touring Fetakgomo Tubatse



Touring Fetakgomo Tubatse

Tourism Promotion Yearbook 2024

LIMPOPO TOURISM

More to enjoy.

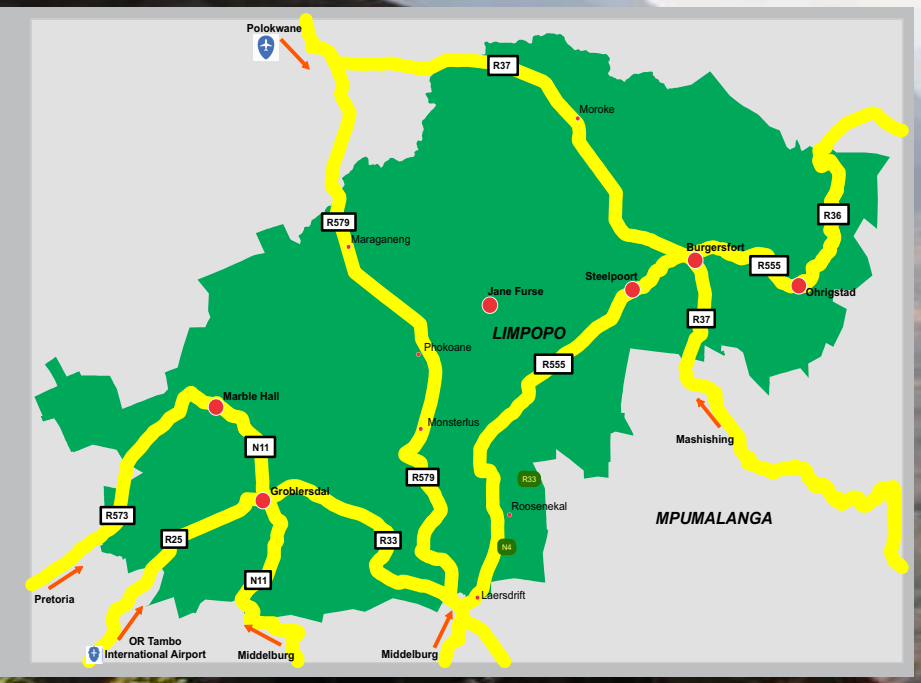
South Africa LIMPOPO PROVINCE

SEKHUKHUNE Community TV SkCTV Africa Knows

Fetakgomo Tubatse

LAND BUILT ON THE FRIENDLY WILL OF MAROTA KINGS

GPS Coordinates Burgersfort:
S24.751385 E30.556123



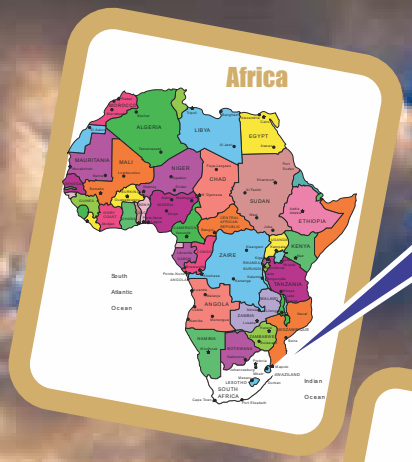
- From O.R Tambo to Burgersfort / Fetakgomo Tubatse.
  A drive route 3h30 minutes, drive via N12 / N4 and R555 through Witbank and Middleburg and therefore Rossennekal > De Hoop Dam > Steelpoot.

- From Pretoria to Bronkhorspruit > Groblersdal > R25
  A drive route 3h45 minutes

- From Nelspruit to Burgersfort / Fetakgomo Tubatse.
  A drive route 2h15minutes > Lydenburg via R37.
  2h45 minutes

- From Polokwane > R37 > Moroke > TŠate > Driekop > Burgersfort > Riba Cross.
  A drive route 1h50 minutes,

