



THANDA WINS WORLD TRAVEL AWARD FOR THE 5th TIME

Described by the Wall Street Journal as the “Oscars” of the Travel Industry

2 December 2013

[Thanda Private Game Reserve](#) is thrilled to have once again been recognised as the **World's Leading Luxury Lodge** at the World Travel Awards Grand Final Ceremony. Voted for by travel and tourism professionals worldwide, this impressive accolade recognises the commitment to excellence, which Thanda has demonstrated in the last twelve months.

The prestigious event took place on the evening of the 30th November in Doha, Qatar, where Sphamandla Shabalala, Manager of *Thanda Safari Lodge* was presented with the award before an invited audience of the industry's leading luminaries and the international media. The 5th consecutive time to have won this particular award, Thanda has regularly been distinguished at the World Travel Awards for its exceptional accommodation offering, superb guest service and warm Zulu welcome.

Situated in the heart of Zululand, Thanda is the essence of the ultimate luxury safari experience comprising 14,000 hectares of spectacular wilderness and offering excellent game-viewing opportunities, together with a strong community and conservation commitment. Recently refurbished, *Thanda Safari Lodge* comprises only nine luxury bedrooms that boast breath-taking views of the surrounding game reserve. The suites each have their own spacious lounge area and master bedroom and vast bathroom. They also feature a thatched, elevated sala (outdoor deck), a heated splash pool as well as a private boma for an intimate dining experience. Guests staying here enjoy numerous activities too, from Big Five game drives and specialized bush walks, to Zulu cultural tours into the rural community and photographic safaris, further enhancing their African experience.

Sphamandla Shabalala says: *“We are very proud to once again be judged as the World's Leading Luxury Lodge. This sought-after award gives our staff the recognition that they deserve from committed service and going the extra mile all year round. It is therefore very rewarding that the travel industry appreciates that Thanda offers an exceptional, authentic and memorable experience. As one of only two Luxury African Safari Lodges in the esteemed Leading Hotels of the World group, totalling some 430 world-class hotels, Thanda continues to wow our guests who return time and time again.”*

Celebrating its historic 20th anniversary year, World Travel Awards was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the tourism industry. Described as the ‘Oscars’ of the global travel and tourism industry, the annual programme is renowned as the most prestigious and comprehensive in the travel and tourism industry.

www.thanda.com

More about Thanda

In addition to the *Thanda Safari Lodge*, the reserve comprises *Villa iZulu*, the luxurious safari residence of the Swedish Olofsson family that sleeps up to ten and is available on an exclusive-use basis. Its large heated swimming pool and beautiful, fully fenced garden make it a definite favourite for families. Boasting its own helicopter pad, it is also inclusive of its own chef, butler and waiters, treatment therapist along with a private guide and tracker. *Villa iZulu* is ideal for celebrities or guests wanting privacy and exclusive, discreet pampering. For guests seeking a pared-down safari experience reminiscent of a bygone era, the rustic *Thanda Tented Camp* offers 15 tents and a rim-flow pool, shared boma, lounge and bar areas.

Thanda is steeped in Zulu history and the Zulu culture is embraced throughout the guest experience. It is Thanda’s longstanding and integrated relationship with the local community that makes a stay here exceptional. Furthermore, its strong conservation commitment not only combines support for local and national wildlife programmes, but also invites guests to participate in its own biodiversity and wildlife protection initiatives constantly being carried out on the reserve, all combined to ensure a very worthy and truly unique, memorable stay.

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