

Limpopo

Limpopo is South Africa's northernmost province and is named after the Limpopo River that forms the province's border with Botswana and Zimbabwe. Visitors are drawn to this region because of its rich cultural history and beautiful nature and game reserves, including Kruger National Park. Local museums capture Limpopo's more recent history of fierce and bloody battles between the advancing Voortrekkers and the Africans who had settled in this area over a thousand years earlier. The region's unique features have been recognized by UNESCO, which has designated the western Waterberg area as a Biosphere Reserve and the northern Mapungubwe National Park as a World Heritage Site. The area surrounds the busy thoroughfare of the Great North Road (the N1), which starts in Cape Town and continues north through Musina and into Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS Limpopo

- 1 Lake Fundudzi** - Visit the mythical Lake Fundudzi and learn about the rain-making mysteries that surround its ancestral inhabitants (p514)
- 2 Waterberg Biosphere** - Relax and explore the diverse ecology of the 4,000 square kilometer UNESCO recognized Waterberg region (p501)
- 3 Mapungubwe National Park** - See the archaeological site where the golden rhino was found buried in ancient royal graves (p518)
- 4 Phalaborwa** - Play 9 or 18 holes along-side giraffes, hippos and crocodiles at Golf in the Wild (p525)

LIMPOPO

NORTH
WEST

GAUTENG

ZIMBABWE

MOZAMBIQUE

LIMPOPO

MPUMALANGA



HISTORY

The largely untamed landscape of Limpopo has a history dating back over 3 million years. The Makapan Caves in the Waterberg boast archaeological finds from the Stone Age and Early Iron Age that evidence the region's early inhabitants. In the northern Kingdom of Mapungubwe, descendants of Nguni-speaking Bantu migrants grew highly skilled at metal and gold work. They flourished as a prosperous kingdom between 1000 and 1200 A.D. and engaged in trade with places as far away as India and China. Until recently, artifacts such as the famed golden rhinoceros were hidden from the public to conceal much of the region's rich history of ancient African empires. Today, ongoing excavations verify that black Africans had prospered in the region long before the arrival of Europeans in the late 1400s.

The Pedi Kingdom, a branch of the Northern Sotho, rose in the 1700s to dominate most of the Transvaal territory from its seat of power in the Leolu Mountains. In the 1800s the Pedi vied for control of the northeastern Transvaal with the formidable neighboring Swazi Kingdom. Smaller chiefdoms maintained their independence, such as the Ndebele to the west, the Venda in the Limpopo Valley and the Lobedu in Molotsi Valley led by the powerful Modjadji Rain Queen.

In the 1830s Boer Voortrekkers, in an effort to distance themselves from the control of the British in the Cape Colony, invaded the Transvaal. The Boer commandos were able to subdue smaller chiefdoms in the south in bloody clashes such as the Battle of Makapan Caves, where as many as 3,000 Ndebele were besieged and starved to death in retribution for the killing of Voortrekker leader Piet Potgieter. In 1856, the Boers declared an independent republic, the Zuid-Afrikaansch Republiek (ZAR), thus laying claim to the whole of the Transvaal and land up to the Limpopo River. However their attempts to wrest control of the northern territory were met with formidable resistance by the Pedi and Venda and violent frontier wars proved to be economically crippling. The Pedi-Boer War of 1876 nearly bankrupted the young Boer republic, and in 1877 the British annexed the ZAR. It was only with the help of the neighboring Swazi Kingdom that the British Imperial forces were finally able to overpower the Pedi, two years later in 1879.

After the Boer government reasserted their republic in 1881, the discovery of gold in the

Witwatersrand and the heavy taxes levied on the gold mining industry afforded the ZAR a powerful regular army. Polokwane, formerly Pietersburg, was established as a Boer stronghold in the mid 1880s and by the end of the century the Boers had made good on their territorial claims up to the Limpopo River.

The region's bloody battles continued with the outbreak of the South African War between the Boer governments and the British Empire from 1899-1902. After Pretoria fell to the British forces in 1900, Boer commandos engaged in guerilla warfare and violence in the Transvaal intensified. British war tactics proved devastating as their scorched earth policies destroyed Boer homesteads and tens of thousands of Boer women and children as well as black Africans caught up in the war were imprisoned in unsanitary concentration camps throughout the countryside. The British forces eventually overpowered the Boer commandos and in 1902 the British laid colonial claim to the former Boer republics, uniting their territories in the Union of South Africa in 1910.

The northern Transvaal frontier remained largely rural throughout the 20th century and the expansive tracts of land became notorious for illegal game hunting. Though subjugated by the colonial government, African chieftains in the border region were allowed to maintain relative autonomy. The 1913 Land Act further solidified this autonomy as the countryside was carved up to ensure white dominance in urban areas and the majority of present-day Limpopo was established as native reserves. The apartheid-era 1951 Bantu Authorities Act officially established three major "homelands" in the north, leaving the Venda nominally independent and the Lebowa and Gazankulu homelands with token self-governance. The 1970s and 1980s saw an increased presence of the South African Defense Force in the region as exiled freedom fighters infiltrated back in to the country through the northern border, prompting the government to build an electronic fence along the Limpopo River.

When apartheid ended in 1994, the former Transvaal province was restructured and broken up to create the Northern Province. It was renamed Limpopo in 2003 after the famed river that forms its northern border. Today the provincial government continues to struggle to balance the region's historical legacy by renaming cities and investing in the further exploration of its ancient African ancestors.



CAPRICORN

Capricorn is home to Polokwane, a provincial capital city surrounded by expansive bushveld and grasslands. The region gets its name from the Tropic of Capricorn, which cuts through the area. Because the region is bisected by the N1 artery, it is a popular stopover between Gauteng and the northern areas of Limpopo.

POLOKWANE

(PIETERSBURG)

GPS: S 23 54.701 E 029 27.099

pop. 150,000 | elevation 1,262 m/4,140 ft

Polokwane (meaning Place of Safety) is the capital of and largest city in Limpopo. The town was founded in 1886 by a group of Voortrekkers and named Pietersburg after the Voortrekker leader Petrus Jacobus Joubert. Today, Polokwane is a fast-growing bustling city with the country's main north-south highway – the N1 – running right through the center of town.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Polokwane Tourist Development Office (S 23 54.770 E 029 27.182, Civic Square, Landdros Mare St, ☎015-290-2010, www.polokwane.gov.za, 7:45am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-1pm Sat) has city maps and brochures of area accommodation and activities.

Limpopo Tourism & Parks (S 23 54.582 E

029 27.012, cnr Church St & Grobler St, ☎015-290-7300, 8am-4:30pm Mon-Fri) provides maps and information on Limpopo Parks and accommodation throughout the province.

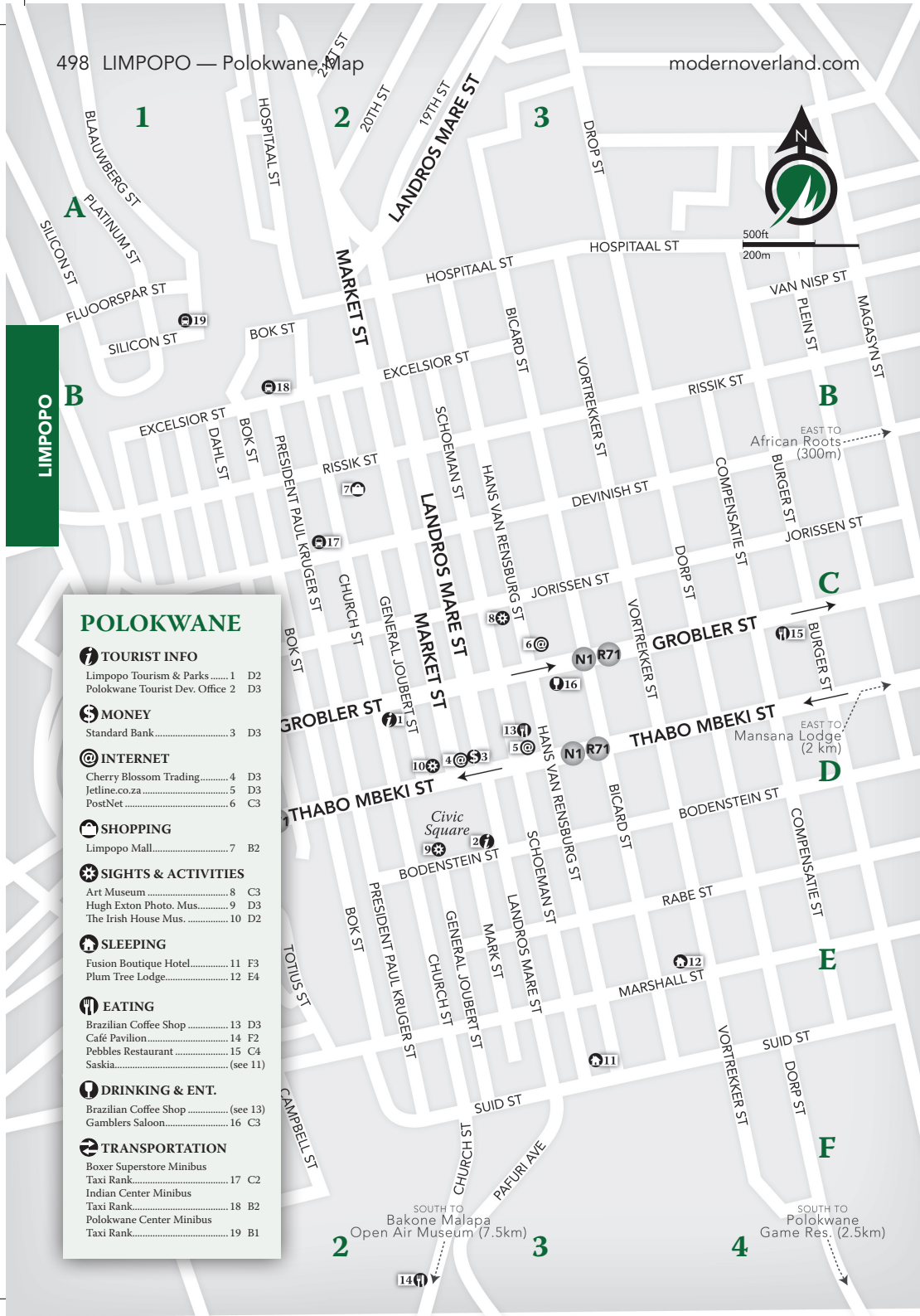
MONEY

Standard Bank (S 23 54.676 E 029 27.180, cnr Landdros Mare & Thabo Mbeke St) offers full banking services and there is an FNB bank across the street.

INTERNET

Jetline.co.za (S 23 54.656 E 029 27.250, Standard Bank Square, cnr Thabo Mbeki St & Schoeman St, ☎015-295-6484, www.jetline.co.za, 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R18/30min) is a printing shop with four computers for Internet access. They also allow laptops to be connected.

Cherry Blossom Trading (S 23 54.689 E 029 27.138, cnr Thabo Mbeki St & Market St, ☎015-



POLOKWANE

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Limpopo Tourism & Parks..... 1 D2
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291-4794, 7:30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm Sat, R13/20min) is a printing/copy shop with three computers for Internet access. They also allow laptops to be connected.

PostNet (S 23 54.484 E 029 27.272, Library Gardens, 015-295-4290, www.postnet.co.za, 8am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R15/20min) has eight computers for Internet use. Laptops are not allowed.

SHOPPING

Limpopo Mall (S 23 54.224 E 029 26.929, cnr Church St & Rissik St) is the main shopping area within the city and has a Pick 'n Pay, clothing stores, fast food restaurants, and an FNB bank with an ATM. **Savannah Mall** (S 23 54.286 E 029 29.291, Grobler St) is located a few kilometers outside of town and is larger and more modern than the Limpopo Mall. It has a Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, clothing stores, a few restaurants and a movie theater.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The Irish House Museum (S 23 54.690 E 029 27.122, cnr Thabo Mbeki St & Market St, 015-290-2180, 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, admission free) is also known as the Polokwane Cultural History Museum and has displays on the history of Limpopo area cultural groups and some archaeological finds from nearby sites. It also has a number of exhibitions on the Revised National Curriculum Statement, an outcomes-based education initiative. The building was initially built by a German in 1886, burnt down in 1906, rebuilt in 1910 and then sold to an Irishman in 1920, who traveled overseas to import clothes for "fashion-conscious ladies and gentlemen" of Polokwane.

Hugh Exton Photographic Museum (S 23 54.799 E 029 27.111, Civic Square, cnr Church St & Bodenstein St, 015-290-2186, 9am-3:30pm Mon-Fri, admission free) is located in the 1890 Dutch Reformed Church and houses over 23,000 negatives and original photos by photographer Hugh Exton. The majority of the photos are of the Polokwane area from between 1890 and 1945 and depict architecture, industry, clothing and the rich and famous of Polokwane.

Art Museum (S 23 54.445 E 029 27.223, Library Gardens, cnr Jorissen St & Hans van Rensburg

St, 015-290-2177, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm Sat, admission free) displays sculptures, paintings, industrial art and mixed media from well-known South African and Limpopo artists.

Bakone Malapa Open-Air Museum (S 23 59.205 E 029 27.543, R37, 015-295-2432, 8:30am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3:30pm Sat, R6.50) provides insight into the culture of the Northern Sotho and Ndebele groups that once lived on this exact site, 8 km from town. Aside from some of the archaeological finds, you can also view demonstrations on traditional ways of making fire, find out why women smear cow dung on the floor of their homes and see how traditional clay pots are made.

Polokwane Game Reserve (S 23 56.254 E 029 28.432, Dorp St, 015-290-2331, 7am-4:30pm, vehicle R23, adult R15, child R11) is one of the largest municipal nature reserves in the country at 33 square kilometers. It has more than 100 species of mammals, reptiles and frogs, including white rhinos, giraffes, zebras, nyala and springbok. There is an extensive network of roads for self-guided game drives. Alternatively, you can contact Lisa Grossel (083-380-2322) who offers guided game drives in open vehicles during the day or night as well as day and overnight hiking safaris.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Polokwane Game Reserve (S 23 56.254 E 029 28.432, Dorp St, 015-290-2331, camping R118, d R263, 4-person R330, 6-person R475) has campsites, rondavels and six-person chalets near the entrance to the park. The campsites have lighting, electric outlets, water taps and braai facilities surrounding a central building with bathrooms and piping hot high-pressure showers. The rondavels and chalets are self-catering with a TV and small kitchenette.

