



Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

**!Xaus means 'heart':
a symbol of reconciliation between the traditional
San and Mier communities.**



www.xauslodge.co.za

!Xaus Lodge | Useful Information



!Xaus Lodge

- 3 The !Xaus Experience
- 4 The Staff at !Xaus
- 5 Wildlife
- 6 Activities
- 6 Clothing and Footwear Guide
- 7 Background
- 8 Location
- 8 The Name !Xaus Lodge
- 9 The Value of !Xaus Lodge to the Neighbouring Communities

The Lodge Complex

- 11 Water
- 11 Power
- 11 Supplies
- 12 Meals and Beverages
- 12 Communications
- 13 Policies
- 14 Payments
- 14 Travel Tips

About the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

- 16 Background
- 16 Climate
- 16 Fauna
- 17 Flora
- 18 Neighbouring Communities
- 19 Additional Accommodation in the Area
- 20 Research on the Kalahari



Emergency procedures: end page



The !Xaus Experience

!Xaus Lodge strives to offer a unique, holistic and authentic experience and provides an opportunity for guests to gain an appreciation of this vast arid desert environment. Its remote, quiet tranquillity allows visitors to be immersed in the environment and experience a deep sense of inner peace. !Xaus is intended as a *place to experience; not merely observe.*

!Xaus' warm, friendly and informal reputation is comfortably appointed with high standards of service, however it is not merely a stop-over, nor is it a commercialised resort. From its remote location in the desert, with its long and sometimes corrugated dune track access and scarce saline water, limited power supply and the harsh climatic conditions that prevail, the experience of !Xaus is realistic and these aspects are all part of the authentic way of life that guests are privileged to experience first hand.



The !Xaus Staff

The lodge employees are all members of the Mier and ǀKhomani San communities. Through your interaction with our friendly staff we hope to provide you with an authentic view of the way in which they work and craft in modern times.

It is a perfect opportunity to experience elements of their culture from the Mier recipes, the ingredients they use and their methods of food preparation to visits to a re-created craft village to see Bushman crafters peacefully at work or the younger members demonstrating their skills with a bow and arrow or playing one of their many traditional games.

Keep in mind, this is not an historic tour, but a glimpse of the way of life of these peoples today. Some of the Bushmen may wear traditional dress while working in the craft village or demonstrating their games, as visits to the village will give guests an accurate and up-to-date view of the way in which these communities use their traditional skills in the modern world to generate a livelihood for themselves and their families.

Most of our guides and trackers have lived and worked in the Kalahari their entire lives. Many have had a limited formal education but have a deep, meaningful understanding of this environment, the wildlife, and the plant-life with it's medicinal properties. This information has been handed down through many generations, and they strive to share this rich knowledge with guests while out on wilderness walks.

The language of the Kalahari is Afrikaans and while we encourage our staff to converse in English, many are still quite shy about their language skills. Please feel free to encourage them to chat to you in English or ask one of our management staff to translate for you if necessary.

Our staff work on a rotational cycle, as most of them come from the villages of Welkom (120km away), Andriesvale and Askham (160km) and the Rietfontein area (250km). A visit to a roadside craft stall or to one of these villages while you are in the Kalahari will provide a further insight into the people of this region and perhaps a more holistic view of life in the Kalahari.

Wildlife at !Xaus

The lodge is unfenced and located in an area that is home to predators, reptiles and various other animal species and bird life. Being in a dune environment, our sightings range from armoured crickets to herds of gemsbok that visit the pan. The African wild cat might be spotted on a night drive, or the red hartebeest seen in silhouette on the dunes. The Cape fox can be seen as it forages, hyena roam the vicinity of the lodge at night, and if you're lucky you may encounter the comical meerkat on your walk to the Bushman village. Jackals are sighted as they hurry about their business, or a shy duiker may peer at you through the dune grass. If you're not fortunate enough to see it on your visit, you may well hear the famous black-maned lion of the Kalahari roaring during the night or see it's spoor the following morning after it has roamed through the camp.

There are a myriad of birds that drink at the waterhole or flit between the dune shrub, as well as barn owls for whom we have provided nests. The resident crows will wake you at dawn and you can see the raptors that soar through the blue expanse in search of prey.

In the summer months one needs to be aware of blister beetles and scorpions, so at night, while the lights in your chalet are on, you need to keep the windows closed and wear closed shoes, especially when walking on the sand or spending time in the boma.

The privilege of encountering special game viewing moments needs to be mentioned. Remembering the vastness of the KTP—only slightly smaller than the Netherlands—sightings of game are understandably rare and a source of great excitement, particularly if it's lion or leopard, as such sightings are often exclusive to those who happen to be there at *that* precise moment.



