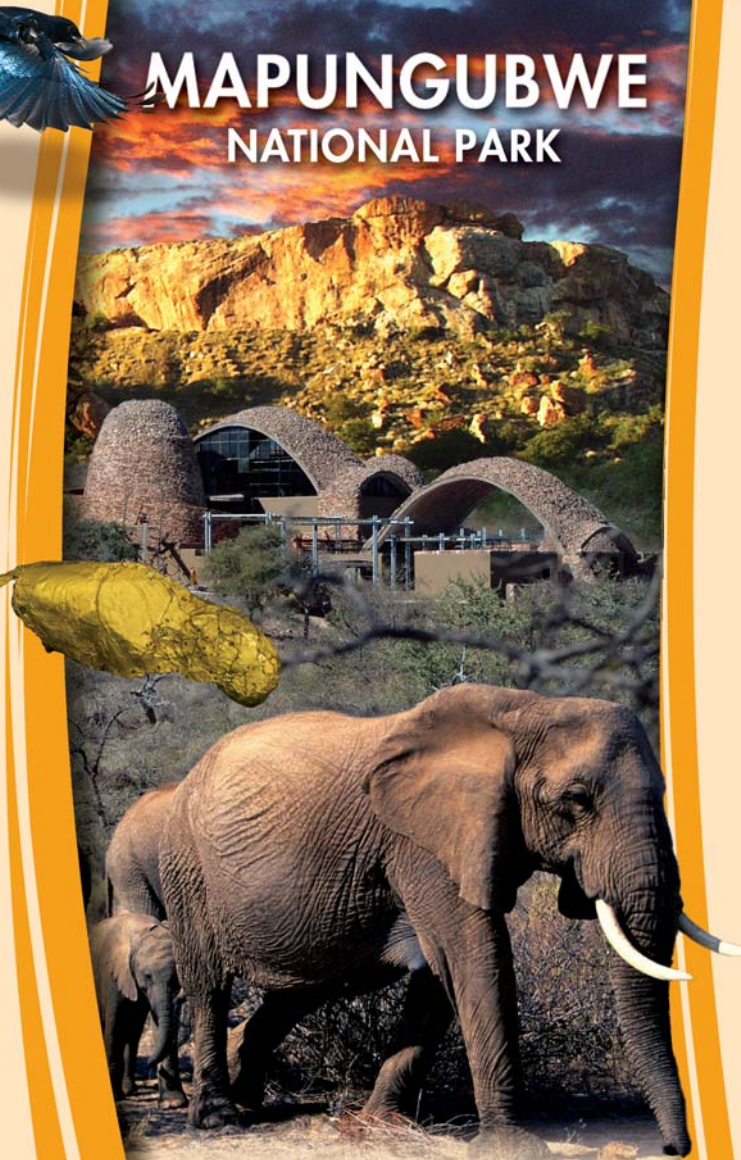




South African  
NATIONAL PARKS

# MAPUNGUBWE NATIONAL PARK



***World Heritage Landscape***

YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE

## Mapungubwe National Park

### "World Heritage Landscape"



Located in the northern part of South Africa, where the country meets with Botswana and Zimbabwe, lies a landscape that is filled with historical conquests and wonders. Mapungubwe National Park is as rich in history as it is in wildlife and flora. It is located where the mighty Shashe and Limpopo Rivers join, and is filled with numerous patches of land that possess traces of ancient civilizations and artefacts.

South Africa's first kingdom was established here just prior to 1300 AD. Home to a powerful tribe that flourished on trading with Eastern cultures such as China and India, Mapungubwe saw the rise and fall of this great civilization more than 700 years ago. The only evidence of their existence are the numerous artefacts and artwork left behind, merely hinting at their everyday way of life. Today Mapungubwe serves as both National Park and World Heritage Site because of its extraordinary contribution to the country (and the world's) historical and natural heritage. Its natural wonders have not ceased to exist, and are still continuing to amaze visitors.