MID-RANGE

African Roots (S 23 54.074 E 029 28.082, 58A Devenish St, 015-297-0113 or 083-459-6799, www.africanroots.info, s R490-590, d R600-700 breakfast included, wifi) is a historic 1928 farmhouse with 21 clean and well-outfitted rooms. Each has a deck and sitting area outside, surrounding a tree and plant filled courtyard. All rooms have a TV, heater, fan, hardwood floors and minibar. The luxury rooms are larger with a four-post king size bed, a

LIMPOPO

sofa, cow skin rugs and a sitting area inside.

Mansana Lodge (S 23 54.215 E 029 28.569, 99 Johnson St, ☎015-291-1625 or ☎082-929-2799, www.masanalodge.co.za, s R470, d R700, weekends all rooms R500) has standard rooms with TV and AC. The rooms' patio doors open up onto a garden and sitting area next to a small swimming pool. There is a small restaurant and bar upstairs.

Plum Tree Lodge (S 23 55.017 E 029 27.548, 138 Marshall St, ☎015-295-6153, www.plumtree.co.za, s R570, d R725, wifi, secure parking) is an established B&B with a few small villas, a restaurant, and a relaxing lapa bar next to the swimming pool.

TOP END

Fusion Boutique Hotel (S 23 55.164 E 029 27.375, 4 Schoeman St, ☎015-291-4042, www.fusionboutiquehotel.co.za, suites R1,600-2,000) is a newly opened first class 5-star hotel with impeccable design, including original paintings throughout the hotel and in each room by Maria Deplusi (the owner's mother). The hotel stands out as one of the nicest accommodations in town, and features 30 suites neatly furnished with Indonesian imports and nice extras like heated bathroom floors. The hotel has a chic restaurant with three private dining rooms and a bar with an open glass ceiling that guests can spy through from above.

EATING

Pebbles Restaurant (S 23 54.451 E 029 27.717, 39 Grobler St, ☎015-295-6999, www.pebblesrestaurant.co.za, 8am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat, mains R45-100) is the former residence of South African parliamentarian Tom Naude, who built the large house and expansive verandas for outdoor entertaining in the 1920s. Today it is a national monument and an upscale restaurant just outside the city center with a large menu offering breakfast, lunch, light snacks and dinner.

Café Pavilion (S 23 55.613 E 029 27.012, Church St, ☎015-291-5359, cafe@paviliongroup.co.za, 10am-10pm Tue-Fri, 9am-10pm Sat, 9am-2pm Sun, mains R40-90) is a great place for a semiformal dinner. They have a large menu of Italian pasta, Indian curries, fondue for two and more beef dishes than could fit on this page as well as a healthy selection of cocktails, wine and desserts. They also have a good breakfast menu (served until noon) and a huge breakfast buffet on Sundays (11am-2pm).

Brazilian Coffee Shop (S 23 54.642 E 029 27.24, Standard Bank Square, Schoman St, ☎015-295-7173, www.braziliancoffeeshops.co.za, 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 7:30am-2pm Sat, mains R25-55) is centrally located with a balcony overlooking the street. The café attracts a business crowd for breakfast, lunch, and afternoon beer and cocktails.

Saskia (S 23 55.164 E 029 27.375, Fusion Boutique Hotel, 4 Schoeman St, ☎015-291-4042) is a chic new restaurant attached to the Fusion Boutique Hotel. It has three private dining rooms and a bar with an open glass ceiling. Executive Chef Warren Forster serves up an impressive selection of contemporary fusion dishes.

DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Brazilian Coffee Shop (S 23 54.642 E 029 27.241, Standard Bank Square, Schoman St, ☎015-295-7173, www.braziliancoffeeshops.co.za, 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 7:30am-2pm Sat) is an upscale café that overlooks the busy street below. It's a popular downtown place to stop for an afternoon drink.

Gamblers Saloon (S 23 54.535 E 029 27.320, Palm Center, Grobber St, ☎015-291-1890, 11am-2am Mon-Sat) is a quieter blacklight-drenched bar during the day with a couple of snooker and foosball tables and a few sports TVs. In the evening they clear everything out to make room for a DJ and dance floor.

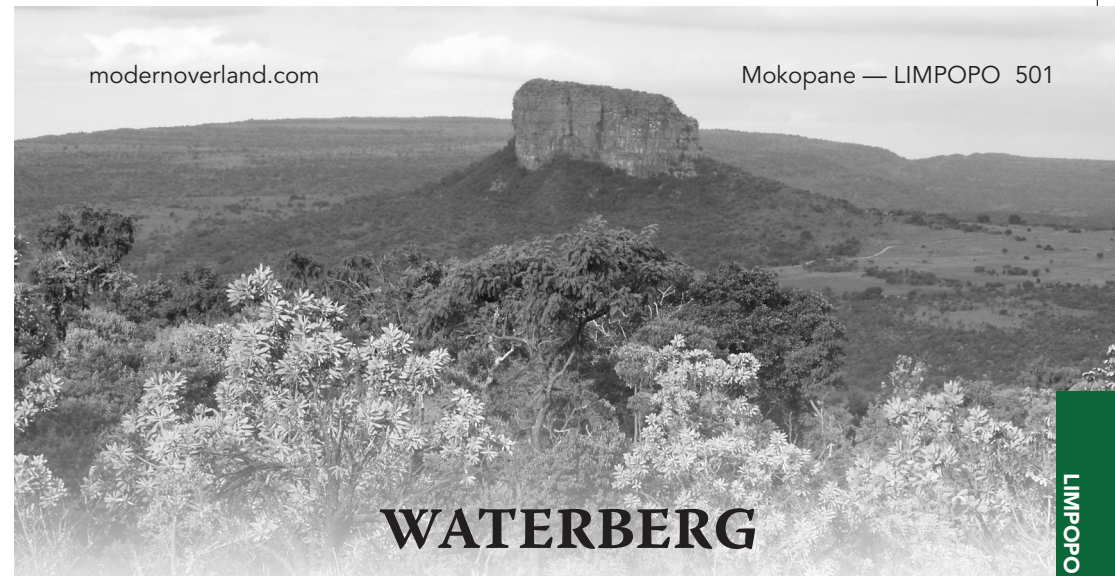
TRANSPORTATION

There are three main taxi ranks in Polokwane that each have transport to different locations.

Indian Center Minibus Taxi Rank (S 23 54.050 E 029 26.812, Excelsior St) has transport to Louis Trichardt (R35) and Thohoyandou (R50).

Boxer Superstore Minibus Taxi Rank (S 23 54.308 E 029 26.905, cnr Church St & Devenish St) is downtown across the street from the Limpopo Mall and has transport to Turfloop (R10), Tzaneen (R40) and Seshogo (R8).

Polokwane Center Minibus Taxi Rank (S 23 53.955 E 029 26.661, Silicon St) is the largest taxi rank and has minibuses to Joburg & Pretoria (R130), Rustenburg (R150), Bela-Bela (R80) and Musina (R80). The City-to-City bus to Joburg also picks up here at the Polokwane Center.



WATERBERG

The Waterberg region acts as a reservoir for the area's water, history and legends. It spans nearly 4,000 square kilometers to encompass a diversity of landscapes, mountains, plants and wildlife. In 2001, UNESCO named the Waterberg a Biosphere Reserve – it is home to crocodile, hippo, hyena, rhino and giraffe.

MOKOPANE

(POTGIETERSRUS)

GPS: S 24 11.169 E 029 00.718

pop. 110,000 | elevation 1,124 m/3,688 ft

Mokopane's original name was Potgietersrus, named after Piet Potgieter, a Voortrekker leader who was killed during the battle with the Ndebele people at the Makapan Caves. In 2002, the city was renamed Mokopane, after the Ndebele Chief Mughombane – who took part in the battle resulting in Potgieter's death. While many of his followers died in the battle, legend has it that Mughombane himself escaped through an underground tunnel and survived. Today, race relations in Mokopane are still rather sore. There are still institutions in town where non-whites do not seem to be very welcome.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Mokopane Tourist Association (S 24 11.241 E 029 00.672, 97 Thabo Mbeki Dr/R101, ☎015-491-8458,

mokopane.bti@mweb.co.za, 8am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm Sat) is located across from the Mokopane Mall. The city, Waterberg and Limpopo maps and brochures on area accommodation and activities.

MONEY

Standard Bank (S 24 11.077 E 029 00.809, cnr Thabo Mbeki Dr/R101 & Retief St) is located downtown and offers full banking services.

INTERNET

GNComputers (S 24 11.077 E 029 00.809, Spar Plaza, Thabo Mbeki Dr/R101, ☎015-491-2502, gncomp@mokopane.za.net, 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sat, R18/30min) is a coffee bar and Internet café with five computers.

PostNet (S 24 10.968 E 029 00.816, Crossings Mall, ☎015-491-1317, www.postnet.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R18/30min) has two computers with Internet access.

well cared for and full of thoughtful touches and the owner will make you feel especially welcomed. The fully outfitted rooms have solid wood antique furniture and self-catering flats are in the house next door. In the back is a swimming pool, cactus garden and braai area.

TOP END

Protea Hotel - The Park (S 24 10.165 E 029 00.991, cnr Thabo Mbeki Dr/R101 & Beitel St, ☎015-491-3101, ppark@mweb.co.za, s R680, d R860, Internet, swimming pool) is on the northern end of the city. The dated rooms are large with TV, AC, two double beds, a desk, and rather tacky touches like faux antique tile, but are very clean. The Terrace Restaurant (mains R55-125) has a variety of appetizers and light meals as well as meat selections from the grill, fish and seafood. The hotel usually isn't very busy unless there is a conference booked.

EATING

Oaks Pub & Grill (S 24 11.171 E 029 00.820, Lonely Oak Hotel, cnr Van Riebeeck St & Hooge St, ☎015-491-4355, mains R45-110) is an Afrikaner joint and usually a lively place for food and drinks – even on the weekdays. It specializes in enormous piles of meat served with equally large sides that most people will be challenged to finish in one sitting.

O'Hagan's Irish Pub & Grill (S 24 11.411 E 029 00.653, 118 Thabo Mbeki Dr/R101, ☎015-491-8320, www.ohagans.co.za, 9am-10pm, bar open late, mains R40-90) is

a classic Irish pub (part of a larger chain) with your typical array of beverages to choose from, along with appetizers, pizza, ribs and steak. If you're up for a few drinks you can take the International Beer Challenge and get your name immortalized at the bar (see menu for details).

DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Melting Pot (S 24 10.652 E 029 00.625, 31 Pretorius St, ☎015-491-4591, 10am-11:30pm Mon-Thu, 10am-1:30am Fri-Sat, 10am-11pm Sun, mains R20-70) is weirdly situated in a corner of a large steel warehouse. The bar has snooker tables, gambling machines, a lounge area and a small restaurant.

Oaks Pub & Grill (S 24 11.171 E 029 00.820, Lonely Oak Hotel, cnr Van Riebeeck St & Hooge St, ☎015-491-4355, mains R45-110) is an Afrikaner watering hole and tends to attract a decent crowd on both weekdays and weekends. Racially diverse customers might get a cold shoulder from locals at this bar, depending on the night.

TRANSPORTATION

Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 10.755 E 029 00.645, cnr Pretorius St & Nelson Mandela Dr) is in the Shoprite parking lot with transport to Joburg and Pretoria (R120), Polokwane (R25), Bela-Bela, and Nylstrom (R45) and surrounding cities.

Local Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 10.885 E 029 00.861) is near the Crossings Mall behind the Caltex filling station.

BELA-BELA & AROUND

(WARMBATHS)

GPS: S 24 53.100 E 028 17.645

pop. 43,000 | elevation 1,129 m/3,704 ft

Bela-Bela means "boiling boiling" in Tswana and is so named because of the natural hot water springs in the area that gush over 22,000 liters of 53°C/127°F mineral water to the surface each hour. The hot mineral pools were discovered in the area by the Tswana in the early 1800s and have since been used by people who believe that the water's calcium carbonate, sodium chloride and other mineral salts have healing properties for those who bathe in them.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Office (S 24 53.568 E 028 17.704, Waterfront, Marx St, ☎014-736-4328, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) has a free map of Bela-Bela and the surrounding area with a list of area attractions, places to stay and spots to eat. They can also provide suggestions for things to do and accommodation.

MONEY

FNB Bank (S 24 53.149 E 028 17.671, cnr Sutter St and Pretoria St) is located downtown with ATMs.

ABSA Bank (S 24 53.281 E 028 17.609, Bushveld Pick 'n Pay Shopping Center, Potgieter St) is located in the Pick 'n Pay Shopping Center and has full banking services.

INTERNET

Com Tec Computers (S 24 53.096 E 028 17.651, 42 Chris Hani Way, ☎014-736-2628, www.comteccomputers.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Thu, 8am-4:30pm Fri, 9am-12pm Sat, R15/15min) has five computers for Internet access and allows laptops to be connected. The store is also a computer repair and sales shop.

PostNet (S 24 53.281 E 028 17.609, Bushveld Pick 'n Pay Shopping Center, ☎014-736-5116, www.postnet.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R20/15min) has two computers and allows you to connect laptops.

SHOPPING

Bushveld Pick 'n Pay Shopping Center (S 24 53.281 E 028 17.609, Potgieter St) is the largest shopping center in town with a Pick 'n Pay, chain restaurants, Internet café, and an ABSA bank with ATMs. Across the street is a Shopright.

Spar Shopping Center (S 24 53.087 E 028 17.561, cnr Chris Hani Way & Ritchie Rd) has a Spar, bottle shop and a few other stores.

