

*Traveller,
you have arrived!*

Relax, unwind and explore freely in an unprecedented visual experience of colour, sound, texture and people.

Give your senses free will and be guided by your intuition and the atmosphere.

On this beautiful Mountain Lodge in South Africa, the Creative and Expressive Culture comes Alive.

We offer:

The Dancing Fish Gallery	Cultural Tourism
Sculpture Gardens	Creative Sewing Studio
Musical Performances and	Craftart Shop
Story Telling	Mountain Bush Walks
Guided Tours	Bird Watching

MADI A THAVHA MOUNTAIN LODGE



Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge – a Colourful Experience

Madi a Thavha, meaning “water from the mountains”, is set in a beautiful and quiet valley of the Soutpansberg Mountains of Northern Limpopo, only 10 km drive from the centre of Louis Trichardt. Enjoying the stylish and bright accommodations, excellent food, and the warm hospitality will make your stay an unforgettable experience.

At Madi a Thavha you find everything that the area has to offer: a gallery and exhibition of the art and crafts of the Venda and Tsonga artists, numerous bird species, walking routes, and the studio of Madi a Thavha Design. The lodge is an excellent base to spend a few days to explore the Venda and Tsonga culture, myths and legends and to discover the unspoiled nature of the Soutpansberg and Limpopo valley. Madi a Thavha is a nice stop over when travelling to the Kruger National Park, Mapungubwe, and the bush camps at Tuli Block in Botswana or the Victoria falls in Zimbabwe.



The accommodation consists of guest houses with self catering facilities and guest rooms. The farm house includes a lounge and dining room, open plan kitchen, reception, Craft Art shop, verandas, a refreshing swimming pool and garden.

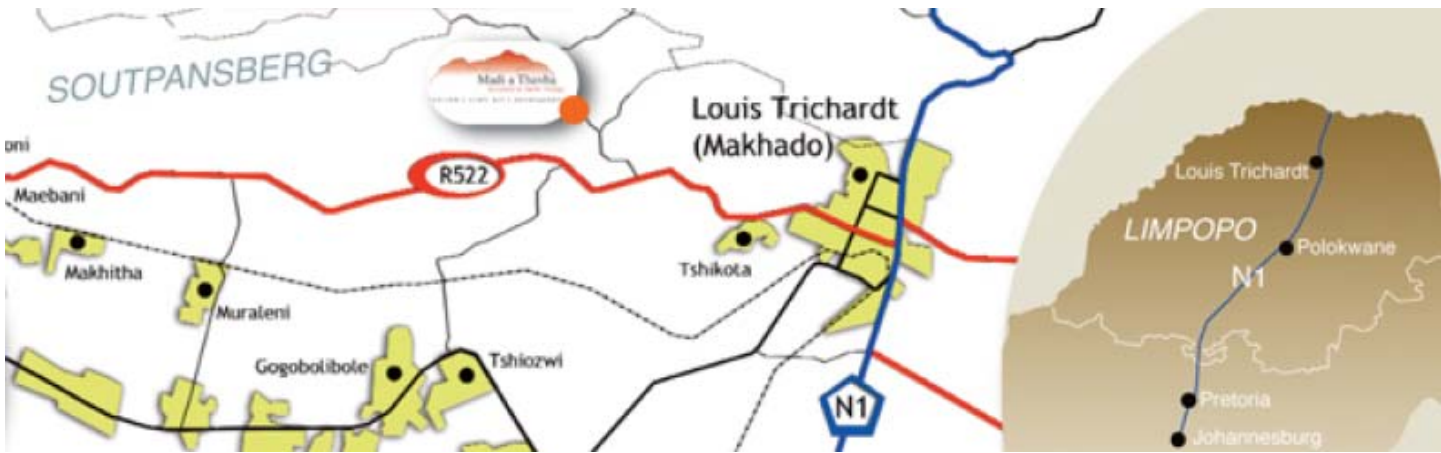
Everything is tastefully decorated with Venda and Tsonga art and crafts, made by people in the villages around Madi a Thavha.



