

North West Parks Board

Nature Reserves



The North West Parks Board is responsible for the management of protected areas in the North West Province of South Africa namely; Pilanesberg Nature Reserve, Madikwe Nature Reserve, Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve, Kgaswane Mountain Reserve, Borakalalo Nature Reseve, Mafikeng Nature Reserve, Barberspan Bird Sanctuary, Boskop Nature Reserve, Wolwespruit Nature Reserve, Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve, Molemane Eye Nature Reserve, Botsalano Nature Reserve, Molopo Nature Reserve, SA Lombard Nature Reserve.

The different reserves are scattered throughout the province, each with its unique features. Activities within the parks are available for Educational, Recreation and Enjoyment of both outdoor adventure enthusiasts and those who want a break away from the madding crowd.

With the exception of Madikwe Game Reserve, all reserves are open to day visitors and no prior booking is necessary.

Accomodation ranges from rustic farm houses, tented camps, caravan and camping sides. In reserves where facilities are not provided there are different privately owned accommodation either on the periphery of the park or in nearby towns.

We hope to see you soon!!!

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PILANESBERG NATURE RESERVE

The crater of a long extinct volcano is the setting for the Pilanesberg Nature Reserve —a fascinating alkaline complex produced by the volcanic action some 1300 million years ago. Pilanesberg is one of the largest volcanic complex of its kind in the world. Its rare rock types and structure make it a unique geological feature. Four concentric ridges or ring of hills fringe the area — the formation rises from the surrounding plains like bubbles. Pilanesberg has survived ages of erosion and stand high above the surrounding bushveld plains.

Thanks to Operation Genesis (1979), the largest game translocation ever undertaken in the world at the time, the park now has in excess of 7000 animals. Well known for its rich biodiversity of habitat, colourful hues, and panoramic view, Pilanesberg also offers visitors a close encounter with lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, lion and rhino Africa's BIG 5. A wide variety of rare and common species exist with endemic species like the nocturnal Brown Hyena as well as cheetah, tsesebe and crocodile, a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts.



Pilanesberg covers an area of about 50 000ha. It exists within a transition zone between the dry Kalahari and the wetter Lowveld vegetation commonly referred to as the Bushveld. Bird watching is excellent with over 300 birds species recorded.

The early presence of man can be seen in the numerous Stone and Iron Age sites that are scattered through the park.

Visitors are offered many opportunities to experience the wonders of the park. The 200km of good tar and gravel roads trans verse the park and are driveable by ordinary sedan; they carry a speed restriction to ensure the safety of both visitors and wild life.

Numerous hides and scenic picnic sites enable the visitor to experience 'out of the vehicle experience.

A shop and restaurant are centrally located in the park Curios are also available at the 2 entrance gates.

A wonderful array of accommodation is offered on the periphery of the park ranging from luxury exclusive hotels and game lodges, cosy guest houses and B&B, caravan and camping sites.

The park offers hiking trails, dawn and sunset game drives in open safari vehicles; early morning balloon safaris are available and can be booked with tourism operators.

Not far from the park is the must visit Mphebatho Museum desplay the Bakgatla-Ba-Kgafe history. There is also Moruleng Mall that caters for your shopping needs with many of the modern chain stores and restaurants available just 2km outside the Bakgatla Gate.

There are five entrance gates for visitors to the park.

GPS Coordinates:

Manyane Gate: S25° 15′ 17.3″ E27° 12′ 38.3″ Bakgatla Gate: S25° 11′ 03″ E27° 08′ 4.1 1″ Bosele Gate: S25° 15′ 14.2″ E27° 12′ 49. 0″ Bakubung Gate: S25° 20′ 23.9″ E27° 03′ 49.3″ Kwa Maritane Gate: S25° 20′ 38.9″ E27° 09′ 01.6″

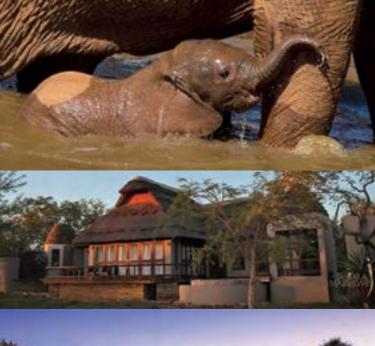


MADIKWE NATURE RESERVE

A theatre of conservation, a wilderness paradise, Madikwe Nature Reserve.

