

RHINO WALKS

AND WILDLIFE APPROACH GUIDELINES FOR VEHICLE AND WALKING SAFARIS IN MATOPOS NATIONAL PARK

COMMERCIAL SAFARIS (WALKS AND GAME DRIVES)

1. Any *commercial* activities (game drives/walking safaris) are only permitted:
 - a. in the company of a qualified guide from a tour operator company *that is registered to operate in Rhodes Matopos National Park*. Note that visitors will not be permitted to enter the Park with an unregistered operator. This includes taxis and qualified guides/operators who are not registered to operate in the Park.
 - b. in the company of an assigned Matopos National Park Ranger. Guided safaris may be booked at the tourist offices at Whitewaters, Maleme and Hazelside.
2. Walking safaris may only be conducted by registered, qualified professional guides (not learner guides, unless under the *direct* supervision of their mentor) or a National Park Ranger. When on a walking safari, and particularly for rhino walks:
 - a. Only approach wildlife from downwind.
 - b. Do not deliberately wake sleeping animals or disturb any animals to make them stand up or face you or provoke a reaction.
 - c. No attempts to feed, or interact with, or touch the animal/s must be made.
 - d. Do not approach any animal closer than 20 m, regardless of how habituated the animal is. This is for your safety and the animal's wellbeing.
 - e. Withdraw if animals are uncomfortable with your presence. If they move off, do not follow them.
 - f. Observation times must not exceed 15 minutes.
 - g. Group sizes of visitors must not exceed 10 persons (including guide/s).
 - h. Not more than one visitor group should be in the vicinity of any particular rhino, or crash of rhinos.
 - i. Use of drones for photography or scouting is strictly prohibited.
 - j. Strictly follow the instructions of your guide.

PRIVATE GROUPS (FAMILY/FRIENDS IN PRIVATE VEHICLES)

3. Private groups refer to friends or family visiting the park in a private vehicle (i.e. not paying an operator to take them into the Park). The following rules apply:
 - a. Drive only on designated roads.
 - b. Do not leave the road to get closer to any wildlife.
 - c. Alight from your vehicle only at designated picnic sites/viewing platforms in the Game Park.
 - d. Do not approach any wildlife on foot unless you are in the company of a Ranger and have registered and paid for a guided walk at one of the Park offices.
 - e. Adhere to entry/exit times as posted at the entrance gates

GENERAL INFORMATION AND SECURITY

4. Turn off geotagging features on your camera / phone and do not share locality information online.
5. Crop photos before uploading to social media so that exact localities are not obvious.
6. Do not photograph Rangers or security personnel or their anti-poaching gear.
7. Rhodes Matopos National Park has a “take your litter home” policy. Please take ALL litter out of the Park and dispose of it responsibly in recycling bins or rubbish bins in town. Litter bags are available at the entrance gates.
8. Do not touch any rock art. Avoid flash photography
9. Do not disturb any deposit in caves or rock shelters as this is archaeologically important.
10. Respect ALL National Monuments and sites