

# Introduction

Discover...Experience...Explore a world of diversity in one Park...

Now the third largest national park in South Africa, Addo Elephant National Park has expanded to conserve a wide diversity of biodiversity, landscapes, fauna and flora. Stretching from the semi-arid karoo area in the north around Darlington Dam, over the rugged Zuurberg Mountains, through the Sundays River valley and south to the coast between Sundays River mouth and Bushman's river mouth, Addo covers about 180 000 hectares (444 700 acres) and includes the Bird and St Croix Island groups.

The original elephant section of the park was proclaimed in 1931, when only sixteen elephants remained in the area. Today this finely tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 550 elephants, lions, buffalo, black rhino, spotted hyena, leopard, a variety of antelope and zebra species, as well as the unique Addo flightless dung beetle, found almost exclusively in Addo. And their Addo has only just begun, with plans to expand the Park into a 264 000 hectare (652 300 acre) mega-park.

In addition, plans include the proposed proclamation of a 120 000 ha (296 500 acre) marine reserve that includes islands that are home to the world's largest breeding populations of Cape gannets and second largest breeding population of African penguins.

#### **Vision**

Addo Elephant National Park seeks to be fully integrated into the regional landscape, conserves and enhances the characteristic terrestrial and marine biodiversity, ecological processes and cultural, historical and scenic resources representative of the Eastern Cape region for the appreciation, and benefit of present and future generations.

#### **Accommodation**

## **General Information**

- For bookings at Addo Elephant National Park contact <u>Central Reservations</u>. For bookings at Kabouga, contact Park Reception (Tel: 042 2338600).
- Have a look at the <u>park map</u>, as well as information on each camp to locate and check in at the correct place.
- All accommodation is serviced and equipped with crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, bedding, towels and soap. Each accommodation unit has a braai- area outside.
- Check in time for accommodation is 13:00 on the day of arrival. Check out time on the day of departure is 10:00 for accommodation and 12:00 for the campsites.
- Please note that no meals are included in the accommodation rates.
- All our accommodation units do have plug points available with a 220V electricity supply. Visitors will need
  to provide their own international adaptors or two-point plug adaptors. The caravan and tent sites also each
  have a 220v electricity supply point.
- Accommodation will be serviced daily between 09:00 and 12:00.
- Sheets will be changed every 2-3 days, and towels will be changed every day. Please do not hesitate to ask our staff for extra soap, towels, blankets, etc.

#### **Accommodation Types**

Addo Elephant National Park offers a range of accomodation types. The list below offers a brief description of what the park offers. For more comprehensive information on accommodation types, including photographs of the our facilities and more detail on how units are equipped, please click on the accommodation unit link.



## **Camps**

#### Addo Rest Camp

The popular main rest camp of the park offers a wide variety of accommodation units to suit all tastes and plenty of activities to keep visitors busy. A unique feature is the waterhole lookout point, floodlit at night, within the camp as well as the underground hide, allowing close encounters with wildlife at the waterhole...

#### **Spekboom Tented Camp**

Spend a night in the middle of the bush, listening to the sounds of the wild around you. You may catch a glimpse of nocturnal animals drinking at the waterhole, gaze at the starry skies and enjoy being away from it all. The Spekboom Tents are located in the fenced area of Spekboom Hide in the Park's Main Game Area.

#### **Matyholweni**

Matyholweni, which means "in the bush" in Xhosa is located near the coastal town of Colchester at the Sundays River Mouth, 3km off the N2 highway, Matyholweni is easily accessible and provides a second gateway into the Park. Amenities such as shops, restaurants and a fuel station are available in the nearby town...

#### **Narina**

For a secluded experience in magical forest, spend some time at Narina Bush Camp at the foot of the Zuurberg Mountains and on the banks of the Wit River.

The road to Narina is a gravel road of approximately 25 kilometres and even though it is not necessary to have a 4x4, a high clearance vehicle is needed to travel this road.

#### Kabouga

This section of the park is surrounded by rugged moutains and densely fragrant vegetation...

#### Woody Cape

Listen for the haunting calls of the rare tree dassie by night and awake to a chorus of birds in flitting through the forest canopy. The Langebos huts are available to hikers on the two-day Alexandria Hiking Trail, as well as those simply wanting an overnight stay in the forest...

#### **Luxury Lodges**

Who said anything about "roughing it" in the bush when visiting one of our National Parks? "Indulgence" and "comfort" come to mind when viewing the concession lodges and suites that are to be found in a number of SANParks camps and parks. These lodges form part of a suite of products known as SANParks "Golden Kudus", where luxury is the order of the day.