The 63 000 ha reserve was established in 1991 in one of the largest translocation of the time - Operation Phoenix - when a total of 10 000 mammals were introduced to the park.

The reserve has an excellent record of environmental management which has ensured that the carrying capacity of the reserve is never exceeded to the detriment of the eco-system as a whole. The Madikwe Nature Reserve conservation efforts to protect the endangered African Wild Dog are yielding positive results. The painted dogs being some what accustomed to the safari vehicles offer visitors a spectacular photographic opportunity.





At Madikwe you will experience the African safari adventure where you will be taken to the heart of a pristine environment to witness the interaction of the many species which include: the African Big 5, other plains species such as the cheetah, hippo and spotted brown hyenas and more than 300 bird species.

Madikwe is a low density tourism facility offering fully catered accommodation at several luxury lodges within the reserve, and is not open to day visitors. Game drives in open safari vehicles are accompanied by professional guides.

The reserve is situated 90km north of the town of Zeerust against the Botswana Border. It is a three hours' drive from both Johannesburg and Pretoria. Visitors are also able to fly in using an air charter flight operating from Wonderboom Airport in Pretoria.

The climate is generally mild to hot, but winter nights can be extremely cold. Warm clothing is essential for early morning and night drives. Gate times are arranged for pre booked residents only.

Useful hints

Airstrips: Available on request

Accommodation is run by private enterprises visit their website for more information: www.experiencemadikwe.com

GPS Coordinates

Abjaterskop Gate: 24.828361° 26.183441° Tau Gate: 24.688968° 26.195828° Derdepoort Gate: 24.652548° 26.404815° Wonderboom Gate: 24.768190° 26.162236°

BLOEMHOF DAM NATURE RESERVE

The Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve is a 12 000ha conservancy in open Kalahari scrub, thornveld country offering the visitor a rare combination of game viewing on the reserve or fishing at one of the most popular dam and prime angling spot.

Host to a wide variety of plains game with particularly large herds of springbok, black wildebeest, eland and gemsbok. A birdwatchers paradise with over 250 bird species recorded including some rare water birds.

The reserve host several national and international fishing competitions including the Tri-nations, Women's Championships and the Bloemhof Bonanza.

The Bloemhof Dam is the fifth largest dam in South Africa, covering an area of some 2 500ha and reaching over 100km upstream from the dam wall. The Dam is fed by the Vaal River. Your visit to the reserve will not be complete without visiting the dam wall, a dramatic experience when the river is full.



Three Fisherman's Chalets

A group camp comprising 3 fully equipped, self-catering two- bedded 3 bedrooms chalets with toilet and shower and an open plan kitchen with a fridge and a two-plate stove. Linen provided bring own towels. Outside Lapa for braai (Barbeque) available.

Three fully equipped sleeping halls accomodating 18 people with communal ablution facilities and kitchen. There is also a small Lapa within the complex. Bring own cutlery and towels.

Ten Log Cabins

Two bunk-bedded cabin accommodating four people, toilet and shower. Kitchen unit with gas stove and fridge. Lights and geyser is solar powered. Bring own cutlery and crockery.



Camping facilities are available at the angling areas

The reserve is situated just 4km east of Bloemhof on the R34 to Hoopstad. Powerboat launching facilities are provided and insect repellent is necessary.

GPS coordinates: S27° 38′ 111″ E25° 39′ 3.50″

KGASWANE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

Situated above the town of Rustenburg, across a habitat of quartzite mountain peaks and vleis on the northern slope of the Magaliesberg, lies the 5 300ha Kgaswane Mountain Reserve. The principal vlei which traverses the central portion of the reserve is the largest of its kind in the Magaliesberg and is an important catchment area at the headwaters of the Hex River.

The reserve provides habitat for over 800 antelope, including klipspringer, grey duiker, bushbuck, kudu mountain reedbuck, impala, red hartebeest, sable antelope and many more. Small numbers of predators, including caracal, aardwolf, blackbacked jackal and leopard also occur.

