



# I Departure couple gets a visit from giraffe in the backyard

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**As true Africa fanatics, Edwin (51) and Kirsten (50) dream of emigrating one day. But they didn't expect it to happen so quickly. After Edwin ends up in the hospital after an accidental fall with the moped, the couple chooses to chase their dreams. The great adventure can be followed in 'Ik Vertrek'. How are their lives among the wild animals now?**

## "The end result is really fantastic"

Exchanging Bennekom for Hoedspruit, close to the Kruger Park: it's a big change for Edwin and Kirsten. For 250,000 euros they take over two lodges, one of which is intended for rental. The couple finds life among the wild animals more exciting than expected - they come to visit every day - and they have to get used to the South African mentality. They run into this especially during their major renovation in May.

"In the Netherlands we are well acquainted with managing construction workers in construction projects. But that is different here. This took a lot of getting used to for us. They are things you think, you are joking. But it is serious and we deal with this learn to go," they say.

To cite a few examples: when the workers receive their salary at the end of the month, they drink so much on the weekend that they don't show up for work on Monday. But that's not all. "It was impossible to measure a wall, because the person to whom he had lent his pencil had that day off," said Edwin and Kirsten. "Everything is available here in the shops. But it can sometimes take weeks before something is back in stock. Even if you have ordered it."

To make matters worse, they contract the coronavirus. "Combined with the emigration, the technical language, the working method, the cultural habits, working days from 6 am to 10 pm, this became very much. At the end of July we were so badly demolished that our energy level was zero."

Due to the contamination, they have been out of the running for a while, so the couple has slept a lot and taken the time to recover. "After that, we were able to start the final construction phase again with a lot of energy and in the end the contractor picked up everything properly and all construction work was completed."

"The paving has been completed and the desert garden at the lodge has since been turned into a bush oasis, complete with lighting for the dark hours. The end result is absolutely fantastic and it is a wonderful place to stay among the wildlife."

Other people have also discovered this. Edwin and Kirsten say they enjoy the contact with their guests immensely. "And the guests are amazed at the fact that you can see so many beautiful animals from your suite. The zebras, giraffes and nyalas visit our lodge daily. So special to live among these."



