



**RHODESIA'S**

# Great Outdoors

## PART TWO

**T**HERE are, in Rhodesia, vast areas of uninhabited land, where Nature still rules supreme. Here, protected by law, the animals and plant life exist undisturbed, as they have done for thousands of years. Their protection and preservation is maintained, in the words of the Parks and Wild Life Act, for "the enjoyment, education and inspiration of the public".

Within these areas the visitor may forget the routine that dominates his day-to-day life, and witness the rich diversity and interdependence of natural life.

Here, for the patient and the observant, are sights that will provide memories of a lifetime: the grey mass of an elephant herd padding thirstily to water; the agile bounding of a startled impala; the quarrelsome bickering of zebra; the stately mating dance of brilliantly coloured crested cranes; the lonely echoing call of a fish eagle; a hillside ablaze with flowering aloes; sun slanting through the dark shadows of ancient trees. These are not unusual occurrences — they are taking place every day in Rhodesia.

This brochure is an indication to the visitor of the principal areas where wild life may be seen, where plant life is particularly colourful or prolific, and what facilities for hunting are provided.





# Game viewing

Right: a kudu  
bull, with its  
spiral horns,  
a species  
widespread in  
Rhodesia.



Below: At  
some of the  
principal  
waterholes in  
Wankie  
National Park,  
game-viewing  
platforms and  
hides have  
been created.



FEW countries can offer the game viewing available in Rhodesia. Not only may a wide range and great number of animal species be seen, but the visitor may choose from a widely differing type of experience, dependent on his requirement and the time available.

There is a choice from absolute wilderness, to game parks near cities that may be seen in an afternoon's drive.

At the 1 900-square-kilometre Chizarira National Park, situated on a plateau to the south of Lake Kariba, the seeker of the real wilderness will find that the facilities are minimal and tracks are few. Elephant, black rhino, buffalo and a range of antelope may be seen, but this is not an area for the inexperienced.

At the 1 370-square-kilometre Matusadona National Park, on the shores of Lake Kariba, there are camping facilities and a safari company offers full tented accommodation. The presence of the permanent water in the lake has encouraged fairly large concentrations of animals. Elephant, buffalo, lion, waterbuck, impala and hippo are some of the species that may be seen. The bird life, always a feature of Rhodesia's game areas, is particularly prolific here, for there are both woodland and water species.

Nearer Kariba, extending from the township limits for 1 700 square kilometres along the north-eastern shore of the lake, is the Charara Safari Area. Here a network of game-viewing roads provides an opportunity for good game viewing as the animals move from their feeding grounds to drink on the shore. There is a caravan and camping site within the area.

The 4 964-square-kilometre Gonarezhou National Park is one of the more recently opened wild life areas. The attraction of this reserve is not only its wild life, but its scenery, for along the Lundi River are the spectacular Tjolojo Cliffs. Elephant, buffalo, waterbuck, impala and hippo are numerous here.

Similar game-viewing may also be undertaken in the adjacent Malapati Safari Area, which also includes the Manjinji Pan, an area of great interest to the ornithologist.

Rhodesia's largest national park, and the most developed for tourists, is the 14 620-square-kilometre Wankie National Park. This area is known world-wide as one of Africa's great wild-life sanctuaries. Due to the provision of pans, fed by boreholes which provide water all the year round, there are very large concentrations of game during the dry season particularly. Elephant, giraffe, zebra, wildebeeste, impala, and buffalo are numerous, while in the northern areas of the park, lion and cheetah are frequently sighted.

The park has three camps connected by a network of

*Eland and wildebeeste in the game park at the Rhodes Matopos National Park.*







*Elephant in Wankie National Park gather to drink at the fresh water provided by boreholes. In the dry season, this facility encourages the animals to congregate in large numbers.*

game-viewing roads. For the convenience of visitors there are liquor-licensed restaurants at each camp. Main Camp has its own airport, served by daily Air Rhodesia scheduled services, connecting with Salisbury, Kariba and the Victoria Falls. Visitors may game-view from their own cars, or use the services of tour operators' mini-buses.