Kgaswane caters for a wide range of interests and is a famous hiking destination. Two trails are open to public. The overnight trails are extremely popular and prior booking is essential. The Summit Route is a 25,3km route and includes the natural pool in which swimming is not allowed. The Bavianskrans Route is 19,5km and incudes the Waterfall View and the garden of remembrance.



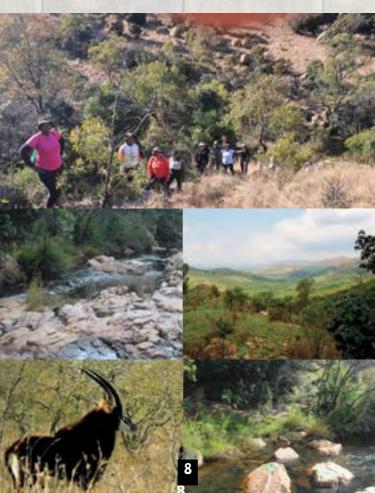
The Peglerae Trail is a day excursion of approximately 5,5km over fairly steep and rocky terrain. The shorter 2km Vlei Ramble takes visitors to the bird viewing hide.

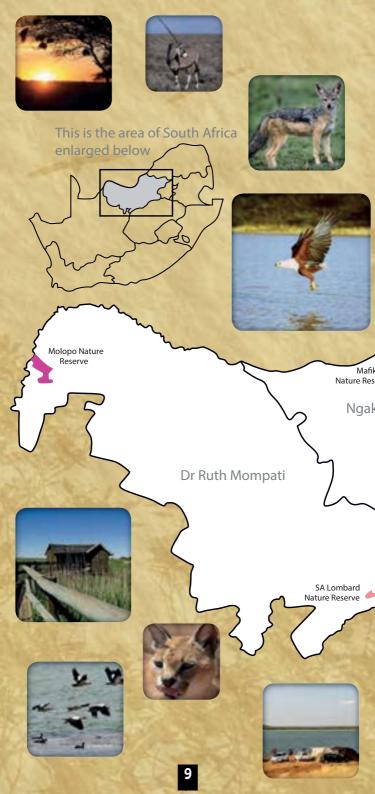
Shady camping sites, with communal ablution facilities are available. Day visitors can relax at a pleasant picnic site.

The cottages and the group camp are revamped and will be open soon. The two - bedded self- catering cotagges will be fully equipped and serviced daily. The camp also offers conference facilities for 60 people. Six and eight bedded dormitory style bungalows are available at the group camp, the group camp can accommodate 50 people. A fully equipped communal kitchen is also available.

GPS coordinates: S25° 42′ 9.24″ E27° 11′ 6.50″

Just one hour drive from both Johannesburg and Pretoria. 2km Outside the city of Rustenburg. Access to the reserve is via the Boekenhout Road travelling west out of Rustenburg.









BORAKALALO NATURE RESERVE

Borakalalo is a Setswana name meaning 'The place where people relax ' is one of the North West's most diverse conservation area where visitors can walk freely along prescribed trails to enjoy the eco-diversity of this very special park. The unusual eco diverse terrain within the park consists of broad leafed Acacia woodland.

The Moretele River runs into the 800ha Klipvoor Dam which also has a beautiful stretch of riverine forest. Angling on the Klipvoor Dam is permitted and is regarded as among the best in the country. Carp, breem and barbell are the principal species although yellow fish do occur, offering excellent sport when taken on light tackle.

An abundance of wildlife and more than 350 bird species recorded, including eagle and smaller raptors. A wide variety of antelope, giraffe, leopard, and numerous smaller mammal species.

The park is open for overnight campares and day visitors.

The park is also known for fishing and picknicking.

GPS: S25° 19′ 151″ E27° 80′ 516″

MAFIKENG NATURE RESERVE

Mafikeng Nature Reserve lies on the boundary of the capital city of the North West Province Mahikeng extending eastwards to cover an area of 4800ha of open Kalahari grassland and acacia thornscrub.

