



Majete Wildlife Reserve

Information brochure
March 2009



Majete Wildlife Reserve

Majete Wildlife Reserve is situated only 70 km southwest of Blantyre in the Chikwawa District in the Lower Shire Valley. It holds nearly 70,000 ha of thriving wilderness packed with wildlife. The African Parks Network took over management in 2003. Now the reserve is one of the most successful parks in Malawi, with roads that are accessible throughout the year, escalating numbers of wildlife and flourishing fauna and flora. The rehabilitation has seen the translocation and restocking of a wide range of animals that were decimated through poaching such as elephant, rhino, buffalo, zebra, eland, waterbuck, impala, warthog, kudu, hartebeest and many other animal species. The restocking programme will continue in the coming years, the goal is to establish a Big 5 Game Reserve with plans to introduce cheetahs, lions and leopards by 2012.

Majete was introduced to the world in 1859 by the legendary explorer and missionary Dr. David Livingstone, attempting to travel up the Shire River. The Kapichira Falls blocked his journey, so he had to abandon his plan and moved further on land to Lake Malawi. The present day park headquarters is called Mathithi (mathithi means waterfalls in Chichewa). The grave of Richard Thornton, one of the members of Livingstone's expedition, is located at Maganga I village, two kilometers from Majete. The grave is still intact.

African Parks Network

The African Parks Network (APN) is an organisation based in South Africa and was born out of the fact that many of Africa's national parks and protected areas face an uncertain future. Africa's wildlife and scenery represent one of the continent's strategic advantages. If managed properly parks can make a significant contribution to a country's economy with its benefits for job creation, and the stimulation of small businesses. APN currently has five parks in management and will expand the management portfolio to 15 parks in 8 countries by 2015.

African Parks Majete is the local company established by the African Parks Network for the management of Majete Wildlife Reserve. On 28 March 2003, an agreement was signed with the Government of Malawi to share responsibility for the rehabilitation, management and development of Majete for 25 years, without usurping the Government's ownership of the Reserve or statutory obligations.



Social impact of Majete Wildlife Reserve

'African Parks believes in protecting wildlife and nature by setting up parks that will be financially independent and working close together with the people surrounding it.'

Realizing that the management of the reserve and its rehabilitation process can't be achieved without the involvement of the people, the reserve, through its Community Development Section, works hand in hand with the communities that are living around it on various issues affecting the people themselves and the park. There are 130,000 people bordering Majete in over 146 villages. These local communities have been organised into 19 CBO's (Community Based Organisation) at Group Village Headman level (GVH).

Majete is committed to supporting community infrastructural projects such as boreholes, school classrooms, health clinics, livestock drinking troughs etc. Majete also supports disadvantaged students from the surrounding communities by paying their school fees through a scholarship programme. Environmental Education is promoted and Income Generating Activities are stimulated such as beekeeping enterprises, oyster mushroom cultivation, pottery making, tree nurseries and local handicrafts.

A Resource Utilization Program (RUP) has been implemented. This is part of the collaborative management of natural resources, which aims at the sustainable use, or harvesting of selected natural resources by the bordering communities. Local people are allowed regulated access to Majete to harvest various natural resources such as bamboo, reeds, thatching grass and firewood for special occasions like funerals or rituals.

Another important field where Majete plays a role is Health (HIV/AIDS and Orphan Care) Majete educates the local people on this subject. The intention, however, is to facilitate the involvement of other specialised NGOs in this field.



Accommodation

If you want to spend the night in Majete Wildlife Reserve you have the option to choose between Thawale Camp and the Community Camp Site.

Thawale Camp

This camp is situated inside the Reserve, it is not fenced so animals regularly visit the camp. Don't be surprised if you hear elephants near your tent at night!

Thawale Camp has 6 twin ensuite Tented Chalets; 5 basic chalets and 1 luxury chalet. All chalets are very comfortable and have an ensuite bathroom with hot and cold running water, one chalet has a unique open air bathroom built among the rocks with a shower and a sunken bath. The chalets are spaced out overlooking a permanent floodlit waterhole and offer visitors privacy and an individual bush experience. Watch elephants, waterbuck, buffalo and other game enjoying a drink from the deck of your tent.

Centrally located is a communal lapa (traditional lounge area) with a bar, dining area and a sanded terrace for sitting around an evening campfire. Thawale has a staffed kitchen, all meals are fully catered and the traditional Malawi meal is highly recommended.

