

The Battle of Sekhukhune Tourism Route

Footsteps of the Pedi Kings

Meet at the kgoro of the chiefs to prepare for a journey following the footsteps of the great kings of the Pedi nation that originated from the Bakgatla north of Pretoria, migrated further north to settle in Sekhukhuneland. Learn about the rise and fall of the Pedi Empire and the tales of the various kings who lead the Pedi to become a proud nation of more than 70 000 people with an army of 12 000 men during the reign of Sekwati.



Battle for Chieftainship

Follow the footpath up Ntswaneng to view the stronghold of Sekwati on Mosega. Hear how his two sons, Mampuru and Sekhukhune fought over the chieftainship, and how the greater power of Sekhukhune prevailed with Mampuru being forced to flee.

Battle of Sekhukhune I

At the statue of Kgoshikgolo Sekhukhune I where he overlooks the valley of Tšate, the story unfolds of deteriorating relationships with the Boers and missionaries and growing tension between the Pedi and the British after Transvaal was annexed by England in 1877. Come to understand what finally triggered the Battle of Sekhukhune between the Pedi, British and Swazi's in 1878 and 1879.





Battle Tactics

You will be introduced to the battle tactics of the various groups and the unfolding of events during the combined attack that was launched on the Pedi from four sides by the British and the Swazis in 1879.

Battle Casualties

The kopje called “rotten place” and the “bleeding hills” will tell the stories of fallen British soldiers that were buried in a mass grave before being laid to rest at the foot of Fighting Kopje, and the spilled blood of fallen Swazi’s that are etched into stone.



Soldiers Dressed for War

Clothes and weaponry of the British, Pedi and Swazi soldiers can be seen.



Pedi Women

The important role of the Pedi woman is portrayed at the communal grinding stone on the way to the entrance of the cave where Pedi women and children took refuge during the battle.

Tribe of the Noku

A visit to the Djate Tribal Authority office and the Royal Moshate to get a reflection of Pedi community structures and decision making processes as experienced today.



Unearthing History

Much of the story of Tšate are being told by clues left to us by the ancestors. These clues are unearthed by archaeological research that are being conducted at Tšate. Excavations unearthed one of the richest archaeological iron age sites in South Africa, with more than 870 pots that were reconstructed and carbon dated. Bone was also found that were modified with smooth or polished edges, including a spatula-like tool made from a rib fragment that were applied in a range of tasks, including skin working, as cutting tools, for perforation, etc. The EIA site at Tšate yielded only shell beads that were evidently strung as a necklace.

Archaeology

Visitors to Tšate are introduced to the science of Archaeology and the interpretation of the environment, historical information and archaeological sites. An archaeological site with historical hut floors and artifacts that bears testimony to the Battle and the royal kraal of Sehukhune are interpreted and visitors get the opportunity to do some excavations themselves.



New Battles

The walk back to the kgoro gives some insight into typical community life in Tšate, as well as the living conditions of people and the battles people face today.