Activities at !Xaus

The lodge offers a variety of activities for your enjoyment including:

Guided wilderness walks along the dunes identifying animal spoor, birds, trees and plants, with a discussion on their medicinal uses.

Guided walks onto the pan to see the 'heart' of the Kalahari and then to our re-created cultural village to visit the Bushman crafters at work, see young Bushmen demonstrating their traditional games and to purchase traditional crafts hanging from the branches of the tree under which the crafters sit peacefully at work.

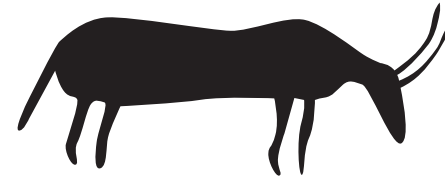
Gaze at our star-spangled night sky from the observation deck using telescopes.

Game drives:

- ‡ Sunset pan drive and dune walk to 'listen' to the sun set over the Kalahari with an early evening game drive to the lodge.
- ‡ After dinner night drive, with the accompanying sounds of barking geckos, insect shrills, and larger animal sounds to break the silence.
- ‡ For guests staying four nights or longer, a complimentary six to seven hour game drive through the dunes to the Auob river, with packed breakfast and picnic lunch, is available. At an additional charge, this game drive can also be made available to guests staying for two or three nights. You may discuss the cost and logistics of this with our lodge

Clothing and Footwear Guide

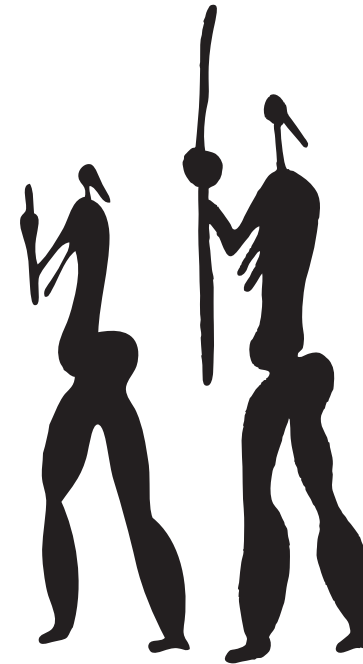
For guests planning to participate on guided walks, clothing should be comfortable and durable. Neutral colours such as khaki and beige are preferable. Footwear should not be new, but be worn-in if possible, have thick soles and provide good ankle support. Night drives in winter can be extremely cold, so warm clothing and head-gear is highly recommended.



Please note that circumstances at the lodge or prevailing weather conditions can affect the availability of specific activities on a particular day. If this happens during your stay, we would appreciate your understanding. Please feel free to chat with our helpful lodge management should you want any more information or advice on our activities.

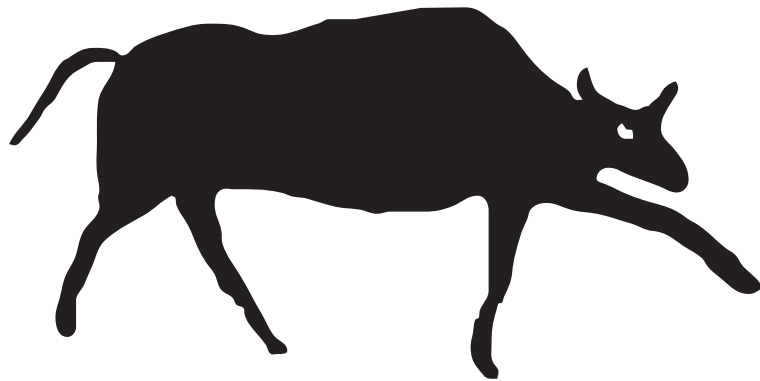
How !Xaus Began

In May 2002 the ǀKhomani San and Mier communities reached an historic land settlement agreement with the government of South Africa and South African National Parks (SANParks) which restored a large tract of land to the communities that had once roamed or farmed this area. Named the !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage Park Agreement, its outcome resulted in the transfer of ownership of 50 000 hectares of land within the boundaries of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) from SANParks to the two communities who then leased the land back to SANParks. This land is administered as a Contract Park and remains within the KTP fence line. SANParks holds responsibility for its environmental management. The settlement agreement further provided for the communities to receive an allocation of funds for the specific purpose of constructing a tourism facility referred to as a Co-operation Lodge, to be jointly owned by the communities. Transfrontier Parks Destinations, a black-empowered Lodge Management Company, manages !Xaus Lodge commercially on behalf of the ǀKhomani San and Mier communities.



