

# Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park



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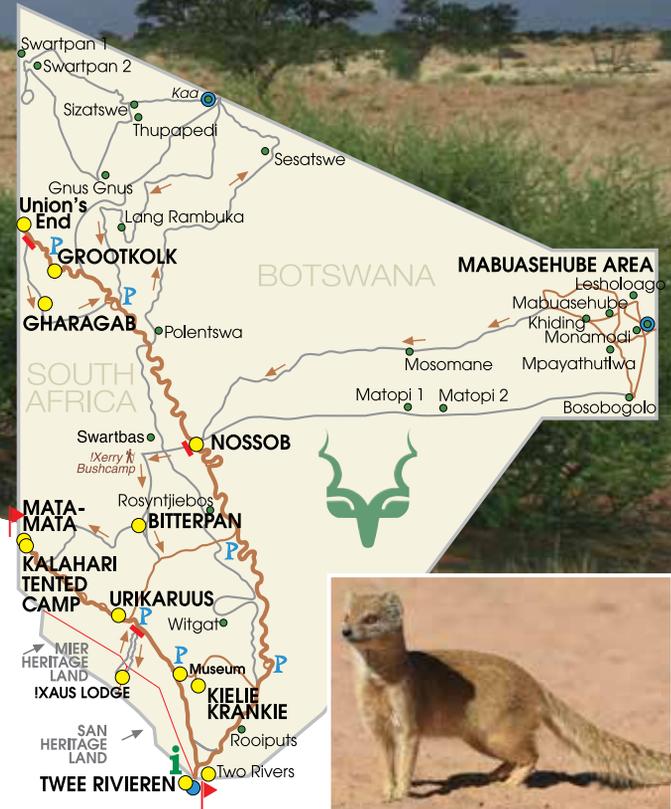
a truly unspoilt wilderness

# KGALAGADI

## TRANSFRONTIER PARK



The Kgalagadi, simply put, is colossal. At nearly 38 000 km<sup>2</sup> it is larger than many countries and one of the largest National Parks in the world. An amalgamation of South Africa's previous Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and Botswana's Gemsbok National Park, this park was officially opened on 12 May 2000. It was the first formally declared transfrontier park in Africa. Meandering through both countries, the Nossob riverbed unites both sides of the Park with the promise of life giving moisture. Two of the three Kalahari eco-types are found here. The south-western part comprises duneveld, with its unique semi-desert vegetation and the north-eastern part comprises Kalahari plains thornveld. The area also incorporates salt pans which play an important role in the grazing and life patterns of the game. The large mammals, especially the predators, are always a major drawcard at Kgalagadi, the powerful black maned Kalahari lions, solitary leopard, sleek cheetah, majestic gemsbok, massive herds of wildebeest, graceful giraffe, hyaena, foxes, springbok and many others.



To this glorious collection of large mammals, one can add the smaller animals, such as the mischievous suricates, ground squirrels (shading themselves with their tails), whistling rats, luminous blue headed ground agama and barking geckos. And, one can't forget the thousands of sociable weavers with colossal thatched 'apartments', lappetfaced and whitebacked vultures, the acrobatic bateleur, the tiny pygmy falcon and the large swooping martial eagle. Put all of these wonderful creatures in amongst endless waves of red dunes and dry riverbeds with majestic camelthorn and shepherd trees and you have *the magic that is the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park*.



## GETTING THERE

The main entrance is in the most northerly and remote part of South Africa's Northern Cape. The closest commercial centre is Upington, which is 255km south of the Park. **The road from Upington to the Park gate is tarred.** The roads within the Park are all gravel but all the main roads on the South African side can be navigated with a two-wheel drive vehicle. In order to visit the Botswanan



side, and for some parts of the minor paths on the South African side, you will however need a 4x4. There are commercial flights to Upington, where you can hire a vehicle, or hire a chartered plane and fly directly to the landing strip in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The GPS coordinates for Twee Rivieren (Kgalagadi) are: S 26026"53.6' and E 20036"24.8' Elevation 2887ASL; runway bearing (magnetic) 3200/1400; length 1 825m x 18m wide (tarmac).

## ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Conventional self-drive game viewing and relaxing around a campfire will always take precedence at a National Park (or Transfrontier Park such as this). There is no need to be limited to these however, as there are many other activities to enrich your visit.