Within the 5 730-square-kilometre Victoria Falls National Park, within half-an-hour's drive of the Falls, the visitor may see some of the greatest concentrations of the superb sable antelope to be seen in Africa. There are also good populations of waterbuck, zebra, eland and elephant. In addition to game-viewing by car within the game area of the national park, the visitor on a river cruise may see game on the banks of the Zambezi River and hippo in the river itself. A particularly exciting way of viewing game that can be enjoyed here is by small aircraft. These operate from an airfield within sight of the Victoria Falls. Elephant and other animals often move between the game area and the river, passing between the National Parks cottages on the river bank.

Near centres of population or major tourist areas, there are game areas within recreational parks. These have been established for those who do not find it convenient to travel to the wild-life national parks. Here they may see a representative selection of non-dangerous species of animals.

At Robert McIlwaine Recreational Park, near Salisbury, at Kyle Recreational Park, near Fort Victoria and Zimbabwe, and at the Rhodes-Matopos National Park, near Bulawayo, white rhino, waterbuck, wildebeeste, giraffe, sable and species of smaller antelope may be seen.

The Eastern Highlands is not an area noted for large concentrations of game, although as anywhere in Rhodesia occasional antelope are seen by visitors. But at Melsetter, within sight of the Chimanimani Mountains, an eland



*Above: A family of baboons wait their turn, while impala drink.*

*Right: Bird life in Rhodesia is prolific and colourful, but the crested crane is among the most beautiful.*



*Left: A lion in a private game farm near Salisbury.*





*The sable antelope (above), rare elsewhere in Africa, is widespread in Rhodesia. The visitor may also see its rarer cousin, the roan (below) in some parks.*



*White rhino may be seen at Wankie, Rhodes Matopos, Kyle and Mcllwaine game areas. Its aggressive cousin the black rhino, may be seen in Chizarira, Gonarezhou and Matusadona game areas.*

### DRIVING IN GAME AREAS

Visitors are advised to remain within the speed limits in game areas, not only because it is an offence not to, but as their game-viewing will be more enjoyable.

To animals, speed is an alarm signal, and they tend to panic and retreat into the deep bush if they see a vehicle travelling fast.

The recommended speed for game-viewing is approximately 25 km/h.

sanctuary has been created. This is an opportunity to see what is the largest member of the antelope family.

At Ngezi Recreational Park in the Midlands, and Mushandike Sanctuary near Fort Victoria, there are opportunities for good game-viewing of the medium and smaller sized antelope.

**CHARARA SAFARI AREA** (enquiries to Central Booking Office, P.O. Box 8151, Causeway, Rhodesia). Caravan and camping site, 24 km from Kariba.

**GONAREZHOU NATIONAL PARK.** The reserve is divided into two sections, the Chipinda Pools and Mahalautla areas, between which there is a road link. Entrance fee to reserve; 50c per person per day. Open May 1 to October 31.

**Chipinda Pools area,** P. Bag 7003, Chiredzi. T.A.: "Parklife", Chiredzi. Nearest petrol Chiredzi. **Chipinda Pools Camp,** 59 km from Chiredzi on gravel road: caravan and camping site. **Chinguli Camp,** 30 km from Chipinda Pools camp: camping site. **Chilojo Camp,** 30 km from Chipinda Pools camp: camping site.

**Mahalautla area,** P. Bag U5513, Bulawayo. T.A.: "Parklife", Bulawayo. **Swimwini Camp,** 116 km from Nuanetsi on gravel road: chalets, caravan and camping site. Regular petrol on site.

**KYLE RECREATIONAL PARK,** P. Bag 9136 Fort Victoria. Tel. 2913. T.A.: "Parklife", Fort Victoria. 32 km east of Fort Victoria. Lodges, camping and caravan site. Entrance fee to game park: 15c per adult, 10c per child (3-15). No petrol or store in park.

**MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK** (enquiries to Central Booking Office, P.O. Box 8151, Causeway, Salisbury). On southern shore of Lake Kariba. (By boat: 13 km from Bumi Hills, 48 km from Kariba. By road: 268 km from Karoi on gravel/earth road, unsuitable for saloon cars for last 82 km). Camping site at Tashinga on lakeshore. Camping site with limited ablution facilities at Changachirere, which is open May 1 to October 31.

*Inquisitive ostriches examine a visitor's car. Visitors are reminded it is forbidden, and dangerous, to feed animals in game areas.*





**MUSHANDIKE SANCTUARY**, P. Bag 9036, Fort Victoria. Tel. 2945-25 Fort Victoria. T.A. "Parklife", Fort Victoria. 40 km from Fort Victoria. Caravan and camping site.

