

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park

EXPERIENCE
WITHOUT
BOUNDRIES

Gonarezhou
National Park

Transfrontier
Conservation Area

Kruger
National
Park

Limpopo
National
Park





The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park

The joint initiative between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe has resulted in a truly fascinating result: the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. This park was proclaimed on 9 December 2002, and comprises the linking up of the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, Gonarezhou National Park, Manjinji Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe, as well as two areas between Kruger and Gonarezhou, namely the Sengwe communal land in Zimbabwe and the Makuleke region in South Africa.

This vast landscape of 35,000 km² surface area (roughly the same size as the Netherlands) will be managed as an integrated unit across three international borders. What makes this concept even more exciting is the fact that this is only the first phase in the establishment of a bigger transfrontier conservation area that will measure almost 100,000 km² – making it the world's greatest animal kingdom. A project of this size certainly deserves acknowledgement, and major developments have already taken place to boost tourism for the transfrontier park, including the opening of the Giriyondo corridor between Limpopo and Kruger National Parks on 16 August 2006. The other corridors occur at Pafuri, Mapai, Massingir and Sengwe. These corridors serve as access facilities, making the tourism and wilderness trails more accessible to the visitor.

But a transfrontier park would be meaningless without the guests' prime reason for their visit: the wildlife. A total of 4600 animals have already been translocated, and many animals have also migrated from Kruger by themselves. To encourage this, a further 30 km section of fence along the northern boundary between Kruger and Limpopo National Park was dropped.

Peace Parks Foundation, who facilitates the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), is assisting the Mozambican government in overseeing the development of the Limpopo National Park – a project approved by the SADC member states and funded by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), a German government-owned development bank.

One of the main goals in the establishment of a TFCA is that the local communities will benefit from the increased ecotourism to the area. But of course this is dependant on the communities' involvement in the development of the park. Therefore, to encourage their participation, the development of the Limpopo National Park started with community consultations and with the distribution of information about the envisaged transfrontier park.



During the first phase community leaders were identified and socio-demographic data assembled. The second phase involved a more comprehensive and participatory approach aimed at community involvement in the development of the park. The leaders identified in phase one were involved in drafting a management plan for the new park.

Conservation is definitely a successful characteristic that forms part of a country's tourism sector, as numerous examples have generated sufficient income to sustain themselves independent of State support. It is both practical and profitable for stakeholders, and plays an important role in the conservation agency (and country's) sustainability.



Machampane Camp



Vision

To achieve inter-state collaboration in the conservation of trans-boundary ecosystems and their associated biodiversity, promoting sustainable use of natural resources to improve the quality of life of the peoples of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Mission

To collaboratively establish and manage, on a sustainable basis, a viable Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park with full stakeholder participation, including local communities, fostering regional co-operation, biodiversity conservation, and cross-border socio-economic development.

Objectives

As political borders very seldom respect ecological systems, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park will strive to re-establish historical animal migration routes and other ecosystem functions that have

been disordered by fences and incompatible legislation. This can assist greatly with regulating elephant population, for example, as it would enable them to move freely from area to area. This unimpeded ecosystem will then also be jointly managed according to harmonised wildlife management policies, promoting the return of a greater and more resilient ecosystem with better chances of long-term sustainability.

Of equal importance is the providing of jobs and opportunities to generate revenue for many of the thousands of people affected by decades of civil war. Improving the lives of these rural communities will also contribute towards biodiversity that can be gained through conservation as an alternative and viable land-use option.

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is made up of three main areas: Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.



EXPERIENCE WITHOUT BOUNDRIES



Mozambique – Limpopo National Park

The background of Limpopo National Park is definitely filled with an exciting history. The area originally existed as an old hunting concession, known as Coutada 16. It was then upgraded to National Park status in 1972, and declared a protected nature conservation area in order to safeguard its outstanding variety of animals and plants. But jumping from hunting grounds to a conservation area was not that easy. Mozambique's wildlife population was nearly destroyed during the 14 years of war preceding 1990, and ever since then the country's parks have been battling to restore the game reserves. Up to date, the wildlife numbers are slowly but surely continuing to grow.

Welcome help came in the form of a R42 million donation from Germany, which is currently helping the Limpopo National Park to upgrade itself with fences and anti-poaching units.