Chris Hani Way (S 24 53.088 E 028 17.785, between Pretoria and Potgieter Rd) is lined with utilitarian shops, stores and a few restaurants.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

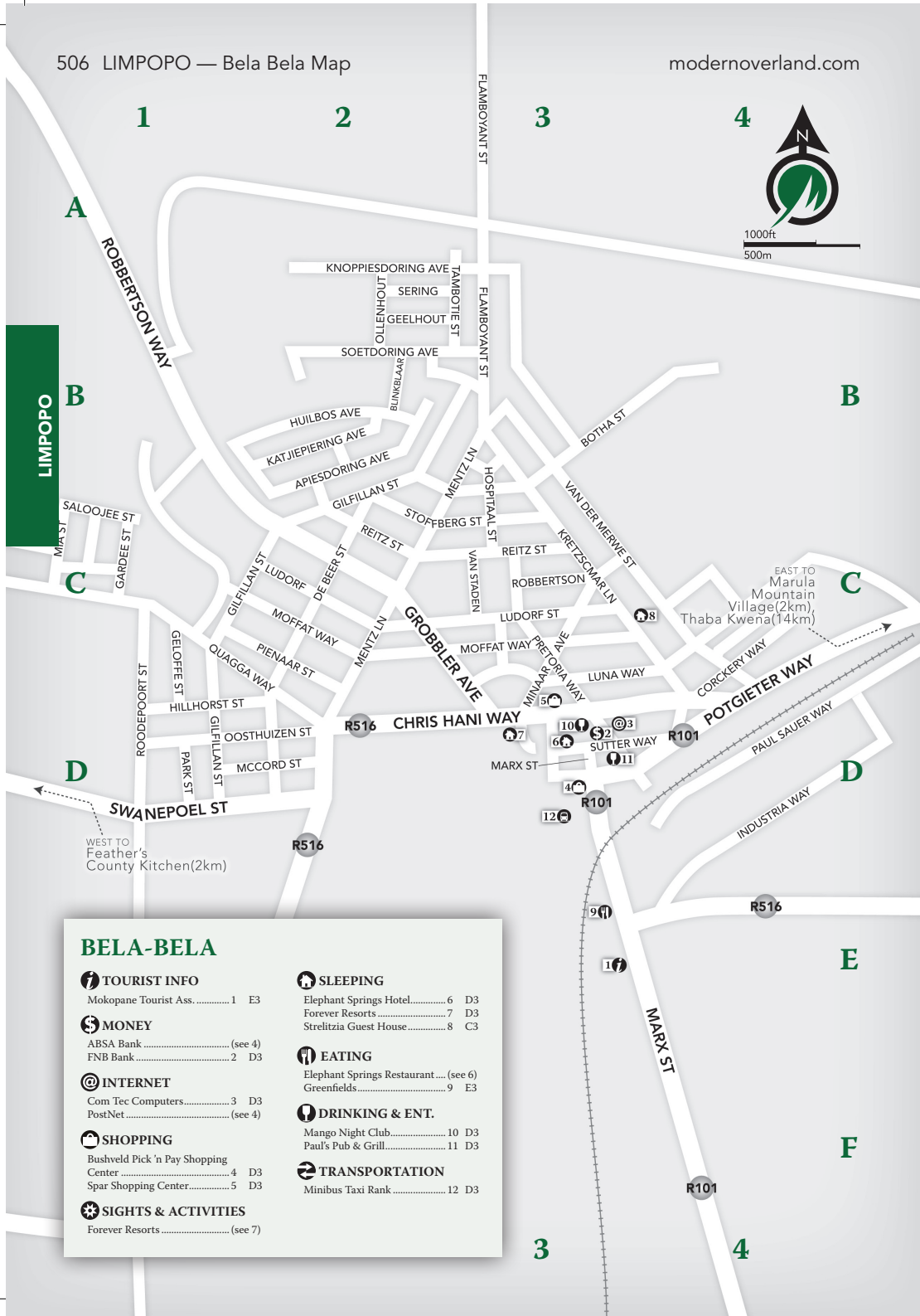
Forever Resorts (S 24 53.120 E 028 17.489, Chris Hani Way, ☎014-736-8500, www.foreversa.co.za, day visitors R100) contains a series of hot spring pools called the Warmbaths. In addition to these, Forever Resorts has go-karts, quad bike rental and trails, pedal bike rentals, and a small water park with slides.

Thaba Kwena (S 24 47.916 E 028 18.453, ☎014-736-5059, 8am-4pm, entrance and tour: adult R20, child R10) is the largest crocodile farm in South Africa - with over 22,000 crocs - that is open to the public. They offer a 1hr tour of the crocodiles and their habitat. Saturdays at 3pm is the best time to go as you will be able to observe the impressive croc feeding. To get to the park, head northeast out of Bela-Bela on Potgieter Dr/R101 toward Modimolle for about 10 km. Take the signed turnoff to the left for Groot Nylsoog onto a gravel road and continue for about 4 km to the entrance gate on your left.

De Wildt Shingwedzi Cheetah & Wildlife Ranch (S 24 40.203 E 028 02.012, ☎014-734-1735 or ☎083-257-7395, www.dewildt-shingwedzi.co.za) runs a breeding, conservation and community education program, all to promote the survival of cheetahs and wild dogs. It offers 2hr Cheetah and Wild Dog Feeding Tours (Mon-Sat 10am-2pm, advance bookings essential) within large enclosures as well as game drives where you can see wild cats, nyala, crocodiles and vultures.

It can be reached from Bela Bela by heading west out of town on Rooiberg St/R516 for roughly 33 km; then turn right onto the gravel Diepdrift Rd for about 24 km, then left on Thabazimbi Rd for 2 km to reach the entrance gate on the left. Another way to reach the ranch is to take the R33 about 14





BELA-BELA

- T** **TOURIST INFO**
Mokopane Tourist Ass..... 1 E3
- M** **MONEY**
ABSA Bank.....(see 4)
FNB Bank.....2 D3
- @** **INTERNET**
Com Tec Computers.....3 D3
PostNet.....(see 4)
- S** **SHOPPING**
Bushveld Pick 'n Pay Shopping Center.....4 D3
Spar Shopping Center.....5 D3
- *** **SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**
Forever Resorts.....(see 7)
- S** **SLEEPING**
Elephant Springs Hotel.....6 D3
Forever Resorts.....7 D3
Strelitzia Guest House.....8 C3
- F** **EATING**
Elephant Springs Restaurant....(see 6)
Greenfields.....9 E3
- D** **DRINKING & ENT.**
Mango Night Club.....10 D3
Paul's Pub & Grill.....11 D3
- T** **TRANSPORTATION**
Minibus Taxi Rank.....12 D3

km north from Modimolle to the left turnoff at **S 24 38.692 E 028 20.229** and continue heading west about 11 km where there will be a split in the gravel road; stay to the right and continue another 20 km to the lodge.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Strelitzia Guest House (S 24 52.950 E 028 17.757, 21 Kretzschmar Ave, 014-736-5560 or 082-762-0657, s R150, d R300, secure parking, swimming pool) is a homey seven-room guesthouse with a kitchenette, swimming pool, large living room and bar. The en suite rooms are a little dated, but it is a relaxed place with a number of outdoor braai facilities and friendly hosts.

Marula Mountain Village (S 24 51.118 E 028 20.660, Buiskp Farm, Eersbewoon Rd, 014-736-4474 or 073-040-6731, www.marulamountainvillage.co.za, wkday: camping R100, 2-person chalet R220, 4-person chalet R480; wkend: camping R130, 2-person chalet R650/wkend, 4-person chalet R980/wkend, swimming pool) is situated on the slope of a hill with a large swimming pool, a volleyball court and a restaurant that is open only during the day. There are 130 campsites with electricity, water taps and braai facilities, 15 self-catering units and a couple larger houses. To get there, head northeast 5 km out of town on Potgieter Dr/R101 toward Modimolle. Turn right at the T-junction across the street from Klein-Kariba Lodge onto Eersbewoon Rd and continue 500 m to the entrance gate on the right.

MID-RANGE

Forever Resorts (S 24 53.160 E 028 17.684, Chris Hani Way, 014-736-8500, www.foreversa.co.za, camping R80 + R70/person, chalet: d R750, 4-person R1,150, 6-person R1,400, lodge room: d R1,050) is a hot spot because the town's main attraction, the Warmbaths, are located within the premises. Though rooms themselves are nothing impressive, weekend accommodations are often fully booked. Aside from the Warmbaths, there are a host of other activities (see above) at the resort.

Elephant Springs Hotel (S 24 53.160 E 028 17.632, cnr Sutter St & Marx St, 014-736-2102, www.elephantsprings.co.za, s R455, d R650, self-catering: d R650-990, secure parking, swimming pool) is the main hotel in town with

standard hotel rooms and fully equipped self-catering multi-level rooms that feel almost like small apartments. Both room styles have soft pillow top beds with TV and AC, and surround a courtyard with a swimming pool. The self-catering rooms are a bit more modern than the hotel-style rooms and each has a small private deck with a braai area. Note: the rate for walk-in guests is about R100 less than if you book in advance.

Mabalingwe Nature Reserve (S 24 50.975 E 028 02.550, 014-736-9000, www.mabalingwe.co.za, camping R200, lodge rooms: s R680, d R1,000, chalets: 6-person R1,860, breakfast included, swimming pool) is a 13 square kilometer nature reserve with all of the Big 5 and many other animals and bird species. Choose from campsite accommodation, a self-catering thatched roof chalet (fully equipped with three en suite bedrooms and braai facilities) or a standard lodge room. Although you're unlikely to spot all of the Big 5 during your time at the reserve (animal populations are rather sparse), it does make for good self-drive safaris. You can also join a group on a guided day or night safari (R90). Other activities include lion feeding in the afternoon (R70) and horseback riding. To get there, head west from Bela-Bela on Rooiberg St/R516 and continue about 28 km to the lodge entrance gate (no day visitors allowed).

EATING

Feather's Country Kitchen (S 24 53.291 E 028 15.359, 014-736-2952 or 072-407-3079, 6pm-late Thu-Sat, 12pm-2:30pm Sun, mains R75-105) is a stylish tented restaurant and bar, with indoor and outdoor seating overlooking a small dam. Get a steak or seafood, or try an African specialty such as braised oxtail, venison, tripe or lamb livers. The cooks behind the kitchen know what they are doing and there is a decent wine list to boot. To get there, head west out of town on Swanepoel St (which intersects Rooiberg St two blocks south of the circle). From Swanepoel St, follow the signs 3.3 km to the restaurant; the last 1 km is on a gravel road.

Greenfields (S 24 53.504 E 028 17.684, Waterfront, Marx St, 014-736-3272, www.greenfields.co.za, 7am-9pm Mon-Sat, 8am-8pm Sun, mains R40-65) is a regional restaurant chain serving salads, sandwiches, tramezzinis, light meals, grills and a few traditional South African dishes. It has indoor and outdoor seating.

LIMPOPO

One City, Two Names?

Passing through Limpopo can be confusing. You think you are in Polokwane, but then someone refers to it as Pietersburg. Don't worry, you're not lost. In 2003, the provincial government of the Northern Province officially changed the province's name to Limpopo and began renaming many of the region's cities to reflect the rich history of black Africans that had long been suppressed. Many of the cities that had previously been named after famous Voortrekkers were the first to be renamed. But the name-changing plan has proved highly controversial and some new names have been heatedly contested before the Supreme Court of Appeal. In general, new names that have geographical significance have been better received than names derived from African leaders or other "tribal" origins.

LIMPOPO'S RENAMED CITIES:

Polokwane (Pietersburg)
Mokopane (Potgietersrus)
Bela-Bela (Warmbaths)
Modimolle (Nylstroom)
Lephalale (Ellisras)
Mookgophong (Naboomspruit)
Musina (Messina)
Modjadjiskloof (Duiwelskloof)
Makhado (Louis Trichardt) – contested

Elephant Springs Restaurant (S 24 53.160 E 028 17.632, cnr Sutter St & Marx St, ☎014-736-2102, 7-10am, 1pm-2pm, & 7pm-9pm, buffet R95) is attached to the Elephant Springs Hotel and is a popular spot in town. It serves steaks, ribs, burgers, and local dishes of braised oxtail, grilled kingklip and bobotie. However, the majority of patrons go with the large breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffet option for R95.

🍷 DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Paul's Pub & Grill (S 24 53.213 E 028 17.695, Potgieter Rd, ☎082-539-4927, 10am-1:30am Mon-Sat) is a casual downtown pub serving draught beer and mixed drinks. Cozy up with locals in a game of darts or pool while you watch rugby games on a big screen. They serve steak and pub food until

11pm and there is an attached hot dog stand in front that serves up foot-longs until 2am to prevent late-night pub-goers from feeling peckish.

Mango Night Club (S24 53.104 E 028 17.630, cnr Chris Hani Way & Pretoria St, 10am-4am Wed-Sat) is the nightclub in town with a DJ, dance floor and separate shooter bar for patrons who want to get straight to the point. There are a few lounge seats and some tables outside. The place doesn't start to get crowded until around 11pm.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 53.324 E 028 17.571, off Porgieter Rd) is located behind the Pick 'n Pay and has transport for both local and long distance destinations including Modimolle (R18), Mokopane (R56), Polokwane (R84) and Pretoria (R35).

NYLSVLEY NATURE RES.

GPS: S 24 38.100 E 028 39.908
elevation 1,115 m/3,658 ft

Nylsvley Nature Reserve (S 24 38.100 E 028 39.908, ☎014-743-1074, reservations: ☎015-290-7336, www.nylsvley.co.za, R20/vehicle, R10/person) is a sanctuary for bird lovers. The Nyl River flows through the 40 square kilometer nature reserve and empties out into South Africa's largest flood plain, which stretches over 70 km. This enormous flood plain can accommodate up to 80,000 migratory birds in a wet season and more than 365 species have been identified within the reserve. There are five well-hidden observation hides throughout the park that provide a relaxing platform from which to watch the many birds.

🛏 SLEEPING

There are a number of accommodation options, all of which are located near the main entrance gate.

Campsites (R50) are located about 300 m inside the park from the entrance gate and have water taps, large braai facilities, picnic tables and bathrooms, but no electricity or hot showers.

Chalets (R450) are clean with comfortable beds, a kitchenette and a private outdoor sitting area with a braai.

Heron Guest House (d R550, plus R200/ additional person) can accommodate up to six people in its three bedrooms and has a kitchen, TV and outdoor braai area.

The Presidential Suite (R750) is a private setting with a four post king-size bed, a modern outdoor shower, and a jacuzzi and braai area.

🍴 EATING

The Spoonbill Restaurant (mains R55-80) is located at the main entrance gate and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

To get there from Bela-Bela head northeast out of town on Potgieter Dr/R101 toward Molimolle and continue on R101 past Modimolle. About 27 km past Modimolle on the R101 there is a sign for the nature reserve (at S 24 36.100 E 028 36.749); take a right turn onto a gravel road, and continue 7.7 km to the reserve entrance gates.

VAALWATER

GPS: S 25 05.366 E 030 27.228
pop. 20,000 | elevation 1,403 m/4,603 ft

Vaalwater is a quaint slow-paced small town. It's the perfect jumping-off point to explore the surrounding Waterberg Biosphere region or can be just a place to get away and enjoy some time in a rural town away from the city.