Experience the Kgalagadi to the full on a guided **SUNSET DRIVE**. Depart at dusk and watch the sunset bring the warm Kalahari sands to life and return to camp under the cover of

darkness. The radiant star- and moonlight contrast spectacularly against the jet-black sky. Participate in the natural beauty of a Kalahari dawn by going on an early **MORNING WALK**.

An informative field guide will share secrets of this thirsty land with you as the day gently unfolds. View slide shows and DVD's at the **Twee Rivieren INFORMATION CENTRE** as well as

the photographic gallery displaying images donated to us by world-renowned wildlife photographers. Or, make use of an **ELECTRONIC FLOWER FIELD GUIDE**.

Learn more about the fascinating lifestyles of the predators at the **NOSSOB PREDATOR CENTRE** as well as the beginnings of the Park at Twee Rivieren.



YOU CAN GO ON A GUIDED SUNSET DRIVE (TOP), GO ON A GUIDED EARLY MORNING WALK (ABOVE) AND SEE VARIOUS EXHIBITIONS (BELOW)





AUCHTLERLONIE MUSEUM, 31 KMS NORTH OF TWEE RIVIEREN, ON THE MATA-MATA ROAD

For those that own **4X4s**, the Park offers many alternatives to the conventional roadways. On the Botswana side there are the **Kaa, Polentswa and Mabuasehube** trails. In South Africa there is the guided four day, three

night **Nossob 4x4 Eco-trail**, departing from either Twee Rivieren or Nossob (depending upon the month) every Monday year round (except Christmas and New Year), as well as the **Leeuwdril 4x4 trail** (13.2 km), a self-drive one way trail accessible and bookable from Twee Rivieren. *All bookings must be made in advance at Reception where more information on the times and availability of your chosen activity can be obtained.*

## Hiking in the Kgalagadi



For the more energetic the **!XERRY WILDERNESS HIKING TRAIL**, named after the diminutive steenbok, departs from Nossob every Wednesday (from April to October) returning on Friday. The trail is a self-catered, guided experience where the hikers provide their own food, tents and water; these (along with the hikers) are transported to the base camp where they will sleep for two nights, and at the conclusion of the trail they'll be returned to Nossob by the same means. The participants sleep at the rustic !Xerry bush camp. An armed and experienced guide will be in attendance to unlock the secrets of the Kalahari to participants.



A CAMP AT MABUASEHUBE IN BOTSWANA

## BOTSWANA INFRASTRUCTURE

The Botswanan side of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is a place of absolute Kalahari wilderness. It is only open to 4x4 vehicles and you need to be fully self-sufficient to travel the area. A passport is not needed long as entry and exit is made through the same gate. Camping is available at Two Rivers, Polentswa, Rooiputs and the Mabuasehube area.

### TRAILS

**Kaa Game Viewing Trail** can be travelled in a single day, however, it is advisable to camp one night en route. The trail can be travelled in both directions.

**Polentswa Wilderness Trail** allows one party of not less than two and not more than five vehicles to depart daily.

**Mabuasehube Wilderness Trail** can only be travelled from Mabuasehube to Nossob. It passes through lovely tree savannah for most of the way.

### FOR RESERVATIONS

To camp on the Botswanan side of the Park and to book one of the wilderness trails contact:

The Parks and Reserves Reservation Office,

e-mail [dwnp@gov.bw](mailto:dwnp@gov.bw)

Tel 00 (from South Africa) 267 318-0774

FAX 00 (from South Africa) 267 318-0775

## ACCOMMODATION IN SA

On the South African side of this unique semi-arid Kalahari wonderland, SANParks has three recently upgraded traditional camps and six truly unique wilderness camps. Added to this is also an exclusive lodge owned by the #Khomani San.