During your stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge you can tour through the area. Possibilities include, joining one of the organised tour programmes and exploring the area by foot or bike. The lodge environment offers various opportunities for activities for families with children.

Madi a Thavha is a 4 star lodge and certified by Fair trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA).

A COLOURFUL EXPERIENCE



LOCATION



The best of Nature, Culture and History

Northern Limpopo features endless bushveld plains, unexpected mountain ranges, valleys, waterfalls and gorges. Nature is still unspoilt allowing a large number of wildlife, nature reserves, indigenous forest and botanical diversity.

It is the place of the artistically minded Venda, Tsonga and Northern Sotho people. Their rich cultural legacy, mythical background, spiritual belief, legends and rituals are firmly rooted in their culture and traditions.



The artists and crafters are renowned for their woodcarving, pottery and textiles and their workplaces in the rural villages can be visited. You also can meet with traditional dancers, singers, musicians, story tellers and healers.

Northern Limpopo has a fascinating history dating back many centuries. The World Heritage Site of Mapungubwe unlocks the secrets of an iron-age civilisation. The rich history of the vhaVenda can be explored at the Dzata museum and at sacred sites like Lake Fundudzi and the Thate Vondo Forest.



NATURE, CULTURE, HISTORY



Accommodation and facilities

Madi a Thavha provides a wide range of services: bed and breakfast, full boarding, and self catering for up to 20 people.

Farm house

The original farm house with verandas at the front and backside is situated in a large garden and accommodates all lodge facilities. You will find a lounge and dining room, open plan kitchen, reception and Craft Art shop. The farm house is the place where our local and international guests meet in the morning for breakfast or in the evening for a drink and dinner, exchanging experiences about their day trips. In the lounge is a fire place that creates a comfortable and warm atmosphere during the chilly winter evenings. DSTV is available. In the garden is a refreshing swimming pool and the lapa is a nice place to relax and enjoy the beautiful mountain view.



Meals

We serve breakfast and dinner on the veranda of the farm house. During winter evenings the veranda is comfortably warm with the Venda stoves and using traditional blankets. When it is too cold outside we serve the meals in dining room of the farm house. We offer a three course dinner with a set menu in the evenings. Fresh vegetables and a salad are always included. Breakfast is an exclusive and varied buffet of yoghurts, fruits, muesli's, baked muesli or pan cakes, bread, toast, muffins, cheese and various eggs dishes. Lunches and pick-nick baskets can be provided. The open plan kitchen in the farm house allows you to have a look in the kitchen while the staff is preparing the meal. We cater for all dietary requirements.



ACCOMMODATION



Guest houses

All guest houses are comfortably furnished and brightly decorated. Kitchens are fully equipped with a fridge, stove, oven and microwave. The beds have mosquito nets, fans and hair dryers are in place. Coffee and tea facilities are available in each of the houses.

Large guest houses: One spacious and luxury house for 5 people, with two en suite bed rooms (one with a bath), a large dining and living area (with extra bed) and kitchen. Outside is a spacious veranda with sitting and dining area and braai. This guest house is excellent for families with children or two couples. One guest house with an en suite bed room, dining and living area (with 2 extra beds), kitchen and terrace. This guesthouse is suitable for families with children.



Small guest houses: Two guest houses for two people, a spacious room split in a bed room, living and kitchen by a low walls. The outside terrace has braai facilities. One of these guest houses has an extra bed

Wooden cottage: A charming wooden cottage for 4 people with two bed rooms, bathroom and kitchen as well as a dining and living area. Outside you find a roofed terrace and a braai area.

Guest rooms

In the farm house are two luxurious guest rooms with en suite bathrooms. The rooms are bright and cheerfully decorated with Venda and Tsonga art and crafts from the area. The rooms with mountain view are located at the backside of the farm house, next to the swimming pool and lapa. The rooms have an own entrance and verandah with nice garden furniture. Additionally, we have one single guest room, with bathroom and small kitchen with microwave and fridge. All rooms have fans and mosquito nets and a hairdryer is available. Coffee and tea facilities are in the rooms.





