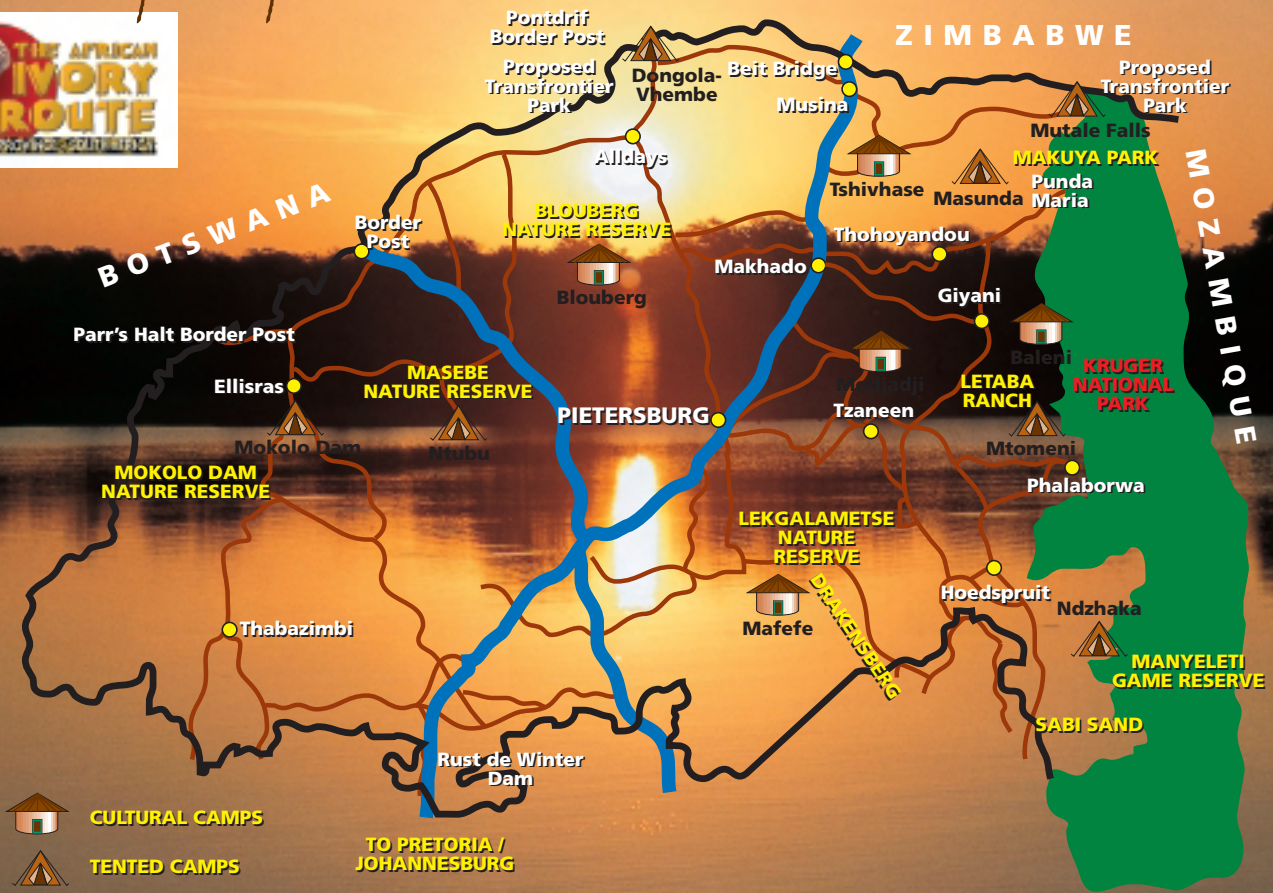


Limpopo Tourist Routes



The African Ivory Route

This route is for the person drawn to the African wildernesses. It is a world of breathtaking scenery and endless vistas of African bush where to this day large herds of elephants roam.

Wild and untamed, it is part of the more than 3,6 million hectares of national parks, nature reserves and game farms stretching across Limpopo Province. The route extends for some 2 000 km in a giant arc through remote scenic wilderness areas along the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the province.

Extremely rugged in places, the route skirts or traverses five major mountain ranges: the Strydpoortberge in the south, the Waterberg in the northwest, the Zoutpansberg in the central area and the Drakensberg and Lebombo in the east.

The Ivory Route has its origins in the legendary exploits of early ivory hunters and gold traders and is today an important ecotourism and 4X4 adventure destination popular with safari enthusiasts. Roads are rudimentary, but not all require off-road vehicles.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife enthusiasts will delight in the opportunities which the route presents for self-drive game viewing of the Big Five, guided wilderness hiking trails, horse trails and excellent birding.

