Welcome

South African National Parks, (SANParks), manages a system of parks which represents the indigenous fauna, flora, landscapes and associated cultural heritage of the country. Of all the national parks, most have overnight tourist facilities, with an unrivalled variety of accommodation in arid, coastal, mountain and bushveld habitats. National parks offer visitors an unparalleled diversity of adventure tourism opportunities including game viewing, bush walks, canoeing and exposure to cultural and historical experiences. Conferences and weddings can also be organised in many of the parks. The national parks are: Groenkloof, Kruger, Table Mountain, Marakele, Golden Gate, Camdeboo, Mountain Zebra, Addo Elephant, Garden Route National Park (Tsitsikamma, Knysna, & Wilderness), Bontebok, Agulhas, West Coast, Karoo, Namaqua, |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld, Augrabies, Kgalagadi, Mapungubwe, Tankwa Karoo and Mokala.

www.sanparks.org

We’d love to welcome you to one of these parks and challenge you to go wild as you take a walk on the wild side of SANParks - SA’s natural heritage.

Groenkloof National Park

The head office and central reservations office of South African National Parks is in Groenkloof National Park, Pretoria (not to be confused with the nearby Groenkloof Nature Reserve). Here the public will go to interact with staff, to make reservations for the parks or to purchase a Wild Card. The offices are located on the hill above UNISA and opposite the Pretoria/Tshwane Telkom Tower. The intention of the location is not like the other parks for biodiversity, but to have offices in the country’s capital, yet there is some natural bush with an impressive amount of wildlife for suburbia, including hyrax, duiker, bush-baby, mongoose and around 150 bird species.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

- There are 2 designated parking bays for visitors with disabilities at reservations.
- A ramp takes visitors up into the walk-in reservations offices where people can do face-to-face bookings at lowered desks for those who do not like using telephones or computers and like a personal interaction.
- There is a universally accessible toilet at the reservation offices and another one in the tourism staff offices.
- In the rest of the offices and grounds there are ramps and pathways to enable accessibility to the first 2 floors, reception, the main boardroom etc.

+27 (0)12 426 5000 or (0)12 428 9111 (reservations)
Should visitors require accommodation with accessible facilities for mobility difficulties, they must inform the reservation office when making their booking.

Persons with mobility difficulties wishing to fly via airports near any of the parks should make arrangements for PAU (Passenger Assistance Unit) assistance when booking their flights.

Persons with mobility difficulties wishing to drive and hire a hand-controlled vehicle need to give the car rental agencies about 4 days notice.
Travel for people with disabilities can be scary, because it means moving to unfamiliar destinations. South African National Parks (SANParks) aims to provide universal access to all its mainstream facilities and a portion of its accommodation, so that all people regardless of their mental, sensory or physical capabilities can visit without any difficulties alongside their more “able-bodied” peers. The shape of the natural environment and uninformed people’s attitudes and actions often limits access, but still within all parks many wonderful opportunities exist for those people with special requirements. This booklet is geared towards informing readers of these opportunities on a park by park basis. They perhaps focus more on physical access, because that is where facilities are most often adapted, but there is also an indication where facilities are available for blind guests or other disabilities.

Most of the camps and visitor destinations in all of the parks provide ramped access into their mainstream facilities and in most locations accessible public ablution facilities are provided. Furthermore most of the parks accommodation offerings have selected units that have been adapted for use by mobility impaired guests. Readers of this brochure are directed to the people with disability pages on the SANParks website www.sanparks.org for detailed information and images of access opportunity throughout the parks.

**Blind and Visually Impaired Visitors:** Some of the attractions in SANParks for blind guests include a policy around the use of Guide/Service Dogs; Tactile Exhibits in centre or outdoor exhibits that can be explored with one’s fingers; Audio Description soundtracks about one’s surroundings or experiential encounters with nature (this is still in its early stages but promises to expand in the time ahead); Nature Sound Booths; Oral emergency evacuation procedures; Routes to good listening points; Training for hospitality staff (attitudinal training, sighted Guide training, and orientation to establishment)

**Deaf and hearing impaired Visitors:** There will also be a pending focus on accommodating guests with hearing impairment and staff training, sign language interpreters, induction loop technology, telecommunications devices and printed information are some of the opportunities that will be expanded on.

**Adapted Accommodation for Mobility Impaired Guests**

There are currently around 125 accommodation units throughout SANParks that are adapted for use by visitors with mobility impairment. Such units have adaptations like ramps, roll-in showers with rails and shower seats, toilets with grab rails, basins with push taps, etc. This accommodation is aimed at providing comfortable accommodation and accessible for guests in wheelchairs; the elderly and frail people, but when designed properly they are just as comfortable for able-bodied guests who may be travel companions or not have any person’s with special needs in their travel group.