Dancing Fish gallery

A Gallery with a permanent exhibition about Venda, Tsonga and Northern Sotho Arts and Crafts at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge is a new initiative to promote the work of the artists and crafters. The exhibition presents the background of Venda, Tsonga and Northern Sotho cultures and their developments with Art and Crafts from traditional to transitional and contemporary.

Besides the main exhibition in the gallery you will find a presentation about Sonoma's and traditional healing, musical instruments, food and food preparations around the lodge. The documentation centre provides background information, research documentation, music and documentaries.

You will find a collection of art work, home decoration products, jewellery and small gifts in the Craft Art shop and around the farm house of the lodge.

DANCING FISH GALLERY



Ritual

African Spirit Healers are masters of the ritual process and of ceremony that create reparation and establish balance and healing. Forgiveness is the key to healing, because the burden of guilt aggravates illness and perpetuates misery.

Ritual is the process that creates a space where the living and the ancestors come into close contact with each other and enter the cosmic field. The most important parts of any ritual ceremony are:

celebrating through song, dance, hand clapping and drumming

prayer, clapping of hands, singing, calling and appeasing the ancestors

an offering of traditional beer made from sacred millet, corn or grain and also snuff made from certain plants

sometimes a sacrifice of a cow, goat, sheep or chicken is made - if the ancestors wish so

Feasting: meat and porridge; traditional beer.

Sharing of all food, drink and enjoyment.



At the Shrine for the Ancestors

Beads and the Celebration of Life

Beads are a Means of Artistic Expression

Decorative elements on traditional objects were not created with an intention of any artistic expression only. They were primarily symbols of communication and could have more than one meaning.

We give objects their meaning in the way we use them; they reflect the beliefs and values of the people who use them.

Different Colours and Designs expose Identity and Belonging

On the continent of Africa, beads are one of the oldest of material media in craft production. Beads in various colours and different colour combinations are used abundantly in craft work production:

- For defining status of age groups;
- To signify royalty;
- To highlight various categories of group identity and belonging;
- For social, ethnic and group differentiation and association;

DANCING FISH GALLERY

designer crafts and the heritage based label

The present demand, internationally and local, for home decor stores and galleries created a new platform for creative expression. Product development and design has now become a profession.

Interventions and a hearty debate about rural authenticity, and a conducive environment for the promotion of 'our heritage' in the creative sector stimulated the explosion of new arts and crafts. Crafts making has become a means of job creation as well as an artistic outlet for many people and a unique South African style has become a reality.

Local traditions and customs and crafting techniques and skills have become the libraries and archives for new ideas with a deeper meaning. This revives new interest in our history and heritage.

And our own local crafters industries mirror the distinct local story of Venda, Tsonga and Northern Sotho (Lobedu, Hananwa, Baphalaborwa, Pedi, Roka and others). The label attached to arts and crafts on the market, especially the Madi a Thavha and other Limpopo Production Houses, contain the stories and memories of the makers and the owners of the unique ethnic groups represented here.





Day trips from Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge

Madi a Thavha organizes the following day tours:

- Elim tour – Craft Art and Culture
- Levubu Valley tour – Craft Art and Culture
- Letaba dam tour – Craft Art and Culture
- Western Soutpansberg tour - Culture, Nature and Community visit
- Land of Legend tour – Craft Art and Culture
- Lake Fundudzi tour – Nature and Culture



We advise to make use of the services of a local tour guide, because many places are not so easy to find and the guide gives you easy access to the workshops and homesteads in the villages. You can book a tour guide at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge.

Day activities at or around Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge

Madi a Thavha organizes the following day activities:

- Experience traditional music, dance and drama
- Workshops - Learn from our artists
- Walking
- Birding
- Mountain Bike tours
- Activities for Children





Elim tour – Craft Art and Culture

This tour brings you to Elim and surrounding villages, where you find various workshops of artists and crafters. The tour starts at Elim market, where you get a feel of the local atmosphere. The next stop is at Twananani Textiles, a group of women who are inspired by traditional Tsonga patterns and symbols to make beaded and embroidered products. They also run a crèche, and you will be invited to sing with the children. Driving further you arrive in Tshivhuyuni, the village where Thomas Kubayi runs his woodcarving workshop and music studio, Vutsila Art Centre. This is a nice spot for a break and to enjoy the beautiful landscape and your pick-nick lunch. Follow the road to Mukondeni Pottery Village and Pottery factory; here you see the famous Venda pots along the road. A group of women make traditional and contemporary Venda pots, fire places, bowls and clay beads. This is the main route of the tour, but the tour can be expanded based on your interest by additional loupes, visiting places of interest, community projects, schools or including activities.



