

Introduction

Activities available include:

- [Game Drives](#)
- [Horse Trails](#)
- [4x4 Trails](#)
- [Hiking Trails](#)
- [Water Activities](#)

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 range 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 eleven elephants remained in the area. Today this finely-tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 600 elephant, lion, 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. The park can exclusively claim to be the only national park in the world to conserve the "Big 7" – the Big 5 as well as the southern right whale and great white shark off the Algoa Bay coast. Plans are currently afoot to include the proposed proclamation of a 120 000 ha (296 500 acre) Marine Protected Area which 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. It conserves and enhances the characteristic terrestrial and marine biodiversity, ecological processes and cultural, historical and scenic resources representative of the Eastern Cape for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

Five main attractions/things to experience:

- Lion (found mostly in the southern section of the park)
- Herds of elephant at Hapoor dam
- The Interpretive Centre at main camp
- The picturesque Zuurberg Mountain
- The rolling sand dunes of the Woody Cape section

Accommodation

General Information

- For bookings at Addo Elephant National Park contact Central Reservations. For bookings at Kabouga and Woody Cape, contact Park Reception (Tel: 042 233 8600).
- Have a look at the [park map](#), 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 14:00 on the day of arrival. Check out time on the day of departure is 10:00 for accommodation and 12:00 for the caravan and tent sites.
- Please note that no meals are included in the accommodation rates.
- All our accommodation units have plug points available with a 220V electricity supply. Visitors 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 is serviced daily between 09:00 and 12:00.
- Sheets will be changed every two to three 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 accommodation types. The list below offers a brief description of what the park offers. For more comprehensive information on accommodation types, including photographs of the facilities and more detail on how the 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 situated inside the camp and which is floodlit at night, as well as the underground hide, allowing close encounters with wildlife at the waterhole.

[View availability at Addo Rest Camp](#)

[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 nearby waterhole, gaze at the starry skies and enjoy simply being away from it all. The tents are located in the fenced area of the Spekboom Hide inside the park's game viewing area.

[View availability at Spekboom Tented Camp](#)

[Matyholweni Rest Camp](#)

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

[View availability at Matyholweni](#)

[Narina Bush Camp](#)



For a secluded experience in a 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 to access it, a high ground clearance vehicle is needed to travel this road.

[View availability at Narina.](#)

[Kabouga](#)

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

[More information on Kabouga](#)

[Woody Cape](#)

Listen for the haunting calls of the rare tree dassie by night and awake to a chorus of birds 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.

[More information on Woody Cape](#)

[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.

[More information on the Luxury Lodges](#)

[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: [Greater Addo Route](#) and www.addotourism.co.za

To view the accommodation prices, refer to [Tariffs](#)

Activities

Activities available include:

- [Game Drives](#)
- [Horse Trails](#)
- [4x4 Trails](#)
- [Hiking Trails](#)
- [Marine Eco Tours](#)

Activities available 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 for 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 wheelchair users 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

Facilities

The following facilities are available at the respective camps:

[Addo Rest Camp](#)

- A lookout platform and an underground hide provide views over a waterhole which is floodlit at night.
- A swimming pool, situated near the chalets, is available for overnight visitors.
- Picnic and braai areas are available for day visitors, overlooking the waterhole in the rest camp.
- A picnic site, 'Jack's picnic site', situated within the botanical reserve in the main game area provides picnic, braai and ablution facilities.
- The SASOL Red Bishop Bird Hide overlooks a small wetland area.
- 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 [al-la-carte restaurant](#) 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 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 and activities (except for the Alexandria Hiking trail, Zuurberg horse trails, Kabouga accommodation and the 4x4 trail), shop purchases, petrol and/or diesel and restaurant meals.
- A First National Bank with an 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.

[Spekboom Tented Camp](#)

- Communal kitchen.
- Communal bathrooms.
- Each tent site has its own braai stand.

[Matyholweni Rest Camp](#)

- Reception
- Each unit has its own braai stand.
- Public toilets.

Camp Matyholweni does not have restaurant, shop or swimming pool facilities. Shops, banks, restaurants and fuel station facilities are available in the nearby seaside village of Colchester.

[Narina Bush Camp](#)

- Each unit has its own braai stand.
- Communal kitchen.
- Communal bathroom.

[Kabouga](#)

Kabouga Cottage:

- An old reservoir serves as a swimming pool for those hot days in the valley.
- There is an outside braai site and visitors must provide their own wood.

Mvubu Campsite:

- One hot water shower (paraffin-powered) and one flush toilet available.
- There are braai sites and visitors must provide their own firewood.

[Woody Cape](#)

- Each unit has its own braai stand.

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 elephant. The great herds of elephant and other animal species had been all but decimated by hunters over the 1700s and 1800s. 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 - who killed 114 elephant 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 2 270 hectares was fenced in. There were 22 elephant in the park 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.

The Alexandria dunefield is home to many archeological sites - the middens of the nomadic 'Strandloper' or '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 and stored their food over vast distances.

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.

Domkrag

The Domkrag Dam in the game viewing area of the park is named after a giant mountain tortoise which once roamed the park. 'Domkrag' is the Afrikaans word for a 'jack', and this tortoise had a peculiar habit of walking underneath 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 Interpretive Centre.

Hapoor

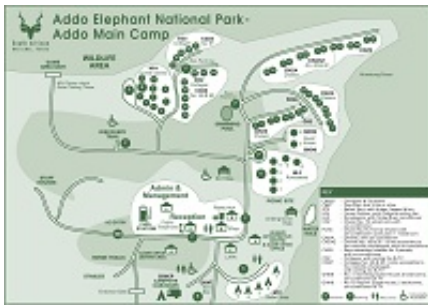
The magnificent elephant head which is mounted in the Interpretive Centre is that of Hapoor, the legendary dominant bull in the park for 24 years. The waterhole in the south western section of the game viewing area is named after him. 'Hap' means 'nick' in Afrikaans, while 'oor' means 'ear' and it is 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 latter part of the 1960's a few younger bulls reached maturity and challenged

Hapoor. These upstarts were unsuccessful until one bull named 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 due to his aggressive nature, it was determined he would have to be shot.

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](#)