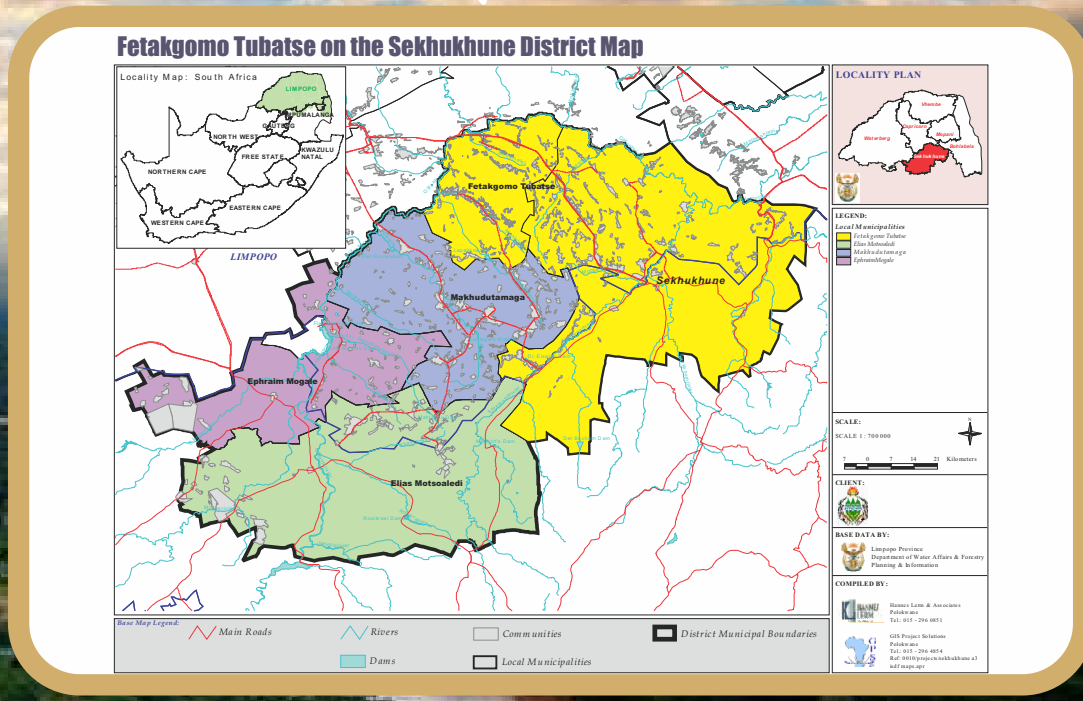
WE ARE READY
FOR THE WORLD









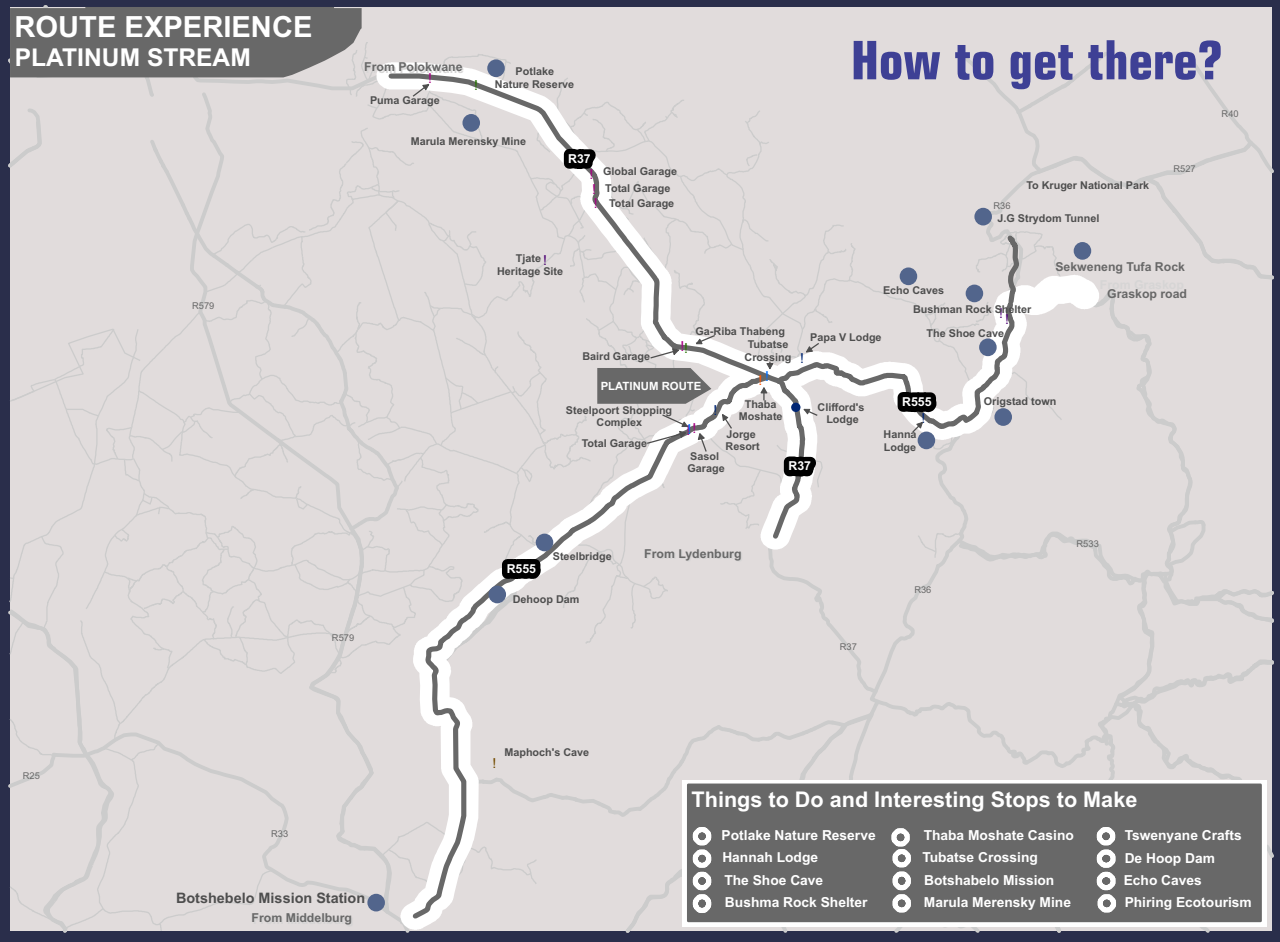


touring the Platinum Stream TOURISM ROUTE





the scenic and soulful route to the KNP



Platinum Stream is essentially Tubatse river, a tributary of Olifants river, that flow along R555, R37 and R36 road flowing into Kruger National Park, hence the name of the route is often called the Platinum Stream to Kruger.

ROUTE ONE: START: From Middelburg N4: Route: N11 > Botshabelo Mission Station > Groblersdal > Stofberg R33 > Roossenekal > De Hoop Dam > Fetakgomo Tubatse Industrial Park > Steelpoort > Potlake Nature Reserve > Marula Merensky Mine > Merensky Shaft

ROUTE TWO: START: From Middelburg R555 > Stofberg > De Hoop Dam > Fetakgomo Tubatse Industrial Park > Thaba Moshate > Hannah Lodge > Bushman Rock Shelter > Phiring > Leboweng > Tswenyane > JG Strydom Tunnel > Hoedspruit > Kruger National Park