The vast landscape of this national park is mainly sandveld, covered by mopane, ironwood and broadleaf savanna. Although it is located in an area that is largely waterless in the dry season, the mighty Shingwedzi and Limpopo rivers aid in the survival of the area's inhabitants. About 27 000 people call this piece of natural beauty their home. Visitors can enter the park via South Africa (Kruger National Park) through either Giriyondo or Pafuri border gate, and from Mozambique via Mapai or Massingir gate. The park is known for its exceptional natural magnificence, which makes it a valuable asset to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Accommodation

Machampane Wilderness Trails Camp – a privately owned operated luxury tented accommodation facility, 30 km from Giriyondo border gate. Includes all meals plus guided game walks. Contact Marichen on marichen@tfpd.co.za for info / reservations.

Camp coordinates: 31°46' 46.31" E / 23°46' 13.24" S

All bookings for the following camps can be made with Heloise at limpopo@wol.co.za or +(27)72 447 4279.

Campismo Aguia Pesqueira – situated about 55 km from Giriyondo border gate and about 25 km from Massingir. Its placement high on the escarpment ensures magnificent views of the dam, which is about 250 m away. There is no electricity in the camp. The camp has various accommodation levels that are categorized into 3 "nodes", but all possess ablution and kitchen facilities.

Camp coordinates: 32°0' 26.21" E / 23°51' 29.59" S

Campismo Albufeira – Situated at entrance / exit at Massingir, about 70 km from Giriyondo border gate. The camp is close to the dam wall, and consists of camping sites with kitchen and ablution facilities, as well as chalets. This camp has one 4-bed chalet, while the rest are all 2-bed. The chalets all have electricity and each its own skottelbraai outside.

Camp coordinates: 32°8' 42.44" E / 23°52' 24.28" S

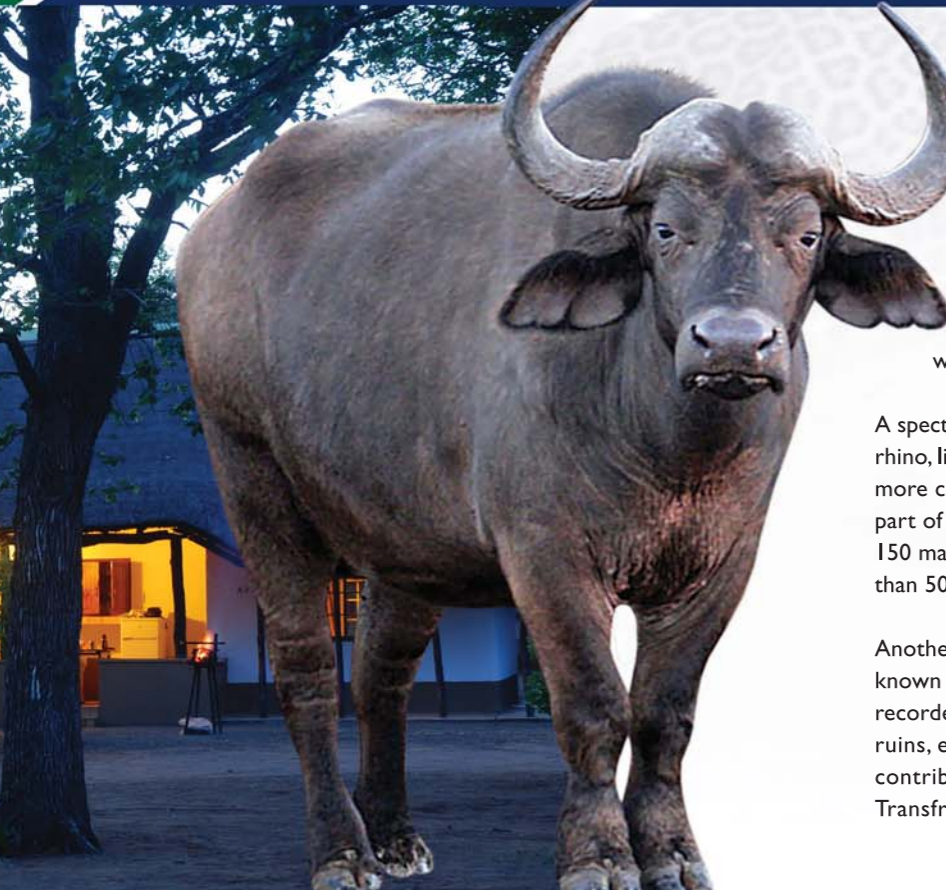
Campismo Sandalo – a camp with only the basic necessities of showers and toilets, situated 3 hrs drive from Aguia Pesqueira. Camp coordinates: 31°41' 57.73" E / 23°20' 51.18" S