Levubu Valley tour – Craft Art and Culture

This tour brings you to Elim, Levubu and Thohoyandou and surrounding villages, where you find many workshops of artists and crafters. The tour starts at Elim market, where you get a feel of the local atmosphere. The next stop is at the homestead of Sasavona Kubayi who still practices the skills of traditional grass weaving to make Tsonga baskets. Driving in the direction of Levubu you will find David Murathi. His homestead, workshop and small gallery with many sculptures, fishes, towel racks, hooks and mirrors are worthwhile to visit. David knows a lot about traditional healing and in his garden you find many indigenous and medicinal plants. From David's place you drive further in the direction of Vuwani, where you can visit the gallery of Noria Mbasa. The next destination is Thohoyandou, a vibrant and modern town, in the mean time Thohoyandou keeps its rural and traditional atmosphere. You find women selling vegetables, herbs, medicines, traditional pots and baskets and you will notice all the colourful stalls where they are sewing the Venda traditional dresses. You can take a break in the pleasant garden of the Khoroni Hotel before driving back to Louis Trichardt.





Letaba dam tour – Craft Art and Culture

This tour brings you to Elim, and via Chavani and Bungeni to the Letaba dam, where you find many workshops of artists and crafters. The tour starts at Elim market, where you get a feel of the local atmosphere. The next stop is at the homestead of Lucky Makamu. Besides being a wood carver, Lucky is a nice entertainer and it is interesting to hear his ideas about life in a rural area. From Lucky Makama, you go to Lucky again, also a woodcarver, musician and traditional story teller. His name is Lucky Ntima and his stories about the meaning of the sculptures are worthwhile to hear. A little bit further in Chavani, you will find Florence Matchume, a well know bead worker. In the next village Bungeni you will find Hlamarisa Vuma, she is disabled and sits on a grass mats doing bead work. After having passed the Letaba dam you drive in the direction of Nobelshoek where we find Johannes Maswangani. From carving traditional objects, Johannes moved to art work, his wooden and colourfully painted sangoma's and political figures are famous. Johannes appreciates that people visit his homestead, workshop and gallery, where he lives with his 2 wives, Anna and Esther and their children. Anna and Esther are very creative bead workers, making traditional and contemporary minceka's, bowls and necklaces. After having visited Johannes you drive back in the direction of Elim and Louis Trichardt.



Lake Fundudzi tour – Nature and Culture

From Madi a Thavha after going back to the N 1 you drive to the north, in the direction of Witvlag, through forestry, orchards with macadamia nut trees and tribal land. You pass various villages when you drive in the direction of Sibasa and Thohoyandou. After Fondwe village you turn to the left into the forest. From here you can visit the Vondo dam view point, Lake Fundudzi, Holy Forest and Mutale Falls, what is a nice spot for a pick-nick and swimming. Your tour guide will tell you all the secrets and legends of Lake Fundudzi and the Holy Forest, the lake and the forest are of spiritual significance for the Venda people. From here you drive back to the N1 and to Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge.





Land of Legend tour – Craft Art and Culture

From Madi a Thavha after going back to the N 1 you drive to the north, in the direction of Witvlag, through forestry, orchards with macadamia nut trees and tribal land. When heading in the direction of Sibasa you pass the Tshivhase and Mukumbani tea plantations that are recently re-established. You can take a break at the Phipidi water falls and continue your journey, passing Donald Freezer hospital, Khubvi, Woodcraft Thandama and Mutale Art and Crafts Centre. Albert Munyai, a famous woodcarver and traditional healer stays close to the centre and it is worthwhile to visit. You follow the road to the north in the direction of Thengwe and Moswodi. At the sign of Tshixwadza / Dalakhuredzi falls, you turn to the left to Mufulwi village, where you can visit the famous Venda potter and Proudly South Africa master crafter Rebecca Matibe. She will be delighted when you visit her homestead and she shows you how she is making her pots. After this experience you follow the gravel road from Mufulwi to Tshixwadza and Siloam hospital, from where you drive back to Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge.



