



That was enough for me, but just to add the 'sherry' on the top, there's also complimentary sherry, safety deposit box and a hairdryer. Each of the 15 tents has viewing decks which look out onto a wide open landscape of thornveld, savanna and acacias. Although you are not ensconced in the bush, the open views and big skies give a sense of freedom. The tents, and main lodge, are ringed by a near invisible electric fence. This means you can walk safely to and from the central lodge to your tent on your own - be it after a dip in the rock swimming pool, or after languishing around the fire at your boma dinner. There are a few large and beautiful kudu that gracefully leap over the fence, ignoring all the rules, and roam around your tent at night.

Nambiti Game Reserve is situated almost midway between Durban and Johannesburg near Ladysmith. This 22 000 acre reserve is rich in wildlife and has interesting biodiversity. It's interesting because of the open grasslands that

seem infinite. When these plains are teeming with hundreds and hundreds of wildebeest at sunset, it beggars belief that you're in KwaZulu-Natal and not in the Serengeti. Like the Serengeti, there are only certain times of the year you get to see this spectacular wildlife display.

In addition to the open grasslands that mirror the plains of central Africa, the Sundays' River cascades down two dramatic 40 metre waterfalls within the reserve. There are valleys and gentle mountains, patches of dense ravine bush and majestic acacia trees. The nutritious vegetation and abundant natural water system with perennial rivers allows a high concentration of game. In addition to the Big 5, you will find over forty other species of game here including cheetah, giraffe, hyena, impala, zebra and of course springbok. Several dams are home to healthy hippo that make their presence known with loud grunts.

Our game drives were rewarding and included good lion, elephant, buffalo

and white rhino sightings. The dedicated rangers stopped to show us all the smaller and interesting happenings in the bush such as the golden orb web spider (*Nephila senegalensis*) which makes the largest and strongest web - so strong is the silk, it's said to be one of the strongest yarns, or 'fibres', in the world.

When we stopped for sundowners on one of the afternoon game drives we enjoyed a spectacular skyline with dramatic cloud displays and were able to see the breathtaking uKhahlamba-Drakensberg mountains of the central Drakensberg which are only an hour and a half away.

Springbok Lodge is a relaxed lodge, with friendly staff, attentive service, wonderful food, and situated near to other attractions, notably the Battlefields. However, for me, once I was there, I decided not to go anywhere else.