**NGEZI RECREATION PARK**, P. Bag 207, Featherstone. Tel. Umniati 426. Featherstone 63 km, Battlefields, 67 km, Que Que 88 km. Cottages, lodges, caravan and camping site.

**RHODES-INYANGA NATIONAL PARK**, P. Bag T. 7901, Umtali. Tel. 1450, Inyanga. T.A. "Parklife", Inyanga. Mare Dam, lodges and cottages, one attendant to each unit. **Umtali Falls**: one chalet. **Pungwe Drift**: cottages. **Rhodes Dam**: lodges. **Udu Dam**: lodges. **Caravan Park**: large well-treed site. **Inyangombe Camping Site**: (enquiries to Central Booking Office, P.O. Box 8151, Causeway, Salisbury). Bush camp. Open May 1 to October 31.

**RHODES-MATOPUS NATIONAL PARK**, P. Bag K. 5142, Bulawayo. Tel. Matopos 0-1913. T.A. "Parklife", Bulawayo. **Maleme Dam** is 54 km from Bulawayo, while **Mtshalele**, **Mpopoma** and **Toghwana** are further within the park. **Maleme Camp**: chalets, cottages, caravan and camping site. **Mpopoma Dam**: caravan and camping site (boil drinking water). **Mtshalele Dam**: caravan and camping site (boil drinking water). **Toghwana Dam**: caravan and camping site (boil drinking water). **Arboretum**: caravan and camping site (boil drinking water). Entrance fee to game park: 15c per adult, 10c per child (3-15).

**ROBERT MCHILWAINE RECREATIONAL PARK**, P. Bag 962, Norton. Tel. 229 Norton. T.A. "Parklife", Norton. 40 km west of Shy on Bya road. **Game Park**, on southern shore of lake, entrance fee 15c per adult, 10c per child (3-15); lodges, chalets. **North Bank**: caravan park and camping site. Firewood must be provided by caravanners and campers.

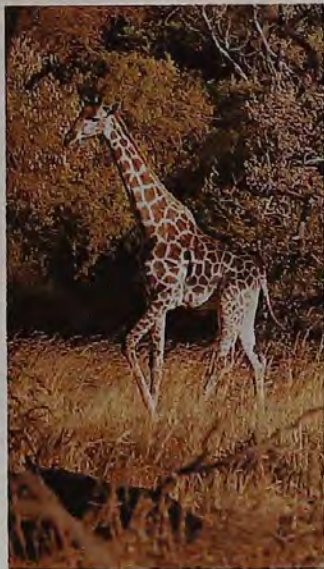
**WANKIE NATIONAL PARK**, P. Bag DT. 5776, Dett. Tel. 64 Dett. T.A. "Parklife", Dett. Entrance fee: \$2.00 per adult for 10 days, children 3-16 25 cents, children under 3 free. Cars entering the park towing caravans or trailers may only use those roads which offer the shortest route from the park entrances to the caravan sites, and are prohibited from towing on all other park roads. **Main Camp**: lodges, cottages, chalets, caravan park, camping site. Licensed restaurant, store, petrol. **Sinamatella Camp**: lodges, cottages, caravan and camping site. Licensed restaurant, store, petrol. **Robins Camp**: chalets, caravan and camping site. Licensed restaurant, store, petrol. **Nantwich**, 11 km from Robins: lodges, Main Camp and Sinamatella are open all year. **Robins** and **Nantwich** from May 1 to October 31.

**VICTORIA FALLS NATIONAL PARK**, P. Bag 5920, Victoria Falls. Tel. 222 T.A. "Parklife", Victoria Falls. **Zambesi Camp**, 6.5 km upstream from Falls: lodges and cottages. Entrance fee to game reserve: \$1.00 per vehicle. Game park open May 1 to October 31.



Above: Hippo in the Lundi River in the Gonarezhou National Park.

Below: Zebra, a common species, at a waterhole in the Wankie National Park.



The markings of a giraffe match the dappled shade of the woodland it inhabits.

Although leopard are numerous in Rhodesia, because of their nocturnal habits they are infrequently seen.



