



CTS HERITAGE

Rock Art Sites

The National Heritage Resources Act is the overarching legislation that provides the framework for the protection of Rock Art Sites. The preamble to this legislation frames the intention of this legislation:

“This legislation aims to promote good management of the national estate, and to enable and **encourage communities to nurture and conserve their legacy** so that it may be bequeathed to future generations. Our heritage is unique and precious and it cannot be renewed. It helps us to define our cultural identity and therefore lies at the heart of our spiritual well-being and has the **power to build our nation**. It has the potential to affirm our diverse cultures, and in so doing shape our national character.

Our heritage celebrates our achievements and contributes to **redressing past inequities**. It educates, it deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathise with the experience of others. It facilitates healing and material and symbolic restitution and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs.”

*Rock Art Sites are protected in terms of section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act As such, **fines of up to R10,000** can be imposed if anyone is convicted of adding graffiti to the site.*

Certain behaviours are appropriate, and certain behaviours are not appropriate at a site like this.

DON'T:

- Dig into the sediment
- Remove any archaeological material from the site
- Graffiti the cave walls
- Wet or add any substance to the rock surface to make the paintings more visible
- Kick up dust in the cave
- Touch the paintings
- Try to chip the paint off
- or
- Light fires in the cave

DO:

- Take photographs
- Report any disturbance to the site
- Report any evidence of graffiti
- Respect the rarity and heritage value of rock paintings in the area
- Be aware that they were made at least a thousand years ago
- Be reminded that the paintings are part of the irreplaceable heritage of the San and Khoekhoe and their descendants
- And note that
- If they are damaged by careless behaviour, they cannot be repaired.

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