

# Pedi Living Culture Tourism Route

## Early Origins

In the kgoro of the chiefs, you will be taken back to the origins of the Pedi nation north of Pretoria where a new culture was born – the Bapedi. You will be introduced to the rituals for “cleansing” as part of the preparation for the journey ahead.



## Pedi Warriors

At the footpath to the statue of Kgoshikgolo Sekhukhune I, the rituals of the transition from boys to men are explained, and their clothes and weapons displayed. Ascending Ntswaneng, the great warrior King Sekhukhune I can be seen where he watches over Tšate valley.

## Pedi Women

The important role of the Pedi woman is portrayed at the communal grinding stone where women used to grind wheat while singing and discussing rites of passage and marriage.





### The Pedi Tribe

Passing the Tšate Tribal Authority office and the Royal Moshate, the changing of the Pedi totem from kgabo to noku will be explained. You will hear how decisions are made in the community and be exposed to some of the customary laws that is mainly used to maintain proper order as defined by their belief and religious concepts.

### Pedi Living

On the way to the hiking trail up the mountain, present day community life and houses can be observed. At the lookout point, the settlement pattern of the entire community nestled in the Tšate valley unfolds. This is compared to the historical living arrangements at the time of Sekwati and Sekhukhune I.



### Living of the Land

The indigenous knowledge of the Pedi are demonstrated when discussing nature and traditional uses of wild plants and animals. The changing lifestyle of the Bapedi raises new challenges and implications for both people and the environment are discussed.

### Religion and Education

The ruins of the Berlin Mission Station is testimony to the influence of Alexander Merensky and other German missionaries on the magical and naturalistic religion of the Bapedi, the important role they played in developing Sepedi into a written language and developing grammar books for education.





## Geological Riches

Alexander Merensky's son Hans, became the pioneer geologist of South Africa. Mineral samples of some of the major mineral deposits he discovered in the RSA, was found at the site. He also discovered the world's richest ore body e.g. the Bushveld Igneous Complex, with its rich platinum deposits that are being mined just north of Tšate.

## Livestock

The interplay of traditional beliefs and science are demonstrated in the livestock farming practises of the Bapedi. They value their livestock primarily for their social and religious value, and not their economic value. Take part in some of the daily activities and learn about the disease resistant indigenous Nguni cattle, Pedi sheep and the Africa dog.



## Agriculture

When visiting the communal vegetable garden, fresh vegetables can be bought from the Pedi women who are busy with their daily activities. Although more modern approaches are now followed, some historical practises and customs are still followed such as the ritual of rain-making. Learn about traditional methods of fertilizing and crop protection, as well as traditional foods and drinks.