Most of these adapted units are very comfortable for guests with disabilities, but unfortunately some of the units are not built to the required access standards. Small things like grab rails placed too far from a toilet or shower seats too small to support a person’s body mass may sound trivial to those who do not need them, but they can be deal breakers to the comfort of such units. Thus SANParks head office in conjunction with several protagonists in the disability sector are working hard to ensure any incorrectly positioned or designed equipment is replaced by what is required that meets the national and international grading requirements, but you can help ... if in using a park you encounter any facilities you feel could be more accessibly designed or are in a broken state please send comments to customercare@sanparks.org and it will be taken up with the park concerned.
**Booking procedure**

Most of the adapted accessible units are kept on a reserve until 30 days before date of use. For the period 11 months before date of use (SANParks maximum booking period) up until 30 days before occupation only people with disabilities and a specific need for adapted units can book these units, but they must go through the authorised SANParks supervisors to secure the required accommodation (i.e., not going through a satellite office staffed by independent agents or booking on-line, where the online availability indicator will indicate the accessible units are not available).

- Visiting the Walk-in Reservation Office at SANParks head office in Pretoria or their Cape Town Reservation Office
- E-mail: reservations@sanparks.org
- Fax: +27 (0)12 343 0905
- Tel: +27 (0)12 428 9111

In all cases identify that you are a person with a disability or mobility difficulty and require accommodation adapted for mobility impaired guests for someone in your travel party. Your reservation form issued by SANParks will then indicate that the unit that is reserved for you is accessible to the mobility challenged.

**Please note:**

- These special units cannot be booked through the on-line booking mechanism. They can also not be booked directly through satellite offices and travel agents (such agents will have to book through authorized SANParks reservations staff).
- 30 days prior to the occupation date these units are released into the public pool of accommodation and as they are intended to be universally accessible, can be booked by any person.

**Discount for South African Disability Pensioners**

South Africans who receive a disability pension can receive the same discount as standard aged pensioners (60+) of 40% off accommodation price only.

**Please note:** This discount only applies to the same specified time period as standard pensioners and only certain designated units are covered. Regrettably, international visitors with disability pensions will not qualify for this concession. Persons who would like to qualify for this concession must fax proof of disability (a doctor’s letter) and a copy of their disability pension documentation to (012) 343 0905, marking for the attention of the head of Strategic Tourism Services. Alternatively, they can scan and email the documents to reservations@sanparks.org.

**Transport and tours**

One of the challenges facing people with disabilities, particularly those with mobility impairment is that of transport, particularly if they are from foreign countries and don’t have local contacts they can travel with. SANParks is not in the business of supplying transport to visitors travelling to and from the park and visitors must make their own travel arrangements. There are, however, several tour operators who specialize in providing travel opportunities for people with disabilities and have adapted vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs. They also have good working knowledge of the parks and provide pre-planned organized trips to parks such as Kruger, or in some cases will plan a trip to a destination as requested by the individual. These tour operators are external entrepreneurs. SANParks is in full support of the service they provide, but cannot be held accountable for their service but readily encourage their use for people seeking specialized tour. Any on-line search will reveal some of these operators, and some are even listed on the disability pages of the SANParks website.

SANParks does not only rely on tour operators for business and the majority of visitors to the parks are self drive visitors in their own vehicles. For those people who can drive a hand-controlled vehicle and who do not want to be affiliated to a tour and travel independently, it is possible to hire converted vehicles from most of the major car rental agencies. Usually an advanced notice period of a few days is necessary to enable the hand-controls to be fitted to an appropriate automatic vehicle. Some of the parks even have a car hire office or desks in their main rest-camps.

Visitors to SANParks pay a daily conservation fee but all are reminded of the benefits of acquiring a WILD CARD, particularly if they are staying for more than a couple of nights. This is SANParks and other conservation destination partners’ loyalty scheme.

More details can be obtained at www.wildcard.co.za
Addo Elephant is in the Eastern Cape, close to Port Elizabeth. Most visitors will only go to Addo Main Camp and the adjacent Main Game Area, but there is a lot more to “Addo”, which is the third largest national park in South Africa. Addo 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 a marine section where the Bird and St Croix Island groups are features. 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. The Marine Protected Area and above mentioned islands that are home to the world’s largest breeding populations of Cape gannets and second largest breeding population of African penguins.

**ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES**

- Addo Main Camp has 5 accessible accommodation units (2 chalets and 3 cottages) and accessible ablutions at the camp’s campsite; while Matyholweni Camp has 2 accessible cottages (all ablutions are equipped with roll-in showers).

- Kuzuko Lodge has 3 accessible chalets and the main lodge and game vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

- Addo Main Camp’s central complex (restaurant/shop/reception) has ramps and an accessible toilet, and accessibility has been provided at a bird-hide, a floodlit underground hide, a viewing platform and an in-camp nature trail, which is also accessible to the visually impaired.

- The Ulwazi Interpretive Centre/Conference Facility is equipped with accessible parking, toilets and ramps, and there is a sound booth of park wildlife sounds ideal for visually impaired visitors.

- Jack’s Picnic Site in the game area has UA ablutions and UA braai/picnic facilities.
Located around the Southern Tip of the African continent where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet, and renowned for its marine and coastal life, and windswept, ruggedly beautiful coastal plain with its rich cultural and natural heritage.

