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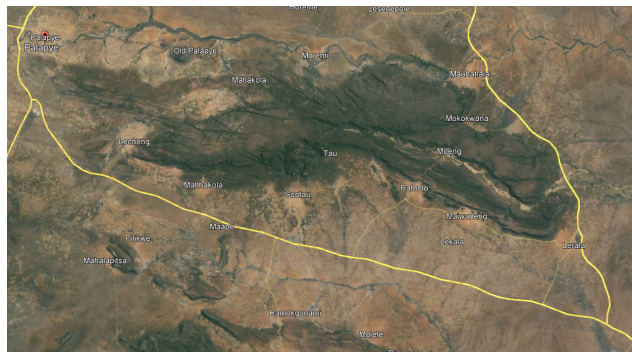
HIKING IN THE TSWAPONG HILLS OF BOTSWANA

There are many ways to experience the magic of Botswana, but to really immerse yourself in nature the best way to do it is on foot. Nothing between you and a primeval natural world.

The Tswapong Hills. Groblersbrug is just out of the satellite photo to the bottom right.



Much of Botswana is tribal land, where there are no restrictions on independent hiking. Plenty of wonderful places to explore. But sadly the hiking infrastructure is mostly undeveloped.



There are some exceptions. The Tswapong Hills in eastern Botswana are a massive block of ancient sandstone, rising to about 1300 m. These Hills are blessed with several well-marked hiking trails and have a number of well-spaced campsites. They are about 80 km from end to end, and just across the Limpopo River. Easily

accessed via the Groblersbrug border post.

Two of the best trails in the Tswapong area are the Porcupine Loop, an 8 km self guiding nature trail ; and the 6 hour OPM (Old Palapye to Modutela) Trail. The OPM Trail has a campsite at each end. Both trails are very well marked and no guide is needed. Borotelatshwene Gorge is another interesting day walk, which will take about 3 hours each way. All of these trails are free to walk. And this is Botswana – you can safely leave your car at the end of the road. It will still be there when you return.

The rugged Goo-Moremi Gorge on the N side of the hills holds a lovely track with steel gantries and fixed ropes to ease the difficult sections. The usual walk to the third waterfall takes several hours return. A five hour journey gets you all the way to the summit plateau. Both of these walks can be tackled only with a guide from the Goo-Moremi Resort, owned by the local village.



Batswana enjoy hiking too, though usually as a group activity. There are hiking clubs offering monthly excursions, and a fairly full calendar of major hiking and endurance challenges, usually charitable fundraisers. These often feature the Vice President as the Chief Hiker.

If you want to do some hiking on a visit to Botswana talk to us about the options. We are based in the Tswapong Hills ourselves and are well connected with the local hiking community.