Manyeleti Nature Reserve offers some of the best lion and leopard encounters, while Letaba Ranch is known for its vast numbers of elephant and buffalo. Hippo and crocodile sightings are frequent in the Great Letaba River and the remote Makuya Park is an excellent choice for those in search of elephant, buffalo, hippo and lion.

ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The Ivory Route provides great opportunities for nature-based adventure tourism. The rugged terrain is much appreciated by 4X4 enthusiasts, while the guided wilderness trails on offer in Manyeleti, Letaba Ranch and Makuya Park add a different perspective to game viewing. River rafting can be enjoyed in season in the Olifants River. The Mutale and Levubu gorges also offer good opportunities for abseiling.

CULTURE

The cultural heritage of the fascinating area reflects the diverse cultures of the present day inhabitants of the area, intrepid adventurers from a colourful past and ancient civilisations of which only archaeological evidence remains.

Cultural highlights along the route include numerous examples of San rock art, the realm of the Rain Queen Modjadji and archaeological sites such as Thulamela in the Kruger National park, Mapungubwe in the north of the province and Makapan's Caves north of Mokopane (Potgietersrus).

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation along the route is available in 12 scenically situated camps comprising traditional huts and luxury or dome tents with communal kitchen facilities. Ablution facilities are en suite or communal. The camps accommodate only ten guests at a time. Staff members at the camps are trained as guides and can show tourists the sights of the area.

TOURIST INFORMATION

General Enquiries – Tel: 015 295 3025 •
 General Reservations – Tel: 015 295 2829
 E-mail: info@africanivoryroute.co.za •
 Website: www.africanivoryroute.co.za

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- **Baleni Camp** is situated in a remote and tranquil mopane forest on the banks of the Klein Letaba River at Sautini, 'the place of salt'. Baleni provides a glimpse of the traditional lifestyle of the local Shangaan communities, including their salt mining activities. Accommodation is available in five traditional huts.
- **Blouberg Camp** near Vivo offers traditional huts for ten guests and opportunities for day excursions to Machabeng rock art, the Leibzicht missionary station and various other attractions. Of particular interest is a large expanse of indigenous yellow-wood trees. The area is also home to one of the largest colonies of Cape vultures in South Africa. The colourfully decorated huts have en-suite facilities.
- **Dongola-Vhembe Camp**, to be situated at the confluence of the Limpopo and Sashe Rivers near Pontdrif. The scenic surroundings, migration of elephants from Botswana and back and the Mapungubwe archaeological site are some of the highlights encountered here. The camp falls within the proposed boundaries of the Dongola-Vhembe National Park which will form the core of the proposed Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area. Dome tents provide accommodation.
- **Mafefe Camp** on a high plateau in the Northern Drakensberg can only be reached with an off-road vehicle and provides plenty of opportunities to test the skill of both vehicles and drivers. The rugged mountainous terrain of this remote area, together with hiking and horse trails, will appeal to the more adventurous. The Olifants River Gorge and Leggalameetsi and Wolkberg Wilderness areas boast stunning scenery. Colourfully decorated ethnic huts provide accommodation.
- **Masunda Trails Camp** in the southern region of the Makuya Park Wilderness is due for development. Situated on the banks of the Levubu River in an area frequented by plains game. The wilderness experience is the main attraction here. Guided game trails will be available. Dome tents will provide accommodation.
- **Modjadji Camp** near Tzaneen lies in the realm of the mystical Rain Queen in the Modjadji Cycad Reserve. A hiking trail amongst 800-year-old cycads to the cycad interpretation centre and the royal kraal of Queen Modjadji is particularly rewarding for those with a botanic bent. Excellent birding can be enjoyed. Traditional huts offer accommodation.
- **Mokolo Dam** Camp near Lephalale is due for development. The camp will be accessible by boat only and offers guided game trails and boat safaris on the dam. Birdlife is prolific in this remote wilderness area. Accommodation is available in dome tents.
- **Mtomeni Camp** is situated in the Letaba Ranch Game Reserve bordering the Kruger National Park, just north of Phalaborwa. Five safari tents offer accommodation. Game drives to view the Big Five and guided hikes are available.
- **Mutale Falls Camp** in the Makuya Park Wilderness area of Pafuri shares the Levubu River as the border with the Kruger National Park. The falls, close to the camp, offer scenic surroundings for walks. Various demanding and exciting 4X4 wilderness trails, as well as guided hikes can be enjoyed. Five safari tents provide accommodation.
- **Ndzhaka Camp** in the Manyeleti Reserve bordering the Orpen Gate of the Kruger National Park and Sabi Sands, is a prime Big Five destination. Day and night game drives and guided hikes are available. Accommodation is available in safari tents.
- **Ntubu Camp** in the Masebe Reserve offers some of the most dramatic sandstone formations along the Waterberg Escarpment. Rock art and game add to the attractions of the reserve. Tented accommodation is available.
- **Tshivhase Camp** in Venda offers a convenient base camp for short trips to visit Lake Fundudzi, the sacred forest that is home to the ancestral spirits guarding the Venda, and many other scenic attractions in the Land of Legends. Cultural huts provide accommodation.



