Introducing the eco trails of the Lubombo Mountains

The Lubombo Eco Trails Program is proudly run in partnership with...

Shewula
Mhlumeni
Goba
Manzimnyama
Tikhuba
Mambane
Mbuluzi
Muti Muti
SITEKI

THE LUBOMBO ECO TRAILS

Existing Eco Trails
Future Community Projects
Transborder Eco Trail

The neighbouring communities of Mhlumeni in Swaziland and Goba in Mozambique are collaborating on a cross border trail that will form the northern anchor point for the Lubombo Eco Trails network.

The Goba Community, located just 60 km west of Maputo, has established a 9,000 ha conservation area featuring mountain streams and waterfalls surrounded by rugged hills and savanna woodland. A community ecotourism initiative is planned in the conservation area.

Mhlumeni is situated on a gently undulating plateau overlooking the dramatic Mhlabashana Gorge. Bounded on three sides by the Mlawula Nature Reserve, the area has outstanding hiking and ecotourism potential. The Mhlumeni community has identified a spectacular location for its ecotourism facility with magnificent views over the Mozambican coastal plains to the north-east and the Swaziland lowveld to the west.

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The mid-point of the Swaziland Lubombo range is marked by the town of Siteki and the nearby Muti Muti Conservancy, with its 2,000ha of mountain forest and open savanna, showcasing the diversity and natural beauty of the Lubombo Mountains.

Muti Muti borders from the top of the range down to the Lowveld and has exciting trails that reveal the explores the escarpment, the forest creatures and stunning views.

Accommodation at Muti Muti is provided at Muti Muti Lodge, which is well known in the region for its quality and affordability, and is the base point for the hiking and ecotrails. At certain times of the year, the variety of butterflies among these trails is astonishing. The summer frog chorus has drawn many a frog lover to the famous Lily Pond.

LATITUDE: 26° 27' 06.10'' S
LONGITUDE: 31° 56' 40.92'' E
WEBSITE: www.mabuda.com

The Manzimnyama Landscape covers about 12,500 ha in an area with steep high country forestal. It is situated in the highly important and threatened Maputaland and Coastal Forest Eco-region. Manzimnyama is depicted as fascinating botanically, with numerous cycad species well represented on the steep cliffs. The presence of bushveld savanna and forest results in rich birdlife, with numerous rare and threatened species, such as the Barred Owl and African Broadbill.

LATITUDE: 26° 27' 13.03'' S
LONGITUDE: 32° 05' 38.52'' E
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Lubombo Eco Trails is a program designed to bring maximum benefits to the Lubombo Mountains. This will take place in phases. The first phase is being implemented in the Lubombo Conservancy, which brings together the conservation areas described in this brochure. The expected timeframe for the full development of the program is between 2014 and 2020.

Future Community Participation
In the next phase the Eco Trails will incorporate the communities of Gola in Mozambique and Mbuluzi, Swaziland. The Lubombo Eco Trails initiative strengthens the Lubombo Mountains with its vast unique expanse of good land. The camp is ideal for cultural tourists, families, nature lovers and backpackers.

CAMP & NATURE RESERVE

The Shewula Mountain Camp is the first community-run tourism camp in Swaziland and one of the most successful in southern Africa.

The camp is fully owned and run by the community and is a vital source of income and employment, as well as pride.

The camp is designed in traditional Swazi-style and is a replica of traditional kraals. The accommodation consists of 15 self-catering wooden chalets, each with en-suite facilities and a deck. The camp is a key facility and scientific attraction for the Mbuluzi and Goba communities.

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