*The following 12 pages detail the South African camps.*

# TWEE RIVIEREN

## KGALAGADI PARK TRADITIONAL CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETs 31

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 1x6p, 22x4p, 2x3p & 6x2 people

CAMPING SITES 24 with electrical points and 6 without

POWER SOURCE Electricity, 240v, 15amp, 24 hours

SUPPLIES The shop at Twee Rivieren is well stocked

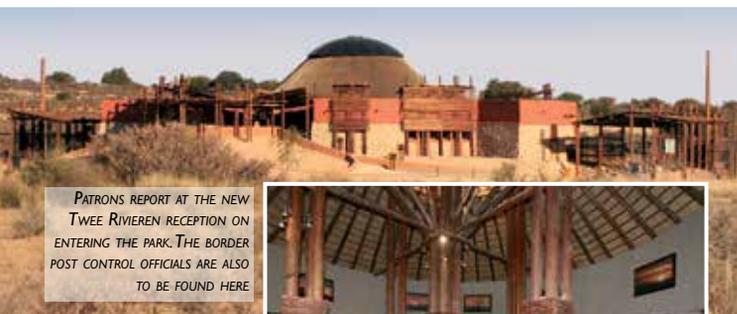
OTHER FACILITIES Swimming pool, Information Centre, restaurant, main Reception and border control

ACTIVITIES Guided morning and sunset drives, guided morning walks, slide show, photographic exhibition

Twee Rivieren is the administrative centre and biggest rest camp. It is at the most southerly point of the Park and just inside the main gate on the South African side. All visitors need to check in at Twee Rivieren Reception, regardless of whether you are staying at the camp or not. The camp consists of air-conditioned chalets, the largest site for camping and caravanning in the Park, an information centre, a restaurant (the only one in Kgalagadi) and a shop which stocks basic foodstuffs as well as books and souvenirs. The swimming pool is for residents only. Book at Reception for night drives and guided day walks. Petrol and diesel are available, although closed at lunch time. This is the only camp with 24 hrs electricity and cell phone reception.



ALL THE CHALETs ARE FULLY EQUIPPED AND AIR-CONDITIONED



PATRONS REPORT AT THE NEW TWEE RIVIEREN RECEPTION ON ENTERING THE PARK. THE BORDER POST CONTROL OFFICIALS ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND HERE



## BORDER CROSSING

Visitors who are leaving from Botswana to South Africa, or vice-versa, as well as those coming and going to Namibia at the Mata-Mata gate **must report to the customs officials at Twee Rivieren's reception.** If you are staying within the Kgalagadi Park you do not need a passport even for the Botswana side, it is only necessary if you enter in one country and exit in the other. **All visitors using the Park's Port of Entry points must sleep in the Park for at least two nights.**

THE LARGEST SHOP AND ONLY RESTAURANT ARE AT TWEE RIVIEREN



FUEL IS AVAILABLE AT TWEE RIVIEREN, MATA-MATA AND NOSSOB



# MATA-MATA

## KGALAGADI PARK TRADITIONAL CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETS 13

MAX PEOPLE PER CHALET 7x2p, 4x4p, 2x6 people

CAMPING SITES 20 with electrical points

POWER SOURCE Electricity, 240v, 15amp, 05:00-23:00

SUPPLIES The shop at Mata-Mata has basic supplies

OTHER FACILITIES Swimming pool, bird hide, Port of Entry to Namibia

ACTIVITIES Guided morning and sunset drives; guided morning walks



THE NEW THATCHED CHALETS AT  
MATA-MATA

The Mata-Mata camp is on the Namibian border and has been given a major face-lift. The older chalets have been upgraded, the prefabs removed and 8 exquisite brand-new thatched chalets have been built. The new chalets all overlook the dry river bed allowing visitors to feel at one with nature. The border post to Namibia was opened in October 2007 and makes travelling to other Parks within southern Africa much more convenient (see page 23 for more information). This is the smallest of the traditional camps with a shop and fuel is available during business hours. Night drives and guided day walks can also be arranged from here.



# NOSSOB

## KGALAGADI PARK TRADITIONAL CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETS 18

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2x6p, 6x4p, 2x3p and 8x2 people

CAMPING SITES 20 with electrical points

POWER SOURCE Electricity, 240v, 15amp, 05:00-23:00

SUPPLIES The shop at Nossob is very basic

OTHER FACILITIES Predator information centre

ACTIVITIES Guided morning and sunset drives, guided morning walks, !Xerry Wilderness Trail (see page 16)



THE !XERRY WILDERNESS HIKING  
TRAIL CAMP THAT IS RUN FROM THE  
!XERRY BUSH CAMP NEAR NOSSOB



KGALAGADI

Nossob is very centrally situated and the chalets have been redecorated and revamped. It is also the best positioned departure point from which to explore the vast Botswanan side of the Park. Facilities include chalets, camping and a predator information centre. Night drives and guided day walks can also be arranged here. There is a shop and fuel is also available.