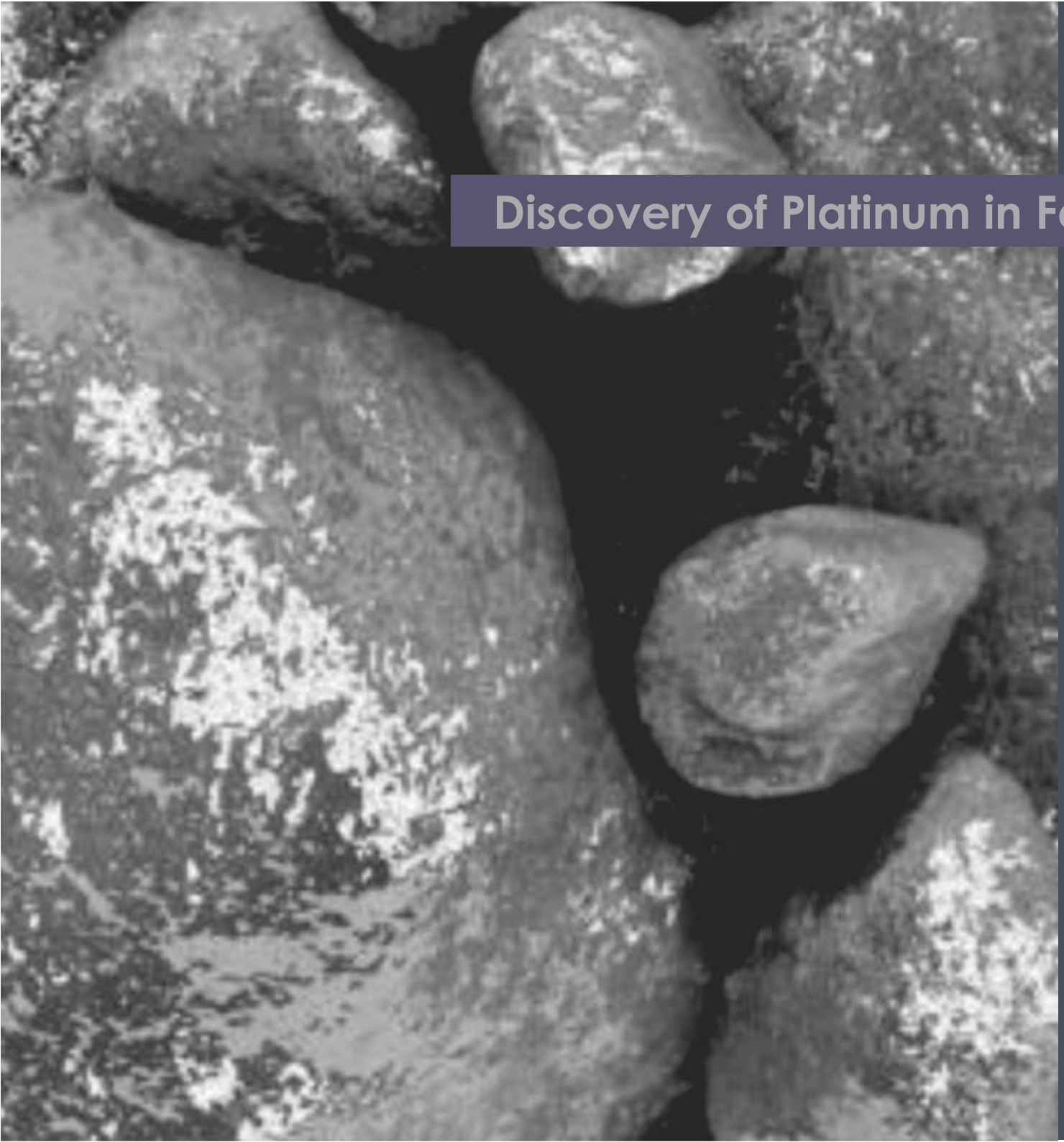


South Eastern view of De Hoop Dam on the Platinum Stream Tourism Route

Timeless tales of mining heritage

Platinum Stream Tourism Route is giving tourists the opportunity to visit some of Fetakgomo Tubatse's historically significant mines. Fetakgomo Tubatse is an area with a long and proud history of mining exploration; it is also a place of majestic beauty with regal mountains, lush valleys and meandering rivers. Under the soil lie vast deposits of precious metal – so vast that they today contain the largest reserves of platinum group metals in the world.

Hans Merensky, the world renowned mining explorer was born in Botshabelo Mission Station in 1871, the mission station was established as a result of a fall out between Reverend Alexander Merensky and King Sekhukhune I years earlier in 1864. The interconnected between historic heritage of Bapedi Polity, the Berlin Missionary work and mining exploration will always play out in may era-defining events. Therefore, the story behind Platinum Stream is located at the epicentre of the Bapedi Empire during the reign of King Sekhukhune I. The Platinum Stream is a tourist route designed to unite Sekhukhune's natural beauty and rich heritage with the mining activities in the area for those mining and history enthusiasts.



Discovery of Platinum in Fetakgomo Tubatse

The mining aspect of the route will give tourists the opportunity to visit the oldest mine in Sekhukhune as well as discovering the ancient mine workings, with interpretation of historical facts. There are several mines within the area that will give the tourist a true mining experience.

For those mining enthusiasts and history fanatics alike a visit to the oldest mine in Sekhukhune District, the Marula Merensky mine owned by Implats is a definite must.

Platinum was first discovered in the area by renowned explorer Hans Merensky on the nearby farm Maandagshoek in the 1920's. The Merensky mine was one of the first operations to have been developed on the relatively under-exploited eastern limb of the Bushveld Complex in South Africa.

TI:MELINE
of mining heritage in Fetakgomo Tubatse

Platinum Stream
TOURISM ROUTE



1857: Rev Alexander Merensky welcomed by King Sekwati and establishes a mission station at Thaba Mosego capital



1865: Botshabelo Mission Station was established





1871: Hans Merensky born in Botshabelo Mission Station



1864: King Sekhukhune's fallout with Rev Merensky.

The story behind Platinum Stream is located at the epicentre of the Marota Empire, during the rule of King Sekhukhune I, who hosted and later expelled Berlin Missionary Alexandra Merensky. By 1865 Botshabelo Mission Station was established, near Middelburg, giving refuge to Merensky and King Sekhukhune's younger brother Johannes Dinkwanyane. Hans Merensky was born in Botshabelo on 16 March 1871, where his father, Alexander Merensky, an ethnographer and author, was the resident missionary. Keenly interested in minerals and enjoying outdoor living, he studied mining geology after finishing his schooling in Germany.

In 1904, he took a year's leave to visit South Africa to conduct some geological surveys in the Transvaal. He discovered tin near Pretoria and reported to the Premier Diamond Mine regarding possible mining prospects. He worked for several mining companies and Friedlaender & Co. sent him to Madagascar to investigate a reported discovery of gold, which turned out to be false. He resigned from his job in Germany and moved to Johannesburg, where he became a successful consulting geologist. In 1913, Merensky went bankrupt as a result of the Depression, and during World War I, he was called up and stationed in a camp near Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal. After the war, the mines began employing their own geologists on a permanent basis, reducing the need for consulting geologists, and Merensky's business suffered as a result. With the occasional support of Sir George Albu, however, he overcame this challenge and in 1924 discovered large platinum deposits in the present-day Fetakgomo Tubatse's Eastern Limb Platinum Belt.

in 1924 discovered large platinum deposits in the present-day Fetakgomo Tubatse's Eastern Limb Platinum Belt.

Wonders of Platinum Stream



Unique geological formation of an active Tufa Rock in Phiring



Leboweng window next to R36 road to Strijdom Tunnel



Bushmen Rock Shelter, never touched by rain for 120 000 years

Main Pic: Sewaiwai Cable cart at Mankele Bridge is a testimony of improvement of tourism infrastructure in Fetakgomo Tubatse. This cable cart used to be the only form of transport across t he mighty Olifants river in summer months

Sefateng sa Thorometšane



The Platinum Stream Tourism Route flow along the R555 and the R37, then R36 into Kruger National Park. Hence the Route is also referred to as the Platinum Stream to Kruger. This is due to the fact that Tubatse river, a tributary of Lepelle (Olifants) is a major source of life, livelihoods and a sustainer of the grand ecosystem that stretches from Witbank flowing through the settlements and towns of Fetakgomo Tubatse, nourishing Kruger National Park and into the Indian Ocean.



ABEL ERASMUS PASS AND J.G STRIJDOM TUNNEL

Abel Erasmus Pass is situated in the Limpopo Province, on the R36 road between Ohrigstad and Tzaneen, South Africa. It navigates the Manoutsa section of the Limpopo Drakensberg. Since 1959 the road passes through the 133 m long JG Strijdom Tunnel, named after late Prime Minister JG Strijdom. The spectacular Abel Erasmus Pass, named after a very prominent citizen of the area, was officially opened on the 8th of May 1959, and navigates the Manoutsa section of the Limpopo Drakensberg. It is regarded as an engineering triumph, with a sequence of bends and twists that can only give rise to admiration for the gold rush pioneers of the late 19th century that carved this route through the mountains with their wagons. The pass has 62 bends, corners and curves of which 12 exceed an arc of 90 degrees.

The pass also includes a 133 metre-long tunnel, named after J.G. (Hans) Strydom, who served as the prime minister of South Africa from 1954 to 1958. This huge pass is over 24 km long and has an altitude variance of 737 metres; the road surface is in a good condition, but the pass is sometimes plagued by heavy traffic. It can be very difficult to pass slow-moving trucks – please exercise a degree of tolerance and patience, and give yourself plenty of time to traverse this route.

ABEL ERASMUS PASS AND J.G STRIJDOM TUNNEL

The pass is essentially two passes connected by a large plateau, with the vast majority of the bends and steep climbs and descents being located along either end. Starting in the north, close to the eastern bank of the Olifants River, the views are simply spectacular with the towering and craggy cliffs of the mountains ahead blocking the view whilst to the right, the languid waters of the river provide a lifeline of water for farmers in the valley.

