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have multiple small arches separated by concrete buttresses. The Hoover Dam which is on the border of the U.S. states of Arizona and Nevada is an arch dam. Another type of dam is the buttress dam. These are multiple arches, but unlike a traditional arch dam, they can be flat as well. Gravity dams are made of concrete and feature a series of braced buttresses along the downstream side of the dam to prevent the natural flow of water. The Daniel-Johnson Dam in Quebec, Canada is a multiple arch buttress dam. In the U.S., the most common type of dam is the embankment dam. These are large dams made out of soil and rock which use their weight to hold back water. To prevent water from moving through them, embankment dams also have a thick waterproof core. The Tarbela Dam in Pakistan is the world's largest embankment dam. Finally, gravity dams are huge dams that are constructed to hold back water using only their own weight. To do this, they are constructed using extensive amounts of concrete, making them difficult and expensive to build. The Grand Coulee Dam in the U.S. state of Washington is a gravity dam. The first and usually largest type of reservoir is called a valley dammed reservoir. These are reservoirs that are located in narrow valley areas where tremendous amounts of water can be held in by the valley's sides and a dam. The best location for a dam in these types of reservoirs is where it can be built into the valley wall most effectively to form a water tight seal. To construct a valley dammed reservoir, the river must be diverted, usually through a tunnel, at the start of work. The first step in creating this type of reservoir is the pouring of a strong foundation for the dam, after which construction on the dam itself can begin. These steps can take months to years to complete, depending on the size and complexity of the project. Once finished, the diversion is removed and the river is able to flow freely toward the dam until it gradually fills the reservoir. In addition, the creation of a reservoir requires the flooding of large areas of land, at the expense of the natural environment and sometimes villages, towns and small cities. The construction of China's Three Gorges Dam, for example, required the relocation of over one million people and flooded many different archaeological and cultural sites. Another major use of dams is power generation as hydroelectric power is one of the world's major sources of electricity. Hydropower is generated when the potential energy of the water on the dam drives a water turbine which in then turns a generator and creates electricity. To best make use of the water's power, a common type of hydroelectric dam uses reservoirs with different levels to adjust the amount of energy generated as it is needed. When demand is low for instance, water is held in an upper reservoir and as demand increases, the water is released into a lower reservoir where it spins a turbine. Some other important uses of dams and reservoirs include a stabilization of water flow and irrigation, flood prevention, water diversion and recreation. To learn more about dams and reservoirs visit PBS's Dams Site. Rogun - 1,099 feet (335 m) in Tajikistan Nurek - 984 feet (300 m) in Tajikistan Grande Dixence - 932 feet (284 m) in Switzerland Inguri - 892 feet (272 m) in Georgia Boruca - 876 feet (267 m) in Costa Rica Vaiont - 860 feet (262 m) in Italy Chicoasén - 856 feet (261 m) in Mexico Tehri - 855 feet (260 m) in India Alvaro Abregón - 853 feet (260 m) in Mexico Mauvoisin - 820 feet (250 m) in Switzerland Lake Kariba - 43 cubic miles (180 km³) in Zambia and Zimbabwe Kuybyshev Reservoir - 14 cubic miles (58 km³) in Russia - Name Kaia Manzi (Bronkhorstspruit Dam) City Bronkhorstspruit Province Gauteng Contact 013 932 3140 / Info@Kaiamanzi.co.za Site Gps -25.8901,28.6891 Carp Kurper Bass Barbel Fish Rating Electricity Ablution facilities Crocodiles - Safety Shop Boats Baits Anything Additional Kaia Manzi is a resort with various accommodation options, from camping to guesthouse rooms. Kaia Manzi has a restaurant and caters for any kind of reception like weddings, reunions, conferences etc. They are on the banks of the Bronkhorstspruit Dam and give access to the dam for boating and fishing with swimming pools. The Bronkhorstspruit dam is one of the cleanest and various bass-fishing clubs hosts' competitions there. A 60 minutes drive from Johannesburg, Pretoria and Witbank. - A scenic 60km drive from the Rte 910 turn-off takes you to the Kárahjúkar dam and Hálsión reservoir, where information boards and viewing areas allow you to appreciate this vast feat of engineering, as well as observe the incredible Hafrahvammafljúfur canyon, below the dam.null Latest update: 2020-12-14 - General updates Bronkhorstspruit Dam is a suprisingly beautiful place and it's close enough to our home that we go fairly