

Pretoriuskop Rest Camp, Kruger National Park – Access for Guests with Mobility Challenges

Pretoriuskop Rest Camp is the park's oldest camp and it has an attractive well-foliated layout and a colourful history (some of which is revealed in an in-camp trail). The area surrounding the camp is quite dense vegetation and is highlighted by a series of picturesque granite *koppies* (small hills). The area is particularly good for rhino, buffalo and elephant, and renowned for the rare antelope species that frequent the area. From an accessibility perspective there are 3 bungalows (out of a total of 140 units) that are specifically adapted to guests with mobility challenges, a communal camping ablution for wheelchair users and accessible toilets at reception, between the restaurant and shop and adjacent the school travelers huts.



The camp's reception has a handful of demarked bays, one of which is marked for wheelchair use. Entrance to reception is up steps, but there is an alternative entrance with no steps that guests in wheelchairs can use. There are public toilets including an accessible one round the back of the reception block

The reception's accessible ablution facility is useable, but the basin is a little far from the toilet, which is rather low and the adjacent grab rail is fixed at an angle.



Access and Activities Around the Camp

The camp has an outdoor theatre where wildlife films are shown in the evening. Concrete benches are provided as seating, but there is space for wheelchairs in and around these. The camp also hosts a historical trail and while some of it requires passage over uneven ground, it is mostly accessible. The camp also has a swimming pool built out of natural rock. Getting in and out of the pool from a wheelchair is tricky, and a spring gate and small step at the entrance of the pool enclosure are some of the additional barriers to use.



The camp's cafeteria and restaurant have good access and while there is a small section of the indoor portion of the restaurant that is up steps (where the bar is located), the rest of the facility can be used with ease and comfort. The camp shop is fully accessible with ramped access and wide aisles inside.

There are suitable accessible ablutions between the restaurant and the shop complex. The grab rails are correctly position and the basin is within reach of a person seated on the toilet.



There is an information centre next to the restaurant where information displays can be seen. This can be easily accessed. The other significant activity is the camp's game drive vehicles for morning and night drives. Like other camps in Kruger these currently have no accessible enhancements and wheelchair users will have to be lifted into the vehicle to and from their chair. The chair won't be required during the drive and can be left in camp in the safety of reception. Because of the lower height such guests may elect to sit in the front with the driver.

Accessible Accommodation



Bungalows 115 and 116 (which are essentially identical) were converted to be accessible to guests with mobility difficulties over 20 years ago, and while some minor improvements have been made to the units, their basic layout has remained the same. They provide comfortable access and have an excellent location on the perimeter fence near the swimming pool complex. They are however quite far from the restaurant, shop and reception and the route in between is sloped, so some people may prefer to drive.



Inside the bedroom chamber the 2 single beds are of a good height. There is space for a wheelchair to pass between the 2 beds. The bedside lights are well positioned for a person in each bed.



There is a wash basin in the bedroom chamber (rather than in the unit's ablutions) which has good leg clearance beneath. The basin has turn-taps and not push-taps which will be problematic for some guests with limited grasping ability. The chamber's wardrobe is also adequately accessible.



The unit's toilet is useable, but there is no water tap within reach of the toilet and the grab rail on the adjacent wall is angled so that there is no horizontal section for ease of transfer. The shower is a well-designed 2 walled shower. The fold down seat is a thick metal grid and a folded towel or a shower cushion makes things more comfortable.



Outside on the unit's veranda a smooth ramp descends to the *braai* (barbecue) facility. The outdoor kitchenette has good clearance below the hotplates and sink and while the alcove is a little cramped a wheelchair user can easily access the fridge. The cupboard is mounted on the wall and help may be required by some wheelchair users to reach all the items



The newest accessible unit in Pretoriuskop is a 2-bed bungalow (**unit number 3** with the code BD2MZ). This unit was refurbished and converted into an accessible unit during 2009 and has a comfortable finish. It is located in the circle of bungalows adjacent the petrol pump and is convenient to the restaurant and reception area.



The unit's parking is on a slight slope and a large tree provides welcome shade, but means that one has to park at an angle to ensure there is sufficient space for a wheelchair to disembark and still be able to get around the vehicle to access the unit.












The bedroom chamber of the unit has beds with a good height for transfer and use of night drainage bags and there is sufficient space on either side of the bed for wheelchair passage. The bedside light switches are conveniently positioned and the air-conditioner relies on remote control as it is mounted high up on the wall.

The unit's ablutions are a mixture of good and in need of some alterations. The toilet and basin set up is excellent, with the basin fitted with push taps and within reaching distance of the toilet which has grab rails positioned appropriately. The mirror is also well positioned. One maintenance problem that needs to be monitored is the securing of the toilet seat to its bracket.



The unit's roll-in shower is spacious and has all the components that are required. It is actually a dual shower with one shower head on the ceiling akin to a standard shower, and one detachable handset on a height adjustable sliding pole. This would be ideal except that the fold down seat is fitted on the far side of the shower out of reach from the mixer and the shower and the only way for a person who cannot stand can use it is to detach the set and balance it over the end of the grab rail while they then transfer from their wheelchair onto the seat. The seat and grab rails need to be shifted to alternative positions which hopefully will be done in the near future before anyone reading this has the opportunity to use the facility.

<p>The unit's kitchenette and veranda are useable without being especially accessible to a wheelchair user. The fridge is equipped with caged protection as (like so many camps in African game reserves) baboons and monkeys are a constant threat. The sink has no clearance underneath for wheelchairs, but otherwise is not too difficult to negotiate.</p>		
	<p>The unit's <i>braai</i> area has been paved around the circumference of the <i>braai</i> giving sufficient space for a wheelchair user to negotiate around the fire and cooking location. A causeway linking the braai and the unit's veranda has also been paved. While this is ideal and well thought a 15 cm or so ledge around the edge of the paving and wheelchair users must take care at all times to make sure they do not fall off the edge.</p>	
<p>Camping: The camp has more than one camping ablution block, but only the one in the bottom north-west corner of the camp has a specifically accessible facility. This is accessed from a paved pathway and access into the facility is good</p>		
	<p>The facility's basin has good clearance, push taps are provided and the mirror is well positioned. The toilet is in a good place for users to access the basin while on the toilet and the grab rails are in the correct position</p>	
	<p>The facility's shower however is somewhat cramped being a three wall design and the detachable hand shower is of an old and poor design and could be replaced by a better one.</p>	
	<p>There is one more accessible ablution at the back of the restaurant and adjacent the circle of school journey huts. The access to the facility is good and the toilet and basin layouts are appropriate</p>	