#### **Alternate options**



Should you be unable to get a booking in the park due to high occupancy levels, a variety of accommodation options are available in the area surrounding the Park, Please have a look at the following websites for information: <a href="mailto:Greater Addo Route">Greater Addo Route</a> and <a href="https://www.addotourism.co.za">www.addotourism.co.za</a>



To view the accommodation prices, refer to **Tariffs** 

#### **Activities**

## **Guided Game Drives**

There are a number of game drive options available:

· Booking in advance is essential.

Tel: +27 (0)42 233 8657 Fax: +27 (0)86 5325363

Email:addogamedrives@sanparks.org.

Type of drive	Time of drive	Maximum persons	Minimum persons	Price per person
Sunrise	06:00 a.m. (summer) 07:00 a.m. (winter)	74	2	R280
Morning	09:00 a.m.	74	2	R280
Midday	12:00 p.m.	74	2	R280
Afternoon	15:00 p.m.	74	2	R280
Sundowner	18:00 p.m. (summer)	30	2	R380 including drinks
	16:00 a.m. (winter)			& snacks
Night	19:00 p.m. (summer)	44	2	R310
	18:00 p.m. (winter)			

- Please note that sunrise, sunset and night drive departure times vary according to season. It is important to check the current departure times with the game drive office when making a booking.
- Each game drive lasts approximately 2 hours. No refunds are given.
- Children under the age of 6 years not allowed on these drives. Children under 12 years pay half price.
- Check in at game drive office 15 minutes prior to departure of drive.
- Game drives depart from main camp only. Guests staying in Spekboom Tented Camp cannot participate in sunset or night drives as gates are closed.
- Self-drive game viewing in guests own vehicle is also available.

## **Hop-on Guides**

The Hop-on Guides are a group of guides, sourced from the communities adjacent to the park, who operate their own business within the park, providing guiding services for visitors in the comfort of their own vehicles.

Per 2 hour guided drive in your own vehicle

For a car	R180
For an eight (8) seater vehicle	R230
For a minibus	R290
For a bus (18 - 30 seater)	R360
For a bus (coach)	R510
School group	R180

Note: Fees are payable directly to the guide

- Operating Hours: 08:00 a.m. 17:00p.m.
- Meet the guides at the Game Area Gate of the Park or book via addogamedrives@sanparks.org



## Self-Drive Game Viewing

Visitors may enjoy wildlife viewing in their own vehicles during the opening hours of the park's game gate. Opening times change according to season.

In this case, the visitor pays only the conservation fee – per day, or per night for overnight visitors.

## Horse Trails

#### **Addo Horse Trails**

Departs from Addo main camp.

Type of ride	Time of ride	Maximum persons	Minimum persons	Price per person
Morning	08:30 a.m. (2 hour	7	1	R265
Afternoon	duration) 14:00 (2 hour duration)7		1	R265

- Please note morning and afternoon rides are two hours long and take place in the Nyathi area, home to the Big Five. The behaviour of certain Big Five species are monitored in this area and if necessary, trails will be moved to a botanical reserve in the Park. In this case, the horse trails will be discounted to R170 per person.
- Riders need to have a moderate level of experience to ensure they can control horses within a big game area.
- Please note the number of horses available may change without notice due to vaccinations or injuries.
- No children under 16 years on the Addo horse trail.
- No bookings will be taken less than 1 hour before departure time.
- No person exceeding 90 kg in weight will be allowed to ride.
- Only one rider allowed per horse.

# **Zuurberg Horse Trails**

In the Zuurberg Mountain section of the park - no encounters with large game, beautiful scenic views of the mountains.

Type of ride	Time of ride	Maximum persons	Minimum persons	Price per person
One Hour Trail	09:00 a.m. / 11:00	6	1	R180
	a.m. / 14:00 p.m.			
Three Hour Trail	09:00 a.m. / 11:00	6	1	R255
	a.m.			
Five Hour Trail	09:00 a.m.	6	1	R275
Overnight Trail to	09:00 a.m. / 11:00	6	2	R450 per horse, per
Narina Bush Camp	a.m.			day
Please note:				

- No bookings will be taken less than 1 hour before departure time.
- No person exceeding 90kg in weight will be allowed to ride.
- Please note the number of horses available may change without notice due to vaccinations or injuries.

<sup>\*</sup>Please note that departure times for trails may change according to season and without notice. Please confirm with the Game Drive Office.



- A moderate level of experience is required for the longer rides due to the terrain.
- Only one rider allowed per horse.
- No children under 10 yrs on the Zuurberg horse trails

## 4x4 Trail

The **Bedrogfontein 4x4 trail** between Kabouga and Darlington areas of the park provides breathtaking views and is rich in history. This route was the scene of fierce battles between the British and Afrikaner troops during the Anglo-Boer war. Rock art paintings are found scattered throughout the area. The route travels through a variety of vegetation types, from riverine thicket, to afromontane forest, to fynbos on the peaks and into the arid nama-karoo of the Darlington area.

