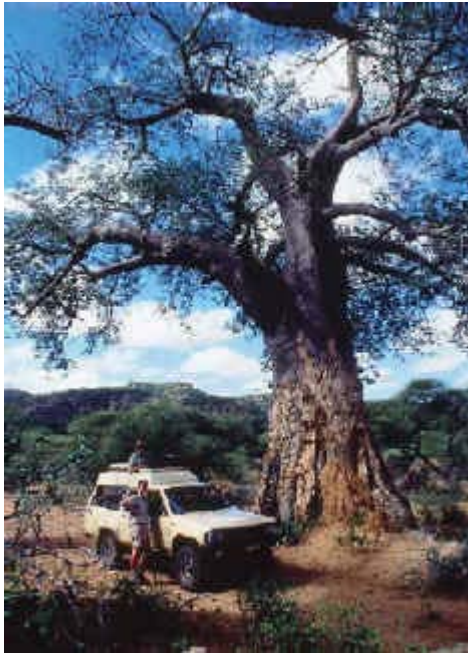


# Media Release - 05/06/2001

## Off-the-beaten-track On Kruger's Lebombo Eco-trail



Ever imagined what you could spot if you could ignore one of those no-entry signs in the Kruger National Park? But of course, not a good idea! You could be in serious trouble.

The innovative staff at Kruger, however, took note of this desire of eco-tourists to the parks to "go where no man has gone before". The long planned and well-researched Lebombo Eco-Trail has finally become a reality. It was given the go-ahead by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) two weeks ago and the first trail will commence on 29 July 2001. Bookings for the trail will open on 18 June. This will allow the eco-trailists to get up-close to the fauna, flora, archaeology and geology of the park.

DEAT is satisfied that all the requirements have been met and that the activity conforms to environmental management specifications. "We have set the standards and have a model product here - unique in Southern Africa," says Project Manager Marc McDonald. "It is also thanks to sponsors B'Rakhah and F&R Diesel that this has become a reality," he adds.

Although a 4x4 vehicle is necessary for certain areas of the route, it should not be seen as an opportunity to put your 4x4 to the test. On the contrary, only the highest standard of 4x4 driving will be acceptable.

The trail starts at Crocodile Bridge in the south, every Sunday, ending five days later at Crooks Corner in the north. The route weaves over and along the Lebombo mountain range with spectacular views of Mozambique. One is awed by the varied landscapes, the gorges of the Sabie and N'wanetsi rivers, the fascinating geology and the botanical wonders of the Nyando Sandveld. Although there is much more to see than just the Big 5, a glimpse of these wonderful creatures is an added bonus.

The four overnight sites are in unfenced demarcated areas where only a toilet is available. The experience of cooking and sleeping under the African sky - with bush sounds the only orchestra - is magical.

Each participant must have a fully equipped four-wheel drive vehicle and the trail is based on a self-catering experience. A maximum of four people are permitted per vehicle. For safety reasons, no children under-12 are allowed. An off-road trailer may be used. Rooftop tents are recommended, however, ground tents are also suitable. A comprehensive list of necessities for the trail is available when booking. There are also three stops on the route

offering a welcome shower - Lower Sabie, Olifants and Shingwedzi. Here fuel and supplies can be replenished.

A fully qualified and knowledgeable trail leader will accompany and guide each group and it is advisable to book one night's accommodation before the trail commences and another on completion of the trail.

The Lebombo Eco-Trail is not to be missed... it will allow one to experience the true wilderness in Kruger.

The cost of the four-night, five-day trail is R3 500 per vehicle and does include park entry fees, but not for a trailer being towed. This also excludes any additional accommodation or the cost of supplies and fuel. To make a booking, and for further details, call Hesther van den Berg at South African National Parks from 18 June 2001 at (012) 426-5117.

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