**Agulhas National Park**

- Boardwalk at Southern Tip of Africa.
- Mobile ramp runners to access Agulhas Lighthouse.
- Accessible Accommodation at Agulhas Main Camp, Rhenosterkop and Rietfontein.

Augrabies Falls NP’s is located off the N14 about 100km west of Upington in the Northern Cape and an ideal stop-over destination for people driving to the Namaqua flower displays; Namibia or the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The park’s central feature is the magnificent cascade of water plummeting through the Orange River Gorge. Other landscape attractions include enchanting names like Moon Rock, Ararat and Echo Corner. The park provides sanctuary to a diversity of species, from succulent plants, arid adapted birds and reptiles, to springbok, gemsbok and giraffe.

**Augrabies Falls National Park**

- There are two 2-bed chalets (roll-in shower) that have adaptations for mobility challenged guests.
- The park’s environmental education centre has a sweeping access ramp and an accessible ablation.
- The rest camp’s main complex has an accessible public ablation and the conference room, information displays, shop, reception and restaurant are all accessed via ramps and wide pathways.
- The series of boardwalks allows all guests, including those in wheelchairs, to enjoy the spectacular force of nature of the Augrabies Falls.
Bontebok National Park

Bontebok is located off the N2 just south of the town of Swellendam. It is 230km east of Cape Town and 220km west of George and thus an ideal for both weekend getaways from these centres or a stop-over point on the drive between Cape Town and the Garden Route. It is the smallest of all SANParks’ parks, but played a huge conservation role in saving the bontebok from extinction and protecting endangered habitat types of the Cape Floral Kingdom (one of South Africa’s 8 World Heritage Sites), particularly several types of renosterveld.

Two of the ten chalets are adapted to be accessible to guests with mobility challenges and are equipped with roll-in showers and other accessible facilities.

Guests in wheelchairs can easily make their way around the rest camp and access the viewing platform on the Breede River.

Camdeboo National Park

Formed hundreds of millions of years ago, the Karoo of South Africa is one of the great natural wonders of the world. Camdeboo National Park, practically surrounding the town of Graaff-Reinet, provides the visitor with insights into the unique landscape and ecosystem of the Karoo, not to mention awesome scenic beauty, highlighted by the Valley of Desolation.

Most of the park’s picnic areas are partially accessible, but none of them are equipped with universally accessible ablutions.

Accommodation in the park comprises of camping and 4 permanent lakeside tents on raised platforms, none of which have permanent ramps, but which can be equipped with a makeshift temporary ramp quite easily.

There is a universally accessible ablation in the communal campsite ablutions with a roll-in shower and grab rails.

The privately owned Thyme and Again B&B in Graaff-Reinet offers good accessible accommodation with a roll-in shower with seat and grab rails in the ablutions www.thymeandagain.za.net
Golden Gate, in the eastern Free State Mountains on the border with Lesotho is an excellent weekend destination for people in the central, eastern and northern parts of the country. The park is 310 km from Johannesburg, 420 from Durban and 290 from Bloemfontein. The park is renowned for its sandstone rocks, breath-taking scenery and protects high altitude grassland, and a variety of wildlife including the endangered Bearded Vulture and Southern Bald Ibis.

The Golden Gate Hotel has an elevator between levels and 5 adapted accessible rooms (4 with roll-in showers and 1 with a bath and grab-rails).

There is accessible accommodation in one of the log cabins at Highland’s Mountain Retreat and 2 of the cottages at Basotho Cultural Village, two of the Brandwag chalets, 3 different sized units accessible units at Glen Reenen Camp, plus 2 separate UA ablutions in the camp’s campsite. All these units have roll-in showers.

The park has limited accessible activities at present, but a UA underground vulture hide and a UA Dinosaur Centre are either complete or near complete.

The nearby town of Clarens is relatively accessible for arts and crafts, restaurants, and potentially accessible activities like archery and trout-fishing.

Karoo NP’s entrance gate is located on the N1 about 10km south-west of Beaufort West. The park is an ideal stop-over destination for people driving between Cape Town (450km) or the Garden Route (240km) and Johannesburg (970km), Bloemfontein (540km), Kimberley (510km) etc. However now that the park has reintroduced species such as lion and black rhino, and has expanded the available drives (4x4 and sedan), visitors are electing to stay for longer periods.

Another of the park’s main attractions is its amazing fossil record which can be seen on display on a wheelchair accessible camp trail (with Braille signage), and at the Ou Skuur Interpretation Centre.

There are two 3-bed chalets (roll-in shower) and one 6-bed guest cottage (baths with grab rails) that have adaptations for mobility challenged guests. The campsite also has a unisex accessible ablution block (roll-in shower).

The rest camp’s main complex has an accessible public ablution and apart from a steep ramp to the restaurant and a small ridge at the entrance of reception offers good access.