The road climbs 200 vertical metres in the first 3 km through a number of bends. All along this famous pass, you will find local vendors peddling their wares over a number of roadside stalls. If you intend pulling off to stop at one of these stalls, remember to indicate your intention early. The tunnel makes its appearance at the 3 km mark. Remember to switch your lights on, as drivers approaching from the other end will only see the glare from the natural light at the far end of the tunnel, so having your lights on is all about being seen. There is no overtaking allowed in the tunnel. Looking across the valleys soon after exiting the tunnel, a small waterfall can be seen.

This is the Kadishi Tufa waterfall. Over the years, instead of receding, the Tufa falls grows outwards very much like stalagmites and stalactites.

The road continues climbing steadily after the tunnel is cleared, first heading east into a side ravine to maintain gradient and then back into the west as an altitude of 792m is reached at the 5,3 km mark.

The gradients suddenly ease off here, as the road sweeps through a wide left hand curve as the settlement of Tswenyane is traversed. Be careful of pedestrians, livestock and children and comply with the speed limit of 60 kph.



Getting there: To approach from the south, start off in Ohrigstad at GPS coordinates S24.751385 E30.556123. Travel in a northerly direction along the R36 for 24.3 km to S24.565229 E30.632960, which is the southern start point. To approach from the north, start off in Hoedspruit at the intersection of the R36 and the R40, at GPS coordinates S24.348968 E30.954247. Travel in a southerly direction along the R36 for 39.4 km to S24.433300 E30.621333, which is the northern start point.

Community based Tourism Nodes





Tswenyane, R36


Mooiluk, R37


Phiring Homestays


Sekweneng







POTLAKE NATURE UNTOUCHED

The Potlake Nature Reserve offers the picnic and outdoor fun lovers an expansive array of activities, it's a rare sighting where nature is preserved and left untouched; Potlake Nature Reserve is considered as an existing anchor projects due to its attractiveness to develop other tourism products within the area and on the Platinum Stream Tourism Route. There is potential for mass camping, outdoor adventure events, hunting and whole lot more interface with mother nature.

Visitor and Traveler Information

Climate:
Experience the diverse climate of Sekhukhune District throughout the year. Summer months, from December to March, offer hot and sunny days, with a particularly dry atmosphere. Winter brings mild and dry conditions, ideal for game viewing and enjoying warmer days.

Accommodation:
The Platinum Stream Tourism Route offers a diverse range of accommodation options, including homestays and guest houses, providing travelers with memorable experiences and insights into local culture.
Guest Houses along the Route: In addition to homestay options, travelers along the Platinum Stream Tourism Route can choose from a variety of guest houses. These accommodations range from cozy 3-star hideaways to luxurious 5-star retreats, catering to diverse preferences and budgets. Whether seeking a peaceful retreat surrounded by nature or a luxurious getaway with top-notch amenities, there's something for everyone along this scenic route. Thaba Moshate Hotel Casino Convention Resort standout as the anchor for hospitality and entertainment on the Platnum Stream Tourism Route.

Public Transport:
Navigate the Platinum Stream Tourism Route with ease using the efficient public transport system, particularly in Burgersfort which is well-serviced by inter-city taxi networks and conventional public stransport connecting the buzzling Burgersfort to the neighbouring settlements and regional towns.

Banking / Bureau de Change:
Access banking facilities conveniently throughout the towns along the route. Most towns feature banks and ATMs, ensuring easy access to financial services. Banking hours typically run from Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 15:30, and Saturday, 08:30 – 11:00. Exchange currency hassle-free at any of the banks, facilitating smooth transactions during your journey.

Experience the rich culture and heritage of the Platinum Stream Tourism Route while enjoying seamless travel arrangements and essential amenities. Plan your visit today and embark on an unforgettable journey through history and natural beauty.



touring the

Marota

Heritage

TOURISM ROUTE

LIMPOPO

How to get there?

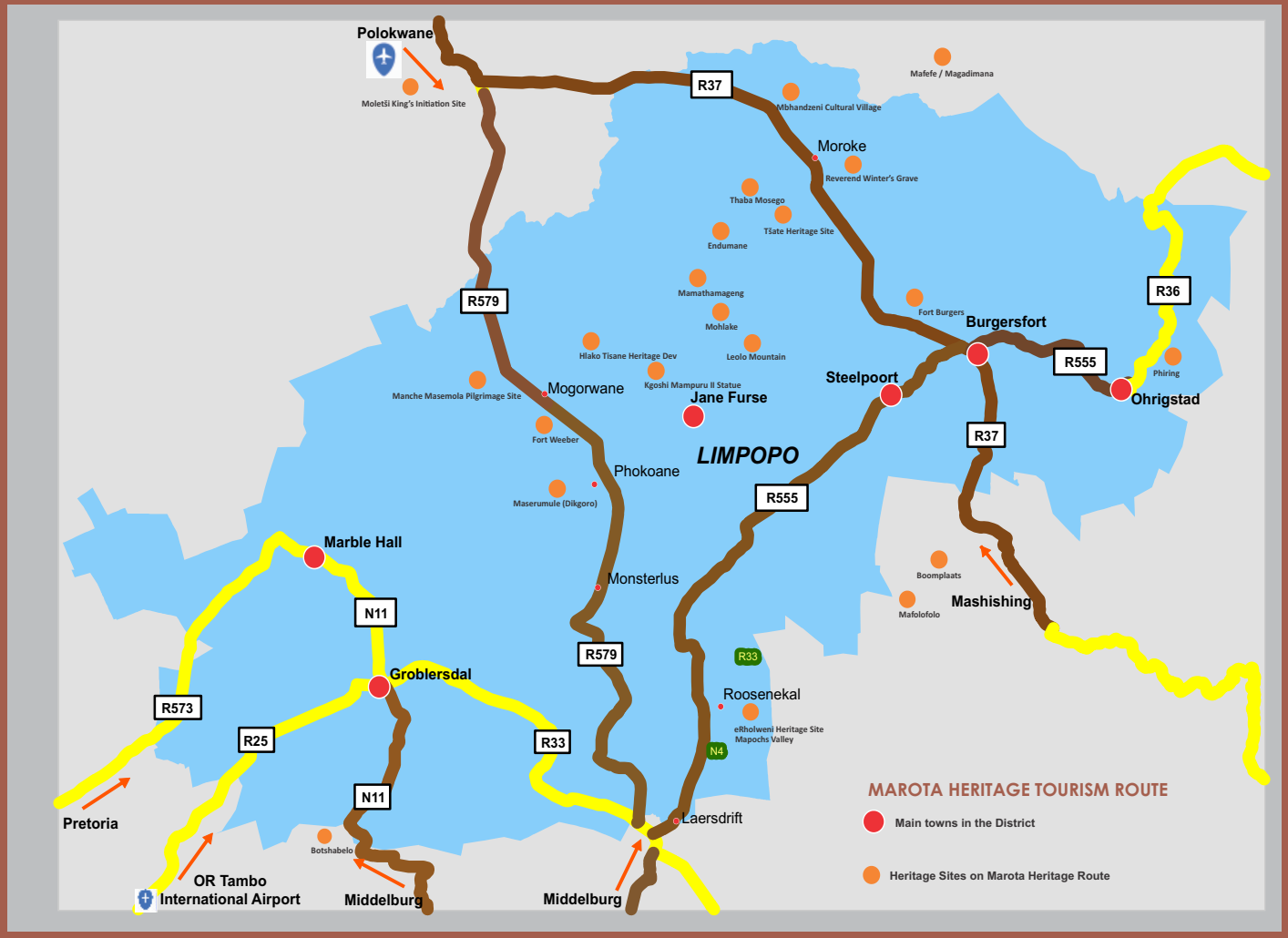
The following are four route approaches of the Marota Heritage Tourism Route from different directions"

ROUTE ONE: START: From eSwatini: **Route:** Lydenburg > Burgersfort > Tšate Heritage Site.