Set foot on the grounds of natural heritage, and hear the echo of historical cultures.



## Leokwe Rest Camp



The main rest camp, which is situated in the eastern section of the park. It is a wonderfully located setting, sheltered by the spectacular surrounding sandstone hills, mixed woodland and baobab trees. Guests can relax in comfortable 2x4 and 14x2 bed family cottages, complete with air-conditioning and open plan kitchens. The kitchens consist of a fridge, microwave and hotplates, while all the required cutlery and crockery is provided. 2x2 bed cottages come with shower and toilet and provide easy access for disabled persons. The camp is unfenced, inviting the wild side of the environment even closer, that allows for an unforgettable experience. Visitors can also enjoy the camp's swimming pool and revel in the African warmth on the sundeck. The central braai area will allow for socialised evenings with friends and neighbours.



## Limpopo Forest Tented Camp



Allow your senses to unwind in the Limpopo riverine forest in the park's western section. This camp offers the guest spacious rooms to relax in, and can cater for 16 people in eight 2-bed units. The forest tents are self-catering and each has a bedroom, open deck, kitchen, shower and toilet. Physically disabled people are catered for with one semi-luxury forest tent with a 2-bed bedroom, kitchen, shower and toilet. The camp is closely situated to archaeological sites and other fascinating attractions that include San rock art. Birders will feel right at home, as the camp provides excellent opportunities to catch glimpses of the area's unique birdlife. A unique eco-trail is provided, as well as a swimming pool to cool off in. The camp is within close proximity of the Maloutswa Pan hide.



## Mazhou Camping Site



Guests staying over in this snug and comfy camping site are very close to the Limpopo Forest Tented Camp in the park's western section. It caters for 10 caravans, tents, and each camping site has a power point. Guests are to check in at the Mapungubwe Main Gate. A Pensioner Discount is available from Sunday to Thursday nights within the normal Pensioner Discount Periods.

## Vhembe Wilderness Trails Camp



This camp is located in the park's eastern section, and is built on a small ridge within a beautiful valley. Guests are walking distance from the Limpopo River and the infamous Mapungubwe Hill. Comfortable cabins provide 2 single beds, each with an en-suite bathroom. No plug points are available, as the camp runs on solar-generated electricity. A fully equipped communal kitchen and lapa are shared by the four units.



## Tshugulu Lodge



Experience bushveld lavishness where the large and dangerous like to roam. Unguided walking is not permitted, as guests will be sharing their stay with the surrounding wildlife inhabitants of Mapungubwe. A striking setting of giant regal baobab and mashatu trees, riverine forests and allied plains. This luxurious lodge can house 12 guests in 6 bedrooms, making it the unique retreat for intimate groups of people who enjoy gathering around the campfire to share stories of the day's wildlife sightings. Added commodities include an equipped kitchen, a bath, swimming pool and an exclusive eco-trail where one gets to learn the secrets of the surrounding environment. The lodge is accessible with normal sedan vehicles.

Mapungubwe's accommodation caters to a variety of guest requirements. For more information contact reception or log on to our website: [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)



## Facilities



Game Hide



Info at Reception



Picnic Site



Wheelchair Access

- Leave it to the park's swimming pool to cool off and refresh yourself.
- Take advantage of the picnic spots to dine "out and about" style and get closer to nature.
- Visit the game hides and experience the wild side of Mapungubwe.
- Various eco routes throughout the park will ensure pleasant 1 on 1 encounters with the striking environment and its various inhabitants.

\* Please note: The closest shop and filling stations are at Musina and Alldays.



## 5 Wildlife to Seek

1. White Rhino
2. Cheetah
3. Spotted Hyena
4. Elephant
5. Steenbok



## Activities

This northernmost park of the country intends on making everyone's stay as pleasant and memorable as possible, with a range of accommodation and activities that are sure to fall within everyone's liking.