The Fossil Trail, a board-walk along a dry river bed, and the Ou Skuur Interpretive Centre all offer good access to a wheelchair user. The Bulkraal Picnic Site does not have any adaptations at present, but the entire site is on flat ground.
Along the South Coast of South Africa lies one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the world, home to the Garden Route National Park. A mosaic of ecosystems, it encompasses the world renowned Tsitsikamma and Wilderness sections, the Knysna Lake section, a variety of mountain catchment, Southern Cape indigenous forest and associated Fynbos areas. These areas resemble a montage of landscapes and seascapes, from ocean to mountain areas, and are renowned for its diverse natural and cultural heritage resources.

Managed by South African National Parks, it hosts a variety of accommodation options, activities and places of interest. A jewel in South Africa’s crown, the Park is a prime example of the country’s unique fauna and flora and will offer unforgettable views and life-long memories.
There are several activity zones in the Knysna forests that create a varying level of accessibility, such as mountain bike trails, footpaths and roads, some of which provide excellent unassisted access to the forest for mobility impaired visitors.

In particular there are a number of boardwalks to special features like memorials or big trees that offer great access to mobility impaired visitors. A boardwalk at the Garden of Eden between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay is specifically intended for universal access and offers an opportunity to travel a good distance.

The Millwood Goldfields Tea Garden and Museum and the Diepwalle Indigenous Nursery offer good general access with firm pathways and ramps.

There are some accommodation options in the Forests that provide good general access and the Forest Timber Camping Decks at Diepwalle has a unisex accessible ablution room in the communal ablution block.

This section’s accommodation and activity hub is found at the Ebb & Flow Rest Camp, where 2 of the 34 permanent units are constructed to be accessible or partially accessible to guests in wheelchairs (one 4 bed family cottage and one 2-bed forest cabin), and there are 2 accessible unisex ablutions in the camping area.

The Storm’s River Rest Camp has two 2-person accessible chalets, a 2-bed and a 4-bed forest hut and one 4-bed accessible oceanette, and the campsite ablutions are equipped with accessible ablutions.

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The Tsitsikamma restaurant, overlooking the Storm’s River Mouth, the shop, the reception building and the information hall are all equipped with ramps and there are accessible toilets at the main complex and the entrance gate.

The Millwood Goldfields Tea Garden and Museum and the Diepwalle Indigenous Nursery offer good general access with firm pathways and ramps.

There is a boardwalk trail at Nature’s Valley that allows access into the forest for wheelchair users and others with mobility challenges.

There are some privately run accessible activities on the periphery of the park. Of particular recommendation are Monkeyland (a rehabilitation sanctuary for primates) and Birds of Eden (The largest free flight aviary in the world), both of which are equipped with wheelchair compatible pathways and ablutions.

The Wilderness section of the park is intertwined with several urban settlements where facilities like shops and restaurants are available, many of which are accessible to people with mobility impairment.

There are several boardwalks and hides in the section that provide potential access to wheelchair users and other mobility impaired visitors, but many of these boardwalks also have sections that are inaccessible or only accessible with assistance. There is a great opportunity for the park to improve these and create facilities that are entirely accessible.
In the north-eastern part of South Africa, the flagship of South African National Parks, the world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park of nearly 2 million hectares, is unrivalled in the diversity of its life forms and is home to an impressive number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, over 500 birds and 147 mammals. For those people unfamiliar with how the park is set up, there are a number of accommodation rest camps scattered throughout the park. There are 12 main camps, 6 bushveld camps, a number of smaller satellite camps and several privately operated concession lodges each with a diversity of accommodation types (e.g. huts, bungalows, safari tents, guest cottages, guest houses and camping/caravan sites). The main camps have swimming pools, fuel stations, restaurants and grocery/curio shops. Some of the larger camps have auto-banks and other amenities, the individual details can be found on the SANParks website. There is a network of roads linking the various camps – the central main road linking the camps is tarred, but then there are many secondary gravel roads. During daylight hours visitors may travel in their own vehicles to view wildlife, or they can book a seat on one of the park’s open safari trucks where they will be accompanied by a knowledgeable guide and driver. There are also a number of privately driven open safari vehicles that operate under license within the park and give the public another option. However to view wildlife at night after gate closing times one has to book a seat on the SANParks’ vehicles.
At the beginning of 2015 there are 57 adapted accessible accommodation units in Kruger that offer accessibility to mobility impaired guests through ramps, roll-in showers with fold down shower seats and grab rails in the ablutions. This number will increase as the park complies with the SANParks’ implementation plan and protocols for Universal Access.

There are 11 campsite ablutions adapted for guests with mobility impairment.

All the main camps have UA public ablutions and ramped access into mainstream facilities like restaurants, shops and visitor centres.

Some of the concession lodges have rooms for guests with disabilities and most of them have boardwalk facilities that enable good movement opportunity.

The Rhino Museum and Rhino Trail at Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp both offer a number of tactile exhibits ideal from blind guests.

The Skukuza Indigenous Nursery and Wetland Boardwalk offer excellent physical access and amazing scent and tactile opportunity.