Campismo Nhampfule – very basic camp with showers and toilets, located on boundary in the north close to Mapai. Camp coordinates: 31°55' 17.36" E / 22°53' 35.93" S

Activities

- Game viewing
- Bird watching
- Day walks / guided trails (at Machampane Wilderness Trails Camp)





South Africa – Kruger National Park

As the biggest of South Africa's national parks, stretching for about 350 km along the Mozambiquan border to where the 2 countries meet at Zimbabwe, Kruger is known for its extensive collection of plants and wildlife. The park was first proclaimed in 1898 as the Sabie Game Reserve by the then president of the Transvaal Republic, Paul Kruger. In 1926 the Sabie and Shingwedzi Game Reserves were merged, and Kruger National Park was born.

A spectacular collection of wildlife roam these landscapes. Buffalo, rhino, lion, wild dog, giraffe, zebra, kudu, klipspringer and many more can all be spotted. With the Kruger National Park being part of the Transfrontier Park, Great Limpopo is gaining close to 150 mammals, over 380 species of indigenous trees, and more than 500 bird species.

Another exciting element and valuable asset are the almost 254 known cultural heritage sites in the park, including nearly 130 recorded rock art sites. This, along with significant archaeological ruins, evidence of San civilization and many historical stories, contributes greatly to the value of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Accommodation

Kruger National Parks offers camp-run accommodation. Each camp has its own unique selection of accommodation types, including camping, huts, safari tents, bungalows, cottages, luxury lodges and more.

Letaba Camp – An idyllic rest camp that is situated on the sweeping bend of the Letaba River, midway between Kruger's southern and northern boundaries.
Camp coordinates: -23.851 S / 31.5767 E

Satara Camp – Satara's location in an excellent game viewing area makes it a very busy camp. It is well wooded and is known for its splendid selection of birdlife.
Camp coordinates: -24.3926 S / 31.7795 E

Skukuza Camp – The largest rest camp and administrative headquarters of Kruger. It is located on the southern banks of the Sabie River, is well foliated and has a diverse range of activities and facilities.
Camp coordinates: -24.9898 S / 31.5926 E

Shingwedzi Camp – Located in the northern part of Kruger in the heart of mopane country, this rustic camp provides regular sights of waterbuck, nyala, kudu and elephant.
Camp coordinates: -23.1136 S / 31.4331 E

Olifants – Olifants camp is situated on top of a hill, towering several hundred feet over the Olifants river.
Camp coordinates: -24.0057 S / 31.7402 E

Activities

Kruger, with its sheer size and vast landscapes, offers numerous activity options that cater for all visitors' needs:

- Adventure Trails (4x4 trails)
- Backpacking Trails
- Wilderness Trails
- Guided Walks
- Game Drives
- Bush Braais
- Swimming Pool
- Golf





EXPERIENCE WITHOUT BOUNDRIES



Zimbabwe – Gonarezhou National Park

The astounding landscape known as Gonarezhou, meaning "Place of many Elephants", is located in the south eastern lowveld of Zimbabwe and covers an area in excess of 5 000 square kilometres. Folklore tells us that the area was named for the herbalists who would stock their medicines in tusks (known as 'gona' in the Shona language).

Three major rivers – The Save, Rundel and Mwenezi – flow right through the park, forming pools and natural oases where huge varieties of birds, wildlife and fish gather to feed and drink. Gonarezhou is famous for its elephants, but numerous other remarkable wildlife species can be glimpsed across the park, including buffalo, giraffe, zebra, numerous large antelope, and the popular big cats (lion, leopard and cheetah). In addition, hundreds of exciting bird types may be spotted as well. Unique species of aquatic wildlife such as the Zambezi Shark, Freshwater Goby, Black Bream and the unique turquoise killifish can be seen within the Park's rivers and pools.

One of the most prominent and enduring natural features of Gonarezhou National Park is the beautiful Chilojo Cliffs. These magnificent red sandstone cliffs have been formed through eons of erosion and overlook the scenic Runde River valley, aiding in providing a picturesque setting for the national park.