Western Soutpansberg tour - Culture, Nature and Community visit

This tour leads you around the Western Soutpansberg, a route of about 170 kilometers, experiencing diverse natural landscapes. The tour starts at Louis Trichardt, where you can visit the local market and taxi bus station, where you get a feel of the local atmosphere. From Louis Trichardt you take the N1 to the north, pass the tunnels and take the northern road along the Soutpansberg mountains. Along this road you see endless bush land with many beautiful baobab trees. After about 40 kilometres you see the Salt pans at your left side. The Salt pans can be visited during working days. Follow the road to Vivo, and turn on the southern Soutpansberg with magnificent mountain and rock formations. Further along this road you can visit Buysdorp, where a small coloured community from the Cape settled. You can also visit a Primary school with a beautiful perma culture vegetable garden in Ravele. Driving further you find Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge about 8 kilometres before Louis Trichardt. The Dancing Fish gallery at the lodge accommodates a permanent exhibition about Venda, Tsonga and Northern Sotho cultures and the development of their art and crafts from traditional to transitional to contemporary. The Craft Art shop shows the work of 25 artists, crafters and crafts groups in Northern Limpopo.





Experience traditional music, dance and drama

- Thomas Kubayi – Tshivuyini: dancing, singing, story telling performances
- Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge: dancing, singing, story telling performances
- Tambani – Folovhodwe: traditional story telling

Workshops - Learn from our artists

- Workshop woodcarving
- Workshop traditional pottery techniques
- Workshop traditional music instruments
- Workshop textile decoration
- Workshop traditional bead work techniques
- Workshop block printing and fabric painting
- Workshop glass beads and jewelry



Walking

Walks in the Soutpansberg mountains at Medikwe, Hanglip, Schoemansdal Environmental Centre and Etambeni).

Birding

Birding in the Soutpansberg mountains, Albasini dam, Roodewal, Etambeni, Campsites Golwe and Gundani.

Mountain Bike tours

Cycling around the Western Soutpansberg mountains and guided mountain bike tour visiting Tshikota village.





Activities for children

Madi a Thavha offers opportunities for children and their parents to experience a special and exciting holiday. While playing and enjoying the activities children learn about African culture and daily life of people living in the rural villages.

We have two large family guest houses available where you can prepare the meals yourself and eat with the children, but you can also eat in the farm house.

We always make sure that there is food that is nice for children. You can eat around a fire and children can prepare their own bread and snacks.

We can arrange a babysitter when parents would like to enjoy dinner by themselves. The meal for the children can be served in the family house.

Toys and games are available. Children who like making crafts can join the Madi a Thavha Design team. Children can play traditional music instruments and there is a box with African fabrics and clothes for doing performances.

There is a swimming pool at Madi a Thavha and water games are available.

The Elim art and crafts tour would be a nice activity for young children. During the tour children can play traditional music and decorate a small clay pot.

For families with teenagers a 4 x 4 adventure tour to the north of Limpopo would be an exiting experience. During the tour they will prepare lunch on a fire and it is possible to swim in a small mountain lake.





'Out of the beaten tracks' packages in Northern Limpopo offered by Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge

Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge offers various packages, including accommodations, itineraries, activities and tour guides to explore this unknown part of South Africa:

- Culture and Craft Art package (3 or 4 days)
- Secrets of Limpopo package (3 or 4 days)
- Far North of Limpopo package (7 days)
- Salt of the Earth package (6 nights)
- Birding package (4 days)



Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge is a comfortable base for these trips. Some of the trips are for the more adventures travellers, who like to experience the atmosphere of the bush and the rural environment. Accommodation during the adventurous trips is basic but the Madi a Thavha driver, tour guide and cook provides everything for an unforgettable evenings under the stars.



