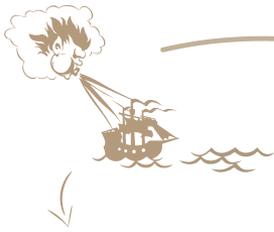


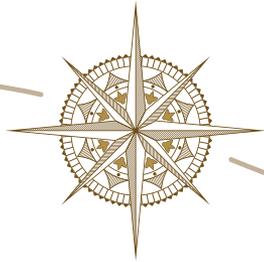
# KRUGER HISTORY.

The lowveld (location of Kruger Park) and the interior had far more exotic goods that attracted the attention of Arab traders in search of riches and new products. Africa had 'white gold' in the form of elephant ivory. It had 'yellow gold', the precious metal that kings and sultans desired and in the late Iron Age, it had 'Black Gold' - slaves.

Not until 1725, did the first Europeans encounter the hostile Lowveld. Francois de Cuiper, a Dutchman, crossed the Lebombo Mountains.



International trade in South Africa began about 1000 years before gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand. Copper from Phalaborwa and Balule, salt from Eiland, and crops like sorghum and beans, had long been traded locally.



No sooner had he entered the present day Kruger National Park, than he was attacked at Gomondwane by the local tribesmen and beat a hasty retreat to the coast.



The first European to return was Joao Albasini, a Portuguese trader who ventured from Delagoa Bay in 1830, and began establishing trade links inland.



1813

For another century the area remained a mystery to adventurous Europeans, who had already circumnavigated the World but had not yet conquered or colonised Africa, its wildlife or its people. In time the Lowveld became known as the 'White Man's Grave'.

In 1898, President Paul Kruger proclaimed the area between the Crocodile and Sabi Rivers as the Sabi Game Reserve.



By the end of the century, hunting mania had wiped out the Lowveld's huge herds of game.

1898



1903



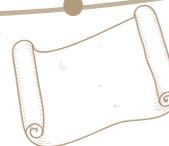
1903, between 2000 - 3000 people were moved out of the Sabi Reserve. Similar removals were conducted throughout Kruger's history. Major James Stevenson-Hamilton was appointed the first warden and told to manage a piece of land the size of the Netherlands. The short statured, short tempered Scotsman achieved this and earned himself the name 'Skukuza', meaning "he who turns things upside down".

Farmers voiced stiff opposition accusing the Reserve of being "a breeding ground for lions". Both domestic stock and people were attacked. Harry Wolhunter possibly South Africa's most famous ranger, he was attacked by a lion in 1903. As the big male dragged him off, he felt for its heart and stabbed it fatally with his sheath knife.

1927

In 1927 3 cars entered the Park. Two years later there were 850 cars visiting for a fee of one pound. Over the next 50 years some 150 000 people visited the Kruger National Park annually. Today there are 700 000 wildlife enthusiasts who visit the Park every year, enjoying the fruits of a long, fascinating and hard won battle to create one of the finest Game Parks in the World.

1926



On 31 May 1926 the National Parks Act was proclaimed and with it, the merging of the Sabi and Shingwedzi Game Reserves into the Kruger National Park.