World Heritage Site

YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE

MAPUNGUBWE
NATIONAL PARK

South African
NATIONAL PARKS

UNESCO

World Heritage Site
Located in the northern part of South Africa where the country meets with Botswana and Zimbabwe, Mapungubwe National Park is rich in history as it is in wildlife and flora, and is filled with numerous patches of land that poses traces of ancient civilizations and artefacts.

Well before 900 AD, this landscape was occupied by people and pre-historic animals, such as dinosaurs. Southern Africaís first kingdom was established here at Mapungubwe Hill between 1200 and 1290 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 civilisation more than 700 years ago. Today Mapungubwe serves both as National Park (declared in 2004) and World Heritage Site (declared by UNESCO in 2003).

DID YOU KNOW?
Between 1200 and 1300 AD, the Mapungubwe region was the centre of trade in Southern Africa. Wealth came to the region from ivory and later from gold deposits that were found in Zimbabwe. The area was also agriculturally rich because of large-scale flooding in the area. The wealth in the area led to differences between rich and poor.
Activities

• **The Interpretive Centre** - take a tour of the historic museum and learn about the history of this World Heritage Site.

• **Mapungubwe Hill** - visit a hill, where a far developed African civilisation prospered between 1200 and 1270 AD.

• **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 bushveld.

• **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 take part in hikes throughout the park to discover the secrets of the bushveld first-hand.

• **Cultural attractions** - these include anything from viewing the Mapungubwe Hill where a glorious history took place, or viewing the remarkable collection of rock art throughout the park.

Things to seek

**Wildlife**
- Blue Wildebeest
- Cheetah
- Eland
- Elephant
- Lion
- Rhino
- Spotted Hyena
- Steenbok
- Zebra

**Birds**
- Black Eagle
- Blue Waxbill
- Kori Bustard
- Pelâs Fishing Owl
- Thickbilled Cuckoo
- Tropical Boubou

**Trees**
- Acacia trees
- Ana trees
- Fig trees
- Giant baobab trees
- Leadwood trees
- Mashatu trees
- Riverine forests
This is Mapungubwe’s main camp, located in the eastern section of the Park in the spectacular sandstone hills, mixed woodland and baobab trees. Guests can relax in comfortable 2 and 4 bed family cottages, complete with air-conditioning and open plan kitchens. The kitchens consist of a fridge, microwave and hotplate while all the required cutlery and crockery are provided.

Two cottages provide easy access for disabled persons. The Leokwe camp is unfenced, inviting the wild side of the environment even closer, which 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.
This camp is situated in the Limpopo Riverine Forestry which offers excellent birding, it is located in the western section of the Park. The camp is close to the Maloutswa pan hide and archaeological sites. Limpopo Forest Tented Camp offers guest spacious rooms to relax 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. Physical disabled people are catered in one semi-luxury forest tent with 2 beds, kitchen, shower and toilet. The camp has a unique eco-trail, as well as a swimming pool to cool off the heat.
Mazhou Camping Site

Mazhou camping site is situated close to the Limpopo Forest tented camp in the western section of the park. It caters for 10 caravans or tents; each camping site is equipped with power point.

Guests intending to stay over at Mazhou camping site must check-in at the Mapungubwe main gate.

Vhembe Wilderness Trails Camp

The Vhembe wilderness trails camp is about 14 km from the main gate. The camp is situated on the eastern side of the park on the sandstone rocks, 5 km away from the mighty Limpopo River. The units are made of canvas and wooded plank on the sides, wooden floors and then thatch roofs with netted windows. There are 4 cabins at the camp that can accommodate 8 people per night.
Tshugulu Lodge

Experience bushveld lavishness where the large and dangerous animals 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 makes the experience overwhelming. This luxury lodge sleeps 12 people 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 sighting. 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 a normal sedan vehicle.
• Mapungubwe Interpretive Centre - an amazing building that won the World Building of the Year in 2009’s World Architectural Awards. It was constructed to house a museum with many of the artefacts uncovered from archaeological sites in the park. Information on the park’s fascinating history and biology is also available at the interpretive centre with knowledgeable guides on hand to take visitors through the centre.

• A restaurant - it operates from 07:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m and offers a comprehensive breakfast and light lunch menu. Pre-packed dinners are available on request; orders have to be placed before 14:00 p.m and collected before 16:00 p.m.
Mapungubwe Activities

• **An Auditorium** - it is ideal for educational groups or small conferences and can seat up to 50 guests.

• **Other facilities include**
  - Picnic and Day visitor Centre
  - Limpopo and Shashe rivers Confluence Lookout Point
  - Treetop Boardwalk
  - Maloutswa Bird Hide
  - Swimming Pools
General Information

Travel/How to get there

- The park is situated about 480 km north of Pretoria. Take N1 North to Polokwane and then follow R521 to Dendron, about 40 km to Vivo to join Alldays and 70 km to the Mapungubwe Entrance and Reception.
- Take N1 to Polokwane then proceed for 107 km to Musina via Makhado on the N1. From Musina join R572 to Pontdrift and travel about 68 km to the Mapungubwe Entrance and Reception.
- Mapungubwe National Park can also be easily accessed from Kruger National Park via Pafuri gate (210 km) and Punda Maria gate (270 km).

Distance from the main gate to:
Leokwe main camp : +/- 11 km
Limpopo Forest camp : +/- 35 km
Mazhou Camping site : +/- 35 km
Vhembe Wilderness camp : +/- 14 km
Tshugulu Lodge : +/- 25 km

GPS Coordinates
S 22 14.420  E 29 24.020

Gate Times:
- From September to March 06:00 to 18:30
- From April to August 06:30 to 18:00

Climate
The climate is semi-arid with mean annual rainfall ranging from 350 mm - 400 mm. Rainfall is highly variable and usually falls during the summer months. Extended periods of below average rainfall occur. In summer temperatures sometimes rise to 45°C. The winters are mild.

Summer can be hot, but bearable. Early summer mornings and afternoons are the most rewarding in the park, for birds, trees and game. Winters are mild.

Day visitors
Mapungubwe has a designated picnic and day visitors’ centre, wood is available at the restaurant. Please note that open bakkies with people at the back are not allowed.

Tariffs
All tariffs are available from reception, central reservation or on website: www.sanparks.org
Warnings and handy hints

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!

- There is a restaurant but no shops at Mapungubwe.
- Fill up your fuel tank at Alldays or Musina.

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**

- Declare Firearm at Gate
- Feeding the Game is Prohibited
- Fire Free Zone
- Hanging Out of Vehicle is Prohibited
- Litter Free Zone
- Noise Free Zone
- Pet Free Zone
- Removing Flora is Prohibited
- Stay in your Vehicle
- Stay on Marked Trails
- Smoking Free Zone
- Touching the Game is Prohibited

Failure to observe these simple rules is a criminal offense.