The Letaba Elephant Museum offers easy physical access and tactile opportunity.

The dam or river front walkways and lookout points at Skukuza, Berg-en-Dal, Lower Sabie, Olifants, Letaba and Mopani Camps are all wheelchair accessible.

Picnic Sites – most of the park’s 20 or so picnic sites or day visitor areas have UA ablutions and ramps and accessible pathways.

Most of the park’s game viewing hides have access ramps and clearance beneath the viewing slots to accommodate guests in wheelchairs (a couple of the older hides are inaccessible).

Most of the park’s entrance gates have access ramps and UA ablutions.
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (formerly Kalahari Gemsbok National Park) is located 265km north of Upington in the Northern Cape, nestled between Namibia and Botswana and just over 1000km from both Cape Town and Johannesburg, so while it is a long distance to get to the park, the wildlife, scenery and photographic opportunities in the park are world renowned and make the journey worthwhile. Travel in the park is mainly along the dry river beds of the Auob and Nossob Rivers, although there are some link roads through the dunes. 4x4 and high rise vehicles are recommended and a requirement on certain routes. The park is famed for its predators – lion, leopard, cheetah, brown and spotted hyena, a plethora of smaller mammal predators and a fantastic range of birds of prey. Other wildlife attractions include large herds of herbivores such as gemsbok, springbok, blue wildebeest, eland and red hartebeest, plus a small population of giraffe.

There are 11 adapted accommodation units in the park accessible to guests with mobility challenges, all with roll-in showers (1x2-bed at Bitterpan, 1x2-bed at Grootkolk, 2x2-bed at Kalahari Tented Camp, 1x2-bed at Kieliekrankie, 1x4-bed at Mata Mata, 2x3-bed at Nossob, 2x3-bed and 1x4-bed at Twee Rivieren).

There are accessible camping ablutions at Nossob, Mata Mata and Twee Rivieren.

There are accessible public toilets for day visitors at Mata Mata, Twee Rivieren and Dikbaardskolk and Auchterlonie Picnic Sites.

The predator centre at Nossob is equipped with an access ramp.
People susceptible to extreme heat should note that summer temperatures (particularly December to February) could be extremely high in many of the parks. Parks in the country’s arid northwest, the Lowveld (Kruger) and Limpopo Province are particular hot spots. While drinking water is available in all major rest camps, travelling with supplementary supplies is recommended.

Mapungubwe National Park is a World Heritage Site, located at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe Rivers where Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa meet (The park forms part of a Transfrontier Conservation Area). It is a comfortable 5 hour drive from Gauteng. The park is located around the Lost City at Mapungubwe Hill, where a thriving African civilisation prospered between 1200 and 1270 AD. The area was already inhabited by a growing Iron Age community from 900 AD and became rich through trade with faraway places like Egypt, India and China. This is the place where archeologists excavated the famous golden rhino (the symbol of Limpopo Province) and other evidence of a wealthy kingdom. But the park is also renowned for its wildlife and mystical scenery, where sandstone formations, mopane woodlands, unique riverine forest and a cornucopia of baobab trees form the astounding scenic backdrop for a rich variety of animal life. Elephant, giraffe, white rhino, eland, gemsbok and numerous other antelope species occur naturally in the area and lucky visitors might spot predators like lions, leopards and hyenas. Birders can tick off 400 species, including kori bustard, tropical boubou and pel’s fishing owl. Pride of place goes to the Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre, which is built near the main gate of the park and which won the global architects World Building of the Year competition in 2009. The Centre is home to the famous Golden Rhino and many other artefacts and ecological displays and provides visitors the opportunity of a tour, showcasing the amazing landscape that the National Park has to offer. The centre also has a restaurant, cafeteria and shop.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

- There are universally accessible public toilets with grab rails and lever taps at the centre park entrance gate, Leokwe Rest Camp’s central facility, the Confluence facility and the Mapungubwe Interpretive World Heritage Centre.
- There is accommodation with ramps and ablutions adapted for mobility impaired guests Leokwe Rest Camp, Limpopo Tented Camp and Mazhou Campsite.
- There are impressive accessible boardwalks and wheelchair friendly pathways and viewing platforms at the Limpopo Treetop Boardwalk and the 3 Country Confluence Centre.
- The Mapungubwe Interpretive Centre has been made accessible to the mobility impaired through a series of ramped boardwalks, pathways and corridors. The stone floors of the centre that give it aesthetic appeal have been smoothed to provide as even a surface as possible.

TRAVEL TIP

There are universally accessible public toilets with grab rails and lever taps at the centre park entrance gate, Leokwe Rest Camp’s central facility, the Confluence facility and the Mapungubwe Interpretive World Heritage Centre.