ROUTE TWO: START: From N4 Middelburg: **Route:** R555 > Roossenekal (Mapoch Valley Heritage Site) > Boomplaats and Mafolofolo (North of Lydenburg) on R37 > Burgersfort CBD > Tšate Heritage Site.

ROUTE THREE: START: From N4 Middelburg: **Route:** Middelburg CBD > Botshabelo Mission Station on N11 (interpretive tour) > Doornkop Settlement (community interaction) > Loskop Dam (off-road viewing) > Groblersdal CBD > Fort Weeber > Kgoshi Mampuru II Statue (Mamone) > Hlako Tisane Heritage Development > Lobethal Mission Station > Matjeding Fortress > Manche Masemola Pilgrimage Site > Jane Furse CBD > Fort Magnetheights > Leolo > Mohlake > Mamthamageng > Mohlaletse > Masehleng / Manoge > Tšate Heritage Site.

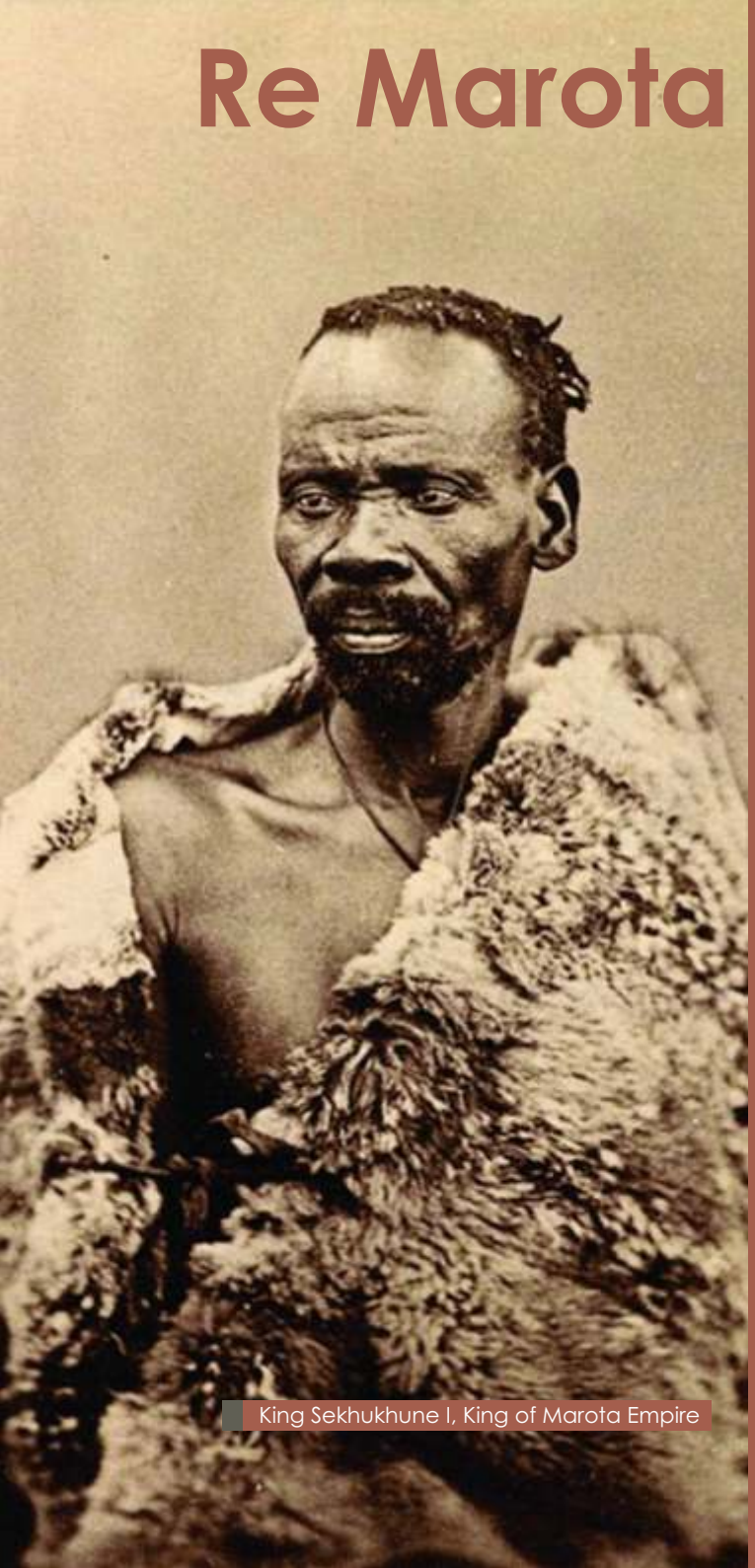
ROUTE FOUR: START: From Polokwane: > Lebowakgomo > Podungwane > Moroke > Tšate Heritage Site.



MAROTA
Heritage Tourism Route

Re Marota a mahubedu

blood-soaked regal red warriors



King Sekhukhune I, King of Marota Empire

The route was named in honour of Marota, the ruling elite of Bapedi nation and King Sekhukhune I belonged to the unbroken lineage of Marota Warrior Kings. Marota adopted the totem 'Babina Noko' in veneration of the porcupine as their spirit animal for its resilience. Hence Marota praise themselves as Marota a Mahubedu meaning the blood-soaked regal red warriors.
Marota Heritage Tourism Route embodies the timeless rich heritage. This route traverses historic epochs and landmarks situated across Limpopo and Mpumalanga, linking the Steve Tshwete in Nkangala District and Thaba Chweu in eNhlanzeni District of Mpumalanga as well as Fetakgomo Tubatse, Makhuduthamaga, Lepelle Nkumpi and Polokwane local municipalities of Limpopo.

Marota Heritage Route affords the tourists the opportunity to experience the cultural heritage of the fascinating Sekhukhune area, reflecting the diverse cultures of the present day inhabitants of the area, intrepid adventures from a colourful past and ancient civilisation of which only archaeological evidence remains.

