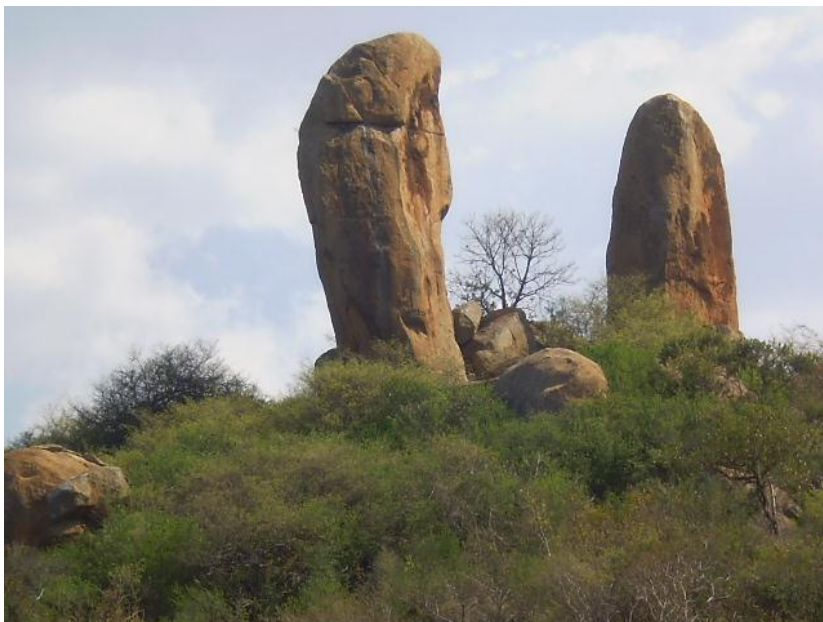


Geosites

Geosites is a collection of geologically interesting places (sites), which include geological outcrops, waterfalls, estuaries, beaches and viewpoints generally accessible to the public and need not be important or unique. These places all over the world have been visited since time immemorial and people would go to waterfalls for instance for some rituals and religious ceremonies. In recent times these places have attracted tourists who may or may not be geoscientists and because of their scenic nature developments in their vicinity have had positive impacts in tourism, hence the term geo-tourism. There are several places in southern Africa such as the Victoria Falls, just to mention a few.



Locality: E031 °26' 01.6"

S 27° 05' 34.1"

Locality name: Tjedze (Shiselweni Region)

Texture: The Kwetta granite a very coarse grained texture with large rounded crystals of potassium feldspars surrounded by a rim of sodium feldspars in a fine-grained matrix composed of quartz and coloured minerals (rapakivi texture). Outcrops of this granite are distributed along the Mooihoek /Mlosheni road large elongate boulders are typical of this granite as a weathering pattern.

Age of the rock: 2.722Ga.

Uses: This rock can be used as dimension stone



Locality: S26° 11" 30.9'
E 031° 01" 51.0'

Locality Name: Ngwenya

Mine Name: Lion Carven

This is the oldest known mine in the world. Carbon dating of charcoal from this mine indicate that ancestors of the San mined specularite here about 43 000 years ago. This was probably used for rituals ,cosmetic and /or medicinal purposes. Early Bantu speaking settlers in Southern Africa arrived here about 450 AD and for 1 500 years they mined the hematite to make weapons and tools.

Modern commercial mining of the iron ore began in 1964 and ended in 1977. The iron ore is not completely exploited. This is the largest of several deposits found within strata of the Fig Tree Group of the Barberton Greenstone Belt, which is located on the northwestern part of Swaziland extending to the Republic of South Africa.



Locality; S26° 12" 11.7'

E031° 01" 47.8'

Locality Name: Ngwenya

This is one of two pits which were left as a result of open cast mining operations which took place during the period from 1964 to 1977.

S26° 29" 58.3'

E031° 15" 07.6'