TRAVEL TIP

People susceptible to extreme heat should note that summer temperatures (particularly December to February) could be extremely high in many of the parks. Parks in the country’s arid northwest, the Lowveld (Kruger) and Limpopo Province are particular hot spots. While drinking water is available in all major rest camps, travelling with supplementary supplies is recommended.
The Marakele National Park in the heart of the Waterberg Mountains of Limpopo Province immediately north-east of the town of Thabazimbi, and as its Tswana name suggests, has become a 'place of sanctuary' for an impressive variety of wildlife (including the Big 5), due to its location in the transitional zone between the dry western and moister eastern regions of South Africa. The park is most renowned for its stunning scenery and the narrow tar road up to Lenong Viewpoint at the crest of the Waterberg massif, where many national telecommunications towers are located. The nearby cliffs are the location of one of the largest colonies of the endangered Cape Vulture.

**ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES**

- There is accessible accommodation with ramps and accessible ablution facilities at Tlopi and Bontle Tented Camps.
- Bontle Campsite has designated accessible ablutions for guests with mobility challenges (lever taps, grab rails and roll-in showers) and the 3 sites are adjacent these ablutions are reserved for mobility impaired guests.
- There is an accessible public ablution at the park's entrance gate.
- The Thutong Environmental Centre, where overnight environmental education for school groups has accessible ablution facilities to enable it to cater for special needs schools.
- Lenong Lookout Point on top of the mountains has a network of service roads that allow wheelchair users to move around on the Mountain Top around the towers.
ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

- There are currently universally accessible accommodation units in the park, at Mosu Lodge (main camp) and at Lilydale. Both these units have roll-in showers.

- Mosu Lodge is equipped with a network of pathways that allow ease of movement for wheelchair using guests. The accessible unit has a permanent ramp, while the camp’s restaurant has a mobile ramp that they put down when guests require it. Lilydale Camp’s reception block is also equipped with a wheelchair friendly pathway.

- The game/bird viewing hide at Stofdam has a section of the hide adapted to cater for viewers in wheelchairs.

- One of the park’s game drive vehicles has a removable seat that can accommodate a guest in a wheelchair.

- For advanced queries or special requirements contact the camp directly on (053) 204 0158.

Mokala National Park

Mokala is situated southwest of Kimberley, west of the N12 freeway. There are two ways to enter the park: the Lilydale Gate turnoff is 37km south of Kimberley, while the Mosu Lodge turnoff 57km south. Mokala is an excellent end destination to spend a few days relaxing and exploring the park and surrounding area, but it is also an excellent stop-over destination for people driving between the Western Cape and the interior to break the length of the journey. Mokala’s landscape boasts a variety of isolated dolerite hills and large open sandy plains. A major conservation attraction of Mokala is as a breeding reserve for several rare large herbivores such as roan antelope, sable antelope, tsessebe, disease-free buffalo and both black and white rhinoceros.

Mokala is a Setswana name for a Camel Thorn. These trees occur in dry woodland and arid, sandy areas and are one of the major tree species of the semi-desert regions of Southern Africa. This immensely important species has a great range over the Northern Cape and varies from a small, spiny shrub barely 2m high, to a tree up to 16m tall with a wide, spreading crown.

The Camel Thorn is an incredible resource to both wildlife and humans who survive in often harsh conditions characteristic of this area. Traditionally, the gum and bark have been used by local tribes to treat coughs, colds and nosebleeds. Some even use the roasted seeds as a coffee substitute.

Visitors should be aware that there is no fuel or fresh produce available in the park. Modderrivier is the closest fuel. Mosu Lodge has a restaurant which is open for 3 meals a day, while bush braais are an additional culinary option.
Invigorating crystal clear air, beautiful scenery, tranquil ambience and an abundance of wildlife offer you a special and personal African wilderness experience at Mountain Zebra National Park.

Situated near Cradock in the malaria-free Eastern Cape, this national park was originally proclaimed in 1937 to save the dwindling Cape mountain zebra population. Now, at over 28 000 hectares, the park boasts a conservation success story, protecting over 700 zebra as well as wildlife such as endangered black rhino and cheetah along with herds of buffalo, springbok, black wildebeest, blesbok and hartebeest.

Mountain Zebra is an excellent end destination to spend a few days relaxing and exploring, but it is also an excellent stop over destination to break the length of the journey for people driving between the Eastern Cape coast and the interior. Birds are also a major attraction of the park, with its combination of biomes: Nama-Karoo, Grassland and Thicket which attracts a great diversity of species. Red-billed Oxpeckers were a recent successful reintroduction, while among other avian attractions are Blue Crane, Secretarybird and Drakensberg Rockjumper.

### ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

- The park’s reception area, conference room, restaurant and shop are all accessible via ramped and paved walkways. Two of the parks 4-bed family cottages are equipped with level access and adapted ablutions (roll-in showers).
- The park’s camp site has unisex accessible ablutions.
- The park’s historic 6-bed homestead called Doornhoek has no accessible adaptations, but is all on one level and has a flat entrance, so people strong enough to transfer themselves to and from a bath may find this a possible option.
Tourism Infrastructure in the park is relatively limited, with the Skilpad chalets the only permanent rest camp. There are only 4 units each with 2 single beds and a ¾ sleeper couch suitable for one adult or 2 children. One of these chalets is adapted for guests with mobility impairment.

