

2 FOR STYLISH NATURE LOVERS AFRICAMPS AT MACKERS

Established six years ago, Mackers started out with camping and cottages, but in July 2018 it partnered with AfriCamps, SA's glamping specialist. The other camps are in the Cape, which makes Mackers its first upcountry site – bang in-between Sabie and Hazyview.

The tents are spaced out close to the water, with a choice of staying upstream, where the river flows calmly, or downstream at the rapids. We stayed in number 8, and could hear the swoosh and burble of the Sabie all night long.

The tents are roomy, decorated tastefully and can sleep up to five people in two quarters. You have the luxury of a bathroom, air con, fireplace (wonderful for winter camping) and a kitchen with a gas stove and oven, fridge and cooking utensils. The braai pit is in front of a spacious deck, under indigenous shade trees; one waterberry had its roots slightly dipping into the water.

All the necessities are stocked in the honesty shop, along with board games to borrow. Guests can also order a self-catering breakfast basket (R110 pp) or dinner braai pack (R175 pp).

DO THIS Book a massage in the comfort of your tent (R600 pp), or de-stress on a sun lounger next to the swimming pool. There's a short but lovely hike upriver, leading to bigger rapids and deeper pools for a dip. If you're lucky, the camp dog will chaperone you – Pig is the 'hippo alarm system' of Mackers; he barks at night if the local hippo ventures too close. Also keep an eye out for a fish eagle mating pair and rare African finfoots and narina trogons – 150 bird species have been spotted in the area.

CONTACT 021-300-5694, africamps.com
PLUS Skyway Trails at Hazyview has a tree-top obstacle course (R190 adults, R160 kids) and 'aerial cable trails' (ziplines) to glide over the Sabie River valley (R540 pp).
skywaytrails.com >

AfriCamps is currently revamping Klaserie Caravan Park near Hoedspruit. Watch this space!



ABOVE The tent's deck with built-in sofa and the waterside braai pit encourage sociable evenings.



Sabie River



10 riverside boutique tents



From R570 pp for the first two plus R200 pp extra (sleeps five)