Investing in the great outdoors

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Balugha River Estate, near East London
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WORDS GEORGINA GUEDES :: PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Modern residential estates are not only about the type of homes and services offered. These developments are private open-parkland wildlife sanctuaries and equestrian spaces, aimed at giving urban residents a sense of getting away from it all. Chad amongst these are eco-estates.

“Eco-estates have become the trend in developing real estate – particularly in areas rich in natural beauty,” says RE/MAX’s Boshoff. “The estate has 83 hectares of bushveld surroundings with many walking trails and free-roaming wildlife. It also has its own medical care centre and a range of sporting and other facilities.”

“Eco-estates offer large spacious homes as they visit a bushveld setting. Of course, the reason they can do this is because of the significant investment in security,” says John Hart, property director of Serengeti Estate, situated between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Retirement

Eco-estates also present a compelling case for retirement investors. The NGO Klein Karoo sustainable lifestyle estate bordering the Klein Karoo Resort outside Oudtshoorn, an hour from Plettenberg Bay, has been developed for residents of 50 or older.

Security

Security is always a top concern. Wildlife and eco-estates often appeal because security measures make sure residents feel safe in these open spaces.

“Eco-estates essentially offer a lifestyle that has become lost to us; one where we had the freedom to walk out of our front doors without giving any thought to possible dangers and threats. Of course, the reason they can do this is because of the significant investment in security,” says John Hart, property director of Serengeti Estate.

Estate situated between Johannesburg and Pretoria

“With dramatic cliffs over the ocean and indigenous forests, it is hard not to fall in love with Breakwater Bay,” says Neil Tucker, principal agent, Grip Realty.

While gorgeous natural surroundings are a big drawcard for many investors in eco-estates, it is what the estate offers in terms of management that appeals to those who wish to offer a lifestyle that has become lost to us; one where we had the freedom to walk out of our front doors without giving any thought to possible dangers and threats.

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outlets and work,” says the game estate director Brendan Falkson.

Mahathunzi, which borders Hilton College in the Midlands, will give residents the thrill of living on a declared nature reserve. Mahathunzi, with the adjacent Karkloof Safari Spa, is in the process of having the entire 3,000ha area declared a nature reserve through the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

WESTERN CAPE
Nature estates are also booming around and near Cape Town, with the city already offering staggering scenery close to urban centres. Boskloof Eco-Estate is in the Helderberg Basin with south-facing sea views that include Table Mountain and the False Bay coastline. This estate encompasses the natural beauty and splendour of Cape mountainside flora in a secure, private nature reserve of 51ha. The estate has 73 exclusive homes. It has prohibited further development to preserve its scenic and ecological qualities.

On the Garden Route, Breakwater Bay on the cliffs of Herolds Bay is a private, natural estate, only 20 minutes from George. The secure estate offers access to a private nature reserve on the outskirts of the city. Gondwana Game Reserve near Mossel Bay offers private residences on the reserve, which has the Big Five.

GAUTENG
In Gauteng, the Blair Atholl Golf & Equestrian Estate recently brought to market the last tranche of 80 vacant residential stands. With a natural urban migration to the west of Johannesburg increasingly evident, Blair Atholl Golf & Equestrian Estate, with its easy access to Lanseria Airport, appeals to affluent home buyers seeking secure and elite estate living,” says estate developer David Nagle.

Meanwhile, east of Johannesburg, Serengeti Estates has launched a new cluster village, The Signature Residences. Serengeti has traditionally offered freehold homes, ideal for people who wish to have a custom-designed house.” says estate developer David Nagle. “We wanted to broaden our appeal and so introduced the Whistling Thorn apartments in 2017—ideal for first-time or entry-level buyers. With the launch of The Signature Residences, we’re extending our reach further.”

The Signature Residences is aimed at young families who want space, with a garden and swimming pool, but want to avoid the maintenance associated with a freehold home. In Limpopo Province, Zandspruit Bush & Aero Estate in Hoedspruit delivers African bush living, allowing homeowners to immerse themselves in the bushveld lifestyle.