




Ulusaba Reserve, SA

 Sir Richard Branson's sprawling estate, Ulusaba, is an A-list favourite for good reason: you're almost certain to see the 'big five' within 24 hours. Located on the border of Kruger National Park, on 13,500 hectares, there's masses of traffic of the four-legged variety. Hippos, elephants, giraffes, you name it. The accommodation is split between two lodges: 11 rooms at Rock Lodge, carved out of a mountain, and 10 at Safari Lodge, which sits on a dry river bed. For true privacy, book the Treehouse suite at Safari Lodge. Access is via rope bridges and your neighbours are the hippos who wallow in a watering hole below.

WOW FACTOR Decadent dinners are often held alfresco in the bush around a fire.

GO Doubles from £418 per person. Includes food, drinks and game drives (ulusaba.virgin.com). Virgin Atlantic (virgin-atlantic.com) flies to Johannesburg from £738 return. Federal Air (fedair.com) offers transfers to Ulusaba from £400 return.