# KIELIEKRANKIE

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF UNITS 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

SUPPLIES Twee Rivieren is a little over an hour's drive away

Kieliekrankie is perched on one of the highest dunes in the Kalahari with seemingly infinite views over the surrounding dunes. The unfenced



camp is the perfect venue to enjoy sundowners while absorbing the feeling of the immense space. The area consists of dune vegetation with few trees and the units overlook a waterhole.

*Each unit has its own bathroom, bedroom and fully equipped kitchen with cooking utensils, cutlery, and fridge/freezer. The beds, as in all the camps, are supplied with fresh linen and serviced daily.*



# URIKARUUS

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETs 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

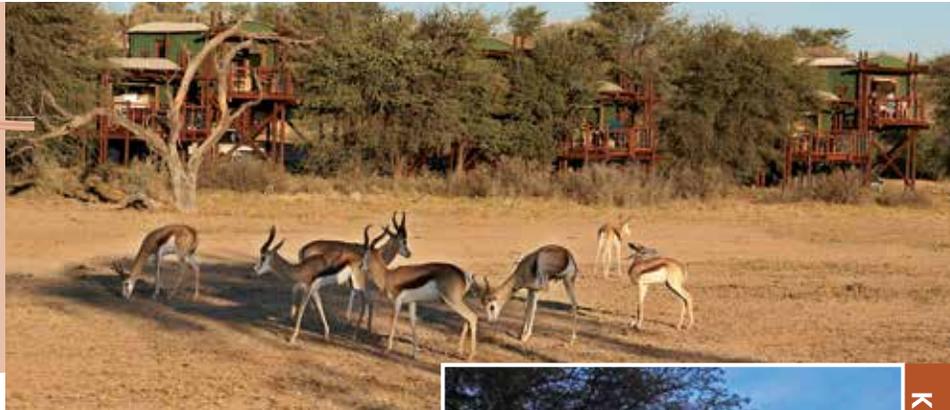
SUPPLIES The Twee Rivieren shop is a 2 hour drive away

OTHER FACILITIES The units are linked by a raised boardwalk



Without moving from your camp you may be privileged to witness herds of springbok, wildebeest, giraffe, lion or even cheetah. Surrounded by Camelthorn trees, this lofted camp overlooks a very active waterhole in the river bed. The trees attract thousands of birds - sandgrouse, finches, doves and falcons, to name a few. Urikaruus is situated on the bank of the Auob River between Twee Rivieren and Mata-Mata camps.

*Each unit has its own kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer. Like all the wilderness camps there always is an armed ranger on site.*



# KALAHARI TENTED CAMP

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETS 15

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 4x4p and 11x2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

SUPPLIES Fuel and a small shop are close-by (3km) at Mata-Mata

OTHER FACILITIES Swimming pool



The Kalahari Tented Camp is conveniently close to Mata-Mata and the recently opened Namibian border post. With 15 units it is by far the largest of the wilderness camps. Sightings of plenty of giraffe are usually made in the vicinity. There is a swimming pool, surrounded by an elegant wooden tanning deck, to cool down in. The spacious stilted canvas tents are elegantly decorated and look out on a waterhole in the ancient Auob River. Guided morning and sunset drives, as well as guided morning walks can be arranged from here.

*Each unit has a large bedroom and bathroom with a separate tented kitchen. The kitchen is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer.*



# BITTERPAN

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETS 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

SUPPLIES Both Nossob and Mata-Mata are under 60km away

OTHER FACILITIES Raised viewing platform and a private circular drive route



Bitterpan is accessible only to four-wheel drive vehicles (no trailers) and links the two rivers of Nossob and Auob. The route may only be travelled in a one-way direction from Nossob to



Mata-Mata. The area overlooks a huge pan but has few trees. The camp, which is small and exclusive, is surrounded only by the silence of the great Kalahari. It has four two-bed units with

their own bathrooms. The communal kitchen and braai area makes this a very popular site for 4x4 groups.