Mafikeng conserves large populations of plains game as well as the white rhino, buffalo, gemsbok, giraffe, springbok and red hartebeest which can be viewed and photographed from the comfort of your vehicle. Numerous sightings of all the principal species is the special feature of the reserve.

Visitors can choose between the two rustic self-catering houses which are restored farm houses, or the safari tented camp. The Hunters Rest is a two bedded three bedroom house it also has an extra two free-standing en-suite rooms. Angels Rest House is a two-bed five bedrooms house with 2 bathrooms and a shower.

The city of Mahikeng offers interesting historical and cultural attractions, and excellent shopping malls close the reserve.

GPS Coordinates:

\$25° <mark>51' 73</mark>2" E 025° 41' 683"





BARBERSPAN BIRD SANCTUARY

The Barberspan Bird Sanctuary is a RAMSAR — convention accredited wetland of international importance for migratory birds and waterfowl. Barberspan and the adjacent Leeupan which are connected by a shallow channel are 4000ha in extent; comprising shallow alkaline waters, ideally suited to the many species which favour such conditions. The pans are occasionally fed by the Harts River.

Certain areas on Barberspan are designated for anglers to enjoy excellent fishing opportunities for yellow fish, carp and barbel.

Accommodation facilities exist in two rustic self-catering farm houses, the two- bedded four bedroom Pelican house and the two-bedded three bedroomed Flamingo House.

The main tourist roads are not suitable for all vehicles. no powerboats are permitted. Barberspan hosts several regional angling competitions annually as well as a two-day Fishing Competition with big prizes.

Barberspan Bird Sanctuary is located between Delareyville and Sannieshof on the N14'

GPS Coordinates: S 26, 55 10.3, E 25, 61 20.3.

BOSKOP DAM NATURE RESEREUE

Situated on the Mooi River valley and set in rolling grasslands, the reserve is situated on the Mooi River Valley 20kms north of the town of Potchefstroom, a short distance from the R501 to Carltonville

The dam lies among a series of low hills; on it's clear waters are home to bass, yellow fish and carp a perfect setting for water sports. Boskop has a tremendous potential as a fly fishing venue, and water based activities like canoeing.

Game drives in the reserve offers visitors an opportunity to observe wildlife including blesbok, zebra, black wildebeest, red hartebeest and springbuck at close range.

Camping site along the dam with basic tourist facilities is available for campers and day visitors. There will be a caravan site with electricity in the future. There is no shop in the park.

GPS Coordinates: S26° 53′ 138" E27° 08′ 367"



WOLWESPRUIT **NATURE RESERVE**

Wolwespruit Nature Reserve is situated along the northern bank of the Vaal River upstream from Bloemhof Dam. It lies between Klerksdorp and Wolmaranstad ust 90km and 60km respectively.

This scenic reserve conserves an attractive riverine bush and is a popular an gling and hiking destination.

Wolwespruit is a wonderfully tranquil and safe environment for the whole family where you can cycle, run, fish or just relax next to the river while listening to the haunting cry of the fish eagle memorable.

There are thirty two tent sites spread along the shores of the river, there is braai area and 2 communal ablution block both with cold and hot water, shower and flushing toilet. No electricity is provided on the camp site.

The reserves also boasts a self-catering stone cottage which sleeps up to maximum of 6people, booking is essential.

GPS Coordinates:

S27° 41′ 17" E26° 27′ 27"





VAALKOP DAM NATURE RESERVE

The Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve is situated 54km north of the town of Brits in typical broken bushveld country and is popular as both an anglers and birdwatching destination. The reserve conserve a variety of bushveld game species and is host to over 340 bird species. Fish species include carp and yellow fish which are plentiful.

Basic campsite facilities are provided on the northern shoreline. Camping, picnic and angling is per mitted. The camping site has ablu tion block with shower, toilet and bath. There are no shops in the park.

The majority of roads are suitable for sedan cars; certain roads on the south east side may require 4X4.

GPS Coordinates:

15 S25° 18′ 29.02″ E27° 29′ 01.51″

MOLEMANE EYE NATURE RESERVE

An attractive destination for nature lovers who want a rustic, off the beaten track get away.

