

A small, detailed line drawing of a bird, possibly a finch or similar small bird, perched on a stylized plant. The bird is facing right, with its beak slightly open. The plant has long, pointed leaves and a central, textured, cone-like structure.

GONDWANA

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

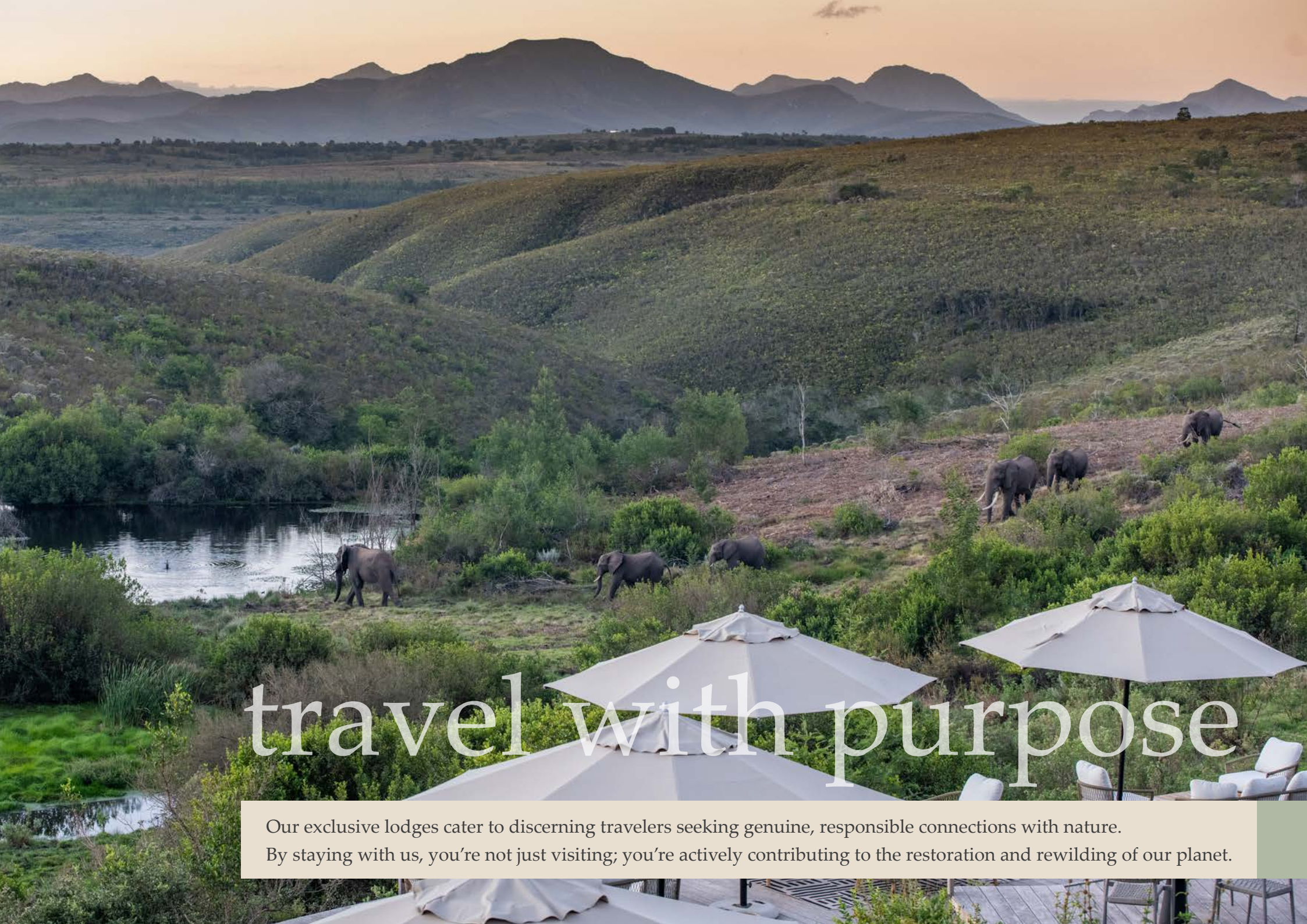
BIG 5 FYNBOS

For 20 years, we've focused on safeguarding, rewilding, and restoring endangered habitats and unique wildlife in three Biodiversity Hotspots at Gondwana Private Game Reserve, benefiting both nature and nearby communities.



rewilded

We view Africa's wilderness and wildlife as its most valuable and sustainable resource.
Pioneering conservation in our region, we're committed to offering world-class, immersive wildlife safari experiences.



travel with purpose

Our exclusive lodges cater to discerning travelers seeking genuine, responsible connections with nature. By staying with us, you're not just visiting; you're actively contributing to the restoration and rewilding of our planet.