Location

!Xaus Lodge is located in the South African sector of the KTP and access is via the Auob River road that connects Tweerivieren with Mata Mata. The lodge is situated 30km into the desert, reached after traversing around 91 sand dunes from the turn-off at Rooibrak waterhole, 60km northwest of Tweerivieren. It overlooks a large salt pan approximately 4km in circumference with a fresh-water hole directly below the lodge. GPS co-ordinates for a Google search are S26°09.005' E20°15.392'



The name '!Xaus Lodge'

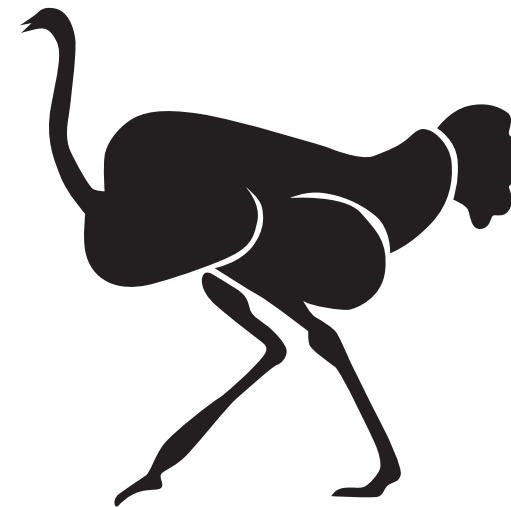
!Xaus means 'heart' in the Nama language and was proposed as a name for the lodge by a group of visiting Bushmen and confirmed by the representative bodies of both the ǀKhomani San and Mier communities. Significantly, the lodge's name, '!Xaus', symbolises the healing of relationships, the restoration of dignity and the aspirations of these communities, who after many years of deprivation are now owners of the lodge and the land on which it is situated.

The name was inspired by the fact that the lodge overlooks a large salt pan with a distinctive heart shape in its northwest corner, as well as the fact that the lodge is located at the 'heart'—the meeting line—of the land restored to each of the Mier and Bushmen communities. Also, the vision of the settlement agreement was: 'in the national interest, to finally settle the land claims of the community parties and to establish a positive, co-operative relationship between the community parties and SANParks.' The symbol '!' denotes a palatal click in the Nama language but for those who can't master the click, !Xaus is pronounced 'kaus'.

The Value of !Xaus Lodge to the Neighbouring Communities

The ꞤKhomani San (Bushmen) and Mier communities are the owners of !Xaus Lodge and all its furnishings. In addition, the Community representative organisations receive a monthly rental from the operation of the lodge based on its turnover. Almost all the lodge employees are drawn from the local communities where unemployment is rife.

After the first ten years of operation, a ꞤKhomani San and Mier Community Trust will be established to receive a 10% equity stake in the lodge management company. Any asset acquired through donor or grant funding is owned by the lodge and therefore its communities. !Xaus Lodge assists in leveraging donor funding for off-site community health, agricultural, educational and job creation projects.





The Lodge Complex

The complex comprises a central lodge building and 12 individual chalets, each with its own deck, accommodating 24 guests.

The central lodge overlooks a vast salt pan and waterhole fed with fresh water. It comprises a welcoming reception area with its unique wall-hanging made by the ladies of Vezokhule, a sewing co-operative in Upington. The cosy lounge has a fireplace and a library of selected books for paging through before dinner. Our dining area overlooks the pan, with furniture hand-made by Andre Steytler and images burnt by Bushmen artists.

At the art and craft shop, you can purchase locally made Bushmen crafts as well as crafts made in the wider Kalahari. Visit the large observation deck from which we gaze in wonder at the night sky, and by day the swimming pool provides cool relief from the desert heat. Wood is a precious commodity in the Kalahari, so the inviting fire in the boma is made in the traditional method with three or four crossed sticks around which everyone huddles companionably.

In the chalets we provide purified drinking water from the desert in a flask in your bathroom. You will find winter sheets and gas heaters for the cold months, and ceiling fans for the hot months.

Our staff will be only too happy to arrange the following if you require them: hot water bottles, hair dryer, and towels for use at the swimming pool (please do not use your bath towels).

Please be aware of the following:

Septic tank system

We make use of septic tanks for our effluent water and we urge you to use the waste bins provided in the bathroom and toilet for disposing of any foreign and inorganic waste matter.

Cooling

Chalets are not air conditioned but our staff will gladly explain and demonstrate the traditional methods, using shade and damp cloths as a means of keeping cool in this environment.

Gas appliances in your chalet

Gas bottles for the room heater are to be turned off at night for safety reasons. Please ask a staff member for assistance in this regard and please do not attempt to light the heater if the regulator is loose.

Gas geysers supply hot water in your bathroom. Please let us know if you experience any problem such as a pilot light that has extinguished or if you suspect that the gas bottle may be empty, and we will attend to it immediately. The last thing we want is for you to have a cold shower on a freezing cold morning!!