There are so many exiting and awe-inspiring cultural attractions and heritage sites in Sekhukhune land, and combined with the natural beauty and mountainous landscape of the area, the Marota Route is the perfect route for any tourist seeking a magnificent array of tourism products in one tourist destination.
Every corner of Sekhukhuneland has an amazing tale that connect to the friendships brokered by Warrior Kings on whose footsteps King Sekhukhune I gallantly walked.

M A R O T A
Heritage Tourism Route

Marota adopted the totem 'Babina Noko' in veneration of the porcupine as their spirit animal for its resilience.





King Thulare Victor Thulare III

King Thulare Victor Thulare III during one of his visits to Tšate Heritage Site accompanied by Magoši, community leaders and researcher.
He is seen here observing the statue erected in memory of King Sekhukhune I on the Ntwaneng Hill interpretive site.

RISE OF THE BAPEDI KINGDOM

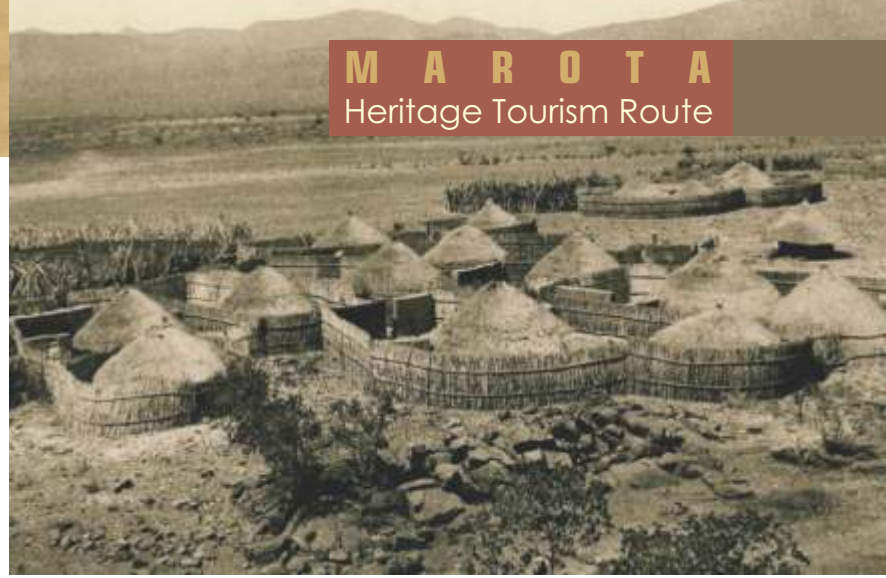
Diale: Thabane, one of the founders of the Bapedi, had a grandchild Diales, whose son, Thobele, was disliked by the other wives because of his mother's favourite position. Fearing for his life, Thobele left with his mother and followers. A new tribe, the Bapedi, was founded. They crossed the Leolo Mountains and around 1650 settled just south of the present Steelpoort station.
Kabu: Under his reign, the Pedi lived prosperously, growing in numbers and wealth.
Thobejane: He succeeded Kabu, and is still remembered today for peace and prosperity. His name is used as a form of greeting.
Mampuru: As a grandchild of Thobejane, who took over the leadership and organised regiments into fighting that defeated many tribes. He o ered his own daughters as wives to defeated or neighbouring tribes, ensuring that the future chiefs had Pedi blood in their veins.
Morwamotse: Mampuru was not the rightful heir and after infighting, Morwamotse rightfully became the new leader.

Thulare: The son of Morwamotse succeeded him in due course and is remembered as the greatest and most loved of all Pedi chiefs. Many tribes were conquered, and the Pedi Empire extended greatly to cover most of the eastern, southern and western districts of the Transvaal. Around 1824, Mzilikazi, a lieutenant of Shaka, started raiding the area. He defeated the Pedi, killing most of the sons of Thulare, except Sekwati and Seraki. Men and women were enslaved.

Sekwati: The eldest son, Sekwati, took refuge with the Ramapulana for four years before returning to Bopedi. Many people joined the Bapedi under his reign to share the fruit of peace and prosperity.

BAPEDI MOVE TO TŠATE

King Sekwati no longer felt safe at Phiring and moved to Thaba Mosega in 1853. He established a fortified village there by the name of Tšate. The mountains surrounding the fertile valley provided protection from attacks, while the Motse River provided water. The area was rich in plant and animal life.





BOER TREKKERS

Unhappy with British rule, Louis Trichardt and Hendrik Potgieter left the Cape as part of the Groot Trek to the north and moved through the Free State, into the Transvaal where Trichardt encountered the Bapedi in 1837. Hendrik Potgieter entered Bopedi on his way to Origstad in 1845. Following land encroachment on the side of the Boers and stock thefts on the part of the Bapedi, there was constant tension between the two peoples.

Tšate – battlefield of the Anglo-Pedi War

Warriors of Bapedi Kings successfully defended their formidable Empire against attacks from Boer Commandos, Impi's and the British Army. It is on this valley that a combined assault from British troops and Swazi Warriors commanded by General Wolseley in 1879, compelled the surrender of Kin Sekhukhune I.



Attack on Mosego
24.09.2009

TŠATE – THE GREAT BATTLEFIELD





ANGLO-BAPEDI WAR (1878 - 1879)

The attitude of Sekhukhune towards the Boers changed after the Annexation of Transvaal in 1877 and treasonable activities of certain Boers against the English. Sekhukhune was getting guns and ammunition from some Boer gun runners and Abel Erasmus had sent a message to Sekhukhune advising him to stand firm against the English and not to pay the cattle fine. The Boers were going to fight the British and take back the Transvaal. It is also alleged that the Bapedi were kept informed by the Boers of the movements of policing forces.

Chieftainess Legolwana was called on to surrender by the British after Annexation and was o ered a safe conduct to Sekhukhune. She refused and her stronghold that was within three miles of Fort Weeber, was attacked on in April 1878. Although the attack on Maserumule had failed, her continued harassment resulted in her making her way back to Sekhukhune, opening the western area of Sekhukhuneland for attack.

In August Colonel Rowlands was appointed commandant of the troops in the Transvaal and managed to secure the services of about 500 Swazis. He used Fort Burgers as an operational base from which to launch an attack on Sekhukhune's stronghold on 3 October 1878. His total force consisted of 1,216 infantry and 611 mounted men. The attacking force made slow progress due to the di cult terrain and a lack of water. They had to return to Fort Burgers without attacking. At this stage the campaign was interrupted by the withdrawal of troops to Natal in preparation for the Zulu War. The War had ended with the battle of Ulundi on 4 July 1879 and the capture of Cetewayo on 28th August. Focus could shift back to Sekhukhune.