🗺 TOURIST INFORMATION

AHA Tourism Information Office (S 24 18.001 E 028 06.640, Voortrekker St, ☎014-755-

4567, vaalwater@hotmail.com, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) has Waterburg maps, brochures for area accommodation and activities such as game drives, horseback riding and elephant-back safaris. They also offer public Internet access for R15/15min. It is located on the frontage road directly across from the Big 5 Restaurant.

💰 MONEY

ABSA Bank (S 24 17.871 E 028 06.600, cnr Voortrekker St & Sanddrif St) has ATMs at the ABSA Center. There is also an FNB ATM.

🌐 INTERNET

The Bush Stop Café (S 24 17.160 E 028 06.076, Zeederberg Center, Voortrekker St, ☎014-755-3508 or ☎083-326-5098, bushstopcafe@yahoo.com, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1:30pm Sat, R15/15min) is a coffee shop and small café with three updated computers for Internet use.

AHA Tourism Information Office (S 24 18.001 E 028 06.640, Voortrekker St, ☎014-755-4567, vaalwater@hotmail.com, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R15/15min) also offers public Internet access on one of their computers.

🛍 SHOPPING

Zeederberg Center (S 24 17.160 E 028 06.076, Voortrekker St, www.zeederbergs.co.za) has a Spar, craft shop, coffee shop with Internet access and a couple other stores surrounding a tranquil lawn courtyard, and outdoor tables for coffee shop patrons.

ABSA Center (S 24 17.871 E 028 06.600, cnr Voortrekker St & Sanddrif St) has a supermarket, bottle shop and ABSA and FNB ATM.



🌟 SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Vaalwater is a relaxed and scenic town from which to explore the surrounding Waterburg area and its activities; however there isn't much in the way of sights and activities in the town itself. If you are in need of some in-town entertainment, contact William at the AHA Tourism Information Office. He can arrange donkey-cart rides or bring in a performing choir from one of the surrounding townships.

Waterberg Elephant Back Safaris (S 24 20.410 E 027 59.823, off of R517, ☎014-755-9300, www.elephantsafari.co.za) allows you to get up close and personal with the elephants and view the game without the invasiveness of a motor vehicle. To get there head north out of town on Voortrekker St/R517 for 8.3 km and turn left onto a dirt road (at S 24 16.504 E 027 29.868). Continue on the dirt road 9.1 km to the entrance gate.

🛏 SLEEPING

BUDGET

Zeederberg Cottages & Backpackers (S 24 17.189 E 028 06.047, Voortrekker St, ☎082-332-7088, www.zeederbergs.co.za, dm R150, s R150-300, d R300-600, secure parking, swimming pool) is located behind the Zeederberg Center. It has soft grass campsites, a main house with comfortable dorms and a handful of quaint well-kept country cottages spaced out over the expansive lawn. The owners are quite friendly and make this a very pleasant place to stay in Vaalwater.

Bosveldvus Karavaan Park (S 24 17.990 E 028 06.7064, Kirkman St, ☎014-755-3696, s R180, d R350, swimming pool) no longer allows caravans or camping but has four chalets and a deserted bar and pool table area. There are braai facilities and a swimming pool.

MID-RANGE

Vaalwater Hotel (S 24 18.132 E 028 06.796, Voortrekker St, ☎014-755-3895, s R250, d R400) has 12 basic rooms with AC. It is a convenient place to stay with an attached restaurant and one of the busier bars in town, and if you're looking for hotel-style accommodation, this is your only option.

Little Five Guest House (S 24 17.912 E 028

06.818, 170, Kirkman St, ☎076-963-7054, s R250, d R500, breakfast included) has four modern rooms with large patio doors that open to a garden courtyard. Take the signed turn from Voortrekker St across from the Brent filling station and continue 400 m down the road.

🍴 EATING

Big 5 Restaurant (S 24 17.992 E 028 06.710, Voortrekker St, ☎014-755-3567, 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 9am-3pm Sun, mains R40-80) is one of the more popular options in town and has indoor and outdoor seating. The plywood menu offers breakfast, light meals, pizza, burgers, steaks and a couple seafood and vegetarian options. Monkey gland sauce can be added to any meal for an extra R8.

Vaalwater Hotel (S 24 18.132 E 028 06.796, Voortrekker St, 7:30am-9pm, bar open late) has a large but mediocre menu with outdoor seating just outside the busy bar.

The Bush Stop Café (S 24 17.160 E 028 06.076, Zeederberg Center, ☎014-755-3508 or ☎083-326-5098, bushstopcafe@yahoo.com, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1:30pm Sat, mains R35-45) is a café that serves breakfast, salads, light meals and ice cream with outdoor seating in the Zeederberg Center courtyard.

🍺 DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Vaalwater Hotel (S 24 18.132 E 028 06.796, Voortrekker St, bar open 10am-2am) is an Afrikaner watering hole in town. Make your way past the pickup trucks haphazardly parked outside to join the small crowd on weeknights or the larger group of people supporting the national beer industry on weekends.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 17.780 E 028 06.625, ABSA Center, cnr Voortrekker St & Sanddrif St) is behind a few buildings that make up the ABSA center and has transport to Ellisras (30min, R25) and Modimolle (30min, R22). This is not the busiest taxi rank so get there early and still expect to wait a while.

MARAKELE

NATIONAL PARK

GPS: S 24 31.901 E 027 29.868
elevation 1,024 m/3,360 ft

Makelekela National Park (S 24 31.901 E 027 29.868, ☎014-777-1745, www.sanparks.org/parks/marakele, 7am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 7am-5pm Sat-Sun, R88) has most of the big game (all of the Big 5 except buffalo) with elephants, rhino, and kudu, as well as many bird species. The park is best known for one of the largest breeding colonies of the endangered Cape Vultures (with about 800 breeding pairs) that can be observed from viewing points within the park.

🌟 SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The park offers morning and sunset game drives (R140/person, minimum 4 people) and morning bushwalks (R160).

🛏 SLEEPING

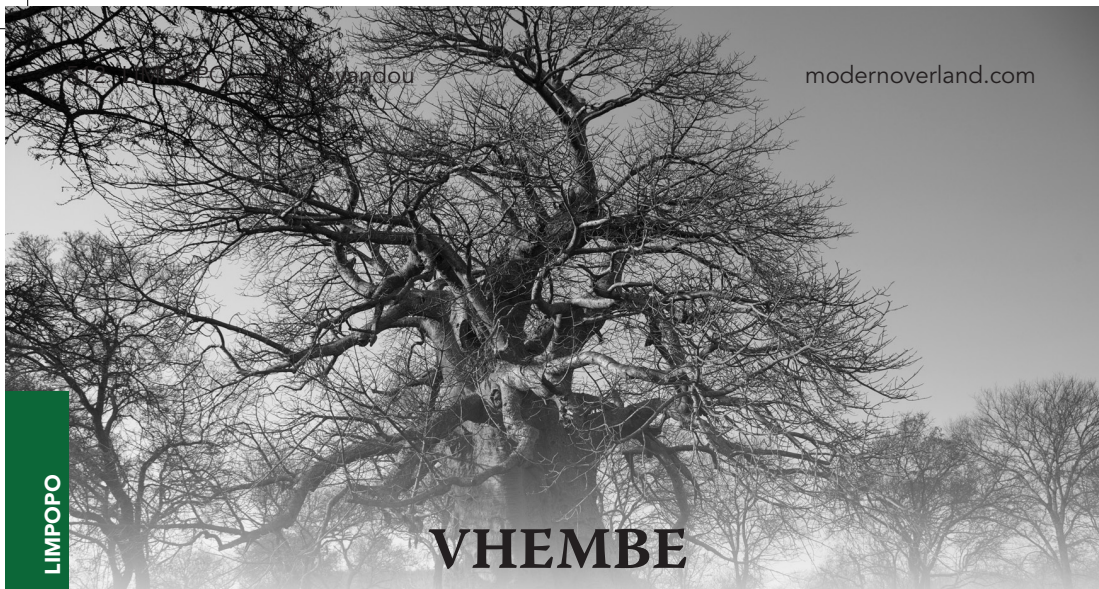
The park has camp/caravan sites (R145) located 1.2

km from the entrance gate with electrical outlets and communal bathrooms. You can also sleep in safari tents (R775), located 17 km from the entrance gate and overlooking the Apiesriverpoort dam. The tents are large permanent structures with two beds, a private bathroom and a deck. There is also a fully equipped kitchen.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

Coming from Vaalwater there are two ways to get to Marakele NP – a shorter route via a dirt road or a longer route on a tar road. For the shorter route head north from Vaalwater on Voortrekker St/R517 for 8.3 km and turn left onto a dirt road at (S 24 16.504 E 027 29.868). Continue for 42.1 km to a T-junction and turn right towards Bakkerspas; continue 50 km to the park entrance gate on the right (the last 2 km are on tar road). For the longer route, head out of town on the same road toward Thabazimbi. After about 55 km you will hit R510 and there will be a sign to turn left for Thabazimbi. Take that left turn onto R510. As you approach town you will come to a T-junction at (S 24 53.476 E 027 23.864). Take a left (still on R510) and continue straight 12.9 km to park entrance (S 24 31.901 E 027 29.868).





VHEMBE

The Vhembe region may be best known for its ancient and enormous Baobab trees and some 340 other indigenous tree species or its claim to have the world's highest concentration of leopards. But the real draw to this region is the friendly Venda people and the region's rich history of legends.

THOHOYANDOU & SIBASA

GPS: S 22 58.690 E 030 27.369
pop. 45,000 | elevation 579 m/1,900 ft

Thohoyandou, Sibasa and the surrounding communities are home to the friendly and hospitable Venda people. They have a rich culture supported with legends passed down from generations past that continue to influence the way of life for many. If you make it to this area, spend some time befriending locals and inquiring about some regional history – you could start with the story of Lake Funduzi and the Modjadji Rain Queens.

MONEY

FNB Bank (S 22 58.592 E 030 27.598, Matsindo/Mvusuludzo Mall, Thohoyandou St) has ATMs at the Matsindo/Mvusuludzo Mall. There are ABSA ATMs as well.

ABSA Bank (S 22 56.933 E 030 28.333, Sibasa Shopping Center, Mphephu St) has ATMs.

INTERNET

The Computer Corporation (S 22 58.716 E 030 27.381, 015-962-3014, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat, R6/30min) is a computer shop that offers public Internet access.

Muelelo Graphic Design (S 22 58.592 E 030 27.771, 015-962-5791, 8am-6pm, R6/1hr) is a local Internet shop with four computers in an unassuming building near the Ecel filling station. There is a sign that says "Internet." Laptops are allowed to connect.

SHOPPING

Matsindo/Mvusuludzo Mall (S 22 58.592 E 030 27.598, Thohoyandou St) is sometimes referred to as the Venda Mall. It is the block of shops that make

up the center of Thohoyandou with a Spar, KFC, Roman's Pizza, Wimpy, FNB and ABSA ATMs and the minibus taxi rank across the street.

Sibasa Shopping Center (S 22 56.933 E 030 28.333, Mphephu St) is located about 1 km north of Thohoyandou and has a SuperSpar, Shoprite, post office, Nedbank and ABSA ATMs and a minibus taxi rank.

land.co.za, s R350, d R450) is a small, clean but characterless, gated community of about 20 white concrete houses with red clay roofs, located halfway between Thohoyandou and Sibasa. The en suite rooms all have TV and AC. They also serve up a breakfast (R55) and lunch (R95), feature a dinner buffet (R95) and offer discounts on weekends.

TOP END

The Khoroni Casino Hotel (S 22 58.184 E 030 27.399, Casino Blvd, 011-557-0755, www.khoroni.co.za, s R780, d R1,060, breakfast included) has fully equipped hotel rooms with original artwork, TV, AC, phone and a safe for your casino winnings. In addition to the casino there is also a full restaurant, dilapidated tennis courts and mini-golf.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Khoroni Casino (S 22 58.184 E 030 27.399, Casino Blvd, 011-557-0755, www.khoroni.co.za, 1pm-2am) is a small touch of Las Vegas in the middle of northeastern South Africa and the main attraction in town. It has 140 slot machines, roulette and blackjack, a hotel, restaurant, and a couple late model BMWs and Mercedes parked in front.

Thohoyandou Art & Culture Center (S 22 59.049 E 030 27.543, Punta Maria Rd/R524, 082-401-9756, 8am-4pm) is a large art studio with local artists working on projects clustered throughout the grounds. The artists are happy to show you around and explain the projects they are working on. They also sell clay pottery, prints and woodcarvings of all sizes from both the art students onsite as well as other local artists.

EATING

The Malingani Restaurant (22 58.184 E 030 27.399, Khoroni Casino Hotel, Casino Blvd, 6:30am-10:30am, 12:30pm-3pm & 6:30pm-10:30pm, mains R45-105) is by far the best restaurant in town with fish any way you like it, steak, ribs and a couple vegetarian options. However the most popular meal is the buffet: breakfast R100, lunch R105, dinner R120.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Acacia Parks (S 22 58.886 E 030 27.914, Punta Maria Rd/R524, 015-962-3095, www.golimpopo.com, camping: R60 plus R30/person, chalets: s R360, d R420, swimming pool) has basic self-catering chalets with TV and AC, a swimming pool and campsites with electric outlets, water and braai facilities.

MID-RANGE

Bougainvilla Lodge (S 22 57.938 E 030 27.241, Mphephu St, 015-962-4064, www.bougainvillalodge.com, s R290, d R325, Internet) is a B&B with standard rooms that have a TV, AC and a phone. The front of the lodge is softened with bougainvillea trees, from which the lodge takes its name. They can also arrange lunch and dinner with advanced notice.

Graceland Hotel (S 22 57.870 E 030 27.513, Mphephu St, 015-962-4926, www.muofhegrace

DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Khoroni Casino (S 22 58.184 E 030 27.399, Casino Blvd, 011-557-0755) is the largest of Thohoyandou and Sibasa's watering holes. If you're staying in the area and looking for some mild nightlife, ask around and you'll likely be able to find a local to take you around without much trouble.

TRANSPORTATION

Thohoyandou Minibus Taxi Rank (S 22 58.610 E 030 27.598) is downtown next to the Matsindo/Mvusuludzo Mall and has transport to surrounding cities, including Joburg (6hr, R150), Louis Trichardt (R25) and Polokwane (R50).

Sibasa Minibus Taxi Rank (S 22 56.929 E 030 28.248, Mphephu St) is in front of the Shipright about 1 km north of the Thohoyandou taxi rank. The minibuses here go to the same locations as those at the Thohoyandou rank, but with a

much less intense taxi rank experience, which also means they tend to fill up a bit slower. Minibuses head to Joburg (R150), Peitersburg (R50), Louis Trichardt (R25) and a number of other destinations.

