BACKGROUND AND HISTORY
Banhine National Park (BNP) covers 725,042.66 hectares and forms part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. BNP is an important tourism and ecological link between Limpopo and Zinave National Park in Mozambique and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

The Park was historically rich in large animals, including elephants and other plain ungulates such as zebra, wildebeest and eland. However, from the early 1960’s the capture of specimens such as Sable and Roan for International zoo’s, the commercial hunting and more recently subsistence hunting and poor management capacities have reduced wildlife numbers and distribution.

The Park was established in 1973 for conservation of fauna and flora of the semi-arid savannah environments, especially for the protection of ostrich and giraffe. While the latter is no longer found in the area the recent improved conservation and protection efforts will lead to natural and introductory increases in wildlife numbers.

The history of BNP reflects the migration of people over the centuries, with an early presence of Bushmen and later of Bantu speaking people and Arabic traders. During the Portuguese colonial period the area was known for its big game and hunting which tended to peak in the dry season when water was scarce and was often referred to as the “Serengeti of Mozambique” because of the large numbers of zebra, wildebeest and eland that occupied its wide-open grasslands.

WILDLIFE
Today a good population of ostriches live in the Park while kudu, d Valor, steenbok occur throughout the reserve along with reedbuck, oribi and impala. Elephant, buffalo and hippo seasonally move into the reserve and cheetah and lion are known to hunt the area which is a sign of increasing wildlife populations. Plans remain to reintroduce zebra, wildebeest, giraffe and other historical species to the landscape in coming years.

Although the birdlife of Mozambique in general is poorly known, 306 species have been recorded in BNP, including a number of rare and endangered species such as the wattled crane.

TOURISM
At the Park head quarters is a Tourist camp consisting of:

- 6 × 2 bed safari tents on platforms with en suite ablutions and solar lighting and plug point
- Camping area with communal ablutions
- Communal kitchen structure (guest must be self sufficient with regards to cooking facilities)
- Obtain special permission from the Park Management on entrance to the Park to camp within the Park.

IN THE PARK SO RESPONSE TIMES MAY VARY

- 600,000m
- 400,000m
- 900,000m
- 300,000m

THE BEST TIME TO VISIT IS DURING THE DRY WINTER
To Chicualacuala
To Mabalane
To Chokwe
To Mabuluco
Zinave NP

Fish Eagles Research Camp

The Ostrich (Struthio camelis)

Tracks inside the park

View from Campsite in BNP

HQ
Secondary Gravel Road
Terary Road - Surfaced
4x4 Track
Entrance control
Headquarters
Airstrip
Campsite
Tented Camp
Park Boundary
Pan / Lake
Village
Homestead
Dryland / Subsistence
Culvated land

Hariane Gate to Xlekhane to Banhine camp:
The entrance gate is located at Hariane post where an entrance fee is payable. From here it is +/-100 km on a sandy bush track to the main camp, which is Banhine Camp, located in the wetlands system of the park. This route will take the traveller south east through Mopane bush and grassland to Xlekhane village over a distance of +/-50 km from where the route will turn north east for a further +/-50 km to the camp. (+/- 3 hrs.)

Banhine Camp to Macuambe Post
From Banhine camp the traveller will travel in a southern direcon to Xlekhane village for +/- 50 km and will then find the turn off to the southeast to Macuambe Post. The road takes the traveller through +/- 63 km of Mopane bush, mixed thorn bush and vast open grasslands, the so called "Serenge" area of the park. (+/- 4 hrs ).

Hariane post to Xlekhane to Mungazi Post
From Hariane gate the route goes along a sandy track through Mopane bush and mixed thorn bush over a distance of some 50 km to the village of Xlekhane, which is in the middle of the park. From there the route turns south for +/-50 km to Mungazi Post on the southern border of the park. (+/- 4 hrs)