The second battle - 1879

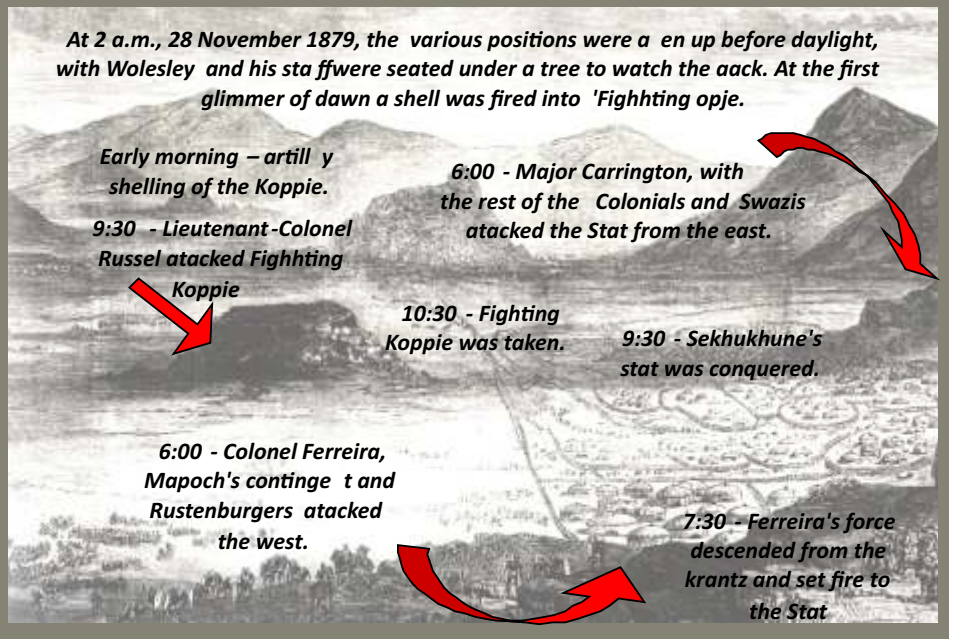
By October 1879 all available troops had been concentrated in Transvaal and Colonel Wolseley marched to Fort Weeber. A large force was established from various Transvaal tribes of which the most important were 8000 Swazis, the natural enemies of the Bapedi and very good in-fighters. They were promised the cattle they might take from the Bapedi and to have a share in whatever fine was levied against the Bapedi. A few had rifles but the majority of Swazis were armed with assegais. Wolseley gathered all information he could about the Bapedi and decided to march the main column up the valley of the Olifants River, swing round the tip of the Leolu Mountains, southwards down the Tšate valley and attack the Stat at the southern end. At the same When attacked, the Bapedi defenders fired at point-blank range and then scurried for shelter in the caves. The stonewalls, together with the deep crevices and sheltered caves, protected the Bapedi. Many attackers were shot or assegaied in hand-to-hand battle.

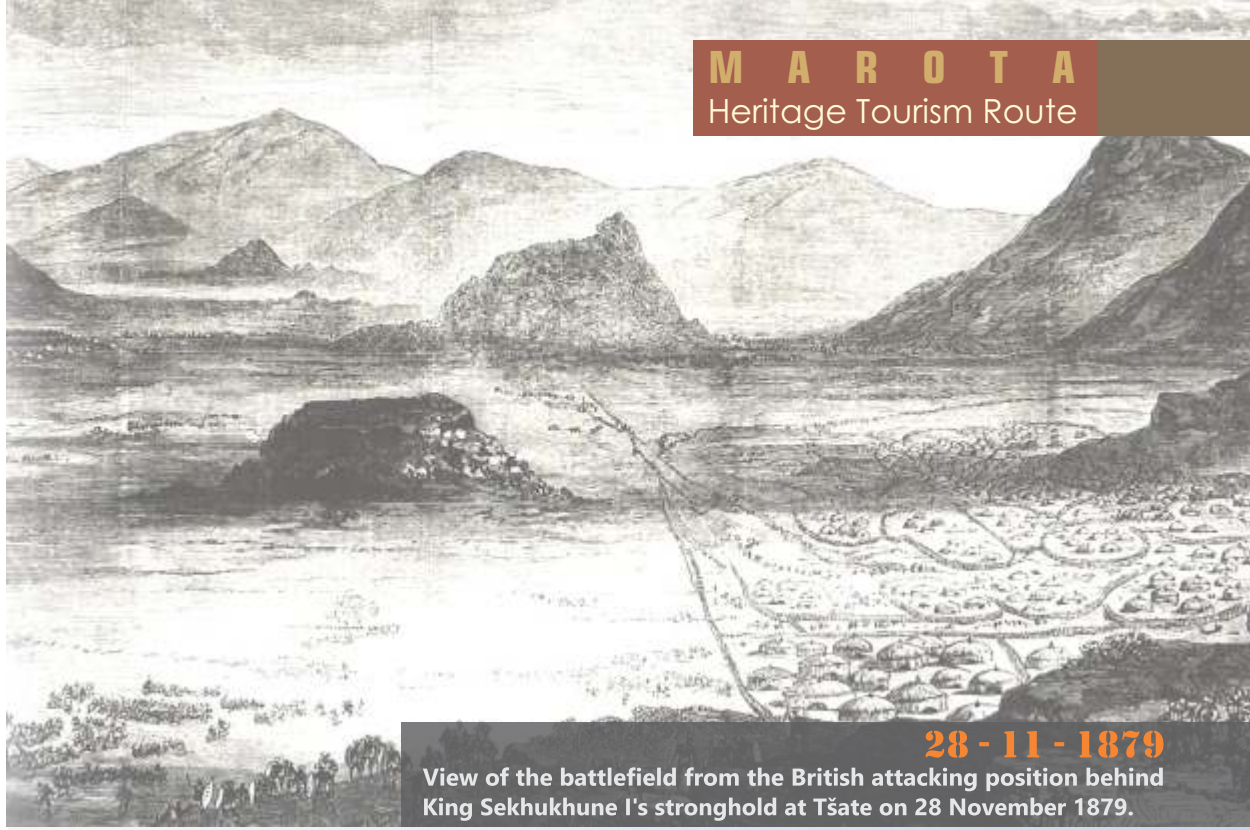
Young Morwamotse, Sekhukhune's son and heir, had fought bravely with his back to a big rock till he was killed. Charges of gun cotton were placed at cave entrances, but failed to drive out the Bapedi. Many had worked in the Kimberley mine and they cut the fuses. A cordon of soldiers was then placed in a trench around the Koppie with the object of starving the Pedis out. time, Major Bushman's column would attack from the eastern slopes of the Leolu Mountains.

Tšate Valley sketched in 1879

The famous sketch of Captain J. H. Poe of Sekhukhune's Stat and the disposition of the forces surrounding 'Fighting Kopje' and the Stat.

VISIT THE GREAT BATTLEFIELD





28 - 11 - 1879

View of the battlefield from the British attacking position behind King Sekhukhune I's stronghold at Tšate on 28 November 1879.

Tšate Valley's photo in 2019

Tšate battlefield is a declared heritage site owing to its fascinating evidence of human habitation during the Early Iron Age (600 - 1000 AD). This evidence was uncovered through archaeological research. Many centuries later (from 1830 to 1879) King Sekwati and his son King Sekhukhune, had the vision and leadership skills to unite a large number of vulnerable communities into a formidable Pedi Empire. Warrior of these two Kings successfully defended the Empire against attacks from Boer commandos, Impi's and the British Army. However, a combined assault from British troops and Swazi warriors commanded by General Wolseley in 1879, compelled the surrender of King Sekhukhune.



