



CONTACT DETAILS

70km outside of Musina,
Limpopo

Reception:

Tel: +27 (0)15 534 2014

Duty Manager:

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Hours:

06h30 to 18h00

Gate opening and
closing times:

06h00 to 18h30

Check-in / check-out:

Check-in: 12h00 to 18h00

Check-out: before 10h00

Limpopo



Mapungubwe National Park

The Mapungubwe National Park is a magnificent landscape situated at the point where the borders of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana meet, at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo rivers. It is a World Heritage site whose natural beauty is augmented by its vital cultural value, which reveals remarkable insights about the ancient history of African civilisation.

In 1932, a grave of unidentified origin containing intricate goldwork was discovered on the summit of a rock stronghold in an undeveloped natural landscape of what was then known as the Transvaal Province. Since then, artifacts and other archaeological evidence have indicated that in this area existed a prosperous Iron Age settlement under the rule of an African king around 1000 years ago.

From the rediscovery of Mapungubwe in 1932 to the Battle of Dongola – the recent history that ultimately led to the proclamation of the park is intriguing. The ‘battle’ was a public and parliamentary debate which in 1947 culminated in the declaration of a protected area of 92 000 hectares. A year later the apartheid regime disbanded the park. With the proclamation of Mapungubwe National Park and its attainment of World Heritage Site status, history has now come full circle.

The significance behind Mapungubwe’s World Heritage Status is multi-faceted. It is believed that the Mapungubwe kingdom was a society as advanced as any other in the world during the Iron Age, with a complex social hierarchy and a vibrant trade and mercantile system that may have made it a regional economic centre.

The attraction of Mapungubwe National Park and the areas surrounding it is enhanced by the potential role of the area as a sanctuary for viable populations of some of the most threatened large mammals on earth, such as the black rhinoceros, wild dog, cheetah, brown hyena and elephant. It also is one of the last protected areas of the Limpopo riverine forest.





Mapungubwe encompasses all the attractions of Africa in one site – breathtaking natural beauty, fauna and flora, as well as fascinating cultural history. Picnic, caravanning and camping facilities are available and thatch cabins accommodating eight people each can be rented at the Vhembe Wilderness Trails Camp about 14km from the Park gates. Various walks, guided tours and drives are also available.

HOW TO GET THERE:

FROM JOHANNESBURG/PRETORIA

Take N1 North to Polokwane; in Polokwane CBD take R521 to Dendron, about 40km to Vivo to join Alldays, another 23km to the Mapungubwe Entrance and Reception.

Take N1 to Polokwane CBD, 107km to Makhado to Musina with the N1. From Musina join R572 about 68km to the Mapungubwe Entrance and Reception.