often. Over the years we've been fortunate enough to visit most of the available spots and we've experienced some spectacular fishing days (with a few less successful days in between). On this page we'll try to summarize all our combined knowledge, hopefully you will find it useful. Fishing Venues Baja Dam Bronkhorstspruit Dam Nature Reserve Kaia Manzi Other Other info Shops/Restaurants/Pubs The Bad Maps Videos FISHING 1. Bass Carp will always be the most popular species at Bronkies but we've switched to bass over the last two years. Bronkhorstspruit Dam has some very good bass fishing and many of the bigger bass comps are held here. Here's a few of our catches recently... Spots 1. Jettys\bridges- Bronkies is unique in the sense that there is an almost 3km long stretch of boat jettys and bridges on the northern shore offering perfect bass habitat. This is by far our favourite hunting ground. Just amble along these structures and flip anything in between the floating docks and you will get bitten. The only time this area has not worked for us is around spawn season when the fish gather where there is grass. 2. Camping areas - This includes the Nature Reserve and Baja Dam, and anywhere in between. These areas have a lot more grass because it's shallower and subsequently the bass migrate here in numbers during the spawn. So basically if it's September and October head to this stretch of coastline for some excellent bass fishing. Have a look at the map below if you need context. Bait \ Lures We basically had a lot of luck with most lures, but a few has worked better than others, it just depends on your location. 1. Around the jettys we usually stick to flukes or jerk baits, or even the odd jig. Spinner baits have also produced a lot of fish. In terms of colour it's usually on the darker side because the water is normally quite murky. Having said that we've also caught a lot of fish on pumpkin seed patterns. 2. Along the shallower grassy areas we go weightless using flukes again but also any grubs, senkos and crawfish presentations. Here the water is sometimes clearer in which case you can go a little more natural. So greens work well and for some reason any purple shine (like mardi gras) is very popular. 3. In terms of topwater we've had some success with poppers. And off course the horny toad, which is always exciting. 2. Carp Carp fishing at Bronkhorstspruit Dam is a lot of fun. We have blanked, (in winter), but that is very rare. Most of the time you easily catch your fair share of fish. The only problem is that the big ones are few and far between, you'll catch 20 smaller carp before anything decent is hooked. Very similar to the Vaal Dam in that respect. The big reason is off course that we normally visit Baja Dam or the Nature Reserve to go camping and these shores are quite shallow. I guess if you can cast more than 120m or have a boat of some sort you will be a lot more successful. One tip for bigger fish is to use actual mielies\corn instead of floaties, especially pineapple flavoured mielies. Bait We've always just fished it in some banana flavouring. Use top-j\top (pineapple) mielies\corn for bigger fish. Spots 1. Baja Dam - We think the closer you are to the gate the better your chances of bigger fish. The further away you are along the bank the shallower it gets. You'll still catch lots of fish but mostly small. 2. Nature Reserve - There is a lot of shoreline here to explore but there is a small cluster of trees in the one spot where the shoreline makes an small cove. Here the water is a lot deeper and we've had a lot of success in this area. Please have a look at the maps below for these exact locations and other fishing spots. We mainly target bass and carp at Bronkhorstspruit Dam but here are some other species that may or may not be available. 3. Barbel We've never caught a barbel at Bronkies but we've never tried either. We do however know people who assure us there are huge barbel and they have had a lot of success catching barbel especially at night. Here's what we learnt. Bait Preferred baits include platannas, fish heads and especially crab if you can get them. Spots 1. Baja Dam - Apparently if you move a bit further away from the gate nearer to the end of the dam you will definitely have some success there at night using any of the baits above. 2. Northern shore - The camping areas are perhaps slightly shallow in general but if you are lucky enough to be fishing from the houses on the northern shore you should definitely try for barbel in those deeper waters. 