Situated 45km from the town of Lichtenburg and just 11km from Ottoshoop on the Lichtenburg/Zeerust road (R505). The eye on its own can generate 2 250 000 liters of water per day and feeds the Molemane and Marico Rivers.

Fishing is permitted on the reserve and angling for bass is on a strictly catch and release basis. No live bait may be used and only artificial lures with barbless hooks are permitted.

In 1992 Elizabeth Duncan Rose (neé Gubbins) bequeathed her farm the Malmani Oog to the then North West Parks & Tourism Board on the condition that it be made into an nature reserve and should not be sold. Elizabeth inherited the farm from her father, a distinguished collector of Africana, Dr John Gubbins.

The caravan and campsites are located along a stream and have ablution, braai facilities and electricity points. Twelve two bedded tents along the lake with en-suite shower and toilet and a communal kitchen with stove and fridge.

GPS Coordinates: S25° 49′ 32.0″ E26° 03′ 58.1″





BOTSALANO NATURE RESERVE

Botsalano meaning Friendship in Setswana lies just north of the capital city of Mahikeng against the Botswana border. Botsalano is also one of the oldest volcanic craters in the world that extended through to Botswana. The reserve is mainly Kalahari thornveld and wide open acacia and karee woodlands.

Botsalano Nature Reserve a popular destination for game and bird watching. Sunsets at Sentry Hill Bush Camp are any amount Sunsets at Sentry Hill Bush Camp are worth any amount of slumsming it. The road network is a bit rusty and need an off-road vehicle.

The Mogobe tented camp has four tents, each with two single beds is situated on the reserve overlooking the waterhole. the tents have en-suit shower and toilet, dinning with a fully equipped kitchen with a stove and a fridge. Facilities include Dining room with fire place and lapa.

The three Bush tented, Legora, Sentry Hill and the Safari bush camp have Basic amenities with, open air-showers and flush toilets and Braai facilities, are available in the reserve. An open picnic site with 2 ablution blocks and Lapa with chairs, tables and braai stands

GPS Coordinates: S25° 56′ 12" E25° 71′ 31"

MOLOPO NATURE RESERVE

This remote Kalahari grassland and thornveld reserve is an arid savannah region of undulating grass and thornveld dunes offering a unique wilderness experience to the wildlife enthusiasts. The Molopo Game Reserve was established in 1987 and restocked with game from other reserves.

Today the reserve has flourishing herds of gemsbok, red hartebees, kudu, zebra, impala as well as the honey badger and small spotted genet. Whitebacked and Lappet faced vultures are also common.

The park has a camping site with ablution block and communial kitchen that can accommodate a small groups.

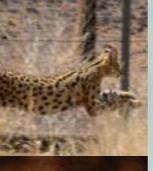
A number of artificial waterholes have been constructed where concentration of game can be seen. The network of roads through the reserve are suitable for 4X4 (and 4X2 with diff lock) vehicles.

A special feature of the park is the fossil Phepane river bed which can be visited and explored. This feature, which is many million years old, once carried huge volumes of water.

GPS Coordinates:

S25° 56′ 12″ E25° 71′ 31″



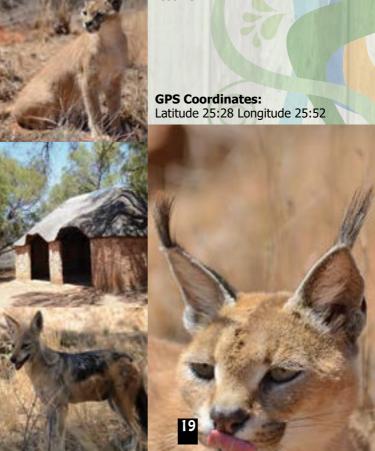


SA LOMBARD NATURE RESERVE

West of the Bloemhof Dam lies the 3 660ha SA Lombard Nature Reserve, well known for its abundance of antelope specie and successful game breeding programme.

The SA Lombard Game Reserve was one of the earliest wildlife conservation research centers in South Africa and is credited with having saved the black wildebeest population from extinct in the wild. Black wildebeest have now been restored to reserves throughout South Africa from the small game stock which formed the nucleus of the recovery programme.

No accommodation is provided on the reserve.



CONTACT DETAILS

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/60/

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