- Bird watching – grab your binoculars and camera and see some of the country's most splendid birds roam the African skies.
- Game viewing – experience Mapungubwe's wild side by tracking down the animals that are known to wander these bushvelds..
- Tree Top Walks - take a high walk among the riverine forest on a raised canopy walk that takes you to a hide overlooking the Limpopo River.
- Night drives – experience the wildlife at night, when it's playtime for the predators.
- Guided Walks – accompanied by skilled and professional rangers, guests can partake in hikes throughout the park to discover the secrets of the bushveld firsthand.
- Vhembe Wilderness 3-day trails – overnight at an exquisite camp 14 km from the main gate. 4 cabins can accommodate 8 people per night.
- Cultural Attractions – these include anything from viewing the Mapungubwe Hill where a glorious history took place, or viewing the remarkable collection of San art throughout the park.

\* Please note: San Art tours will be available soon.

These activities will ensure an exciting bush experience. All bookings as well as further details for these activities are available from reception.



Guided  
Bush Walk



Night Drive



Swimming  
Pool



Vehicle  
Trails



Wilderness  
Bush Walk

## Flora and Fauna

### Game

Visitors will delight in the abundance of different wildlife species to be spotted at Mapungubwe. Remember the camera to take your own stunning pictures of sought-after species like eland, blue wildebeest, giraffe, lion, leopard, zebra, klipspringer and many others.

### Birding

Because of its new status, Mapungubwe is relatively unexplored when it comes to birding. And because of the area's close proximity to Botswana and Zimbabwe, who knows what species could turn up?

Regular feathery friends (more than 400 of them) of the park include Meve's (Longtailed) Starling, the quite shy Pel's Fishing Owl, Verreaux's (Black) Eagle, Common and Thickbilled Cuckoos. Guests can also expect to see White-crested Helmetshrike, African Fish Eagle, Kori Bustards, Ground Hornbill and a host of other species.



### Vegetation

Mapungubwe's numerous habitat types have resulted in a high diversity of different plant species. There are at least 24 Acacia species and 8 Commiphora species, amongst other. Other vegetation include a typically short, fairly dense growth of shrubby Mopane trees, generally associated with a number of other trees and shrubs, as well as a sparse and tufted grassveld. The riparian fringe of the Limpopo is very important in terms of conservation. It is a beautifully dense vegetation community with a closed canopy which occurs in the rich alluvial deposits along the river. The most striking trees to be found here are Fever trees, Ana trees, Leadwoods and Fig trees. Lastly, some extremely large baobabs can be seen in the park, painting Mapungubwe as an otherworldly kind of paradise because of these gigantic "upside down" trees.



## General Information

### Climate

Enjoy the mild summers, the rich colours of autumn.

### Day Visitors

Mapungubwe has a designated picnic site for day visitors, who can otherwise make purchases at the shop. Mapungubwe does not have gas braai's but wood is available at the shop.

### Tariffs

All tariffs are available from reception or on our website: [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)

### Handy Hints

Visitors are advised to use malaria prophylactics and a mosquito repellent, as Mapungubwe is a Malaria Zone.

### Travel / How to get there

The Park is situated about 480 km north of Pretoria. The Park can be accessed via the N1 North to Polokwane, and then following the R521 to Dendoor / Poudrift. From here, simply follow the signs to the main entrance gate.

Mapungubwe National Park can also be easily accessed through Kruger National Park via Pafuri Gate (210 km) and Phunda Maria Gate (270 km).

### Some Interesting Facts

- The area is intended to become a Transfrontier Park linking Mapungubwe with Botswana's Tuli Block and the Tuli Safari Area of Zimbabwe.
- The famous Golden Rhino was a symbol of power of the King of the Mapungubwe people, who inhabited the Limpopo River Valley a millennium ago. It was the first southern African kingdom, and derived its power from control of trade with the East.
- Interpretive centre to be opened in May 2010.
- The Golden Rhino lay in a grave from the time when Mapungubwe was abandoned (this was probably due to climatic changes around 1300s) until it was found again in 1932 and excavated by Pretoria University.