TOUR PACKAGES



Culture and Craft Art package (3 days)

After your first night at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge you make a trip to Elim and surrounding villages on the second day. Here you experience traditional village life and find local markets and the workshops of wood carvers, textile artists, potters and people who make musical instruments. On your way you can enjoy your pick-nick lunch at Thomas Kubayi's workshop and Art centre.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 2 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Guided day trip including transport and pick-nick lunch to Elim and surrounding villages (day 2).



Culture and Craft Art package (4 days)

From Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge you make a day trip to Land of Legends, Northern Venda. This trip leads you through traditional Venda villages and the magnificent nature of Northern Limpopo with its indigenous vegetation. You visit Mukumbani tea plantations, Albert Munyai, a famous woodcarver and traditional healer and Rebecca Matibe who is a famous Venda potter. The second day, an afternoon trip brings you to Elim and surrounding villages, where you find local markets and the workshops of wood carvers, textile artists and potters. At the end of the afternoon Thomas Kubayi welcomes you at his workshop for a music performance with his students. Snacks and drinks are available and after coming back at Madi a Thavha a late evening dinner is served.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 3 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Day trip including transport and pick-nick lunch to Land of Legends (day 2).
- Half day Craft Art trip included transport and pick-nick lunch to Elim (day 3).
- Music performance with Thomas Kubayi and his students, at Vutshila Art centre, including snacks and drinks.





Secrets of Limpopo package (3 days)

This tour leads you through forests and tribal land and brings you to Lake Fundudzi and Holy Forest. Your guide will tell you all the secrets and legends of the lake and the forest, which are of spiritual significance to the Venda people. From there you drive to Mutale falls for your pick-nick lunch and in the afternoon you visit Mukumbani tea plantations.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 2 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Guided day trip including transport and pick-nick lunch to Lake Fundudzi, Holy Forest and tea plantations (day 2).



Secrets of Limpopo package (4 days)

After your first night at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge this trip leads you through forests and tribal land and brings you to Lake Fundudzi and Holy Forest. Your guide will tell you all the secrets and legends of the lake and the forest, which are of spiritual significance to the Venda people. From there you drive to Mutale falls for your pick-nick lunch and in the afternoon you visit Mukumbani tea plantations. From the tea plantations you see Fundudzi Ivory Route camp high in the mountains. Driving up you pass the Royal kraal of Chief Tshivasa. Fundudzi camp has basic facilities, you sleep in traditional huts and hot water showers are available. When it gets dark, you enjoy the braai, and the women from the Royal Kraal show you their traditional dances. The next day you continue your trip to visit Albert Munyai, woodcarver and traditional healer and Rebecca Matibe, famous Venda potter. Your last stop is in Folovhodwe, where you find the Tambani embroiderers and story tellers.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 2 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- 1 night stay at Fundudzi Ivory Route, evening braai and breakfast included.
- 2 Day trips including transport and pick-nick lunch to Lake Fundudzi, Holy Forest, tea plantations, Albert Munyai, Rebecca Matibe and Tambani embroidery project. (day 2 – 3).
- Catering during the 2 days trip provided by the Madi a Thavha tour guide and driver.





Far North of Limpopo package (7 days)