“Floodlit watering hole! What a fabulous idea. Sit and enjoy your MGT while the zebra and buffalo come to you. Also, the elephant tracking is a great way to get the adrenaline pumping! Super accommodation, outside bath great idea ... “

*Trever and Ann (Malawi), Mike and Fran (UK)**

*“Couldn't get the experience of last weekend out of our heads so had to return for more... A taste of heaven!” John and Janet (UK)**

* Comments from the guestbook 2008



Community Campsite

This self catering campsite is also situated inside the Reserve. It was built in 2007 and equipped with a thatched bar and dining space, barbeque area, toilets and hot showers. Power is provided through a solar system.

Looking for a nice place to pitch a tent? Try one of the shelters. This beautiful thatched hideout offers a comfortable place to spend the night. You might even just roll out your sleeping bag on the platform and spend the night under the stars.

The campsite is owned and managed by a Committee of local people from villages surrounding Majete, with assistance from the extension team of African Parks. By staying at the Community Campsite you are contributing to the improvement of livelihoods of the surrounding communities. All income generated through the Campsite goes directly into a Community Campsite Fund which pays for the running costs of the Campsite namely staff wages and other operational costs. When a sufficient profit is generated, it will be available for any of the 19 registered Community Based Organisations surrounding Majete to apply for financial support in building, maintaining or developing community facilities, such as schools, boreholes, churches and medical centres.

“What an amazing place!

*The facilities are unbelievable all the luxury you need in the bush. The staff always helpful and friendly ...” Ryan, Ben, Louise and Justine (South Africa)**

*“A wonderful and well organised campsite. Very clean bathrooms. Thank you for keeping the shower hot and the beer cold! ... “ Adrian and Elize (Lilongwe)**

*“A beautiful camping spot, so peaceful and natural.. Possibly the best showers in Malawi!” Joel and Claire Holliday (England)**

* Comments from the guestbook 2008



Activities in Majete Wildlife Reserve

Majete has got a lot to offer. Watch the sunset over Majete Hill from View Spot. See hippos basking in the Shire, look out for over 20 animal species and over 300 species of birds and visit the Heritage Centre to learn about local culture. You can explore Majete in your own car. There are a number of well signposted tracks and trails for the intrepid explorer. The 250 km of road network will take you around the Sanctuary. You can also ask one of our Scouts to join you in your own car or take part in one of the many activities we offer:

Game Drive or Night Drive

In our game vehicle, guided by a scout, visitors go on a drive through the beautiful wilderness of Majete. From the high vehicle you have a good chance to spot the different animals that inhabit Majete. Game viewing is especially exciting early morning or late afternoon. A game drive at night to spot the nocturnal creatures of Majete is an option.

Min 2 persons, max 6 persons.

Bush Walk or Bird Walk

A Bush Walk is guided by one of our scouts, who themselves cover the full Reserve every day on patrols. A recent bird survey estimated over 300 species of birds. It is possible to focus the walk on spotting the many beautiful birds in Majete.

Minimum age: 12 years.

Min 2 persons, max 6 persons.

Elephant Tracking

Elephant tracking is a once in a lifetime experience! Together with 2 scouts you will try to locate a single big bull or a group of elephants in a breeding herd. The elephants are first located by tuning in to the radio collar. On foot you continue the search until you get close enough to see the elephants.

Minimum age: 12 years.

Min 2 persons, max 6 persons.



Hike Majete Hill

For true bush lovers! Majete Hill is situated in a beautiful part of Majete Wildlife Reserve which is normally not open to the public. We offer special guided hikes up this hill after which Majete Wildlife Reserve is named. On top you have a spectacular view from the middle of the Reserve.

Minimum age: 12 years.

Min 4 persons, max 8 persons.

Bush Camping

Walk through the bush in the company of our experienced armed scouts. Camp with them in the bush surrounded by all the wildlife of Majete and enjoy simple local food with them. It is also possible to bring your own food. Truly a unique wildlife experience!

Minimum age: 16 years.

Min 2 persons, max 6 persons.

Village Tour and Community Visit

Experience the real Malawi village life. Visit a few of the many different projects around Majete and learn how conservation and community work can go hand in hand. Taste traditional food, enjoy local dancing, watch the making of cultural artefacts, visit the tree nurseries, mushroom project and more.

Maximum number per group: 6

Traditional Dancing

You can invite the Namajete Band or the Gule dancers at Majete or visit them in a village. The Gule Wamkulu is a traditional dance, performed by the Nyau. The dancers perform at funerals and all sorts of assemblies. Get lost in the rhythm of the hypnotic drums and be fascinated by their moves. An experience you will never forget.