The route is only suitable for vehicles with 4x4 and low range facilities, both because of terrain and to cause minimum impact on the environment. The route is graded 2-3 but a grade 5 river crossing is an option (river conditions should be checked with the ranger). This 45 km route can be easily traveled within six hours.

The route is self-driven and can be followed either from Darlington to Kabouga or from Kabouga to Darlington. Kabouga is situated about 40 km (one hour's drive) from the main park entrance, near the town of Kirkwood. Darlington is situated about 150 km (two hour's drive) from the main park entrance.

Accommodation is available at Kabouga House or Mvubu campsite (camping only) on the Kabouga side.

Cost: R420 per vehicle per day plus conservation fees per person.

Kabouga
 Mvubu Camping (max of 4 people per site)
 R110.00 for the first 2 persons
 R30.00 per additional person
 To book the whole camp: R580.00 for up to 12 persons, plus R30.00 per person more than 12.

Kabouga Cottage (sleeps six people) R445.00 for the first 2 persons R160.00 per additional adult R88.00 per additional child under 12

**NB:** Bookings for the 4x4 Trail, Kabouga and Mvubu to be done via Addo reception on Tel: +27 (0)42 2338619 or addoenquiries@sanparks.org

Payment: at gate with cash or cheque (no card facilities available). Visitors must provide own firewood. Fishing allowed at Mvubu campsite and Darlington Dam.

## Alexandria Hiking Trail

The Alexandria Hiking Trail is a 32 km, two-day circular trail. The first day is 18.5 km and the second day, 13.5 km. The Langebos huts are situated at the trail base, providing accommodation for the beginning and/or end of the hike. The Woody Cape hut is situated at the end of the first day's walk. Hikers must carry their own provisions and



equipment and the hike is not guided. The trail is well signposted.

A minimum of three hikers and a maximum of 12 hikers are allowed on the trail, per day. The trail will not be booked exclusively for one group, unless they are 12 in number.

The trail costs (South African Rand) **R135 per person per night**. Hikers also need to pay the daily conservation (entry) fee.

• Bookings for the trail are administered through:

Camp Matyholweni

Tel: +27 (0)41 4680916/8 Fax: +27 (0)41 4680949

Email: matyholweni@sanparks.org

Trail base office:

Woody Cape office of the Addo Elephant National Park

Tel: +27 (0)46 6530601

# Other activities at no extra cost (except for entrance fee)

- Self-drive wildlife viewing in the main game area and Colchester area on 120 km of tourist roads suitable fro normal sedan cars.
- Zuurberg hiking trails: 1-hour and 3-hour trails available in the Zuurberg Mountains.
- PPC Discovery Trail: a short walk in the main camp, one loop suitable for wheelchairusers and visually-impaired visitors.
- SASOL Red Bishop Bird Hide: in the main camp (suitable for wheelchair-users).
- Floodlit waterhole: at main camp (suitable for wheelchair-users).
- Underground viewing hide at main camp (suitable for wheelchair-users).
- Picnic and braai site: at main camp and in the botanical reserve Jack's Picnic site off the southern access road.
- Swimming pool: at main camp, only for overnight guests.
- Restaurant and curio shop: at main camp. Restaurant Tel: 042 2338674.
- Holiday programmes for children: during July and December holidays

## Marine Eco Tours

As Addo Elephant National Park is home to the Big 7, guests might want to partake in a Marine Eco Tour in order to catch a glimpse of a Great White Shark and/or Southern Right Whale.

Tours can be booked via www.raggycharters.co.za

# **Facilities**

The following facilities are available at the main rest camp:



- A lookout platform and an underground hide provide views over a waterhole which is floodlit at night.
- A swimming pool is available for overnight visitors, situated near the chalets.
- A picnic and braai area is available for day visitors overlooking the waterhole in the rest camp.
- A picnic site situated within the botanical reserve in the Main Game Area provides picnic, braai and ablution facilities.
- The SASOL Red Bishop Bird Hide, overlooking a small wetland area.
- The <u>PPC Discovery Trail</u> for short walks where you can learn about the plants and ecology of thicket vegetation. The first loop is accessible to all, including the visually and mobility-impaired.
- A shop selling curios, snacks and basic supplies is open between 08:00 and 18:00 (winter) or 08:00 to 19:00 (summer).
- An <u>al-la-carte restaurant</u> is available in the main camp and is open for all meals from 07:30 to 22:00.
   Bookings are advisable, especially for dinner. Telephone: +27 (0) 42 233 8674 or email: addo@tourrest.co.za
- A fuel station selling petrol and diesel is available between 07:30 and 16:30.
- There is a public telephone and a post box near the reception. Post is collected for delivery every week day morning before 07:00. A post office is situated in the town of Addo, approximately 15km from the park.
- Credit cards are accepted for payment of accommodation & activities (except for the Alexandria Hiking trail, Zuurberg horse trails, Kabouga accommodation and 4x4 trail), shop purchases and restaurant meals.
- First National Bank with ATM is situated in the town of Addo, 15km from the park. Other banking facilities are located in the town of Kirkwood, 35km from the park and Port Elizabeth, 75km from the park.