Kwena Lodge



Kwena Lodge's unique layout, design, and décor draw inspiration from the nomadic lifestyle of the San people who inhabited this area thousands of years ago, providing guests with a distinctive and culturally immersive experience.

The lodge features expansive facilities, including an open-plan lounge and bar area. Dining options abound in various beautiful indoor and outdoor settings, with two elegant dining rooms situated around fireplaces beneath thatched roofs, and an alfresco dining experience on our striking dining deck overlooking two waterholes. In addition to these amenities, the lodge boasts an infinity pool surrounded by private pool lounging areas, an outdoor pool-side bar with comfortable seating and lounge spaces, as well as a curated curio shop.



Kwena Suites

Romantic Cape Safari Retreat

Kwena Lodge provides an exclusive experience with 14 well-appointed, privately situated bedroom suites. The Kwena Suites dome-shaped thatched structures, draw inspiration from the nomadic dwellings constructed by the San tribes millennia ago. Each suite boasts a comfortable lounge area featuring a wood-burning fireplace. The spacious bathrooms include a deep indulgent bath with a picturesque window, double basins, rain shower, and a separate toilet. Unwind under the outdoor shaded deck area of your suite enjoying breathtaking views of two waterholes and a mountainous landscape. The romantic double pool lounge is an ideal spot to immerse yourself in the surrounding beauty of the Cape landscape.





Kwena Villas

Experience a unique safari retreat with family and friends in your very own private villa adjacent to Kwena Lodge.

Kwena Lodge offers seven exclusive villas. Nestled adjacent to Kwena Lodge, each villa ensures absolute privacy and ample space for families and friends. These three- and four-bedroom villas boast an open-plan design, seamlessly integrating a lounge, kitchen, and dining area. The highlight is the expansive wraparound deck with braai (bbq), which provides breath-taking views of the valley and mountains. Situated adjacent Kwena Lodge but within the expansive reserve, Kwena villas offer glimpses of passing wildlife, including elephants, antelopes, and occasionally, Gondwana's lion pride.





Lehele Family Lodge



Lehele Lodge is Gondwana's exclusive family-friendly Safari destination!

Prepare to ignite your sense of wonder as you embark on a safari adventure with your children, where the wild meets the whimsical at Lehele Lodge. Our comfortable, child-friendly lodge is tailored to families, with a focus on creating enchanting safari experiences for children through activities such as game drives and Gondwana's popular Junior Ranger Programme.

We believe that the safari experience is not just about spotting animals; it's about creating unforgettable family memories. With its cool organic style and warm African flavors, Lehele Lodge is centrally located, offering a spectacular setting to take in the magnificent Cape landscape.

The lodge comprises interconnected dining, reception, lounge, and bar areas, all leading out to expansive outdoor decks overlooking the Reserve and a large waterhole in Lehele Valley, with a dramatic mountain backdrop. Families staying at Lehele Lodge are accommodated in the luxurious, remotely situated Lehele Villas.



Lehele Family Villas

Lehele Lodge offers seven exclusive private villas, each strategically positioned for your family's comfort and convenience.

Gondwana's Lehele Lodge Villas provide all the comforts of home, making them perfect for families and groups of friends. Children aged 3 and older are welcome. The villas are nestled in remote locations, ensuring total privacy for guests to enjoy the beautiful Cape environment and observe passing wildlife. Each spacious villa boasts three or four bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, along with double-volume lounge and dining areas featuring wood-burning fireplaces. Additionally, all villas open onto a wraparound deck offering breathtaking valley and mountain views.





Foster a love for nature with Gondwana's Junior Ranger Programme, specially crafted for children accompanying adults on safari.

Junior Ranger Programme

Under the expert guidance of their ranger, kids will acquire valuable skills in identifying mammals, birds, Fynbos species, and even celestial bodies. By the end of their journey at Gondwana, they will depart with a profound appreciation for conservation and a deeper understanding of our precious ecosystem. Make memories that will last a lifetime with a safari holiday that blends nature and adventure seamlessly!



Ulubisi House



Ulubisi House

Immerse yourself in the ultimate private villa experience at Ulubisi House, where you'll enjoy the dedicated attention of your own personal Field Guide, Chef, and Butler.