Translux / City-to-City ☎086-158-9282, www.translux.co.za have busses with service to Joburg & Pretoria (R200) and Peitersburg (R120). You can purchase your tickets in Thohoyandou at **Thohoyandou Travel** (S 22 58.500 E 030 27.328, Mphephu St, ☎079 224 3059), which is unsigned,

but look for the City-to-City and Translux signs, or in Sibasa at the **City-to-City Bus Depot** (S 22 56.844 E 030 28.280, Mphephu St, ☎015-963-3909, 6am-2pm) across the street from the Shoprite. You can get on the bus in either city. In Sibasa the pickup is at the **Caltex Filling Station** (S 22 56.940 E 030 28.172, Mphephu St); the City-to-City bus and the Translux bus depart daily at 7:30am. In Thohoyandou the same buses depart at the **Shell Filling Station** (S 22 58.532 E 030 27.536) across the street from Thohoyandou Travel at 7:45am.

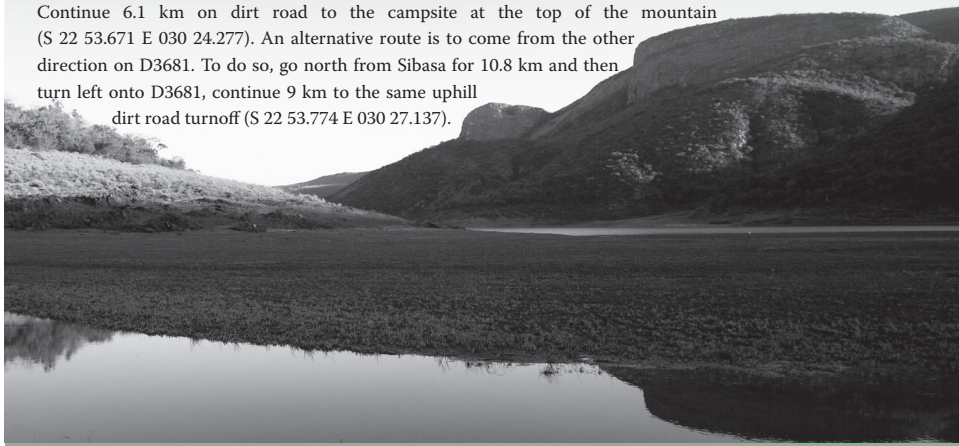
Lake Fundudzi

The mythical Lake Fundudzi is a sacred site to the local Venda population. Legend has it that ancestral spirits inhabit the lake, beating their drums throughout the night. The spirit lake is guarded by a python god of fertility and a sacred white crocodile. Virgin women once sacrificed themselves to the python god to ensure a fruitful crop for their people. Nowadays an annual sacred beer offering appears to satisfy him.

The Vhatatsindi, or “People of the Pool” have cared for the lake since their ancestors arrived in the area centuries ago. Visits to the sacred site only used to be possible if arranged through them, and it is still suggested that you do so. The construction of roads to facilitate logging of the sacred Thathe Vondo forest that surrounds the lake has undermined the Vhatatsindi’s ability to ensure the conservation of its waters. Proper etiquette upon arrival is to turn your back to the lake, bend down and look at it through your spread legs, a salute to the ancestors known as the ukodola.

There are a couple ways to get to Lake Fundudzi (S 22 51.109 E 030 18.615) and we recommend you find a guide who either knows the way or can speak with locals for directions. From the Fundudzi African Ivory Route Camp (S 22 53.671 E 030 24.277, www.africanivoryroute.co.za) you can easily find someone to help you. If you go from the side of the hill where the Fundudzi African Ivory Route Camp is located, it is about a 20 km uphill drive from the campsite (depending on which turns you take on the network of logging access roads through the pristine and clear cut pine forests). It is a rough drive with a 4x4 and, depending on the road conditions, unlikely that a non-4x4 could make it.

To get to the Fundudzi African Ivory Route Camp (S 22 53.671 E 030 24.277, www.africanivoryroute.co.za) from Thohoyandou, head north to Sibasa and turn left onto R523 toward Musina at the Caltex filling station. Continue 9.4 km and then take a right at the sign for Phiphidi Waterfalls onto D3681. Continue 10.2 km to the Mukumbani sign where you turn left (S 22 53.774 E 030 27.137) on the dirt road heading uphill. Continue 6.1 km on dirt road to the campsite at the top of the mountain (S 22 53.671 E 030 24.277). An alternative route is to come from the other direction on D3681. To do so, go north from Sibasa for 10.8 km and then turn left onto D3681, continue 9 km to the same uphill dirt road turnoff (S 22 53.774 E 030 27.137).



NWANEDI NATURE RES.

GPS: S 22 35.160 E 030 24.921
elevation 508 m/1,667 ft

Nwanedi Nature Reserve (S 22 35.160 E 030 24.921, main lodge: S 22 37.941 E 030 23.896, 6am-6pm, ☎015-539-0723, www.go.limpopo.com, R10/vehicle, R7/person) is a 93 square kilometer reserve situated on the foothills of the Venda Mountains and features a variety of landscapes - primarily umbrella thorn savannah with a smattering of Mopani and Baobab trees. The highlights of the reserve are the Impressive Tshihovhohovho Waterfall and the large Nwanedi Dam. The reserve has antelope, white rhino, giraffe, tons of baboons and a variety of birds.

✿ SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Promotional material for the nature reserve advertises activities such as canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing, but note that you must bring all of your own equipment. There are also a few hiking trails with scenic landscape views and a path to the Tshihovhohovho Waterfall.

🛖 SLEEPING

Nwanedi Main Lodge (S 22 37.941 E 030 23.896, camping R100, d R340, 4-person R506, swimming pool) has self-catering en suite two-person chalets with a kitchenette, TV, AC and outside braai facilities. There are campsites with electric outlets, lights, water taps and braai facilities with spots under the shade of large canopy trees. Baboons roam free around the camp.

🍴 EATING

Nwanedi Main Lodge Restaurant (S 22 37.941 E 030 23.896, mains R55-65) is set beautifully amidst green lawns and large trees, with a distant vista of river and mountains. It has a small menu of soup, salads, and meat dishes, with specialties like fish curry and grills.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

To get into the Nature Reserve from the Musina-Masisi Rd/R525, turn south onto a dirt road (D3675)

at the Nwanedi sign and continue 8.1 km to the main gate (S 22 35.160 E 030 24.921). From Thohoyandou the closest entrance is the Gumela Gate (S 22 38.787 E 030 26.193).

MUSINA

GPS: S 22 21.011 E 030 02.161
pop. 41,000 | elevation 546 m/1,791 ft

Musina is a hot sticky border town. While there isn't much to do within the city itself, there is enough to do in the surrounding towns to make this area worth the stop - especially if you are heading up into Zimbabwe. There is a noticeable police force in the city both day and night, primarily to address undocumented individuals and contraband crossing the borders. While the central business district does have a border town hustle to it, you'll see quite a few jobless people sitting and waiting.

📍 TOURIST INFORMATION

The Musina Tourism Information Centre (S 22 21.236 E 030 01.984, National Rd/N1, ☎015-534-3500, musinatourism@limpopo.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) has free city maps, and can provide suggestions and a list of places to stay and things to do.

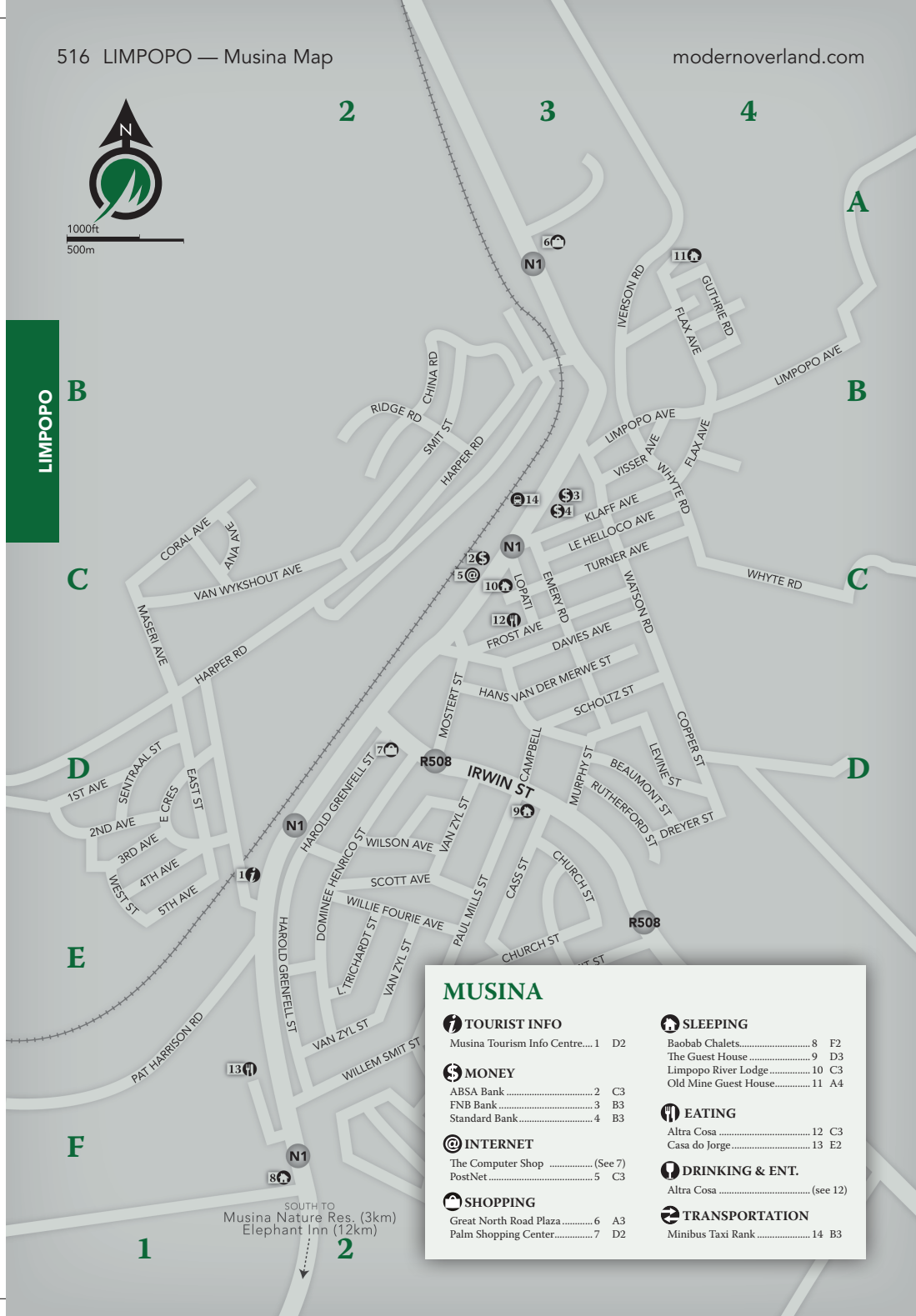
💰 MONEY

ABSA Bank (S 22 20.804 E 030 02.352, National Rd/N1) has ATMs and a Bureau de Change and is across the street from Boxer Superstore.
Standard Bank (S 22 20.737 E 030 02.411, cnr National Rd/N1 & Emory) has ATMs

🌐 INTERNET

The Computer Shop (S 22 21.056 E 030 02.352, Palm Shopping Center, cnr Harold Grenfell St & Erwin St, ☎015-534-1206, compshop@limpopo.co.za, 8:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, R15/30min) has five computers for Internet access and wireless for laptops.

PostNet (S 22 20.805 E 030 02.332, Bepro Center, National Rd/N1, ☎015-534-0017, www.postnet.co.za, 7:30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R15/15min) has two updated computers for Internet use and allows laptops to be connected.



MUSINA	
TOURIST INFO	
Musina Tourism Info Centre.....1	D2
MONEY	
ABSA Bank.....2	C3
FNB Bank.....3	B3
Standard Bank.....4	B3
INTERNET	
The Computer Shop.....(See 7)	
PostNet.....5	C3
SHOPPING	
Great North Road Plaza.....6	A3
Palm Shopping Center.....7	D2
SLEEPING	
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EATING	
Altra Cosa.....12	C3
Casa do Jorge.....13	E2
DRINKING & ENT.	
Altra Cosa.....(see 12)	
TRANSPORTATION	
Minibus Taxi Rank.....14	B3

SHOPPING

The town's commercial center is the central 2 km stretch of National Rd/N1 with utilitarian shops lining the street on both sides.

Great North Road Plaza (S 22 20.364 E 030 02.469, National Rd/N1) was being constructed at the time of research. It is located on the northern end of town and has a Shoprite along with a number of other shops.

Palm Shopping Center (S 22 21.041 E 030 02.179, cnr Harold Grenfell St & Erwin St) is toward the southern end of town and has a Spar, bottle shop, Internet café and a couple other stores.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Musina Nature Reserve (S 22 23.392 E 030 01.153, N1, 0015-534-3235, admission free) is a 49 square kilometer reserve that forms part of the former Baobab Forest Reserve and is located 5 km south of the city off of the N1. The reserve has picnic sites with areas to braai, water taps and bathrooms near the entrance gate. There are also hiking trails and a 24 km circular driving route to see the impressive, prehistoric-looking baobab trees.

San Rock Art Tours (0083-679-8884) are run by Paul Hatty and take place outside of the city around the Mapungubwe National Park area.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Limpopo River Lodge (S 22 20.816 E 030 02.356, 6 National Rd/N1, 0015-534-0204, river lodge@limpopo.co.za, s R250, d R350, wifi, secure parking, swimming pool) is the only hotel in town and is right on the main drag (National Rd/N1). All rooms have TV, AC, and small updated bathrooms. The Alta Cosa restaurant is conveniently located on the premises, in back by the pool.

Baobab Chalets (S 22 21.686 E 030 02.009, southern end of National Rd/N1, 0015-534-3504, s R240, d R330, t R420) is a quiet place with a lawn and trees. The facility has 28 spacious brick chalets with TV, AC, a small kitchen and braai facilities outside. Plans to build a swimming pool are slowly in the works.

MID-RANGE

Old Mine Guest House (S 22 20.304 E 030 02.666, 1 Woodburn Ave, 0015-534-2250, s R200-350, d R250-400) is the hidden gem of Musina when it comes to lodging. The old historic house has large screened-in sitting areas and seven rooms. Each has a TV, AC and many of the original furnishings from 1919. There is a new block of four modern rooms with small kitchens and a sitting porch. It is situated on a side street on the northern end of town. To get there from National Rd/N1, turn onto Limpopo Rd across from the SuperSpar, continue straight 400 m then turn left at Flax La for 200 m. Veer right onto the gravel road and follow the signs another 300 m to the guesthouse.