#### Please note:

Camp Matyholweni does not have restaurant, shop or swimming pool facilities situated at the rest camp. Shop and fuel station facilities are available in the nearby town of Colchester.

# **Natural & Cultural History**

In the early centuries, when great herds of wild animals roamed the Addo region, the Khoesan of the Iqua, Damasqua and Gonaqua clans lived in the area.

They hunted and kept cattle but tragically were largely wiped out in the 1700s by the smallpox epidemic. Nomadic Xhosa tribes had kraals in the area, including Chief Cungwa of the Gqunukhwebe (near the Sundays River mouth and inland) and Chief Habana of the Dange (near the Wit River). The Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) was proclaimed in 1931 to protect the remaining 11 Addo elephants. The great herds of elephants and other animal species had been all but decimated over the 1700s and 1800s by hunters. In the late 1800s, farmers began to colonise the area around the park, also taking their toll on the elephant population due to competition for water and crops. This conflict reached a head in 1919 when farmers called on the government to exterminate the elephants. The government even appointed a Major Pretorius to shoot the remaining elephants. He shot 114 elephants between 1919 and 1920. Public opinion then changed, leading to the proclamation of the park in 1931. The original size of the park was just over 2 000 hectares. Conflicts between elephants and farmers continued after proclamation as no adequate fence enclosed the park. Finally in 1954, Graham Armstrong (the park manager at the time) developed an elephant-proof fence constructed using tram rails and lift cables and an area of 2270 hectares was fenced in. There were 22 elephants at the time. This Armstrong fence, named after its developer, is still used around the park today. Although the park was originally proclaimed to protect a single species, priorities have now changed to conserve the rich biological diversity found in the area.

## **Domkrag**

The Domkrag Dam in the game viewing section of the park is name after a giant mountain tortoise that once roamed the park. Domkrag is the Afrikaans word for jack, and this tortoise had a peculiar habit of walking in behind cars and lifting them up with enormous strength. Domkrag came to a sad end when he fell into an aardvark hole and couldn't get himself out. His shell is still on display in the reception foyer.



# **Hapoor**

The magnificent Elephant head which is mounted in the restaurant is that of Hapoor, the legendary dominant bull in the park for 24 years. The waterhole in the southwestern section of the game area is named after him. Hap means 'nick' in Afrikaans, while 'oor' means ear and it is believed the distinctive nick in his ear was caused by a hunter's bullet. Hapoor retained a deep hatred of humans throughout his life. On more than one occasion park-staff were forced to flee to safety when Hapoor made his appearance. His dominance stretched from 1944 to 1968. During the second part of the 1960's a few younger bulls reached maturity and challenged Hapoor. These upstarts were unsuccessful until one bull name Lanky finally deposed Hapoor in 1968. Hapoor was driven from the heard and became a loner. Later that year he succeeded in climbing the park's 'Armstrong Fence', which for nearly 20 years had been elephant proof. His freedom was to be short lived as because of his aggressive nature, it was determined he would have to be short.

The Alexandria dunefield is home to many archeological sites – the middens of the nomadic Strandloper ("beach walker") people. These middens contain shells and bones of animals eaten by the people as well as fragments of pottery and stone implements. Interestingly, the white mussel shells found in these middens are also found in the caves of the Zuurberg Mountains, proving that these people journeyed over vast distances and stored their food.

The caves in the Zuurberg Mountains also contain rock art and stone implements.

The natural and cultural heritage of the park has been studied by the Albany Museum, recording hundreds of sites of significance. Part of the current Greater Addo World Bank project will be to formulate a policy on conservation of these sites and access to them by interested parties, especially local communities.

# **Park Maps**

• GPS Coordinates

# **Main Camp**



# Camp Matyholweni



# **Brochure Map**





Full Addo Map



4x4 Trail Map



Addo Main Game Area & Colchester Road Map



**Tariffs** 



• General Tariffs Information