Every year during flower season SANParks partners a private operator who provides a temporary camp of 10 dome tents. Through prior arrangement the needs of mobility impaired guests can be accommodated.

The Skilpad Visitor Centre, its displays and exhibits and the accompanying information garden are all relatively accessible to the mobility challenged and offer tactile and scent opportunity for visually impaired guests.

The toilets at the Skilpad Visitor Centre have an accessible toilet.

As if by magic a tapestry of brilliant colours unfold enticingly along the winding roads of the Namaqua National Park. Butterflies, birds and long-tongued flies dart around among the flowers, seemingly overwhelmed by the abundance and diversity.

During early August and September, seemingly overnight, the dusty valleys of Namaqualand are transformed into a wonderland, carpeted with wildflowers. With its winter rainfall, Namaqualand is home to the richest bulb flora of any arid region in the world and more than a 1 000 of its estimated 3 500 plant species are found nowhere else on earth.

Every turn in the road paints an unforgettable picture: valleys filled with Namaqualand daisies and other spring flowers that pulse with sheer energy and joy. Next to some eye-catching succulents, a porcupine and a tall aloe pay witness to a baboon overturning a rock and pouncing on a scorpion.

Escape to the land of contrasts, where the rigorous climate has created a myriad of life forms superbly adapted to their specific habitat. Fields of flowers, star studded nights, quiver trees, enormous granite outcrops and the icy Atlantic are but a few wonders that await the visitor to what is truly the Creators' playground.

Namaqua National Park is located some 495km north of Cape Town off the N7 route to Namibia, and 67km south of the town of Springbok and 20 odd km west of the town of Kamieskroon.

There are two sections to the park – a coastal section (only accessible to 4x4 vehicles) and the Skilpad wildflower section, where a visitor info centre, a circular game/flower viewing drive and several walking trails are available.

In August and September the harsh arid landscape is transformed into blankets of multi-coloured flower displays. The park is home many unique animals and plants adapted to the succulent Karoo arid environment, including the world’s smallest tortoise, the Namaqua Speckled Padloper. The coastal section of the park between the mouths of the Groen and Spoeg Rivers has extraordinary Atlantic Ocean coastal diversity, including a Cape Fur Seal colony and incredible cave geology.
This natural world heritage site is a haven of magnificent mountains plunging into crystal seas fringed with bleached white sands of the Cape Peninsula. The mountain chain stretches from Signal Hill in the north, to Cape Point in the South and is also home to the world’s smallest, yet most diverse floral kingdom, the Cape Floristic Region. The amazing diversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom is highlighted by over 2500 species occurring throughout the park. Apart from the unique flora there is a wide variety of birds and animals in the park. Sit quietly in a secluded spot and you are guaranteed to see some of the interesting fauna such as sunbirds, sugarbirds and rock hyraxes (dassies). In the Cape of Good Hope Section there are several large animals like eland, red hartebeest, bontebok and Cape mountain zebra. The marine section of the park offers visitors the chance to watch Whales, Dolphins, Cape Fur Seals and many sea-birds.

Table Mountain National Park is a must-visit for anyone in Cape Town, local or international. From open access hikes and beautiful forest walks to pristine picnic and day-visit spots to secluded picturesque accommodation facilities throughout the park, there is plenty to do, see and experience. Unlike most of the other national parks TMNP is surrounded entirely by a city and for this reason it is fragmented by urban development and privately owned land. This combined with the fact that it is primarily an open access park with only three managed pay points (Cape of Good Hope, Boulders Penguin Colony and Silvermine), has resulted in it being the most visited of all National Parks receiving an annual quota of 4.2 million visits annually. Conservation fees are payable at only three access-controlled sections of the park, but the champion of the park is Table Mountain itself, one of the 7 new Natural Wonders of the World as voted in the global 2012 campaign.
Wheelchair accessible attractions include summiting Table Mountain (accessed via an impressive privately operated cable-car). Up top there is a network of cemented pathways (some sections are smooth, others cobbledstoned) and boardwalks, a shop, restaurant and many lookout points.

Silvermine Reservoir has a lengthy accessible boardwalk that is great for wheelchair users to experience a piece of the Cape Flora and enjoy a picnic. (NB The boardwalk was destroyed by fire in March 2015. Please check with park for status)

Other relatively accessible destinations include Signal Hill, Rhodes Memorial Tea Room, Newlands Forest and Tokai Forest.

Most of the park’s accommodation was originally geared towards hikers and while the camps themselves are equipped with boardwalks that enable mobility, the ablutions are generally not adapted for wheelchair users, but there are many privately run accessible accommodation options around the park in the city of Cape Town that will give visitors from afar accessible options.

The park should be adapting some of the camps to provide universally accessible ablutions in the future and has already done so in two of the rooms at the Platteklip Wash Houses and in one of the ablutions at the Smitswinkel Tented Camp.

