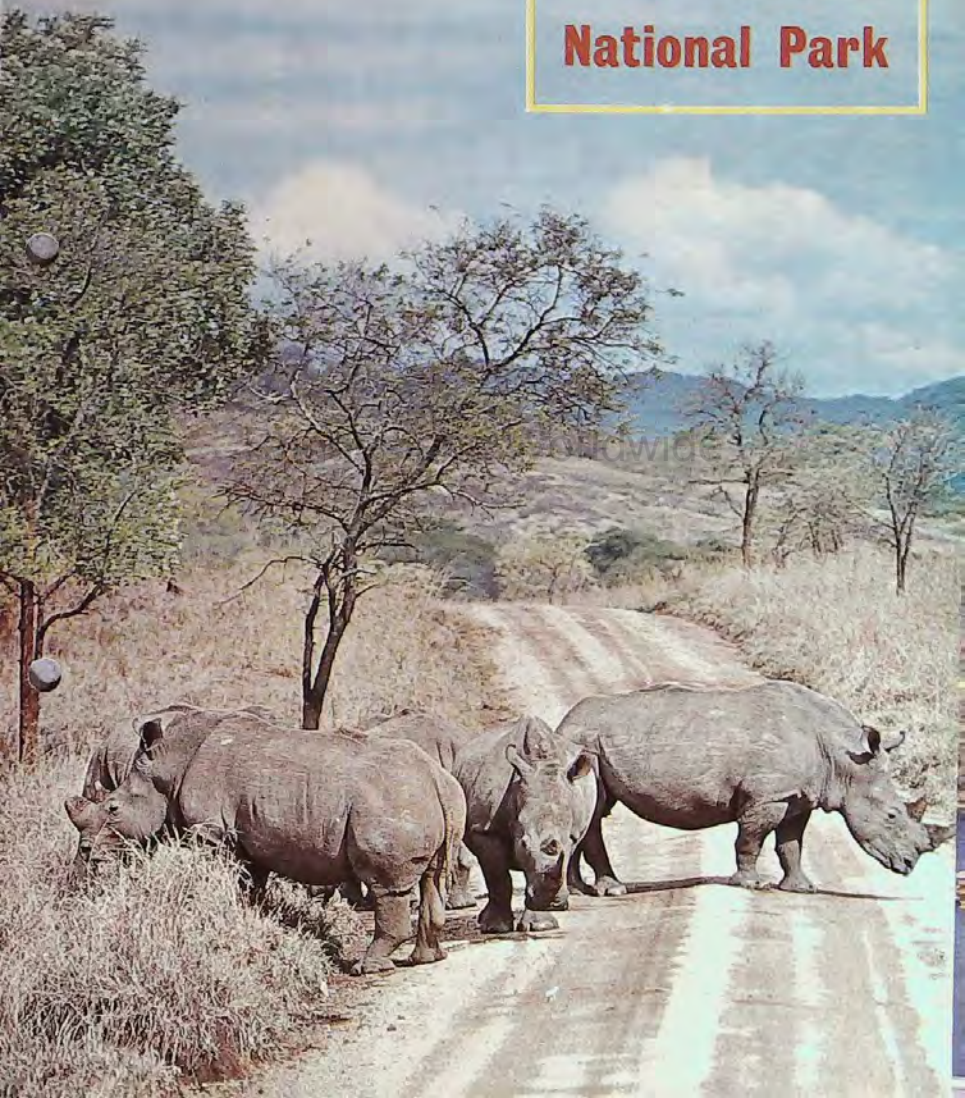


Rhodesia's
KYLE
National Park





The roadway across the 203-foot-high dam wall leads to the scenic Murray McDougall Drive. On the hill overlooking the wall is a small tearoom.

Skiing across the blue waters, with the Nyuni Mountains in the background.



KYLE National Park, situated on the south-eastern edge of the highveld, is one of the loveliest of Rhodesia's many national parks. Centred on Lake Kyle, the second-largest lake in the country (which was created as part of the vast irrigation complex for the Lowveld), the park offers the visitor beautiful scenery, boating and fishing, and some of the most concentrated and interesting game-viewing in Rhodesia.

The sealing of the Mtilikwe River by the 200-foot-high, 1,000-foot-long Kyle dam has caused the river to flood back up the valleys of its tributaries until the lake now spreads over 35 square miles, with one of the most varied shorelines of any of Rhodesia's inland waters.

Boating on these wide expanses of water is very popular, and from the clubs situated on the southern shore, quite close to the dam wall, the bright sails of yachts and the creaming wakes of power-boats and water-skiers add colour to the

scene. Many visitors hire boats and explore the hundred-and-one picturesque bays and inlets along the 160-mile-long shoreline, or the small islands of tumbled rocks, on many of which cormorants and herons have established nesting colonies. Others take guided boat tours.

