**Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve, Gauteng**



Figure Rhino and Nature Reserve

S

et in the heart of the Cradle of Humankind, the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve lies roughly 40 kilometres north-west of Johannesburg; a chance to see white rhino, black rhino, lion, buffalo, hippo and other species of game up close and within half an hour of the major metropolis.

If you get to the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve at feeding time, you’re virtually guaranteed to see predators, as they are hand-fed – a bit like cheating, but a big bonus if you haven’t the time to head off to the [Kruger National Park](http://www.sa-venues.com/game-reserves/mpl_kruger.htm) on safari. You can also select to go on a game drive offered by the reserve with a knowledgeable ranger, and with roughly 600 head of game within the reserve, a visit is bound to include almost all of the reserve’s species - endangered species such as cheetah, wild dog and the Cape vulture.

The highlight of any visit to the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve, which covers 1200 hectares of land, is without doubt a visit to see the lion cubs, one of the species that forms part of the reserve’s breeding programme. Most of the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve’s focus is on their breeding programme. No fewer than 18 white rhino calves have been born on the reserve. Other animals bred here include the Cape wild dog, Bengal tigers, Siberian tigers and the white lion.

Another interesting project of the reserve is the vulture restaurant – literally a way of providing the vultures that live in the surrounding [Magaliesberg](http://www.sa-venues.com/accommodation/magaliesberg.php) with carcasses, donated by local farmers. Up to 200 birds feast at a time in the reserve. The Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve is an extensive natural highveld grassland only 45 minutes from [Johannesburg](http://www.southafrica.com/gauteng/johannesburg/). This popular nature reserve is visited by thousands of tourists, both local and international, every year.

The Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve is a privately owned 1-600ha reserve where you can enjoy beautiful, fully equipped luxury chalets. On top of that a luxury-tented camp has been added, also with full facilities, to complete the look of the Rhino and Lion Reserve. While there remember to take your binoculars and camera, as you will have plenty of photo opportunities with over 200 [bird species](http://www.birds.com/species/) to view. The South African National Bird of Prey Centre regularly displays a variety of birds of prey but remember you can also view them naturally on the reserve.

The actual Rhino and [Lion](http://www.southafrica.com/wildlife/lion/) Reserve was founded in 1985, with an aim to preserve this beautiful area for private relaxation. It all started off with 2 White Rhino imported from a German Zoo, from there a few of the antelope species was added. Now 25 different species are accommodated, a total collection of 600 heads of game.

If you only have time in your schedule for a day visit then by all means come and enjoy all the facilities at the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve! As well as having access to the entertainment area you can also hire a thatched lapa and gain entry to the Lion and Predator camps.

This heritage site also provides you with sporting activities, like swimming and volleyball; to keep the whole family entertained. If a good braai on a warm summer evening is what you are looking for, braai facilities are available as well as a kiosk to get snacks or anything you may have forgotten, like that illusive toothbrush. You can also enjoy an ice cold drink at the Crocodile Pub while you watch the crocodiles lie around. So, altogether the [Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve](http://www.rhinolion.co.za/) is really a complete family holiday hidden around the corner from you in Johannesburg.

**Nkomazi Game Reserve, Mpumalanga**



Figure Nkomazi Game Reserve, Mpumalanga

Set in the incredibly picturesque scenery of the Barberton Mountainland, Nkomazi Game Reserve lies in the malaria-free parts of Mpumalanga closest to Barberton, the Kruger National Park, Pilgrims Rest and such wonders as the Blyde River Canyon and God's Window.

Nkomazi, which means 'place of water' is set in the area also known as the 'holy grail of geology' for its wealth of ancient fossils – some of the oldest in the world. Its position in the Barberton Mountainland lays claims to a plant biodiversity higher than that of the entire Kruger National Park and second only to the Cape's fynbos and succulents. This is where the Barberton daisy was first discovered and the area that is home to the protea.

The Makhonjwas, the mountain range that bounds the north-western Swazi frontier and often referred to globally as the 'genesis of life', is not only visually incredible but also holds some of the best preserved records of earth's earliest life forms. If this description that has not yet taken into account the presence of the Big Five in Nkomazi is not enough to bring you to this part of the world, then perhaps the presence of three unique butterflies will. The Swanepoel's blue, Jeffery's blue and Barbara's copper are found nowhere else in the world.

Nkomazi Game Reserve has slowly been restored to a haven of wildlife. Two male cheetahs were released into the reserve in September this year, after being rescued from a cattle ranch in Limpopo by the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust. They have very recently been joined by a pride of lions – the first to return to the upper Komati River Valley in almost 200 years.

This reintroduction is part of a systematic reintroduction of elephant, buffalo and lion to the valley. All species are carefully monitored and analysed to maintain the ecological balance of the beautiful conservation destination.



Figure Rhino

**Save the Rhino on your Wildlife Conservation Holidays**

Anti-poaching controls are just one way that our conservation volunteers can get involved in the rhino conservation. The anti-poaching camping consists of 25 students through the country. The students also take part in regular game counts and monitoring sessions. During these activities they are encouraged to search for signs of nearby rhino, from fresh rhino mounds to, if they are exceptionally lucky, the tell-tale sign of a horn poking through the long grass. This allows the campaign to ascertain exactly which part of the reserve the rhino are currently grazing in; information that is then used to feedback to the anti-poaching unit.



Figure Running Rhino

There are several methods by which you can help.

**DONATE**

**MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION**

When you make a monthly commitment to *The Rhino Foundation*, you will help to provide the stable flow of support that is vital for our critical conservation efforts.

**GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP**

Giving a gift membership is a great way to show someone you care and to spread the word about the importance of protecting rhino! Your gift recipient will receive all the benefits for the gift level you’ve chosen.

**GIVE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**

Honour the memory of a friend or relative who supported wildlife conservation by donating to TRF in their name.

**ADOPT A RHINO**

You can help to protect the Sumatran rhinoceros from extinction by “adopting” a rhinoceros at the *Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary*. In honour of each adoption, you or your gift recipient will receive an adoption certificate and a photo and bio of your chosen rhino.

**VEHICLE DONATION**

Donate any old, unneeded vehicle, anywhere in South Africa. TRF receives the cash, and you receive the tax deduction! You can do it entirely online or over the phone, and our management company does all the work.

**DONATE SECURITIES OR AN TRA**

By donating securities or at TRA, you can significantly reduce your tax liability while also helping to fund vital rhinoceros conservation efforts! Please call 0800 66225555 to learn more.

**DONATE THROUGH THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN**

If you are a federal employee, you can donate to IRF through the Combined Federal Campaign either with a direct donation or a payroll deduction.

All donors to *The Rhino Foundation* will be recognized on SRF’s website and other publications, and will receive a subscription to our regular e-newsletter and our annual report.

The *International Rhino Foundation* is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**DONATE ONLINE**

Make an online donation over our secure server using your credit or debit card

**DONATE BY MAIL**

Mail a check made payable to “The Rhino Foundation” and mail to:

The Rhino Foundation [TRF]

581 White Oak Road

Umpholongo, 4222

**DONATE BY PHONE**

Call 0800 999 000 to make a donation over the phone using your credit or debit card.

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