Perched amidst the breathtaking landscape of grass plains, fynbos-covered hills, and the majestic Outeniqua mountain range, Ulubisi House is nestled within the reserve's expansive 1000 hectare, Protected and Endangered Species Area. Accommodating either 6 adults or 4 adults and 4 children, the property boasts a full complement of staff, including a butler, chef, and field guide. With a timetable tailored to your preferences, you'll feel right at home from the moment you arrive.

Ideal for friends or families seeking serene, quality time together, Ulubisi House offers unparalleled privacy, interrupted only by the occasional visit from the diverse wildlife that frequents the area, drawn to the refreshing waters of the swimming pool.

****** The name Ulubisi House, meaning Black Harrier, honors the rarest endemic raptor in the Southern Cape. The Black Harrier is frequently spotted at Ulubisi House, as these raptors breed in the area annually.

A gourmet dish is presented on a black plate with a subtle, repeating oval pattern. The dish features two roasted duck legs with golden-brown, crispy skin. Accompanying the duck are several pieces of seared salmon with a caramelized, browned exterior. The plate is also garnished with roasted vegetables, including what appears to be a whole roasted fennel bulb and a yellow bell pepper. Fresh green herbs are scattered throughout the dish, adding a touch of color and freshness. The overall presentation is elegant and appetizing.

Fynbos Inspired Cuisine



We're dedicated to crafting an exceptional culinary experience at Gondwana, where our love for cooking with locally sourced ingredients, especially Fynbos, shines through. Explore the unique flavors of our Cape Fynbos Safari cuisine as we skillfully blend the bounty of our natural surroundings with delicious dishes.



Join us on an
unforgettable
journey into
the heart of
Gondwana
through our immersive
safari activities.
Let Gondwana's
wonders ignite your
spirit and awaken your
sense of wonder.





On safari, you will witness the astounding transformation of the landscape over the last two decades. What was once overgrazed farmland has now been restored. Herds of antelope forge game paths to waterholes, and indigenous birdlife finds safe passage between mountains and sea.

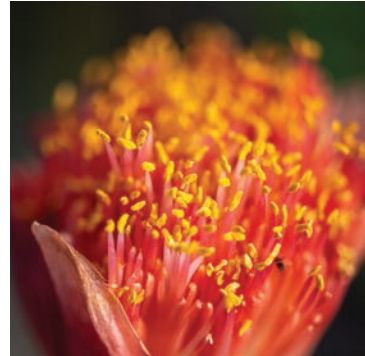


Game Drives

Embark on unforgettable game drives led by Gondwana's expert field guides, who will introduce you to Africa's wildlife in the unique Cape Fynbos environment, offering a truly distinctive safari experience. Encounter the exhilarating Big 5- lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino, Cape leopard- as well as hippo, giraffe, and herds of antelope.

The reserve boasts over 15 species of antelope, including kudu, eland, and waterbuck, while also being home to 17 carnivore species, such as the small-spotted genet and the caracal to name a few.





Guided Fynbos Bush Walk

The Cape Floristic Region, renowned as the Cape Floral Kingdom, holds the distinction of being the smallest among the world's six Floral Kingdoms, uniquely confined within a single country. Designated as a World Heritage Site, this region boasts over one-third of South Africa's plant species, despite occupying less than 6% of the country's total area.

Explore the splendour of our 1200-hectare Protected and Endangered Species Area alongside a knowledgeable guide. Embark on an adventure on foot to truly experience the wonders it holds.



Gondwana Conservation Foundation

The Gondwana Conservation Foundation is a non-profit organization established to contribute to the conservation of South Africa's threatened and endangered wildlife and vegetation, particularly in the Southern Cape region. We achieve this through active management, training, and skills development of local communities.



The four pillars of the foundation;

Endangered Wildlife

The Foundation's habitat restoration and management activities are essential for the conservation of key endangered species such as rhino, bontebok, Cape mountain zebra, and cheetah in the Western Cape. By contributing to halting biodiversity loss, the Foundation pursues a critical objective.

Endangered Vegetation

Through its efforts to restore degraded habitats and implement sustainable land management practices, the Foundation plays a crucial role in the restoration of biodiversity across all ecosystems within the Cape Floristic Kingdom. As the smallest and most critically endangered of all floristic kingdoms, the Cape Floristic Kingdom has been designated as a World Heritage Site.

Social Impact

The Foundation's emphasis on education and outreach, along with its collaborations with local communities, aims to engage and empower them in biodiversity conservation efforts. Recognizing the significance of ecosystem services for human well-being, the Foundation's conservation activities have the potential to enhance these services.

Biodiversity Restoration

The Foundation's strategy aligns with the goals of addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, promoting habitat restoration, and conserving species. By integrating various sectors in biodiversity conservation efforts, the Foundation's approach can contribute effectively to these objectives.