Elephant Inn (S 22 27.559 E 029 59.569, National Rd/N1, 0015-534-0499 or 0082-444-0833, elephant inn@limpopo.co.za, s R350, d R450, breakfast included) is next to a filling station and convenience store 13 km south of town, but the private wood chalets are situated off to the side among palm trees and away from the hustle of the city. The thatched roof chalets have hardwood floors, natural wood frame beds with mosquito nets, TV and AC. There are two restaurants and a bar joined to the main lodge. A kids waterslide is attached to the small pool that is great for hot days.

TOP END

The Guest House (S 22 21.137 E 030 02.423, 22 Irwin St, 0015-534-3517 or 0082-780-0579, the guesthouse@limpopo.co.za, s R600, d R1,000, breakfast included) is a quaint 4-star guesthouse of well-appointed rooms with TV, AC and dark wood furnishings. There is a large distinguished Baobab tree in the center courtyard.

EATING

Altra Cosa (S 22 20.868 E 030 02.395, 9 Frost Ave, 0015-534-2339, 7am-10pm, bar open late, mains R40-90) is a popular casual restaurant with a bar and wood-fired clay pizza oven inside and tables and chairs that spill out onto a lawn surrounding the pool. A large menu covers everything from breakfast and light meals to 500g rump steaks, seafood, fillets, pasta and desserts. The restaurant is located behind the Limpopo River Lodge, and is probably the only place in town where you'll want to don a button-up shirt.

Casa do Jorge (S 22 21.486 E 030 01.980, National

LIMPOPO

LIMPOPO

Rd/N1, ☎015-534-2241, 7am-9:30pm, mains R70-110) is a Portuguese restaurant run by two service industry veterans and one of the few pleasant dining locations in town. The Portuguese menu includes snails, garlic ribs and cubed steak. They also serve local and English breakfast, and a large Sunday buffet (10am-6pm).

🍷 DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Altra Cosa (S 22 20.868 E 030 02.395, 9 Frost Ave, ☎015-534-2339, 7am-late) is a secure and stylish place to be seen most evenings, where you can relax and have a drink while sitting at a table on the lawn by the pool.

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

Minibus Taxi Rank (S 22 20.698 E 030 02.373, National Rd/N1) is on the north side of the Boxer Superstore and has frequent transport to Beitbridge Border Post (20min, R15), Louis Trichardt (1hr, R35), Polokwane (2hr, R70) and Joburg (5hr, R150).

The Golden Rhino of Mapungubwe

Less than 100 years ago, a small gold foil statue of an Asian rhinoceros gave definitive proof that sophisticated African empires had inhabited South Africa for millennia. In 1932, a local farmer discovered the rhino, along with the priceless remains of the African kingdom of Mapungubwe. The artifacts told a story of a civilization from 1000 A.D. that was advanced at metalwork and traded with kingdoms as far away as India and China. Though the farmer reported the find to the University of Pretoria, the excavation site remained closed to the public for decades, ostensibly to prevent conflict with government-supported beliefs of white superiority. Rumor has it that in 2002, a secret room of gold, pottery, exotic beads and finely crafted ivory was rediscovered during university renovations. The most spectacular of the found treasures was the Golden Rhino, which is now housed in the Old Arts Building at University of Pretoria. In July 2003, the Mapungubwe Landscape was declared a World Heritage Site.

MAPUNGUBWE

NATIONAL PARK

GPS: S 22 14.600 E 029 24.027
elevation 590 m/1,936 ft

Mapungubwe National Park (S 22 14.600 E 029 24.027, ☎015-534-2014, ☎012-428-9111, www.sanparks.org/parks/mapungubwe, Sept-Mar: 6am-6:30pm, Apr-Aug: 6:30am-6pm, R76) is a 280 square kilometer national park that opened in 2004. The Mapungubwe area was home to a prosperous African civilization around 1200 A.D. that traded with places as far away as India and China. Among other significant artifacts, archaeologists excavated the famous golden rhino in 1933, and the park is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visitors can see the Big 4 (no buffalo), with sizeable populations of elephant, giraffe and white rhino and over 400 species of birds. The continually delayed opening of the visitor center, museum and restaurant should be completed by early 2011.

🌟 SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The park offers a number of activities including game drives (*morning drive*: 5:30am, 3hr, R160, *sunset drive*: 4pm, 2hr, R160), a morning bushwalk (6am, 2hr, R245) and a heritage site tour (7am and 10am, 2hr, R135) where you walk to the top of a hill and visit the archaeological excavation site where the golden rhino was discovered among other artifacts in ancient royal graves.

🛏 SLEEPING

There are a number of sleeping options at camps throughout the park including campsites (R145/person) with water taps, electricity and hot showers, safari tents (d R705), cabins (R385/person), and en suite lodges (R2,025).

🚗 TRANSPORTATION

From Musina head north out of the city on the N1. On the northern end of the city is the intersection with R572 – take that west 72 km to the **Mapungubwe entrance gate** (S 22 14.606 E 029 23.996). The road is lined with gigantic boulders and baobab trees.



MOPANI

The Mopani region borders the Kruger and a number of cities within the region offer good bases from which to enter an area of the park that is a bit less crowded. But don't miss out on an opportunity to absorb some of the region's rich history of legends and myths such as that of the Modjadji Rain Queens and the ancient cycad trees that these women have protected for centuries.

TZANEEN

GPS: S 23 49.728 E 030 09.714
pop. 50,000 | elevation 698 m/2,290 ft

Tzaneen is a sweaty city (even in the winter) with not a whole lot of sightseeing to do within the bustling city itself. But there is decent shopping (for Limpopo), a few places to catch a bite to eat and some good locations to stay overnight on your way through.

🗺 TOURIST INFORMATION

Limpopo Tourism & Parks Information (S 23 49.252 E 030 09.684, Wolkberg Dr/R71, ☎015-307-3582, www.golimpopo.com, 8am-4:30pm Mon-Fri) has free city and area maps as well as brochures and large lists of area accommodation and activities. They will also place calls to make reservations on your behalf.

💰 MONEY

Most of the ATMs in town are in the malls. The Oasis Mall has an ABSA & Nedbank ATM, the Tzaneen Crossings Mall has a Nedbank and FNB bank and ABSA and Standardbank ATMs, and the Tzaneen Mall has a Nedbank ATM.

🌐 INTERNET

Oasis Mall Net Café (S 23 49.027 E 030 09.464, Oasis Mall, 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat) is a small Internet café with only three computers and it doesn't always keep regular hours.

DOTcom (S 23 49.777 E 030 09.663, Peace St, ☎015-307-4709, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat, R15/30min) is a print and copy shop with three computers located behind the Tzaneen Crossings Mall.

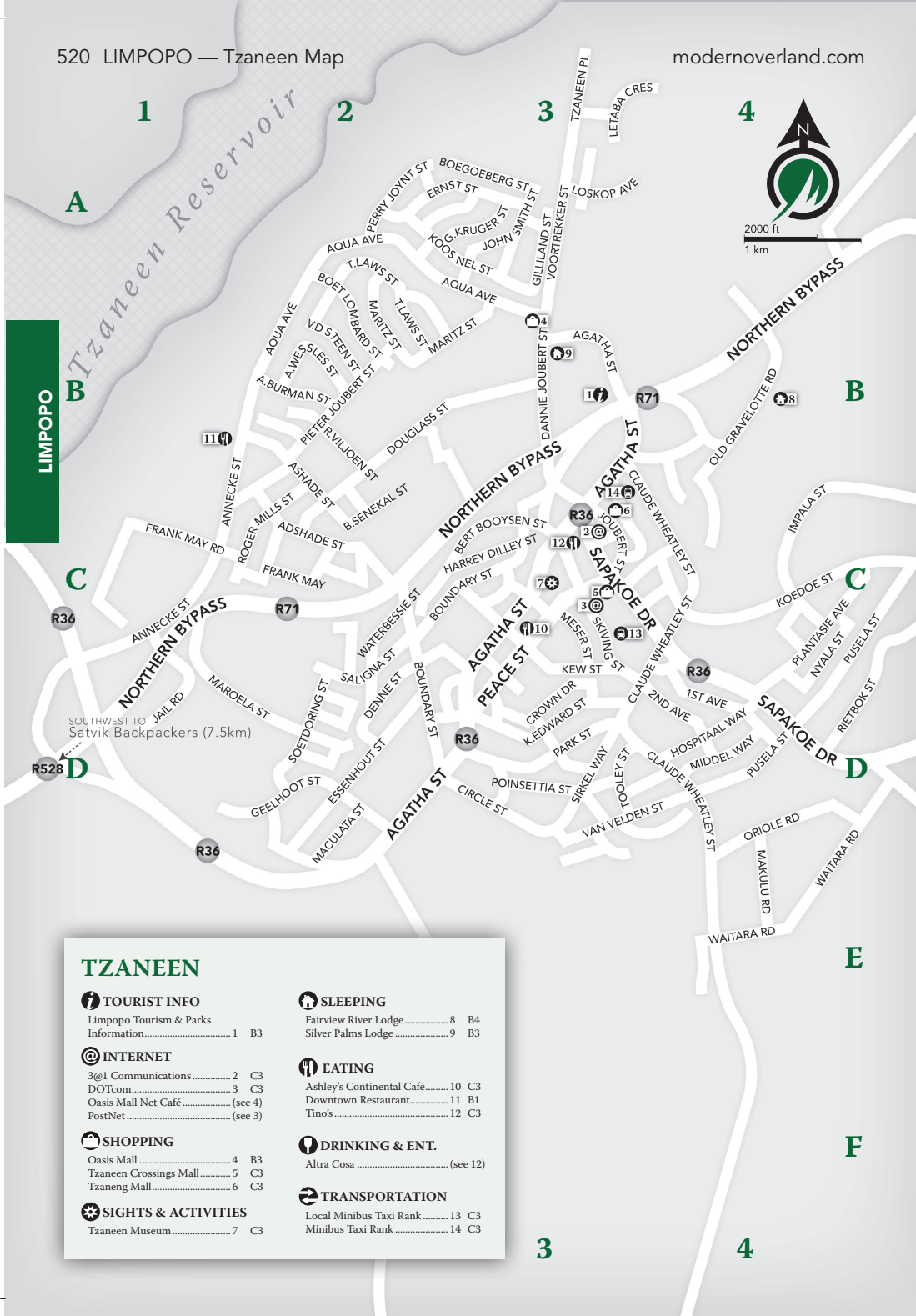
PostNet (S 23 49.787 E 030 09.667, ☎015-307-5934, www.postnet.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12:30pm Sat, R10/15min) is a print and copy shop that has three computers with Internet access and is located directly across from DOTcom.

3@1 Communications (S 23 49.563 E 030 09.696, Danie Joubert St, ☎015-307-5087, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, R10/15min) is an Internet café located across the street from the Tzaneen Mall with four computers. Connecting laptops is not allowed.

🛍 SHOPPING

Oasis Mall (S 23 49.027 E 030 09.464, cnr Voortrekker St & Agua Ave) has a Spar, ABSA & Nedbank ATMs, a travel agent and Internet café.

Tzaneen Crossings Mall (S 23 49.742 E 030



TZANEEN

T TOURIST INFO

Limpopo Tourism & Parks Information..... 1 B3

@ INTERNET

3@1 Communications..... 2 C3
DOTcom..... 3 C3
Oasis Mall Net Café..... (see 4)
PostNet..... (see 3)

S SHOPPING

Oasis Mall..... 4 B3
Tzaneen Crossings Mall..... 5 C3
Tzaneng Mall..... 6 C3

S SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Tzaneen Museum..... 7 C3

S SLEEPING

Fairview River Lodge..... 8 B4
Silver Palms Lodge..... 9 B3

E EATING

Ashley's Continental Café..... 10 C3
Downtown Restaurant..... 11 B1
Tino's..... 12 C3

D DRINKING & ENT.

Altra Cosa..... (see 12)

T TRANSPORTATION

Local Minibus Taxi Rank..... 13 C3
Minibus Taxi Rank..... 14 C3

3

4

09.717, cnr Sapekoe Dr/R36 & Peace St) has clothing and department stores, a Shoprite and a Nedbank and FNB bank.

Tzaneen Mall (S 23 49.567 E 030 09.715, Danie Joubert St) has a Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, Game, clothing stores and a Nedbank ATM.

formal restaurant (mains R55-100) at the main lodge, with indoor and outdoor seating overlooking a banana plantation.

EATING

Downtown Restaurant (S 23 49.366 E 030 08.553, Aqua Rd, ☎083-453-3751, 11am-9:30pm Mon-Sat, 12pm-3pm Sun, mains R45-100) is a quality restaurant and also happens to be one of the few non-hotel affiliated restaurants in town that is open in the evening. You can have your choice from a selection of pizza, pasta, seafood, salads and steak, while taking in views of the dam and gum tree plantations against a backdrop of the mountains.

Ashley's Continental Café (S 23 49.871 E 030 09.418, 30 Agatha St, ☎015-307-7270, 7:30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-1pm Sat, mains R50-75, wifi) is a quiet café with outdoor seating in a well-manicured garden. It serves up a good English breakfast and has salads, gourmet sandwiches and full meals.

Tino's (S 23 49.614 E 030 09.581, 54 Agatha St, ☎015-307-1893, 9:30am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9:30am-3pm & 5pm-9pm Sat-Sun, mains R30-90) is a restaurant that also does takeaway. It has salads, seafood, burgers, pies and good pizza and beer. They deliver in the city when they aren't too busy.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Tzaneen Museum (S 23 49.713 E 030 09.516, Agatha St, ☎015-307-2425, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm Sat) displays weapons and artifacts from the region and has the largest collection of pole carvings in the country. There is also a collection of ancient pottery, which includes royal drums used by the Modjadji Rain Queen some 2,000 years ago.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Satvik Backpackers (S 23 50.467 E 030 07.259, Georges Valley Rd/R528, ☎015-307-3920 or ☎084-556-2414, www.satvik.co.za, camping R60/person, d m R100, d R280, 4-person cottage R540) is a rustic but tranquil backpackers just outside of town with campsites, a dorm, piping hot outdoor showers, and a few en suite chalets. It is located right on the dam where you can go fishing and there are a few paddleboats and a braai area on the edge of the water.

