

LEFIKA VILLAS AND THE NEW ERA OF SUN CITY

Inside Sun Vacation Club's Ultimate Family Holiday Offering

Sun City is one of those rare destinations in South Africa that holds as much nostalgia as it does modern appeal. Since opening its doors in December 1979, the resort has evolved from being a glitzy entertainment and gambling haven into a true family destination – one where memories are made, traditions are kept, and new generations of South Africans and international visitors continue to discover its magic.

Sun City is one of those rare destinations in South Africa that holds as much nostalgia as it does modern appeal. Since opening its doors in December 1979, the resort has evolved from being a glitzy entertainment and gambling haven into a true family destination – one where memories are made, traditions are kept, and new generations of South Africans and international visitors continue to discover its magic.

Last month, my family and I reacquainted ourselves with Sun City by experiencing one of its newest jewels – the Lefika Villas – and rediscovering just how much the resort has to offer for families of all shapes and sizes.

THE EVOLUTION OF SUN VACATION CLUB

One of the resort's most enduring innovations is Sun Vacation Club, Sun City's modern spin on the timeshare model. Instead of locking guests

into decades-long agreements, Sun Vacation Club offers more flexible five- or ten-year memberships. Members can choose Peak Weeks for guaranteed holidays during school breaks, or Flexi Time, which unlocks 41 weeks outside of the peak periods. What makes it worthwhile is not only the guaranteed holiday but the fact that your destination is South Africa's favourite family resort.

Sun Vacation Club currently offers three distinct options – The Aviary, The Reserve, and the brand-new Lefika Villas – each designed for different budgets and tastes, but all with one common goal: to provide comfortable, luxurious, and fully equipped self-catering holiday homes with easy access to all of Sun City's activities.

LEFIKA VILLAS: THE NEW BENCHMARK

Lefika Villas opened in December 2023, barely a year after construction began, and they have already become the flagship offering in Sun Vacation





Club's portfolio. These villas are designed as either three-bedroom units that sleep eight or four-bedroom units that sleep 10, making them ideal for families and groups of friends. Nestled against the slopes of the Pilanesberg, they are inspired by African heritage and the surrounding natural beauty.

We stayed in unit 25, a three-bedroom villa overlooking the Sun City basin with sweeping views of the resort and the iconic Palace of the Lost

City. Although guests cannot choose a specific villa when booking (the resort handles allocations), each is positioned to offer a unique outlook, whether across the resort grounds or into the surrounding Pilanesberg bush.

The villa itself is a sanctuary. Spacious, elegantly appointed, and designed with convenience in mind, it ticks every box a family could ask for. The open-plan living and dining space is anchored by a modern kitchen equipped

with all the essentials and more – from a dishwasher and microwave to a coffee machine with pods and even an air fryer. The patio outside comes with a braai area and enough seating for the whole family to gather and unwind after a day's activities.

Each of the three bedrooms boasts an en-suite bathroom, with the main suite offering the added luxury of a bathtub. The daily housekeeping service makes the stay even more carefree, leaving families free to focus on enjoying their holiday rather than worrying about chores.

LIFE BEYOND THE VILLA

As comfortable as Lefika Villas are, Sun City has never been about staying put. The resort is designed for exploration and adventure, and in that regard, it still delivers in abundance. From the moment we checked in, the sheer variety of things to do was almost overwhelming.

For families, the Valley of Waves remains a showstopper. Saturday afternoon saw us plunging down slides

like The Viper and Ovango, while the kids braved the wave pools and Lazy River with unending energy. That morning, however, belonged to Kamp Kwena, the resort's dedicated children's centre. Here, the little ones spent time learning, playing, and marvelling at the wonders of Predator World.

While the children were entertained, the rest of us joined Gilbert, a Segway expert whose professionalism and charm made our hour-long guided ride across the resort grounds an experience to remember. Few things compare to gliding through the landscaped beauty of Sun City on two wheels.

Of course, the activities don't stop there. Golfers can test themselves on the famed Gary Player Country Club course, adrenaline seekers can parasail or zipline, and families can enjoy everything from Ten Pin bowling to giant chess. Then there's the shopping, the dining, and the shows – proof that Sun City is still every bit the entertainment capital it was in 1979, only with a much more family-friendly twist.

EXPLORING THE AVIARY AND THE RESERVE

During our stay, I also took time to explore the other Sun Vacation Club options – The Aviary and The Reserve. Both are excellent in their own right, offering slightly different takes on the self-catering holiday.

The Aviary is a collection of modern, spacious two-bedroom units that sleep six. Surrounded by birdlife and the rugged beauty of the Pilanesberg, they strike a balance between convenience and comfort, with en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and covered patios with built-in braais.





The Reserve, meanwhile, takes inspiration from the local wildlife. The units here - available in two- or three-bedroom configurations - are plush and welcoming, with décor and finishes reflecting the Pilanesberg's natural richness. These units also feature all the expected conveniences, with Wi-Fi, en-suite bathrooms, and private braai areas. The Reserve is currently

undergoing a refurbishment that will elevate the experience even further when completed in 2026.

A SPECIAL MENTION

One of the standout features of our weekend was the staff. From the warm welcome at the main gate to the professionalism at Lefika Villas' reception, to the attentive housekeeping team, every



The Reserve

interaction was marked by friendliness, professionalism, and a genuine sense of pride. The service culture at Sun City deserves special recognition, as it elevated an already enjoyable weekend into something truly memorable.

Our weekend ended on a high note with a specially arranged breakfast at The Palace of the Lost City. Recently refurbished and given a distinctly South African flair by Michelin-starred chef Jan-Hendrik van der Westhuizen, the buffet offering was exceptional. While it isn't available to Sun Vacation Club members by default, it is worth experiencing at least once. Think of it as a culinary exclamation point at the end of a holiday that is already packed with highlights.

WHY SUN CITY STILL SHINES

As we packed up on Sunday morning, refreshed and recharged, it struck me that Sun City has managed to do something few resorts can pull off: it has evolved with the times while keeping its core identity intact. The resort that once dazzled visitors with neon lights and Vegas-style allure has matured into something deeper, richer, and far more inclusive. Today, it is as much a part of South African culture as



the braai or the big game safari.

For families, Sun City is no longer a question of whether it's worth visiting. The real question is why you haven't yet invested in the experience. With options like The Aviary, The Reserve, and the luxurious Lefika Villas, Sun Vacation Club ensures that your family not only gets a holiday but a tradition – one that can be revisited year after year.

And when you drive away, with memories of laughter, sun, and adventure still fresh in your mind, you'll know why Sun City continues to shine brighter than ever. 📍