

THIS WEEKEND

Camp in Marakele, become a beachcomber, tackle Long Tom and dare to cross a ghost bridge.

PERFECT PITCH • SECRET SPOT • GREAT DRIVE • TOWN

PERFECT PITCH



PICTURE WILLIERS STEYN

Bontle Campsite, Marakele National Park

Bontle is Setswana for “beautiful” and it’s no exaggeration. This popular campsite in Marakele National Park has a waterhole often visited by ostriches, impalas, tsessebe and white rhinos. The rhinos even occasionally wander past your tent. It’s quiet and uncomplicated – the perfect place to unwind for a weekend.

Facilities: 38 stands with power, and plenty of shade, arranged in three clusters. Each cluster has a small ablution block with hot-water showers

and washing-up areas. The bathrooms are wheelchair accessible.

Highlight: Park your chair at the edge of the campsite and watch the sun go down over the waterhole. Sit still long enough and the local wildlife might come within touching distance.

Things to do: Explore Marakele in your own vehicle. The park is split into two sections and is home to lions and leopards, although it’s much harder to find them than in the Kruger. For one of the best views in the Waterberg, drive to the summit of Aasvoëlkop and look for Cape vultures riding the thermals.

Where is it? The park gate is 12 km east of Thabazimbi.

GPS: S24.52154 E27.49350

Rates: From R185 per stand (for two people); R62 per additional adult (max six per stand). Conservation fee R30 per person per day if you don’t have a Wild card.

Contact: SANParks central reservations ☎ 012 428 9111; 🌐 sanparks.org

– Tabby Mittins

SANParks are in the process of putting up eight safari tents at Bontle. Construction is scheduled to finish at the end of September. – Ed.

VISITING HOUR. At Bontle there are no fences between you and the animals. Sharing your space with a visiting rhino is all part of a real safari experience.



Tell us about your favourite campsite.

Put “Perfect Pitch” in the subject line and write to 📧 editor@gomag.co.za. If you have a photograph, even better!