MID-RANGE

Silver Palms Lodge (S 23 49.150 E 030 09.533, Monument St, ☎015-307-3092, s R435-525, d R525-685 breakfast included, swimming pool) has standard rooms with TV and AC surrounding a large pool. Several rooms have clear glass showers awkwardly placed right beside the TV and bed.

TRANSPORTATION

Minibus Taxi Rank (S 23 49.470 E 030 09.780, Claude Wheatley St) is behind the Pick 'n Pay in the Tzaneen Mall and has transport to the surrounding areas including Polokwane (R50), Joburg (R150), Phalaborwa (R45) and Bushbuckridge (R75).

Local Minibus Taxi Rank (S 23 49.895 E 030 09.752) is located behind the Crossings Mall.

TOP END

Fairview River Lodge (S 23 49.179 E 030 10.207, Old Gravelotte Rd, ☎015-307-2679, www.fairviewlodge.co.za, s R695-790, d R790-950, Internet, swimming pool) is a 4-star resort with thatched roofed chalets decorated in a Afro-colonial style. The chalets are surrounded by tall trees overgrown with vines, and a 12-hole golf course (the final six holes were still under construction at the time of research). They offer both self-catering and fully equipped luxury chalets. There is a full bar and

HOEDSPRUIT & AROUND

GPS: S 24 21.180 E 030 57.079
pop. 10,000 | elevation 544 m/1,785 ft

Hoedspruit means "hat creek" in Afrikaans and is said to have received its name when an early pioneer arrived in the area after descending the mountains into the lowveld. He threw his hat into the Sandpsruit River and declared his intention to settle here. Today, Hoedspruit gets a fair number of

LIMPOPO

Modjadji Cycad Nature Reserve and Modjadji Rain Queen

The Modjadji Rain Queen is the historically revered matriarch of the Lobedu people in northeastern Limpopo. The hereditary queen possesses mystical rainmaking powers, which are reinforced by her majestic garden - the world's largest copse of cycad trees - that surround her royal compound. She traditionally lives in seclusion and is cared for by her many "wives," who ensure her political and diplomatic link to other families or villages. She is not permitted to marry, but mothers many children from sexual relations arranged by her royal council and her accepted private trysts. Once the queen identifies an heir (usually her eldest daughter), she passes on her secrets of rainmaking and ceremoniously commits suicide for the new reign to begin.

For centuries the Modjadji has garnered respect from African leaders far and wide. Shaka Zulu paid her tribute as he warred with surrounding tribes in the early 1800s. Nelson Mandela befriended and secured the favor of the fifth Modjadji, as he led the country to democracy.

Recently there has been upheaval and controversy around the dynastic role of the Modjadji. In 2001 the chosen heir to the Modjadji throne suddenly died before she could assume her role and her daughter was chosen to take her place. The new Modjadji was the youngest Queen in history and the first to have formal education. Her modern, jean-wearing, cell-phone-talking style did not mesh with the traditional image of the Modjadji and her legitimacy was undermined by the Royal Council. She died suspiciously in 2005 at the age of 27. There is much concern that over three centuries of reign may be in jeopardy, as a successor has not yet been appointed. However, the queen's mystical cycad garden remains intact.

Modjadji Cycad Nature Reserve (S 23 37.779 E 030 21.133, 015-290-7300, www.golimpopo.com, 7:30am-6pm, R20/vehicle and R10/person) is a 5 square kilometer nature reserve that is home to the world's largest concentration of a single species of cycads. The trees have been protected in the royal garden of the Modjadji Rain Queen for centuries and were declared a national monument in 1936. The serene reserve has a large picnic site about 1 km from the main gate with running water and a number of braai facilities (bring your own wood) and hiking trails with sweeping views down to the dam.

You can sleep in the reserve at the **Modjadji African Ivory Camp** (S 23 37.607 E 030 22.180, www.africanivoryroute.co.za, 015-295-2829, R125/person), which has seven basic two-bed rondavels with a central kitchen and dining room rondavel deep in the middle of the nature reserve. There is no electricity and you have to bring your own sleeping bag/blanket and pillow, but there is gas, a refrigerator and water and it is a very peaceful place to spend the night. The closest gate to the campsite is (S 23 37.437 E 030 22.234). Note that the African Ivory Route is a community-run organization with various camps throughout the Limpopo province. Unfortunately the organization has had a few changes in leadership over the past few years and suffers from a disorganized central office that fumbles bookings and has poor communication with the individual campsites. While advance booking is recommended, if you can't get through to the central office just show up to the campsite - they are rarely full.

To get there, take R36 north toward Modjadjiskloof. About 5 km north of Modjadjiskloof take a right turn at the sign to Modjadji at (S 23 39.206 E 030 10.277) and continue roughly 10 km. Make a left turn at (S 23 39.870 E 030 14.665), follow the road roughly 12 km and turn right at (S 23 36.640 E 030 19.506). Continue on the tar road roughly 4.5 km to the main gate at (S 23 37.779 E 030 21.133). The turnoff to the gate closest to the African Ivory Route camp is about 1 km before the main gate - follow the sign to the left at (S 23 37.481 E 030 20.772) onto the dirt road and continue 3.4 km. Turn right at the African Ivory Route sign at (S 23 37.109 E 030 22.234) and follow the road 1.0 km to the Nature Reserve gate (that you should be able to open). From the gate, follow the dirt road 300 m to the campsite.



game-chasing visitors who come to explore Kruger National Park or one of the many nearby private game reserves.

TOURIST INFORMATION

1 Africa Safaris (S 24 21.366 E 030 56.841, Kamogelo Tourism Centre, Main Rd/R527, 015-793-1110, www.1africasafaris.com, 8:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) sells area maps and can provide information on and make reservations for area accommodation and activities. While their main activity is local and Kruger safaris, they can also arrange for a host of other activities like white water rafting, bush walks, abseiling and quad biking.

MONEY

Standard Bank (S 24 21.366 E 030 56.841, Kamogelo Tourism Centre, Main Rd/R527) has an ATM in the Kamogelo Tourism Centre.

FNB Bank (S 24 21.063 E 030 57.463, Wildlife Estates Shopping Center, R40) has ATMs and full banking services.

Standard Bank (S 24 21.129 E 030 57.143, Panther St just off of R527) has ATMs and is located near a set of ABSA ATMs

INTERNET

MJ's Photo, Video and Internet Café (Kamogelo Tourism Centre, Main Rd/R527, 015-793-0799, mjphotographic@worldonline.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-1pm Sat, R10/15min) has 12 computers and allows you to connect your laptop.

Zip.com (S 24 21.100 E 030 57.325, Hoedspruit Crossings Shopping Center, R40, 015-793-0393, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-12pm Sat, R20/30min) has six updated computers and allows you to connect your laptop.

SHOPPING

Kamogelo Tourism Centre (S 24 21.366 E 030 56.841, Main Rd/R527) is the main commercial areas with a restaurant, shops, and Internet café.

Wildlife Estates Shopping Center (S 24 21.063 E 030 57.463, R40) is a large shopping center near a

residential community with a Pick 'n Pay, a number of shops and a post office.

Hoedspruit Crossings Shopping Center (S 24 21.100 E 030 57.325, R40) is smaller and is located across the R40 from Wildlife Estates Shopping Center, which has a few restaurants and an Internet café.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Jessica the Hippo (S 24 19.564 E 030 49.941 on dirt road off of R527, 015-795-5249, www.jessicahippo.com, 10am-12pm & 3pm-5pm, R50) was found after she washed down the river shortly after birth and was bottle-fed as she grew up on the Blyde River. Today she is a large hippo that still returns for feeding and human interaction. Take the signed turn at (S 24 22.900 E 030 52.592) onto a gravel road off of the R527 and continue down the gravel road 8 km.

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (S 24 30.403 E 030 54.162, R531, 015-795-5236, www.moholoholo.co.za, tours at 9:30am & 3pm Mon-Sat, R95/person) offers 2hr walking tours to see recovered and recovering wildlife, including a number of birds, a small hippo and leopard.

SLEEPING

BUDGET

Blyde Canyon Backpackers (S 24 28.240 E 030 52.789, R531, 015-795-5130, camping R50, dm R120) has five self-catering chalets, each with three beds, surrounding a fire pit and braai area in the middle of the bush against a backdrop of the Drakensberg Mountains. The dorms are in shared chalets, but the friendly owner will usually give you a chalet to yourself if the site is not fully booked. There is a central building with a kitchen, bathrooms and showers. The backpackers is part of **Mariepskop View Chalets** and is on R531 between R527 and R40.

MID-RANGE

Loerie Guest House (S 24 21.179 E 030 56.644, 85 Kakkals St, 015-793-3990, www.loerieguesthouse.com, s R 320, d R495, secure parking) is a long-standing guesthouse in Hoedspruit with 14 self-catering en suite rooms, all with TV and AC and a mini kitchenette. Home-cooked breakfast (R60)



and dinner (R100) is also available. To get to the guesthouse from R527, turn on Ferret St next to the Kamogelo Tourism Centre. Continue left on Ferret St to a T-junction where you turn right onto Jakkal St.

TOP END

Otters Den (S 24 24.226 E 030 48.877, R531, ☎015-695-5488, www.ottersden.co.za, s R930, d R1,860, dinner and breakfast included) is an upscale getaway in the middle of the forest. You'll walk through the rainforest and cross a narrow rope bridge over the Blyde River to reach the lodge entrance. The six en suite stone, timber and thatch chalets are perched on a wooden deck overlooking the river. The main lodge has a lounge area with a viewing deck, braai area and swimming pool. The lodge can arrange a hot air balloon trip for R2,600/person.

EATING

Sleepers Railway Station Restaurant & Pub (S 24 21.100 E 030 57.325 Hoedspruit Crossings Shopping Center, R40, ☎015-793-1014, sleepers@telkomsa.net, 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm Sun, mains R50-95) has indoor and outdoor seating both

in front and in back by the railroad tracks. The large menu and wine list offers common meals such as burgers and pizza, as well as rare fare such as ostrich kebab and grilled lamb livers.

Safari Club (S 24 21.532 E 030 56.711, R527, ☎015-793-1001, 8am-9pm Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm Sun, bar open late, mains R60-110) is a large open-air restaurant and bar with outdoor seating and a camp-style fire outside every night. It is a popular more upmarket venue serving fish, steaks, burgers and a selection of desserts, and is always packed for rugby games. It is on R527 next to the Raptor's View Wildlife Estate.

Ngena Deli (S 24 21.366 E 030 56.841, Kamogelo Tourism Centre, Main Rd/R527, ☎015-793-0452, 8am-4pm Mon-Wed, 8am-8pm Thu-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat, mains R30-65) is a good spot for breakfast or lunch with omelets, pancakes, fresh salads, sandwiches, steaks and pasta.

DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Safari Club (S 24 21.532 E 030 56.711, R527, ☎015-793-1001, 8am-late Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm Sun) is a smart place with an active bar scene most nights.

TRANSPORTATION

Northbound Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 21.259 E 030 57.011, R527) on the side of the R527, opposite Spar next to the police station has transport heading north. This is also the location where the City-to-City bus to Joburg stops.

Southbound Minibus Taxi Rank (S 24 21.102 E 030 57.423, R40) for those heading south toward Nelspruit is on the side of the R40 in front of the Wildlife Estates Shopping Center.

PHALABORWA

GPS: S 23 56.682 E 031 08.334
pop. 110,000 | elevation 432 m/1,417 ft

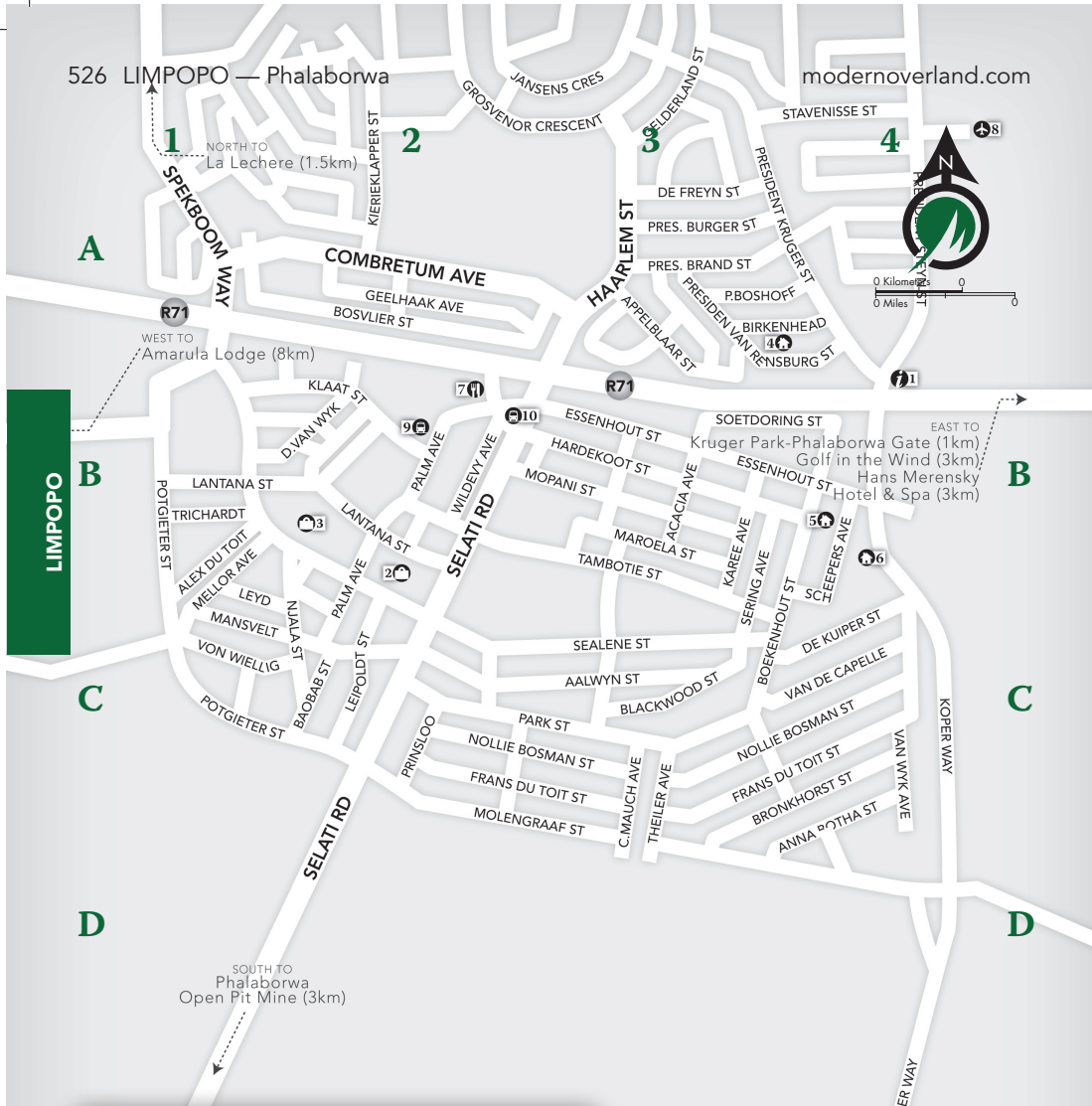
Phalaborwa is a few short kilometers from the Kruger Park Phalaborwa gate and much of the lodging and tourism industry in the city exists

because of it. If you are in the Phalaborwa area you are a few minutes drive from what is arguably two of South Africa's "biggest" and "best": The Phalaborwa Open Pit Mine is South Africa's biggest open pit mine and the Buffalo's Pub & Restaurant's Bacon & Cheese Burger is South Africa's best bacon cheese burger. You'll be happy you spent the time to take in both.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Bollanoto Tourism Center (S 23 56.715 E 031 09.142, cnr Hendrik Van Eck & Pres Kruger St, ☎015-789-5090, www.phalaborwa.org.za, 7:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat-Sun) has free maps of Phalaborwa and brochures for most accommodation and activities in the area. The friendly staff will call establishments to check availability and make bookings for you.