Maximum number per group: 6

Bush Breakfast

We can arrange a breakfast for you somewhere on a beautiful place out in the bush overlooking a school of hippo. (Only for people that stay at Thawale Camp)

Maximum number per group: 6



Prices 2009

Vehicle fee	MK 200	USD 2
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Conservation fee per person

Malawian national adult	MK 200	USD 2
Malawian national under 12	MK 100	USD 1
Non-Malawian resident adult	MK 1000	USD 8
Non-Malawian resident under 12	MK 500	USD 4
International visitor adult	MK 2000	USD 15
International visitor under 12	MK 1000	USD 8

Accommodation*

Thawale Camp pppn

Tented Chalet - Full Board (<i>dinner, breakfast, lunch</i>)	MK 9850	USD 70
Tented Chalet - Half Board (<i>dinner, breakfast</i>)	MK 8750	USD 63
Luxury Tented Chalet - Full Board	MK 13500	USD 95
Luxury Tented Chalet - Half Board	MK 12400	USD 88
Single supplement	MK 1650	USD 12

Community Camp Site

Camping per person	MK 700	USD 5	
Double shelter per night	MK 700	USD 5	
Single shelter per night	MK 500	USD 4	
Day use of braai and facilities	- max 10 persons	MK 1500	USD 10
	- 10 - 20 persons	MK 2500	USD 18
	- over 20 persons	MK 5000	USD 35

Activities

Scout in own car	MK 2000	USD 15 per scout	
Game Drive or Night Drive	MK 3500	USD 25 pp	
Bush Walk	MK 1500	USD 10 pp	
Bird Walk	MK 2000	USD 15 pp	
Elephant Tracking	MK 3500	USD 25 pp	
Hike Majete Hill	MK 5000	USD 35 pp	
Bushcamping	- includes simple meal	MK 5000	USD 35 pp
	- bring your own food	MK 4500	USD 32 pp
Village Tour, Community Visit or Dancers	MK 15000	USD 100 per group	
<i>MK 10,000 goes to the Community</i>			
Bush Breakfast <i>only for guests of Thawale Camp</i>	MK 5000	USD 35	
Boardroom hire <i>tea/coffee inclusive</i>	MK 15000	USD 100	

Dining at Thawale Camp per person (day visitors)

Dinner	MK 1500	USD 10
Lunch	MK 1100	USD 8
Breakfast	MK 750	USD 5

*Accommodation prices exclusive of drinks

USD prices are approximate conversions and are subject to change

Accommodation, dining and activities by reservation only

Boardroom hire

At the headquarters of Majete we have a fully equipped, air conditioned boardroom. Make your meeting, workshop or function an enjoyable event and combine it with some game viewing in the Reserve.

Maximum number per group: 20

Directions

Majete is located about 70 km's southwest of Blantyre. Blantyre has got an international airport. Hire cars are available in Blantyre. From Blantyre you take the road to Chikwawa (M1) and follow the signs to Majete. In Chikwawa go right at the T-junction. At the end of the tar road, take a left at the T-junction and follow 20km of good dirt road to Majete. It will take you about 1,5 hours in total.

To drive on our roads, we recommend a high-clearance vehicle and a 4x4 vehicle is strongly advised in the wet season.

Rules and Regulations of Majete Wildlife Reserve

They are for both your protection and enjoyment as well as for the animals.

- You are entering Majete Wildlife Reserve at your own risk
- Rules and regulations are enforced under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, Act. No 11 of 1992
- The reserve is open from sunrise to sundown
- Please remain inside your vehicle
- No dogs or other pets are allowed in the park
- Stick to the speed limit of 40 kph/25 mph
- All fences are electrified – Please do not touch them
- Do not discard any burning objects – like cigarettes – in the park
- Please don't pick, cut or damage any plant or tree in the park
- Please do not feed any animals
- Please don't leave any litter behind. Discard at designated areas.
- Malawi is a malaria zone - we advise all visitors to take necessary precautions
- When viewing Kapichira Falls, do not climb down the rocks as the water level may rise suddenly

Contact

Majete Wildlife Reserve
PO Box 232, Chikwawa
Malawi

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Website African Parks Network - www.african-parks.org
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Park Coordinator: Mr. Patricio Ndadzela
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If you have any questions regarding the reserve, accommodation or activities, please contact Hanneke Hogerheijde on +265 99 9 521 741 or email info@africanparksmw.com.