4. Other Kurper \ Tilapia \ Bream We've seen big schools of vlei kurper (banded tilapia) at both Baja Dam and the Nature Reserve. They can be easily caught using earthworms, but we've even caught them with small cranks while targeting small bass. Yellowfish We caught yellowfish at Bronkies many moons ago but recently it's been all carp. We also haven't seen anyone else catch any recently. If you know of yellowfish being caught recently please let us know so we can update this post accordingly. VENUES 1. Baja Dam Probably the most popular fishing venue at Bronkhorstspruit Dam. It's located in the eastern part of the dam directly opposite the Bonamanzi resort. We've always had great success here with carp and bass and a nice bonus is the little shop at the gate which sells the basics. During December this place can get very festive. We added a post on this place a while ago, you can read more about it here. Rates From the Baja Dam website (2020): Day Visitors Overnight Adults R50 R70 Children (under 12) R20 R20 Children (12 and over) R40 R40 Vehicle R20 R20 Boating R80 Electricity R50 Useful Info First come first served - There are no marked spots \ swims, so you can't really book in advance. You get there and find a spot. Electricity - Electricity is available at a price. Ablutions - There are a few ablutions evenly spaced around the middle area. These are not well maintained but I guess we've seen worse, it's ok for a government run establishment. Boats - Boats are mostly welcome although this area is less about boating and more about shoreline fishing. Caravans - Caravans are welcome. Grass - Currently the whole furthest bank running to the west is full of grass at the reserve, try to get a spot between the gate and top corner. 3. Kaia Manzi This is more of a resort with a swimming pool etc. and caters mainly for boating. This is however a good launch pad for a bass boat or smaller inflatable to go bass fishing among the jettys/docks which start literally right next to Kaia Manzi. As for carp fishing there is also a designated fishing area around the corner where we have had some success in the past. But again the boats will be quite a nuisance during the warmer months. Here's some evidence of our successes in winter. This is also one of the few places offering both camping and chalets (although a little expensive). Rates From their website (2020): Per day Chalets (4-sleeper with kitchen) R1050 (from) Chalets (2-sleeper without kitchen) R790 Camping R240 (per person, max 6 people) Adults R80 Children R70 Vehicles R60 Boats\Sailboats\jetskis R80 Any other watercraft (rowboats) R60 Useful Info Day visits - You will only be permitted to day visit if you have a boat in your group. Boats - Boats are very welcome, even encouraged. 4. Other Kungwini Country Estate This estate is in the middle of the northern shore and makes up a large part of the docks\jettys we've been mentioning. We stayed there once at a nice studio apartment called Dam Adventure and Relax which isn't on the water but comfortable and affordable. Kungwini itself has a communal boat launch which doubles as a nice fishing\picnic area with trees and a long stretch of lawn. We're not sure how day visits work there but we think it's possible, and is another good launch pad for bass fishing. Have a look at our bass fishing video below which was shot there. Bonamanzi Bonamanzi does not allow bank fishing, it's another boating\leisure establishment, at least that's what their sign says. We have never been there ourselves so we can't say, but it does seem like people are fishing there sometimes, especially at night when the boats have calmed down. It does look like a decent resort with lots of permanent accommodation, and it's another good launch pad to go bass fishing from. OTHER INFO 1. Shops \ Restaurants \ Pubs There used to be only one small shop up on the hill near the Kungwini gate but thankfully a year or two ago a whole mini market opened up in almost the exact same spot. Here you can buy any supplies you need at the OK, there's a petrol station, ATM and even a bottle store. There's also basic fishing supplies for sale. Other than that Baja Dam has a small shop at the gate which caters for basic supplies. In terms of public restaurants we've never seen one around the dam. You usually have to drive to Bronkhorstspruit itself for a night out. Places we have visited here include Die Steop and Sinkshack. 2. The Bad We love it here but there are however two aspects that make it slightly less than ideal. Firstly, besides fishing Bronkies is also a very popular leisure boating destination (which includes every fisherman's favourite, the jetski). During peak season, especially over weekends, the constant waves can be really annoying and makes fishing a bit more challenging. During the colder months this is obviously not an issue. Secondly, in recent years there has been long periods where grass and algae have made fishing very unpleasant. Spending 10 minutes to remove long strands of green sludge from your carp lines is not fun. But this too is seasonal, and hopefully with better management this can be eradicated, it wasn't always this way... 3. Maps Contour map of Bronkhorstspruit Dam, click to see interactive map 4. Videos

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