Olifantsbos Guest House in the Cape of Good Hope Section has ramps and boardwalks and the interior and ablutions are spacious for those with standard width wheelchairs who have the strength to transfer themselves to and from a bath.

A major accessible attraction in these areas of the park is the Boulders Beach and Penguin colony at Simonstown, highlighted by an excellent wide boardwalk that allows visitors to get right down to the beach right in amongst the penguins, the Willis Walk Boardwalk linking the penguin beach to the bathing beach, and a ramped and cemented pathway down to the bathing beach. There are also wheelchairs for loan for elderly and frail guests.

At Cape Point wheelchair users will find a network of ramps enabling their passage and can catch a funicular up the hill. Unfortunately it doesn’t go up to the top of the lighthouse but still enables people to get to the main viewing spots looking out over the point and the Atlantic Ocean.

There are accessible public toilets with grab rails and lever taps at Newlands Forest, Rhodes Memorial Tea Room, Lister’s Tea Room in the Tokai Forest, Cape Point and Cape Point Restaurant, Table Mountain Cable Station (top and bottom), Signal Hill, Buffelsfontein Visitor’s Centre and Boulders Beach and Penguin Colony (3 separate UA toilets on the penguin boardwalk, on the beach side and along Willis Walk.

In terms of tactile exhibits for visually impaired visitors Buffelsfontein Visitor’s Centre is a must as there are moulds on some walls and a number of wildlife artefacts on display.
Tankwa Karoo National Park

Accommodation in the park consists of converted historical homesteads, some of which are spacious and partially accessible, but without adapted accessible ablutions. At March 2015 the only unit with adaptations for guests with mobility impairment is one of the cottages at Elandsberg Wilderness Camp, where there is a roll-in shower and toilet with grab rails.

The park’s reception offices and information centre has ramped entrance and an accessible toilet.

West Coast National Park

There are two wheelchair accessible chalets at Duinepos Camp, while the Cottage at Abrahamskraal is also accessible – all these units are equipped with ramps, grab rails in the ablutions and roll-in showers.

Some of the other accommodation in the park is partially accessible although they do not have adapted ablutions.

The swimming pool at Duinepos is suitable for wheelchair users.

The bird hide at Geelbek is wheelchair accessible.

The historic Geelbek Manor building has ramped access and there is a wheelchair accessible toilet. Thus the award-winning restaurant, kiosk and information centre, plus all functions held there are accessible to the mobility impaired.

The toilets in the Postberg Flower section have ramped access, but no other enabling amenities.

Every year the park hosts a wheelchair marathon.

For those who like open spaces, big sky and the road less travelled Tankwa Karoo National Park is an ideal destination or stop-over place for anyone travelling between Cape Town and the interior.

The park is nestled in the unique succulent Karoo biome between the towns of Ceres, Calvinia and Sutherland, and is about 3 hours drive from Cape Town. It is one of the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on earth and the only arid region recognized globally as a biodiversity hotspot.

The Gannaga Pass offers some breathtaking mountain desert scenery. The park’s main attraction is scenery and photographic opportunity done from the confines of one’s own vehicle. The park is home to many endemic fauna and flora, while large herbivores such as Springbok, Red Hartebeest, Gemsbok and Cape Mountain Zebra have been reintroduced.

West Coast National Park is located in the land and peninsula surrounding Langebaan Lagoon in the South-Western Cape, 100km north of Cape Town along the R27. In August and September the Postberg Section is opened to the public and offers excellent flower displays. It is also home to several species of large herbivores. Whale watching can be done from Tsaarsbank between August and November.

The park is a RAMSAR wetland of international importance for migratory waders and other aquatic species.
Much of the park’s accommodation is camping, and the various ablution blocks scattered throughout the park do not have adaptations for mobility impaired visitors and are elevated to limit scorpions, but are fairly spacious and partially accessible despite the lack of grab rails, transfer seats and ramps.

The Wilderness Camps at Tatasberg and Ganakouriep both have a unit equipped with access ramps and ablutions with roll-in showers and grab-rails.

The main camp at Sendelingsdrif surprisingly does not have any adapted units for mobility impaired guests at the time of writing, but hopefully this will be rectified in future (keep an eye on the website). The park’s reception building has an access ramp and there is an accessible ablution.

The Pont at Sendelingsdrif to cross the river into Namibia is very accessible by vehicle or in a wheelchair, with a slipway down to the river on both banks and an access ramp lowered to mount and exit the vessel.

There is a ramp into the customs building at the border crossing.

Richtersveld National Park is located in the remote Northern Cape, immediately south of a massive bend in the Orange River and on the border with Namibia, with which it forms the [Ai]Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. The park is classified as mountainous desert with 4 distinct landscape types and 2 habitat biomes. Roads and terrain is rugged and visitors require a 4x4 vehicle. The main general attractions of the park are the dramatic scenery, amazing geology and fantastical arid plants and wildlife, which all make for outstanding photographic opportunity. Specific attractions include “the Hand of God” rock feature, the mighty Orange River, and the enchanting Half-mens trees that the local people hold sacred.