## REMAIN IN YOUR CAR

Visitors to game areas are not permitted to leave their cars while on game-viewing drives. This requirement is to protect the visitor, who often does not appreciate how dangerous a wild animal can be. Visitors who break the rule may be required to leave the park. In addition to paying a fine — a step National Parks staff are most reluctant to take.



# Wilderness trails



A guide on a wilderness trail points out the various spoor at a waterhole. It is this individual and informative commentary, as much as actual game viewing, that makes the trails so memorable.

TO take a wilderness trail within a wild life area is often one of the most exciting parts of a visitor's tour of Rhodesia. This is a conducted walk through the bush with a skilled guide, who not only takes his group game-viewing, but points out aspects of the natural surroundings that would escape the normal person's attention. Insects, plants (and the medicinal and other uses they are put to by local people), bird life, all form part of a fascinating commentary.

Game-viewing on foot is perfectly safe, but many have commented on the fact it has a way of adjusting the scale between humans and animals that can be disconcerting for the nervous.

At Wankie and Gonarezhou national parks, the staff provide the guides, but within Matsadona National Park, and the Matetsi and Malapati safari areas, commercial operators provide the service, and tent camping in the wilderness is often an added feature.

Nearer the main centres, in game areas within recreational parks, shorter versions of wilderness trails, known as nature trails, may be undertaken. These are of a few hours' duration, and are within areas where there are no dangerous species present. Private game farms throughout the country also provide this opportunity for a close acquaintance with the bush and wild life.

While restrictions on the public wandering through the bush on foot are strictly enforced in game areas — for obvious reasons — the visitor interested in walking through wild areas for the sheer pleasure of blazing his own trail, or for botanical or ornithological interest, can do so within the Inyanga, Chimanimani, Rhodes Matopos national parks or Ngezi Recreational Park. The only restriction is on camping, which may be undertaken only within designated areas.

At Inyanga, the mountain flowers, aloes and the fascinating forests of pygmy msasa trees draw the visitor off the beaten track. At Chimanimani, high in the mountains, many unique species of plant life, including

Stalking game on a wilderness trail can be an exciting, and rewarding, experience for the cameraman.





terrestrial and epiphytic orchids may be found. Occasionally eland and sable are also seen.

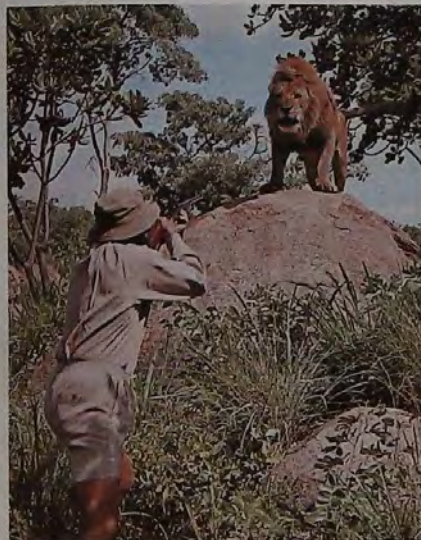
At the Matopos, the huge granite rock formations provide innumerable viewpoints for the energetic, and the plant and bird life is particularly rich. The area boasts the

heaviest concentration of black eagles in the world.

At Ngezi, there is an opportunity to view game on unescorted walks around the small lake that forms the heart of this Midlands recreational park. This facility is also available at Mushandike Sanctuary, near Fort Victoria.



## Hunting



The dangerous African buffalo (above), and the graceful waterbuck (below) are two of the larger animals that may be hunted in Rhodesia. The reedbuck (right) is one of the smaller species available.



**E**LEPHANT, lion, leopard, buffalo, sable, giraffe, hippopotamus, kudu, eland, waterbuck and zebra are some of the species that may be hunted in Rhodesia. Many specimens shot in the past have found their way into the record books, but it is possibly the opportunity to obtain a bag representative of many species that attracts the hunter today.

Hunting for big game can be undertaken within safari areas, which are part of the Parks and Wild Life Estate, or on privately owned land. The competition for concessions within safari areas is fierce, and the visitor is advised to contact professional hunters who offer a complete safari service. This includes the obtaining of necessary licences and permits, travel, accommodation, meals, and even weapons, if necessary. Rhodesia's hunting season runs from May to September, inclusive.

