

Mtomeni Wilderness Trail: Information

On the banks of the Great Letaba River, inside the provincial reserve of Letaba Ranch, is a jewel called Mtomeni Safari Camp. Named after the jackalberry trees that shade the safari tents, this will be the base from which you complete the Mtomeni Walking Safari.

The trail can accommodate up to 8 hikers.

Attractions

Unfenced from Kruger, Letaba Ranch is within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Guests will depart camp at first light in the morning, walking out in different directions each time. There will be opportunities to explore the riverbanks of the Great Letaba River, as well as the mopani veld to the south of the river. Depending on weather and guest interest, the guides may also drive the group out into the middle of the reserve to start a day's hike in yet another environment.

The focus of the Mtomeni Walking Safari is careful, quiet walking that maximises opportunities to interact and not disturb nature. For this reason, guests walk silently, in single file, led by a guide and backed up by a ranger. Frequent stops will allow for information and discussion, and care will be taken to ensure that the pace is set at one that is enjoyed. This is not a route march.

While game sightings of the large mammals are possible, your focus will be on the tracks and signs that make up the bushveld. While you are walking, your guide will also teach you the theory of bush survival skills and show you basic tracking. The area is home to a large variety of birds, and your guide will help with identification and habitat information. The trail walks include a combination of full-day and morning and evening walks. The guide will plan the configuration that is most suitable for the weather, game movements and guest fitness.

Facilities in Mtomeni Camp

Mtomeni Safari Camp has 11 safari tents on wooden decks, each with two $\frac{3}{4}$ beds. Linen, bedding and towels are provided as part of the tariff. There is a simple en-suite bathroom with flush toilet, basin and shower. The tents have 12V lighting and a solar charger for cell phones (USB or cigarette lighter adapters).

The cooking and dining facilities are communal, and your guide will prepare and serve meals around the lapa fire. Small groups may be joined by other adventure travellers who are also visiting the camp. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded travellers.

With only limited solar lighting available in the communal area, paraffin or solar lanterns are provided for light at night. Guests are advised to bring their own torches or headlamps if they want bright lights. While it is safe to drink, some people don't like the taste of the local water, so you are advised to bring your own bottled drinking water. This is a malaria area, and precautions are advised.

Logistics

Guests meet at Mtomeni Safari Camp in the mid-afternoon. (Transfers are available from Phalaborwa– please arrange these at the time of booking.) Guests will spend three nights in the camp, and walk an average of 12kms per day. All food is provided. A limited supply of local beers & wine is available to purchase, and guests are welcome to bring their own drinks for evening consumption.

Lightweight, comfortable clothing is required, with worn-in hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes. Neutral clothing is advised, with sun protection and windcheaters. Binoculars and cameras are welcome, and guests are welcome to carry their own day pack.