## Warnings

Please ensure that your stay is happy and safe by taking note of a few simple warnings. You will be sharing your stay with many exciting and unusual creatures, but without knowledge some of them could be dangerous!



If you must walk around at night please **DO NOT DO SO WITHOUT A TORCH**. REMEMBER BY FEEDING ANY WILDLIFE YOU ARE SIGNING THEIR DEATH WARRANT, AS THEY BECOME AGGRESSIVE.

## General Rules



Failure to observe these simple rules is a criminal offense

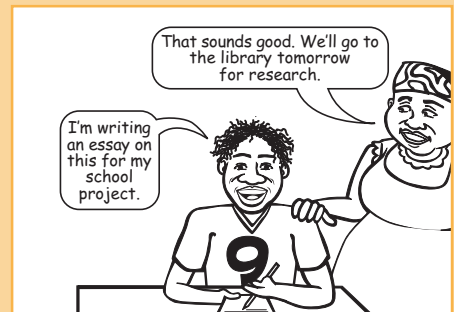
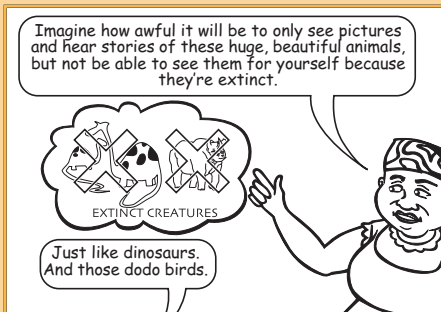
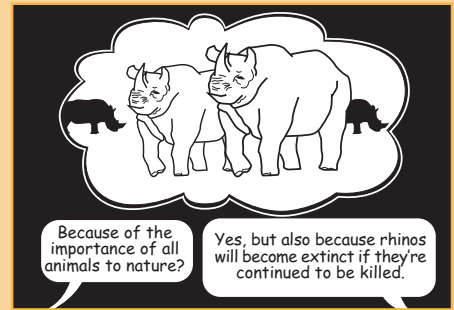
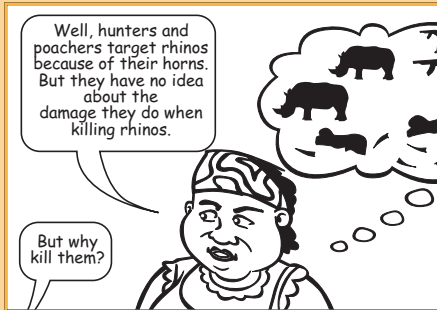
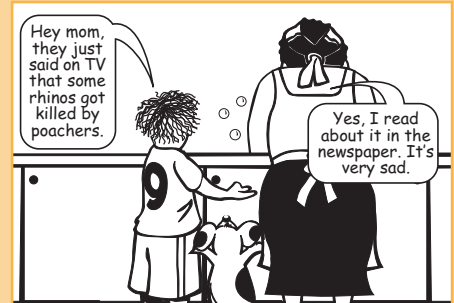




## MELUSI AND MILO The importance of Rhinos

Melusi and his dog Milo (SANParks unofficial envoys of conservation and biodiversity) are always keen to teach about the importance of nature.

Melusi discovers the existence of poachers and the dangers that lead to animals being extinct.





**South African**  
NATIONAL PARKS

## **MAPUNGUBWE NATIONAL PARK**



### **Mapungubwe**

Reservations:

Tel: +27 (0)15 534 2014/0102

Fax: +27 (0)15 534 2014



### ***World Heritage Landscape***

#### **Central Reservations:**

Tel: +27 (0)12 428 9111

Fax: +27 (0)12 343 0905

E-mail: [reservations@sanparks.org](mailto:reservations@sanparks.org)

#### **Travel Trade Reservations:**

Tel: +27 (0)12 426 5025

Fax: +27 (0)12 343 2006

E-mail: [traveltrade@sanparks.org](mailto:traveltrade@sanparks.org)

**Web: [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)**

