

Directions to Modjadji Cycad reserve from Tzaneen and Haenertsburg

Take the R71 via Magoebaskloof Pass towards Tzaneen. Turn right at the T-junction towards Tzaneen. Follow the R71 east out of Tzaneen towards Phalaborwa. Cross a bridge over the Great Letaba River (Tzaneen dam on your left) and just after this, take the second left to Deerpark (farm stall on your left).

5 km later you turn left for Modjadji. Make sure to watch your kilometers. There are two roads off to the left at this stage. take the first, as the second merely peters out a little later.

The drive takes you through eucalyptus plantations and 2.5 km later, at the t-junction, take a right. Up until now you have driven alongside the Great Letaba Dam through the hilly Modjadjiskloof, but now you move away from the water.

After 13 km take a right (note your kilometres) at Ga-Maraka (Kgapane, straight ahead of you, has a Pick n Pay, should you need a shop) onto the road that runs parallel to the Molototsi River (which you catch sight of every now and again on your left) through the valley, passing alongside the townships of Mokwasele and Moshakga, Motsinoni, Mokwasele and Modubung – a succession of anything from brick houses to wooden shacks; cafes and shops close to the road.

Roughly 10.5 km later (if you pass an Engen garage and start seeing signs of the Molototsi Dam to your left, then you have gone too far) there should be signs indicating the Modjadji Nature Reserve. Take a right, following a side-road up through the south-eastern side of the valley along a succession of hills.

This road - the steep 5 km pass from the Molototsi valley and on into the mountain of the Rain Queen, Modjadji - has recently been tarred, making access to the reserve easier. The Modjadji Nature Reserve is the home of the world's largest concentration of a single-species cycad, called the Modjadji palm. There are places to picnic and trails through the forest (if you are quiet enough you may spot bushpigs, monkeys, antelope and dassies).