

South Africa

Inspiring new ways



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This edition is totally dedicated to the Natural Parks in South Africa. This is a system of 21 parks that promote the preservation of the extremely rich fauna and flora, associated to the promotion of the country's cultural heritage. The South African National Parks (www.sanparks.co.za) is the governmental entity that manages this immense heritage since 1926. It's more than 6.000 beds and about 1.000 available camping and caravanning parks to welcome its local as well as international tourists. The visit to the Natural Parks, from the majestic and immensely popular Kruger Park to the small Bontek National Park in the Western Cape, offers its visitors an unparalleled experience - from photographic safaris to walks through the multiple trails available to radical sports or cultural visits. Today we share some of them with you.

Addo Elephant National Park

Established in 1931 with only 11 elephants, this ecosystem is considered nowadays a sanctuary for this species with more than 450 animals, which makes it the world's most densely populated. Situated in the Eastern Cape and with more than 1.600 km², the Addo also offers its visitor the possibility of viewing the *Big Seven*: buffalo, black rhinoceros, lion, leopard and obviously elephants as well as whales and sharks seeing that the park incorporates coastal areas. Another attraction is the dung beetle which is almost exclusive to the Park.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/addo





Augrabies Falls National Park

The waters thundering down from a height of a 56m waterfall during the Orange River floods in Augrabies, in the Northern Cape, have an extraordinary visual and audible impact on the visitor. The Khoi people called this awesome place *Aukoerebis*, the place of *Great Noise*. The Augrabies Falls National Park also has a great diversity of flora and fauna, as in the case of the springboks, gemsboks, giraffes and reptiles. The black stork and the pygmy falcon are among the many birds in the Park.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/augrabies

Mapungubwe National Park

Situated in the Limpopo province, it's known for its biodiversity as well as its archaeological treasures. The Park is the site where remnants of a developed African civilisation from 1000 to 1290 AD. Among the many artifacts found we highlight the famous golden rhino, confirming the existence of a wealthy African kingdom in the region, dedicated to trade. The arid landscape home to the majestic baobab trees is populated by elephants, giraffes, white rhinos, antelopes, lions, leopard and hyenas, among others.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/mapungubwe



Mountain Zebra National Park

The Mountain Zebra National Park near Cradock, in the Eastern Cape, is another conservation success story. Established in 1937 with only six zebras, the park currently has more than 370 zebras in its 28.000ha, thus having successfully saved the Mountain Zebra from extinction. The beautiful herds of zebras share this habitat with the black rhino, the Cape buffalo, the eland, the black wildebeest and the red hartebeest. The caracal and the cheetah are the predators of the mountain Zebra National Park.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/mountain_zebra



Kruger National Park

This is by far South Africa's most well known Park. This National Park of nearly 2 million hectares, offers a fantastic biodiversity to its visitors: 336 species of trees, 49 of fish, 114 of reptiles, 507 of birds and 147 of mammals. The Kruger borders Mozambique and spreads through the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces and is perfect for observing the Big Five (buffalo, lion, leopard, rhino and elephant). Boasting an abundant and diverse variety of quality lodging, the Kruger is rightly considered as one of Africa's best.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/kruger

Table Mountain National Park

Encompassed in the incredible scenic Table Mountain Chain, the Park stretches from the northern part of Cape Town to the Cape of Good Hope. Although inserted within a metropolitan area, it's one of the country's natural World Heritage Sites. The Table Mountain National Park forms part of the Cape Floral Kingdom with its extraordinarily rich, diverse and unique fauna and flora. Some of the most well known examples include the Fynbos and the gloriously unique Proteas.

More information: www.sanparks.co.za/parks/table_mountain



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