MONEY

ABSA Bank (S 23 57.007 E 031 08.112, Phalaborwa Mall, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St) is located in the Phalaborwa Mall. There is also a Nedbank with ATMs.

Nedbank ATM (S 23 56.984 E 031 07.967, Shoprite & Checkers Shopping Center, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St).

INTERNET

Net-O-Mania (S 23 57.007 E 031 08.112, Phalaborwa Mall, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St, 015-781-7812, 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, R14/30min) has eight computers and allows you to connect with your laptop.

Hadiyana Printers (S 23 56.984 E 031 07.967, Shoprite & Checkers Shopping Center, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St, 015-781-6697, hadiyana@webmail.co.za, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm Sat, R13/30min) has three computers and allows you to connect with a laptop.

SHOPPING

Phalaborwa Mall (S 23 57.007 E 031 08.112, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St) has a Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, clothing stores, a few chain restaurants, an ABSA and Nedbank bank and an Internet café.

Shoprite & Checkers Shopping Center (S 23 56.984 E 031 07.967, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St) is across Palm Avenue from the Phalaborwa Mall and has some local fruit and veg stalls, an FNB ATM and an Internet café in addition to the Shoprite and Checkers.

PHALABORWA

TOURIST INFO

Bollanoto Tourism Center 1 B4

MONEY

ABSA (see 2)
Nedbank (see 3)

INTERNET

Net-O-Mania (see 2)
Hadiyana Printers (see 3)

SHOPPING

Phalaborwa Mall 2 B2
Shoprite & Checkers Shopping Center 3 B2

SLEEPING

Arti-Farti Backpackers and Daan

& Zena's B&B 4 A4
Elephant Walk Backpackers and B&B 5 B4
Sefapane Lodge 6 B4

EATING

Buffalo's Pub & Restaurant 7 B2
Sefapane Lodge (see 6)

DRINKING & ENT.

Buffalo's Pub & Restaurant (see 7)

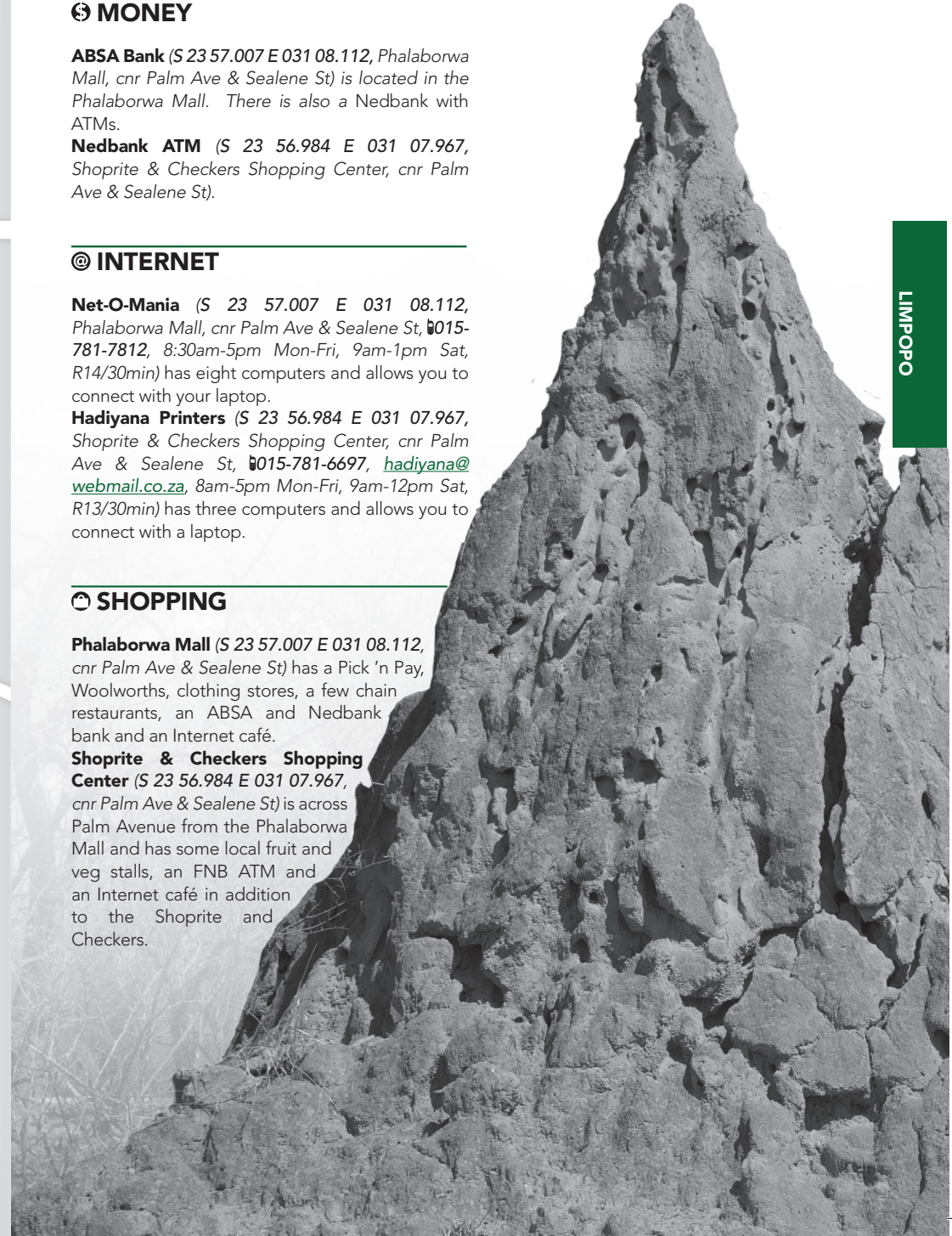
TRANSPORTATION

Phalaborwa Airport 8 A4
Engen Filling Station 9 B2
Forever Resorts Impala Inn 10 B2

3

4

LIMPOPO



☛ SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Kruger Park - Phalaborwa Gate (S 23 56.752 E 031 09.949, Hendrick Van Eck Rd, ☎013-735-3547, www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger, R130) offers a host of activities within Kruger, including morning walks (R445), sunset walks (R410), day hikes (depart 5:30am, breakfast & lunch included, R945), morning safari drives (R385), day safaris (R945), night safaris (R365), and an evening bush braai that includes a game drive, a sundown drink and a bush braai (departs 4:30pm, R525). All activities depart from the gate or a ranger can come pick you up from where you are staying within Phalaborwa.

Golf in the Wild (S 23 57.874 E 031 09.985, Hans Merensky Hotel & Spa, 3 Copper Rd, ☎015-781-3931, R295/18 holes, R190/cart) provides a unique golfing experience with springbok, hippos, giraffes, crocodiles and impala roaming throughout the course. Local rules allow you to move your ball when encountering hoof marks on the green. Play at your own risk.

Phalaborwa Open Pit Mine (S 23 59.788 E 031 06.945, Selati Rd, ☎015-780-2158, 7am-7pm) is South Africa's largest open pit mine and copper and vermiculite are extracted here. You can drive through the mine operations and up a hill beside the open pit to get a good perspective of its size and the rest of the operations.

Amarula Lapa (S23 57.718 E 031 04.863, 5th Ave off R40, ☎015-781-7766, www.amarula.com, 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat, free admission) is located right next to the production plant where the famous Amarula cream liqueur is concocted from the Amarula fruit. You can learn how the drink is made, watch a short video, enjoy a free drink and purchase Amarula cake and chocolate. If you come during harvest season (February/March) you can view the crushing process. To get there take Hendrick Van Eck/R71 west about 5 km from town then turn south on R40 toward Hoedspruit. Continue 4.4 km to the Amarula Lapa turnoff on 5th Ave.

☛ SLEEPING

BUDGET

Arti-Farti Backpackers and Daan & Zena's B&B (S 23 56.613 E 031 08.888, 15 Birkenhead St, ☎015-781-6049 or ☎076-101-5657, www.artifartibackpackers.co.za, dm R85, s R150, d R200, secure parking) is a mix between a B&B and

a backpackers and is composed of three colorful houses in a residential area. Daan and Zena live onsite and are friendly hosts. They have a handful of resident dogs and an African Gray talking parrot. **Elephant Walk Backpackers and B&B** (S 23 56.961 E 031 09.010, 30 Anna Scheepers Ave, ☎015-781-5860 or ☎082-495-0575, www.accommodationphalaborwa.com, camping R50, dm R85, s R175-240 d R250-385, 4-person R560, parking) is also a combination backpackers and B&B with space to lounge around inside and out. There is a fire pit and braai area but you'll need your own wood, which you can buy at the petrol station a few blocks away.

MID-RANGE

Sefapane Lodge (S 23 56.988 E 031 09.083, cnr Koper St & Essenhout St, ☎015-780-6700, www.sefapane.co.za, s R475, d R850 breakfast included, swimming pool) is a large establishment that hosts the occasional tour bus with both self-catering and standard thatched roof chalets spread throughout the well-kept tropical grounds. It is located only 1 km from Kruger Park and has a large restaurant (6:30am-9:30am, 12pm-3pm, 6:30pm-9pm, mains R70-100), swimming pool and poolside bar.

TOP END

La Lechere (S 23 55.613 E 031 08.065, 8 Sysie Ave, ☎015-781-7510 or ☎072-605-3398, www.lalechere.co.za, s R540, d R860, t R1,010, wifi, secure parking, swimming pool) is a six-room spotlessly clean and tastefully modern B&B with a lounge, braai and bar area. The rooms have TV, AC, a mini bar and a three-course dinner can be arranged upon request. The gracious host can assist with all types of arrangements including area and Kruger tours.

☛ EATING

Buffalo's Pub & Restaurant (S S 23 56.716 E 031 08.320, cnr Lekkerbreek St & Palm Ave, ☎015-781-0829, 11am-10pm Mon-Sat, bar open late, mains R35-95) serves up delicious tall beers outside all day long. The food is equally tasty, from typical pub grub to seafood & steak, and incredibly satisfying burgers almost as large as your head. There are even a few vegetarian options. It is conveniently located off Hendrick

Van Eck St in the center of town.

Sefapane Lodge (S 23 56.988 E 031 09.083, cnr Koper St & Essenhout St, ☎015-780-6700, 6:30-9:30am, 12pm-3pm, 6:30pm-9pm, mains R70-100) has a large indoor/outdoor restaurant serving salads, fish, steak and traditional South African meals including Cape Bobotie, Lamb Potjie and "game-of-the-day" fillet. The restaurant is located in a garden beside a pool.

Hans Merensky Hotel & Spa (S 23 57.874 E 031 09.985, 3 Copper Rd, ☎015-781-3931, 6:30pm-10:30pm, mains R50-125) is a freshly modern restaurant with the best views in town. The eatery is situated beside the 18-hole Golf in the Wild course. The menu may be short, but the appetizers, steak, fish and desserts are great.

☛ DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

Buffalo's Pub & Restaurant (S 23 56.716 E 031 08.320, cnr Lekkerbreek St & Palm Ave, ☎015-781-0829, 11am-late) is a wonderful spot for a tall draft beer at midday or in the evening.

☛ TRANSPORTATION

✈ Air

Phalaborwa Airport - PHW (S 23 56.232 E 031 09.246, cnr President Steyn St & Access Rd) is serviced by **SAAirlink** (☎015-781-5823, www.flyairlink.com) with daily flights to Johannesburg.

🚗 Car Rental

Around About Cars (☎021-422-4022, www.aroundaboutcars.com) is a budget car agent can

make a booking for you at one of the major national car rental companies. By booking through Around About Cars you get a better price and better insurance coverage than you would if you make a reservation directly with the rental company.

Avis (S 23 56.232 E 031 09.246, Phalaborwa Airport, cnr President Steyn St & Access Rd, ☎015-781-3169, www.avis.co.za).

Hertz (S 23 56.232 E 031 09.246, Phalaborwa Airport, cnr President Steyn St & Access Rd, ☎015-781-3565, www.hertz.co.za).

First Car Rental (S 23 56.232 E 031 09.246, Phalaborwa Airport, cnr President Steyn St & Access Rd, ☎015-781-1500, www.firstcarrental.co.za).

🚌 Bus

Translux / City to City (☎086-158-9282, www.translux.co.za) have busses with service to Joburg (R200), Polokwane (R130), Dullstroom (R100) and Tzaneen (R100). Translux departs from the **Engen Filling Station** (S 23 56.811 E 031 08.198, cnr Palm Ave & Kiaa St) and City to City departs from **Forever Resorts Impala Inn** (S 23 56.770 E 031 08.384, cnr Essenhout St & Selati Rd). You can purchase your tickets in Phalaborwa at **Sure Turn Key Travel** (S 23 57.007 E 031 08.112, Phalaborwa Mall, cnr Palm Ave & Sealene St, ☎015-781-7761, 8:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm Sat) in the Phalaborwa Mall.

To view the time schedules and prices of all of the above bus companies for any specific route check out **Computicket** (☎083-915-8000, www.computicket.com/web/bus/tickets). You can book online or by calling them.