Critically Endangered Flora from three Biodiversity Hotspots

Gondwana is located at the convergence of three critically endangered biodiversity hotspots: the Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo, and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany regions. As a wildlife reserve showcasing the big five, nestled within the biodiverse Fynbos and Renosterveld ecosystems, it stands as a one-of-a-kind destination.



More than 50 plant species documented on the reserve are threatened by extinction.

Since 2019, we have documented over 1,215 species of plants, 62 species of fungi and lichen, 51 species of mammals, 187 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 4 species of fish, 11 species of amphibians, and 904 species of invertebrates on the reserve.



Restoring and Rewilding

Gondwana is home to the southernmost free-roaming elephants, marking a significant milestone with the birth of the first calf in our region in over 150 years.



The Black Harrier is the rarest endemic raptor in Southern Africa, with a global population estimated to be between 1000 to 2000 individuals. Each year, breeding pairs of these harriers can be observed on the reserve.



Scientists estimate that fewer than 8,000 African cheetahs are living in the wild today. Gondwana achieved a significant milestone in the Southern Cape by welcoming the first cheetah cubs born on the Reserve in an open system.



Gondwana is the first reserve in the southern Cape to successfully reintroduce free-roaming lions into a Fynbos habitat. Additionally, brown hyenas and leopards have naturally returned to the refuge of the reserve without human assistance.



Bulbine gondwanae

This particular bulbine species was recently discovered on Gondwana and identified as a new species, previously undescribed. It has been named after the Reserve itself. Currently, Gondwana stands as the sole known habitat for this distinct Fynbos species.



Drepanogynis insciata

This exquisite moth, once believed to be extinct, has been rediscovered on Gondwana. Astonishingly, only a single specimen of this captivating creature had been preserved, residing within the esteemed halls of the Natural History Museum in London, England. More than one individual has been observed on the Reserve and we hope to uncover the mysteries surrounding this near-extinct species.



National Crab Spider Research

The Foundation has made a significant contribution to the field of scientific research by contributing data to the publication of a paper focused on the flat crab spider *Phaenopoma nigropunctatum*, discovered on Gondwana.



Cave Art Over 2000 Years Old

The Foundation has unearthed two caves within Gondwana that served as vital sites for the San hunter-gatherer community over 2000 years ago.



Satyrium muticum

Initially, SANBI listed this ground orchid as critically endangered, with only three locations ever recorded in Mossel Bay, each with fewer than 250 plants per population. It has since been discovered thriving in nine additional locations within the reserve. Gondwana's conservation efforts have upgraded its status to endangered.



Gladiolus roseovenosus

According to SANBI, as of 2008, it was estimated that there were no more than 200 plants left in the wild, historically confined to four populations in the Western Cape. In 2019, the Gondwana Conservation Foundation discovered *G. roseovenosus* on Gondwana and has since been dedicated to monitoring and conducting research on this beautiful plant.

Wildlife

The journey embarked upon with the reintroduction of native herbivore populations, including eland, red hartebeest, and Cape mountain zebra. It reached its pinnacle with the triumphant return of the iconic Cape buffalo, white rhinoceros, African elephant, and lion. Two decades of unwavering conservation endeavors bore fruit as indigenous wildlife like leopard, brown hyena, aardwolf, and black-backed jackal, along with the majestic Cape vulture, naturally reclaimed their place within the reserve.



Protected and Endangered Species Area

Within our 1000 hectare, Protected & Endangered Species Area, we proudly harbor two vulnerable Cape endemic mammals: the bontebok and the Cape mountain zebra.

The bontebok, native to the Western Cape, faces a precarious existence with only a small population of approximately 3000 individuals remaining.

The Cape mountain zebras were on the brink of extinction, with their numbers plummeting to just 80 individuals in the 1950s. Today, their population has rebounded significantly, with an estimated 4,790 individuals thriving in the wild.



A lioness stands in the center of the frame, facing away from the camera and looking towards the background. In the foreground, a male lion with a large mane is lying down, looking towards the camera with its mouth slightly open. Next to him are two lion cubs, one of which is also looking towards the camera. The background shows a savanna landscape with dry grass and scattered bushes. A blue safari vehicle with people inside is visible in the distance, slightly out of focus.

Enjoy an immersive Cape safari on Gondwana and become an intricate part of our conservation legacy and the exciting journey ahead.

GONDWANA

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



Reserve GPS: 34° 04' 51.78" South | 21° 54' 40.74" East
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