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The Limpopo Valley Route

The route affords the tourists the opportunity to experience the myths and legends of Limpopo. The route is strategically located along the Great North (N1) road towards Zimbabwe and is concentrated in the area along the Limpopo River in the Zoutpansberg region, named after the Zoutpansberg mountains found in the region..

The traveller can start the tour by exploring the attractions of the western section of the region such as the Blouberg nature reserve before heading into big game country where the focus shifts to the hunting history of South Africa. Small provisioning centres such as Vivo and Alldays are reminders of the continuing hunting tradition. Limpopo province is the premier hunting destination in South Africa.

In the 18th century the area around the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo rivers was an important big game hunting ground. The trail retraces the old route along the Limpopo River blazed centuries ago by people trading with Arab and Portuguese merchants on the east coast.

They left behind the ruins of Mapungubwe, the burial place of ancient African royalty, and Great Zimbabwe. A visit to the Mapungubwe heritage site is worth a while for any tourist in the area.

The route proceeds into the heartland of the "land of legends and myths" – Musina, Mutale, and Thohoyandou,. Some of the interesting sites for visitors include the sacred forest of Thatwe Vonde, Lake Fundudzi, Dzata ruins, and "Big Tree (200-year old Baobab), and a visit to Makuya Park in the Levubu Gorge – one of the province's last remaining wilderness area. Whilst in the area, the visitor can enter the Kruger National Park either on its northern most gate at Pafuri or Punda Maria, to visit the Thulamela heritage site, and local art and craft markets.

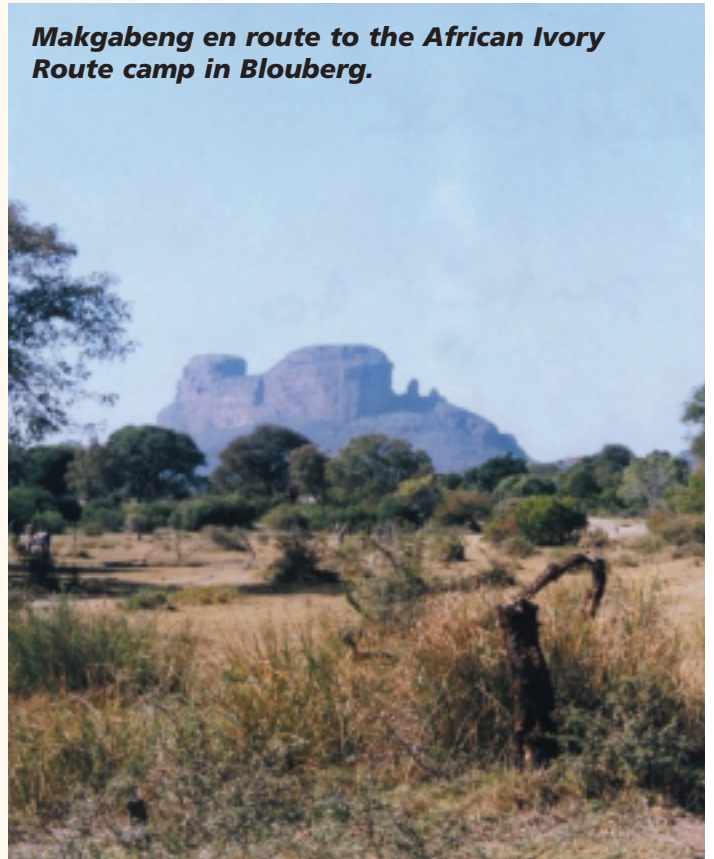
The Mutale Falls river.



The Blouberg Cultural Village



Makgabeng en route to the African Ivory Route camp in Blouberg.



The Waterberg Biosphere experience

This route is of special interest to archaeology and history buffs. From Pretoria, the route leads northwards towards the town of Bela-Bela (Warmbaths) on the Great North Road (the N1). This is an area that is rich with wildlife including the BIG FIVE found in both privately and publicly owned nature reserves. The route proceeds northwestwards via Thabazimbi with the Marakele National Park nearby, through Vaalwater and the Waterberg mountains and onto Mokolo Dam and the nearby Lapalala Wilderness reserve. The canoe trip at Mokolo dam to the tented safari camp offers excellent bird-watching opportunities and serves as an excursion into local archaeology and history. The journey into the past continues the next day on a guided walk in the Masebe Game Reserve.

The route then turns to explore the greater Waterberg area and the small towns along the route towards the provincial capital city of Polokwane. Along the route the tourists can visit interesting sites such as the Doorndraai dam, Moorddrift monument, Percy Fyfe nature reserve that specialises in roan antelope species and the Makapans Caves near Mokopane.