27 - 04 - 2019

Tšate valley where the Heritage Site Master Planning, archeological study and celebration area was developed to preserve the fascinating evidence that dates as far back as the Iron Age 100 – 1000 AD.

Fetakgomo Tubatse, the home of Marota capitals

Mokororwane > Phiring > Thaba Mosego > Tšate > Mohlaletsi







TI:MELINE

SITESSTORIESERAEVENTSHISTORYMEMORIESEPOCHLESSONSSITESSTORIESERAEVENTSHIS

M A R O T A
Heritage Tourism Route

This timeline of the historic heritage sites and events that enriched Marota Heritage Tourism Route:

1650s to 1826: Site: Mokororwane; **Location:** Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse **Hint:** Capital of Marota Kings.
1827 to 1828: Site: Selaiwa Moletši Initiation Site **Location:** Moletši **Hint:** The initiation site of King Sekhukhune
1845 - 1852: Site: Phiring and Ohrigstad **Location:** Ohrigstad, Fetakgomo Tubatse **Hint:** Establishment of Ohrigstad Boer Settlement and the first Boer-Pedi conflict that reached its peak in 1847, led to King Sekwati establishing Thaba Mosego as his new capital.

1852 to 1864: Site: Thaba Mosego **Location:** Tšate Valley, Fetakgomo Tubatse **Hint:** Capital of King Sekwati by 1852 where the first mission station of Reverend Alexander Merensky was established in 1857, and later vacated in 1864 following fallout between King Sekhukhune I and missionarie.
1864 to 1879: Site: Tšate Heritage Site **Location:** Tšate Valley, Fetakgomo Tubatse **Hint:** The capital of King Sekhukhune I where the Sekhukhuneland Resistance Wars of 1876 and 1879 were fought.

1864 to 1873: Site: Botshabelo Mission Station **Location:** Middelburg, Steve Tshwete **Hint:** King Sekhukhune's younger brother Kgoši Johannes Dinkwanyane eloped from Thaba Mosego with Reverend Alexander Merensky in November 1864. After their fallout Dinkwanyane established Mafolofolo in Lydenburg in 1873.
1863 – 1883: Site: Mabhogo Valley **Location:** Roossenekal, Elias Motsoaledi **Hint:** Named after Roos and Senekal, sentries of ZAR Boer Republiek who were November 1882. This led to Mapochs VallyeWar of 1883.

1855 To date: Site: eMaswati Heritage on Leolo Mountain **Locations**: eNtsandvweni (Hoepakrans), Seelane; Endumane (Swazi Mnyamane) and eMkhondvweni **Hint**: Leolo Mountain is mainly inhabited by eMaswati communities who escaped from mainland eSwatini. eMkhondvweni mphakatsi was established under the leadership of Mtfwanenkhosi Msutfu, the son of Mtfwanenkhosi Somcuba, around 1855. The migration occurred due to a fallout between Mtfwanenkhosi Somcuba and his brother Silo Mswati II over royal cattle, known as Ludlambhedlu herd. This dispute ultimately led to Somcuba's demise. Nkhosikathi Maphiwose, Somcuba's royal wife, established the settlement of Endumane, Seelane after escaping capture and settled under King Sekwati's protection. Generation later King Sekwati's son King Sekhukhune welcomed more exiled eMaswati royals, including Mtfwanenkhosi Mabhedla in 1865, after he lost favour as the next in line to be King of eSwatini (liphosakubekwa). During the battle of Tšate, which marked the end of the Second Sekhukhuneland Wars and the fall of Marota Empire, the three royal houses suffered losses, including the deaths of Senior Royal Princess Nkhosatana Fose, Mtfwanenkhosi Msutfu, and the arrest of Mabhedla along with King Sekhukhune I on 02 December 1879.

1873 - 1876: Site: Mafolofolo Mošate **Location:** Lydenburg, Thaba Chweu **Hint:** Established by Kgoši Dinkwanyane in November 1873 after parting ways with Merenky in Botshabelo. He met his fate after a joint Swati Imphi and Boer attack on Mafolofolo stronghold on 13 July 1876 string the first Sekhukhuneland War.
1876: Site: Fort Weeber **Location:** Mogorwane, Makhuduthamaga **Hint:** Fort Weeber, the western frontier building up to the British assault against Queen Lekgolane of Maserumule, King Sekhukhune's younger sister.

1879: Site: Mamathamageng Capture site **Location:** Ga-Komane, Leolo **Hint:** The capture site of King Sekhukhune on 02 December 1879 along his wife, children, his brother Nkwemasogana, Makoropetše, Mabhedla and a few Bapedi generals were led to Pretoria prison until 1881.
1906 to 1952: Site: Boomplaats Mošate **Location:** Lydenburg, Thaba Chweu **Hint:** The land was bought by Bapedi Ba Dinkwanuyane under Kgoši Michael Dinkwanyane, the son of Kgoši Johannes Kgalema Dinkwanyane, but was later destroyed by the Bantustan force removal which was finalized in 1955.

Visitor and Traveler Information

Climate:
Experience the diverse climate of Sekhukhune District throughout the year. Summer months, from December to March, offer hot and sunny days, with a particularly dry atmosphere. Winter brings mild and dry conditions, ideal for game viewing and enjoying warmer days.

Accommodation:
The Marota Heritage Tourism Route offers a diverse range of accommodation options, including homestays and guest houses, providing travelers with memorable experiences and insights into local culture. Here's an overview of the accommodation options available along the route:
Phiring Village Homestays: Located in Phiring Village offers a well-developed homestay package, providing visitors with the opportunity to stay with local families.
Mbhandzeni Cultural Village: Another option to be hosted by seasoned traditional healer and leader Nkhosikathi Mahlako Phalane-Dlamini. Here, guests can experience traditional practices and customs firsthand, gaining a deeper understanding of eMaswati heritage.
Leolo Traditional Village: Founded by a full royal Prince Mabhedla, Leolo Traditional Village offers guests a unique opportunity to delve into the region's history.
Guest Houses along the Route: In addition to homestay options, travelers along the Marota Heritage Tourism Route can choose from a variety of guest houses. These accommodations range from cozy 3-star hideaways to luxurious 5-star retreats, catering to diverse preferences and budgets. Whether seeking a peaceful retreat surrounded by nature or a luxurious getaway with top-notch amenities, there's something for everyone along this scenic route.

Public Transport:
Navigate the Marota Heritage Tourism Route with ease using the efficient public transport system. Major nodes like Monsterlus, Jane Furse, and Burgersfort are well-serviced.

Banking / Bureau de Change:
Access banking facilities conveniently throughout the towns along the route. Most towns feature banks and ATMs, ensuring easy access to financial services. Banking hours typically run from Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 15:30, and Saturday, 08:30 – 11:00. Exchange currency hassle-free at any of the banks, facilitating smooth transactions during your journey.
Experience the rich culture and heritage of the Marota Heritage Tourism Route while enjoying seamless travel arrangements and essential amenities. Plan your visit today and embark on an unforgettable journey through history and natural beauty.

Fetakgomo Tubatse Tourism Contact Details