The following are among specimens that have found their way into the record books in recent years:

Sable (1973)	50 1/2 in.
Kudu (1964)	62 1/2 in.
Eland (1969)	37 1/2 in.
Buffalo (1963)	50 1/2 in.
Waterbuck (1963)	33 1/2 in.
Wilbebeeste (1969)	29 1/2 in.
* Lion (1975)	10 ft. 4 in.

\* Record in process of application.





## Botanical interest



Masses of aloes in full flower (above) are a common sight at Ewanrigg during the height of the season (June to July), although there is always colour in the garden. The cycads at Ewanrigg (below) are believed to be the world's oldest surviving plant species.



WITH its range of altitude (from 365 metres to 2 280 metres), and rainfall, (from 350 millimetres per year to 1 700 millimetres per year), Rhodesia is host to an almost bewildering range of colourful and interesting flora. Wherever the visitor travels, he will witness this richness, from the grotesque and ancient baobabs of the lowveld to the graceful mountain acacias of the Eastern highlands. Of particular note are the aloes, 30 species of which occur in Rhodesia.

For the purposes of research and conservation, and for the enjoyment of the public, botanical reserves and gardens have been created, where in a relatively small area is encompassed a wide variety of plant life.

In Salisbury, at the National Botanic Garden only four kilometres from the city centre, within 66 hectares of lawns, are gathered over 700 species of indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs. The garden also houses the National Herbarium, which contains over 200 000 plant specimens.

Forty kilometres from Salisbury is the aloe wonderland of the Ewanrigg Botanical Garden, where within 283 hectares of natural woodland is set 28 hectares of aloe gardens, with brilliantly coloured specimens ranging from the seven-metre-high *Aloe bainesii* and the four-metre-high *Aloe excelsa*, to the diminutive *Aloe bakerii*. This is one of the world's finest displays of this interesting and beautiful plant form. There is also an extensive collection of cycads,



an ancient genus that may be found growing wild in Rhodesia, and an interesting cacti garden.

High in the Vumba Mountains, 32 kilometres from Umtali, is the 150-hectare Vumba Botanical Garden and Reserve. Thirty hectares of the park has been developed and landscaped. With its high rainfall of 1 676 millimetres the Vumba is the most lush botanical garden, and the humidity encourages the growth of ferns, particularly the tree fern, some specimens of which are hundreds of years old. There are also fuchsias, azaleas, slopes literally covered with hydrangeas, proteas, and many aloes and exotic shrubs. Within the reserve is the Bunga Forest, an extensive and unspoiled area of indigenous mountain forest. The garden has a small caravan and camping site.

Thirteen kilometres from Umtali is the National Trust property of La Rochelle, once the home of the late Sir



*A view of part of the Vumba Botanical Garden, where landscaped areas and natural forest complement each other.*



*In the National Botanic Garden, Salisbury, the visitor may see over 700 species of indigenous and exotic trees.*

*Below: The Big Tree, in the Chirinda Forest Botanical Reserve.*



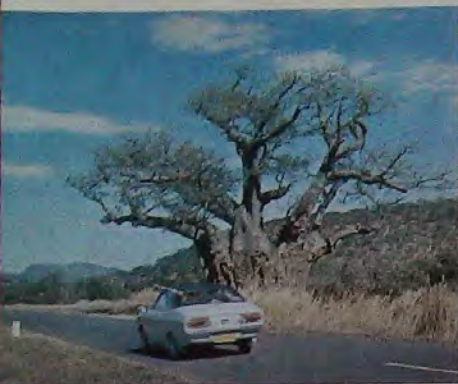
Stephen and Lady Courtauld. The 14 hectares of grounds display a variety of formal gardens and careful landscaping, and there are numerous water gardens, waterfalls and fountains, all within the beautiful wooded Penhalonga valley. A luxury chalet within the grounds may be rented by tourists.

In the southern part of the Eastern Highlands, near Chipinga, is the Chirinda Forest, the remains of a primeval forest that once blanketed Central Africa. Rhodesia's tallest indigenous tree, a 65-metre-high *Khaya nyasica*, known as the Big Tree, may be seen here. Almost 10 square kilometres of the area has been declared the Chirinda Forest Botanical Reserve.

Even in the middle of Rhodesia's cities, the visitor is never far from superb municipal parks and gardens. Bulawayo, Salisbury and Umtali are remarkable for the high standard and size of their public gardens.

