

TANKWA NATIONAL PARK



Luminous clouds of dust swirl through the ancient landscape while a tortoise patiently ambles around in search of a succulent morsel; a lizard basks in the sun and gemsbok and red hartebeest share the arid plains with bat-eared foxes, buckspoor spiders and leggy toktokkies...

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Elandsberg Wilderness Camp



The cottages are nestled in the Elandsberg hill range approximately 20km from the Park Offices, with beautiful views of Karoo plains and the imposing Roggeveld Escarpment. Built from locally-made unbaked "clay and straw" bricks and rocks excavated on site, the cottages evoke the spirit of a bygone era - simpler, more peaceful...



- 3 x 1 bedroom cottages, (max 4 guests per cottage)
- 1 x 1 bedroom universal unit, (max 4 guests)
- 1 x 2 bedroom cottage, (max 6 guests)

Each cottage comprises one bathroom (shower only), an open-plan kitchen and living room with a fireplace and queen-sized sleeper couch, a covered stoep/braai area, as well as a splash pool.

All units are fully equipped with linen, cutlery, crockery, towels, cooking utensils, gas appliances, paraffin lamps and candles.

Please contact the Park office for other available accommodation and camping. Tel: +27 (0)27 341 1927

Vital Information

- Last stops for fuel (measured from park offices) are Ceres (180km), Calvinia (110km), Sutherland (140km – closed from 13:00 on Saturdays for the weekend) and Middelpos (50km – only Unleaded Petrol and Diesel).
- Diesel available in the Park.
- No shops, restaurants or ATMs in the Park.
- General dealer and bottle store in Middelpos.

- No cell phone reception within the Park as well as main access roads.
- Credit card and Wild Card facilities available.
- Advance booking is required to prevent disappointment.
- Wood for sale in the Park.

Roads

Please take care when driving in this region. The road gravel is sharp and often loose, be very careful when taking corners and making sudden stops. Please give some thought to your fuel and water requirements, bearing in mind that the closest refueling points are Ceres, Sutherland, Middelpos and Calvinia. Consider packing a full jerry can.

Please do:

- Bring insect repellent and sun-block.
- Bring birding books and other plant and animal field guides as well as binoculars.
- Remember to bring lots of warm clothing in winter and lots of cool gear for summer!

Please don't:

- Litter.
- Feed, disturb or injure any animal.
- Bring any pets into Tankwa National Park.
- Take any firearms into Tankwa National Park.
- Stay overnight at any other place than those designated as camping or overnight facilities.
- Damage, remove or destroy any natural item (seeds, plants, animals or rocks) or human artifacts.
- Light any fires at places not designated as camping or overnight facilities.
- Leave the road at any point.



Tankwa National Park

P.O. Box 299, Calvinia, 8190 • e-mail: tankwa@sanparks.org
Tel: +27 (0)27 341 1927 • Fax: +27 (0)27 341 2814

Office Hours / Operating times

Monday - Thursday: 08:00 - 17:00
Friday: 08:00 - 21:00
Saturday: 08:00 - 17:00
Sunday / Public Holiday: 10:00 - 16:00

Arrivals for accommodation from 14:00 only, departure at 10:00

Central Reservations:

Cape Town Tel: +27 (0)21 552 0008
Pretoria Tel: +27 (0)12 428 9111
email: reservations@sanparks.org
www.sanparks.org



Space and tranquility in abundance

The magnificent Tankwa National Park straddles the border of Northern and Western Cape provinces with the Roggeveld Escarpment to the East, Cederberg to the West, and Klein Roggeveld Mountains to the South.

Just a four hour drive from Cape Town, this unique National Park is situated within the Succulent Karoo Biome. Here you will find rare and endangered plant species, rich endemic birdlife, and diverse landscapes that will take your breath away - from the sheer cliffs of the Roggeveld Escarpment and the lush tranquility of Langkloof to the moonscapes of the Tankwa Desert.

The Park was named after the Tankwa River that runs through it and which also lends its name to the region colloquially called the Tankwa Karoo. The true meaning of the word "Tankwa" is unknown, but is popularly believed to be "Turbid Water", "Place of the San" or "Thirst land", all of which suit the Park just fine...



The Park has various small mammal species including Duiker, Steenbok, Porcupine and Black-backed Jackal among others. Cape Mountain Zebra, Red Hartebeest, Gemsbok and Springbok have also been reintroduced and further introductions of these species, and others such as

Eland, will continue until viable populations have been established. Kudu have also found their way into the Park and have made it their home. Furthermore, the Park is host to a multitude of birds with 187 species recorded to date.

While Tankwa National Park is still in a developmental and land consolidation phase, expanding from the original 26,000 hectares in 1986 to 143,600 ha by October 2011, it is the ideal destination for those seeking the brightest stars in Africa, a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of a rare endemic bird or perhaps nothing more than a silence that reaches deep into the soul...

Watch in awe as the brilliant night sky darkens and thunder cracks through the tranquility as the power of a Karoo thunderstorm sends lightning dancing across the horizon. Witness the desert-scape donning its cloak of green in winter and transforming into a riot of colour with the abundance of spring. This truly is a land of all seasons with something to suit anyone who feels the call of unspoiled Mother Nature.

