

# Zandspruit: The **ultimate** Aero Estate?



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**ONE OF THE** pleasures of being a pilot is the ability to escape the humdrum of daily commuting. This gives pilots the freedom to choose where to live - and the Lowveld is becoming an increasingly popular option. The Lowveld and in particular Hoedspruit, is famed for its warm sunny weather, unspoilt natural habitats and wildlife and low crime rates.


Hoedspruit is just over an hour's flying (at 150 knots) to Gauteng's general aviation airports and is connected by Airlink to OR Tambo from Eastgate Airport. With open roads it can be a four hour drive to Gauteng (which is about the same time as a typical airline commute to Cape Town).

It is therefore not surprising that a number of OR Tambo based airline pilots already live in the area. Now, Zandspruit Aero Estate is being launched to provide residents with the best of all worlds. Zandspruit is built around a 1000m tarred runway. The 38 aero stands will have their own hangars with direct access to the runway. It will be part of a large game reserve and so will be strictly ecologically controlled. Although serious crime in

Hoedspruit is minimal it will still be a security estate.

Zandspruit is situated within easy walking distance of Hoedspruit's growing shopping centres and mall so, although residents will be living in an unspoilt game reserve, they have convenient access to all the nearby luxuries including major retail chain stores and coffee shops. In addition, there is the excellent Southern Cross School within walking distance.

Owners may choose to live on the runway with a hangar on their property or they may live away from the runway on one of the 130 bush stands and share communal hangars. There are price options to suit all pockets, from affordable complete houses on the main road from R365 000 to large stands costing up to R1.8 million overlooking both the majestic Drakensberg and the Zandspruit River bed running through the reserve. Developer Martin den Dunnen drove us around the 650 hectare area set aside for the game reserve. It is teeming with wildlife. The game reserve will be left untouched, with just gravel roads, but the residential area will have cemented roads, thus keeping down the all pervasive dust in winter.

Stand buyers will be able to design their homes within a broad set of architectural guidelines, allowing for a variety of roof types and not just the usual thatch. For those who yearn for the wonderful lifestyle that living in Africa can offer and who want the added bonus of living with or near their own aircraft, Zandspruit seems an ideal solution. 



**1:** Developer Martin den Dunnen points out how residential stands will be placed around the 1000m runway.

**2:** The view from a stand on the runway.

**3:** Nearby Hoedspruit Civil Airport is just an hour's flying from Gauteng.

**4:** The existing 800m air-strip with the beginning of the new runway to its left.