*Part of the formal gardens at the National Trust property, La Rochelle; the home of the late Sir Stephen and Lady Courtauld.*





Wherever the visitor travels in Rhodesia, he will find features of botanical interest, such as giant baobabs along the roadside in the lower-lying areas (left), or brilliant flowers such as the Flame Lily (right).



Jacaranda trees (above) may be found in almost every urban centre, while local municipal gardens display a variety of colourful indigenous and exotic flora (left).



## Accommodation

### National Parks

**T**HERE are over 250 chalets, cottages and lodges in Rhodesia's national parks, providing accommodation for over 1 000 visitors. All are equipped with basic furniture, including refrigerators and bedding, and have paraffin pressure-lamps, gas or electric lighting. Firewood must generally be purchased from park authorities. There are also caravan and camping facilities in almost every national park. These are usually situated in picturesque surroundings, with ablution blocks and braai sites.

Dogs are not allowed in any accommodation area, caravan park or camping site, in any park, without the prior permission of the warden having been obtained. Such permission will be granted only in exceptional cases, such as a lead dog for a blind person. Under no circumstances will a dog be allowed in any wild life area.

Restaurant facilities are provided in Wankie National Park only. In all other national parks visitors must bring and cook their own food, or rely on nearby hotels, where these are available.

**Chalets:** One- or two-bedroom units, with cooking utensils, but with external cooking facilities and communal ablution blocks (baths, showers, basins, all with hot and cold water, and toilets). Guests must supply own cutlery and crockery.

**Cottages:** One- or two-bedroom units with cooking



National parks accommodation is always designed to fit in with its surroundings. This unit is at Wankie National Park.





*Above: Elephant outside the cottages at Victoria Falls National Park. Below: A lodge at Rhodes Inyanga National Park.*



utensils, a kitchen with stove (except at Wankie, where there is no kitchen), and bathroom and toilet. Guests must supply their own cutlery and crockery.

**Lodges:** Two or more rooms, including a kitchen with stove, internal bathroom and toilet, bedding for two/four persons, cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery, and the services of an attendant.

**Caravan and Camping Sites:** All caravan and camping sites have communal ablution blocks, braai sites, and occasionally electric lighting.

**Bush camps:** In some national parks bush camps have been created. These are units of accommodation many kilometres away from the main complexes, and may be hired exclusively by a family or group. The camps carry with them the privilege of unescorted game-viewing on foot.

## Other areas

Commercial concerns offer a variety of accommodation for their guests game-viewing in safari areas or on private land.

Near Wankie National Park's Main Camp is the three-star Wankie Safari Lodge, which offers both full hotel and bush camp facilities.

In the Matetsi Safari Area, the Matetsi Wild Life Leisure Resort can provide motel, chalet, dormitory and caravan and camping facilities.

At Malapati Safari Area, chalet accommodation with full board is available.

On the shores of Lake Kariba, in the Matusadona Game Reserve, Kazungula Safaris provide luxury tented facilities, as does Spurwing Island, just off the mainland.

On private game areas throughout Rhodesia a wide choice of accommodation, from lodges to tents, is offered.



*Elephant at a waterhole at the three-star Wankie Safari Lodge.*

*Below: Part of the licensed restaurant at Main Camp, Wankie National Park.*



*Matetsi Wild Life Leisure Resort, at the Matetsi Safari Area.*





Tented accommodation, such as this at Kazungula's camp at Matusadona National Park, enables the visitor to get close to the sights and sounds of the bush.

## PLANT LIFE IS PROTECTED

Within National Parks areas all plant life is protected, and there are heavy penalties for picking flowers, taking seeds, or cutting trees. In addition, certain species of flora are protected generally, wherever they may be found.

## ADDRESSES

- For further information on Rhodesia's national parks, please write to the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management, P.O. Box 8365, Causeway, Rhodesia. Tel. Salisbury 707624.
- For bookings at any national park, write to the Central Booking office, P.O. Box 8151, Causeway, Rhodesia.
- For information on hunting safaris, and commercial companies offering game-viewing and photographic safaris and wilderness trails, please write to the Rhodesia National Tourist Board, P.O. Box 8052, Causeway, Rhodesia. Tel. 706511. This address should also be used by those seeking information on Rhodesia's many other tourist attractions.



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