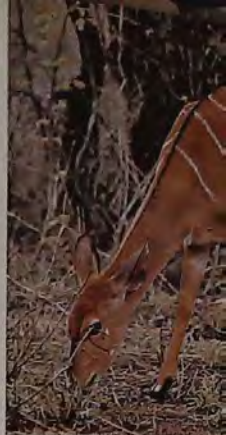
As the lake has grown, thousands of black bass fingerlings have been introduced, and these have grown so well that an international bass-fishing contest is held here each year. The largest bass caught in the lake weighed over 7 lb., but catches of up to 4 lb. are quite common. The Rhodesian bream (or more correctly *Tilapia melanopleura*) is also present in large numbers. Moreover, fishing can be enjoyed the whole year round.

The park is best known, however, for its 20,000-acre game reserve situated on the lake's northern shore. There are over 30 rare White, or square-lipped, rhino in this reserve, and they can often

be seen in groups of six or seven. The good conditions under which the animals live have favoured a high breeding rate, and the young of most species in the reserve can be seen, the young rhino calves being a firm favourite among visitors.

Another attractive feature of this reserve is the great variety of antelope to be seen—more species than in any other single national park — including the very rare oribi, Lichtenstein's hartebeeste, blesbok and nyala. Along the 40 miles of gravel roads that traverse the reserve motorists have a wonderful opportunity to see an abundance of wild life at close quarters. The reserve is open the whole year round, although in extremely wet weather some of the roads may be closed.

Within the game reserve itself is a rest camp which can only be described as "luxury in the bundu". Built on a hill overlooking the lake, six two-bed and three four-





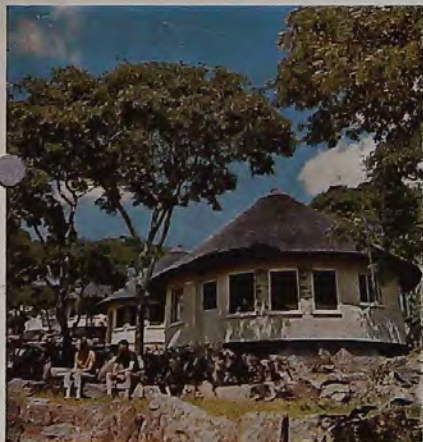
Kyle Game Reserve is the home of some of Rhodesia's rarer types of antelope. Nyala (left), tsessebe (below), oribi, bleb-bek and Lichtenstein's hartebeeste, seldom seen in other national parks, can be approached quite closely by visitors in their cars.



Fishing for bass can be enjoyed the year round at Kyle. The record bass caught weighed 7 lb., but catches of 4 lb. are quite common. Licences are available from the Kyle and Zimbabwe National Parks offices.



On the southern side of the lake, at the thriving Kyle Boat Club, regular regattas and power-boat races are held. Visitors are always welcome, but all craft must be registered with the Warden.



Within the game reserve, these lodges provide complete facilities for the holidaymaker, including a servant. Visitors need only bring their food.

Around the lake and on the numerous islands is a prolific bird life, while in the reserve the world's largest bird, the ostrich, can be seen.





bed lodges rise in terraces in the shade of *misasa* trees. These are fully furnished, including a gas cooker, refrigerator, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, bed linen, blankets and towels. A servant is provided. On a nearby hill is a caravan and camping site, which also enjoys a beautiful view of the lake.

Wherever one is at Kyle, whether on the lake or in the reserve, there is always a background of lovely scenery. To the west, bordering the reserve, rise the soft outlines of the Beza Range, while to the east the more dramatic peaks of the Nyuni Mountains rise, thickly wooded to their summits, like colossal draperies.

A favourite scenic road is the Murray McDougall Drive, named after one of the pioneers of the Lowveld development. It runs from the dam wall, skirting the western shores of the lake and passing under the shadow of the Nyuni Mountains until it joins the main Fort Victoria-Birchenough Bridge road 17 miles east of Fort Victoria. For visitors staying in the rest camp at the reserve the journey can be made in the opposite direction, with a break at the Zimbabwe Ruins for tea or lunch.

HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest town to Kyle National Park is Fort Victoria, which is 178 miles south of Salisbury and 179 miles north-east of Bulawayo. Access to the northern shore of the lake, where the game reserve and rest camp is situated, is gained from a turn-off eight miles east of Fort Victoria on the road to Birchenough Bridge. From this turn-off a well-maintained gravel road leads for 12 miles to the rest camp, passing through part of the game reserve. The southern shore, where there is chalet and camping accommodation and caravan parks, and where the boat clubs and dam wall are to be found, is 24 miles south of Fort Victoria, on the road that passes through the Zimbabwe National Park. There are hotels at Fort Victoria, Zimbabwe and just off the Murray McDougall Drive in the Nyuni Mountains.

As well as the rarer types of antelope and the White rhino, the reserve has good populations of buffalo, eland, sable, reebra, kudu, waterbuck, impala, wildebeeste and redbuck.



There are attractive caravan parks, both on the southern shore of the lake and within the game reserve itself.

Evening light adds to the beauty of this lakeland national park



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