*Each unit has its own bathroom and bedroom. A communal kitchen is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer.*



# GHARAGAB

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHAETS 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

SUPPLIES The closest shop and fuel is at Nossob which is 2¾ hours south by car

OTHER FACILITIES Raised viewing platform and short drives to Gharagab (4km) & Dankbaar (18km) waterholes



Gharagab is only accessible to 4x4 vehicles and the one-way sand track is turned into from the main road, 20km on from Grootkolk. Situated in the north of the Park close to Union's End, this camp will give visitors the chance to experience this beautiful tree and grass savanna veld of the Kalahari. The units are made from a combination of wood, cane and canvas and, like the other wilderness camps, are well equipped. *The water here is very salty, even too salty for cooking, so remember to bring your own.*

*Each unit has its own kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer.*

# GROOTKOLK

## KGALAGADI PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHAETS 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar and gas (no conventional plugs)

SUPPLIES The closest shop and fuel is at Nossob which is 2½ hours by car to the south

OTHER FACILITIES A communal kitchen, dining room and braai place allow 8 people to socialise together

The remote northerly parts of the Kgalagadi are a favorite haunt for the unique black maned Kalahari lion. And only 20km from Union's End and close to the Namibian border is the Grootkolk Wilderness Camp, the most northerly situated camp. Although it is in a remote situation this small and exclusive camp is still accessible to two-wheel drive vehicles. The camp is unfenced, bringing the veld right to your door. There is a trained and armed ranger to help protect you from wild predators. A waterhole which attracts wildlife is visible from the camp when lit up at night and adds to the magical atmosphere of the vast open plains.

*Each unit has its own kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer.*



KGALAGADI

# !X AUS LODGE

## KGALAGADI PARK LUXURY LODGE

NUMBER OF BEDS 24

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER ROOM 2 people

POWER SOURCE Self-generated electricity (5 hours a day)

SUPPLIES All meals are catered for by the lodge. A curio shop sells artworks made by the #Khomani San

ACTIVITIES Early morning guided dune walks, visiting #Khomani San crafters, sunset drive with sundowners on the dunes, night game drives & star gazing through telescopes

! Xaus Lodge is run by a private concessionaire on the !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage land returned to the #Khomani San and Mier communities. It is the only fully-catered luxury lodge to be located in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is a 24-bed thatched luxury lodge that blends into the landscape of this remote wilderness area. Situated on the red dunes of the Kalahari it overlooks an enormous salt pan where, from the privacy of the deck of your own chalet, you can observe the animals drinking at the waterhole below.

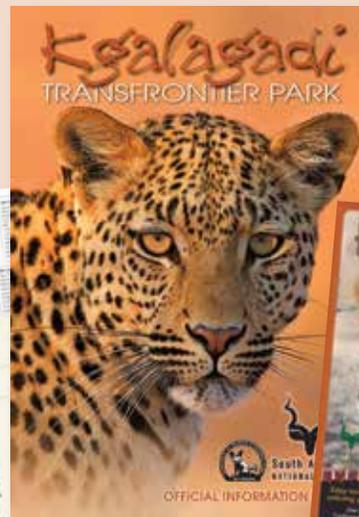
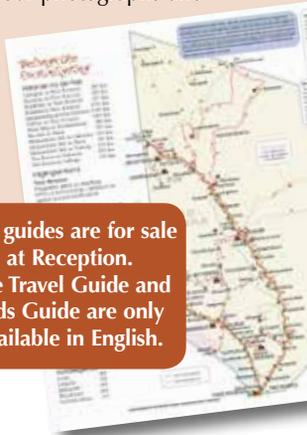
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## OFFICIAL KGALAGADI TRAVEL GUIDES

An indispensable travel guide of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is available at the Park Reception. This A4 publication has over 160 full colour photographs and covers the history of the Park and surrounding areas, climate, geology, rivers and resource management. But most importantly for the tourist, it includes illustrated descriptions of all the main plantlife, birds, small sand creatures, mammals, reptiles, antelopes and predators. To help you get around it includes a detailed map with times and distances between camps, waterholes and attractions.

The guides are for sale at Reception. The Travel Guide and Kids Guide are only available in English.



## DON'T FORGET THE KIDS!

The Kgalagadi Kids Guide will keep the children occupied and educate them at the same time. Based on

the main guide it has a animal spotting section, puzzles, colouring activities and games.