Accommodation

Swimuwini

The Mabalauta section in the Mwenezi sub-region includes the Swimuwini rest camp, "The place of the Baobabs". The camp is situated 8 kilometres from the warden's office and overlooks the the Mwenezi River. There are thatched self-catering accommodation facilities at the camp. Camping is possible at Swimuwini at the Mabalauta Camping site which has ablution facilities. Visitors with caravans on tow can also camp at Swimuwini and use the same facilities for standard camp sites.

Chipinda Pools

This section has predominantly camping facilities, with no self-catering accommodation facilities. Guests can choose from 19 sites at the beautiful Chipinda Pools Camp, each with basic shelter, braai area and ablution facilities. Camp coordinates: (22° 15' S / 31° 50' E)

Chinguli

There are 14 camping sites in the Runde sub-region at Chinguli, which also have similar facilities to those at Chipinda.

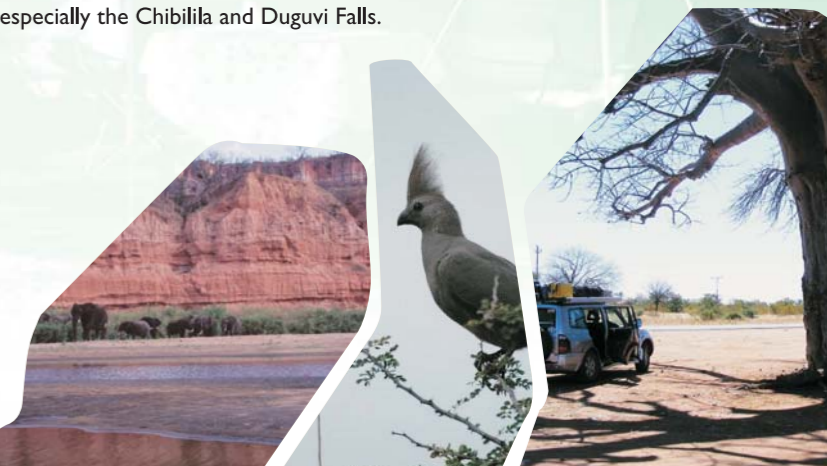
Undeveloped Camping Sites

Minimum facilities camps are located at Nyahungwe, Madumbini, Bopomela, Lisoda, Gota, Chitove, Chamaluvati and Chilojo. These exclusive sites may be booked by a single party of up to 10 people and there are no attendants available. Visitors need to bring their own water, and may collect dead wood in the vicinity for firewood.

Activities


- Game viewing** – Visitors are encouraged to keep a safe viewing distance from elephants.
- Fishing**
- Walking safaris** – permitted in certain areas. The pools at Samalena Gorge ("the place of killings") are of major interest. Cliff viewing at Chilojo, Mwatomba Pool and Makonde Pool.
- Bird watching** – especially at Tembahata's natural water pan.
- Picnicking** – There are several picnic and braai sites located in the park.

Attractive nature spots, superb for photography enthusiasts – especially the Chibilila and Duguvi Falls.






Activities Chart

	LNP					KNP					GNP												
	Machampane	Agua Pesqueira	Albufeira	Sandalo	Nhampfule	Letaba	Satara	Skukuza	Shingwedzi	Olifants	Mabalauta	Swimuwini	Chipinda Pools	Chinguli	Nyahungwe	Madumbini	Bopomela	Lisoda	Gota	Chitove	Chamaluvati	Chilojo	
4x4 Adventure Trail						✓	✓		✓														
Bird Watching	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bush breakfast /braai						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Day Walks / Trails	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing						✓																	
Game Drives						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Picnic Sites						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Restuarant						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Shop						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Swimming						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Television						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Wilderness Trail						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													

Accommodation Chart

	LNP					KNP					GNP												
	Machampane	Agua Pesqueira	Albufeira	Sandalo	Nhampfule	Letaba	Satara	Skukuza	Shingwedzi	Olifants	Mabalauta	Swimuwini	Chipinda Pools	Chinguli	Nyahungwe	Madumbini	Bopomela	Lisoda	Gota	Chitove	Chamaluvati	Chilojo	
Bungalow						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
Lodge												✓											
Camping site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cottage									✓														
Family cottage						✓		✓															
Guest cottage						✓	✓	✓															
Hut						✓																	
Luxury bungalow								✓															
Tent	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓													
Guest house							✓	✓	✓	✓													
Chalet		✓	✓																				
Caravan						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												



South African
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