special interests that align with your own – enjoy a bespoke experience with guides who share your passion for birding, photography or medicinal plants.

5.

Continuous training – guides who stay curious and want to be the best.

6.

Exceptional hosts – guides who are committed to helping you enjoy the best possible bush experiences, whether you're a safari novice or veteran.

7.

Guide and Tracker partnerships – professional chemistry and teamwork can be a real game changer.

8.

Storytelling – our Guides and Trackers are renowned for their storytelling ability of life in the bush.



WHAT MAKES THE ROYAL MALEWANE GUIDING TEAM

The most qualified in Africa?



The Royal Malewane guiding team are never content to just sit on their laurels. They're continuously building on their experiences and adding to their knowledge and skills as they study and practice for even higher levels of qualification.

These higher-level qualifications include FGASA's Special Knowledge and Skills (SKS) Birding and Dangerous Game, Trails Guiding, Trailing, and Tracking.



WHAT MAKES THE ROYAL MALEWANE GUIDING TEAM

The most qualified in Africa?

Together, our guiding team has over 350 years of experience in the African bush. That's a testament to their passion, knowledge, and skill. You really are in safe hands on every Royal Malewane safari experience.

This team has earned the right to be called the most qualified guiding team in Africa thanks to their impressive collection of high-level FGASA qualifications:



QUALIFICATION	Level III Professional Field Guide*	Professional Trails Guide*	Special Knowledge & Skills (SKS) Dangerous Game	SKS Birding	SKS National Birding	SKS Birding Southern Africa
NUMBER OF GUIDES	10	8	5	4	2	1

**The highest qualification attainable*



THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

The most qualified guides in Africa

We are honoured to count some of the very best guides and trackers on the continent among our guiding team here at Royal Malewane.

There are only ten Professional Guides with FGASA Scout status in the world, and one of those, Juan Pinto, is on the Royal Malewane team.

Juan is also a CyberTracker-qualified Master Tracker, along with his colleague Lucas Mathonsi. Only five other people in the world hold this qualification. A third Master Tracker (Jonas Mhula) retired from Royal Malewane after many years in January 2022, while a fourth, Wilson Masiya, passed away in 2015, leaving a remarkable guiding legacy.

Today, Juan and Lucas are the only two active Master Trackers in the Greater Kruger National Park.



JUAN PINTO



YOU'RE IN THE MOST CAPABLE HANDS FOR A

Complete safari experience at Royal Malewane



Now that you know how to distinguish a great Guide or Tracker from a good one, you can understand the importance of having a committed and passionate expert leading your safari experience.

You'll see the difference in the quality of your interactions with your guiding team, the way they personalise your experience to match your particular interests, the focus on your safety, and the variety of knowledge they will share.

Ultimately, you'll appreciate the difference it makes to the memories you'll take home with you.

Combining luxury and premier service with wisdom and experience, the Royal Malewane safari experience is designed to offer you the perfect stay – and to pique your interest in the many wonders of the Greater Kruger.



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THE ROYAL MALEWANE GUIDING TEAM

In their own words

“Being a guide at Royal Malewane is an immense privilege – we get to live and work in one of the most beautiful parts of South Africa, witness the changing seasons and fascinating animal behaviour, and share these incredible moments with our guests. Although I’ve been guiding for many years now, each day brings something new. When a person is tired of the bush, they’re tired of life”.

– JUAN PINTO, DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION, PROFESSIONAL
FIELD GUIDE & MASTER TRACKER



“Guiding was traditionally a male-dominated profession, but I’m happy to say that that’s changing – and I am honoured to be a part of the change. Guiding in the Greater Kruger is about passion, knowledge and curiosity – and I can speak for all my female colleagues when I say that those are qualities we have in abundance. I’m excited to have a job where the learning never stops”.

– NICOLA BARGIACCHI, GUIDE



“As a tracker, I work hand-in-hand with the guides, helping them to interpret the signs that animals leave behind as they go about their daily (or nightly) activities. There’s nothing quite as rewarding as seeing the joy and wonder in a guest’s face when a few barely visible marks in the sand become the clue that leads to a remarkable wildlife sighting”

– KEVIN NGOMANE, TRACKER



“The Greater Kruger is the ultimate classroom, and I’m thrilled to have had the chance to hone my guiding skills here. I’ve learned a great deal from the senior guides – they’re incredible mentors. I’m determined to follow in the footsteps of the great guides of the past and do my best to live up to their standards”.

– DAVID WIGGILL, APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATE





THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

ROYAL MALEWANE

We look forward to welcoming you!

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