After your first night at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge you make a trip to Elim and surrounding villages. Here you experience traditional village life and find local markets and the workshops of wood carvers, textile artists, potters and people who make musical instruments. You enjoy your pick-nick lunch at Thomas Kubayi's workshop. On the third day you are heading towards Mapungubwe National Park, at the border of Botswana and Zimbabwe. You follow the Southern Soutpansberg mountain range to Vivo and Alldays. After a break in one of the coffee shops of farmers village Alldays, you continue your route to the north. You stay in the self catering luxury huts of Leokwe Camp, amongst beautiful rock formations, baobab trees and a rock pool. During the afternoon you walk 'on the treetops' and visit the various view points along the Limpopo and Sweswe rivers. When it gets dark you make a fire at the boma of your hut and enjoy the braai that you took from Madi a Thavha. The Cultural Heritage tour is booked for you the next morning. After the tour you continue your route via Musina to Pafuri River Camp that is situated near Pafuri gate of the Kruger National Park. You can relax at the swimming pool or make a walk to the nearby Mutale river. The following day you enter the park and experience the most northern eco system of the Kruger National park. You can visit Thulamele archaeological site and Pafuri Pick-nick spot which is a birders paradise. You drive until the border with Mozambique and return. After this experience and a beautiful evening at Pafuri River camp, the Madi a Thavha tour guide will fetch you at Pafuri River camp the next morning to accompany you for a trip through Northern Venda.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 3 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Day trip including transport and pick-nick lunch to Elim and surrounding villages (day 2).
- 1 night stay at Leokwe Camp of Mapungubwe National park (entrance fee included), cooler boxes with braai pack, drinks and breakfast pack included.
- Cultural Heritage tour at Mapungubwe National park (day 4).
- 2 nights stay at the tented camp or tree top tents of Pafuri River Camp based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Day activity at Pafuri River camp: guided walk to Mutale Potholes or game drive (day 4).
- Guided trip including tour guide and pick-nick lunch to the Big Tree, Rebecca Matibe, Lake Fundudzi, Holy Forest, tea plantations and back to Madi a Thavha (day 6).



Salt of the Earth package (6 nights)

You make a trip to Elim and surrounding villages on the second day. Here you experience traditional village life and find local markets and the workshops of wood carvers, textile artists, potters and people who make musical instruments. Enjoy your pick-nick lunch at Thomas Kubayi's workshop. The next day you prepare for a 3 day trip to Gyani and surrounding village, the area where you meet with the colourful and highly artistic Tsonga people. The first day of the trip you visit Johannes Maswanganyi, famous from his colourful woodcarvings. Near Gyani you find Mapuva pots, a group of traditional women who make beautiful clay pots and Mtititi Magic, a group of women making traditional and contemporary Tsonga bead work and embroidery. From Mtititi Magic you drive to Baleni Ivory route camp. The camp has basic facilities, you sleep in traditional huts and hot water showers are available. When it gets dark, you enjoy the braai, prepared by the Madi a Thavha tour guide and the women from the village show you their traditional dances. The next day you visit Thomo, where Rich Mabunda leads you into the secrets of traditional life, by making a village walk, visiting homesteads of the Tsonga people and experiencing a traditional meal. In the course of the afternoon you drive back to Baleni Ivory route camp, where you enjoy again the sounds of the bush and the African sky. Next day you visit the places where women make salt by putting water in traditional filters while doing their rituals. You leave the camp and drive to the Tsonga Kraal, a traditional village with a small museum. From here you drive to Letsitile where you can visit the workshop of the Kaross weavers and enjoy lunch under the trees. From Letsitile you drive back to Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge.



This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha.
- 3 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- Guided day trip including transport and pick-nick lunch to Elim and surrounding (day 2).
- 3 days trip including tour guide / cook to Baleni Ivory Route camp, visiting artists and crafters around Gyani, traditional salt winning, Tsonga Kraal, Kaross Weavers (day 3-5).
- Cultural performance at Baleni Ivory Route camp.
- 2 night stay at Baleni Ivory Route Camp, evening braai / meal, breakfasts and pick-nick lunches included.
- Lunch at Kaross Weavers in Letsitile (day 5).



Birding package (4 days)

From Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge you make 2 guided birding trips to Birding hot spots of your choice (Hanglip, Roodewal, Etambeni, Albasini Dam) with Samson Mulaudzi, qualified Birding guide. You leave early in the morning and return to the lodge in the beginning of the afternoon, where you can relax at the swimming pool or continue bird watching around the farm house or in the mountain.

This package includes:

- Welcome drink and snacks.
- Guided visit to the Dancing Fish Gallery and Exhibition centre at Madi a Thavha or guided walk to the Baobab tree (day 1).
- 3 nights stay at Madi a Thavha Mountain Lodge based on dinner, bed and breakfast.
- 2 Guided Birding trips including birding guide, pick-nick breakfast / lunch to Birding hot spots of your choice (day 2 and 3).





tourism | craft art | development

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