Water

Water is an extremely scarce resource in our environment, so any contribution you make to using it sparingly is most valued. Our water is drawn from a borehole close to the lodge and is hard and fairly saline. A system of reverse osmosis is used to produce the water we use for cooking and the purified drinking water in your chalet. Because our laundry is done in Tweerivieren, 90km from the camp, linen and towel changes are limited to the duration of a guest's stay unless circumstances require otherwise. Please request fresh towels should these be necessary. For this reason, no personal laundry facilities are available to guests.

Power

The lodge is equipped with a generator providing 220 volts. While this is not ideal, it is the only source of power available at the moment. We are currently investigating sources of funding to install an alternative energy supply comprising solar power, battery storage and back-up generators.

In order to limit the environmental impact, the generator operates for five hours per day in the evenings, usually until 22h30 and for an hour before sunrise, but only if needed for an early departure or a lodge activity. Computers and cameras can only be charged during generator operating hours from the wall plug in your chalet and no electric lighting is available at all outside of the generator's operating hours. Torches are available in the chalets.

Supplies

All supplies for the lodge are sourced from Upington which is a 720km round trip, some of which is on dune and gravel roads. For this reason the lodge is not always able to offer the variety of food and beverage that is available in establishments with easier access to sources of supply.

Meals and Beverages

Meals include dishes prepared in the tradition of the Mier community such as the delicious roosterbrood, potjiekos, braised meats, sweet pumpkin and other vegetables; seasonal local fruits such as fresh tsama melon; home baked beskuit, breads and more.

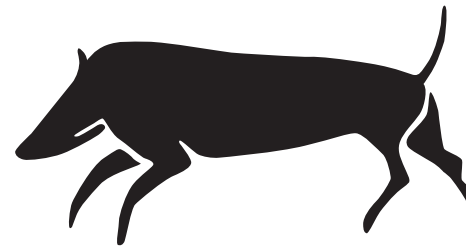
Mealtimes are scheduled according to the day's activities and guest departures. All meals are served either in the dining area or around the fire in the boma. Three set-menu meals are provided each day: breakfast, a light lunch and a two/three course dinner. Complimentary tea or coffee is available at the main lodge on request throughout the day. Every effort is made to accommodate dietary requests/allergies *provided these have been advised in advance of your arrival.*

Purified desert water is provided in guest chalets and at meals. In addition, bottled water, a limited variety of cool drinks, beer, popular brand spirits and mixers, as well as red and white wine are available for purchase.

Communications

No cell phone reception is available at the lodge, however we do have communication via two-way radio between the lodge and several of the KTP rest camps and we have two-way radios in all our lodge vehicles.

Satellite telephone and email are available. However, the tranquility and isolation of the lodge is precious to us and our guests, so although the lodge is equipped with these services, they are available to guests only in cases of emergency.



Policies:

Wilderness walks policy

A maximum of eight guests may participate on each walk. Our walks are conducted at a leisurely pace to afford guests an intimate wilderness encounter.

Guest with mobility impairment are regrettably not able to participate because of the uneven nature of the terrain covered. While the walks are not necessarily over-strenuous, conditions during the summer months can be very hot. Participants on the walks must therefore be reasonably fit and be well prepared for the climatic conditions.

Child policy

Children of all ages are welcome at !Xaus Lodge, however parents are cautioned that the lodge and its swimming pool are unfenced. Predators & reptiles are present in the vicinity of the lodge and parents are held solely responsible for their children's safety and well-being. Parents are requested to ensure that the peaceful enjoyment of the lodge by other guests is respected. Children under 12 may only participate, at the guide's discretion, on wilderness walks that are conducted within sight of the lodge and under parent supervision.

Safety Policy

The general rules and regulations of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park also apply to our guests. Guests depend on the lodge manager and guides for their safety and for this reason requests or instructions from the manager or guides should be respected and followed at all times. Excessive consumption of liquor is strongly discouraged and liquor may only be consumed at the lodge or on specific activities, but absolutely not on wilderness walks.

Indemnity Policy

!Xaus Lodge is unfenced and located in a national park that is home to a variety of dangerous predators and reptiles. Wilderness walks are accompanied by guides but nevertheless carry the risk of injury or death should predators or reptiles be encountered.

In light of the exposed nature of the camp, all guests are required to complete an indemnity form. An indemnity form signed by a parent or legal guardian is also required for all minors. These forms are to be signed in the presence of a company representative.

Payments

Payments at the lodge for activities (if not included in the price), beverages, arts and crafts, tips etc. may be made in South African rands. Credit cards are accepted.

Please note: Conservation fees are not included in the !Xaus Lodge rates. A daily conservation fee is payable on entry into KTP (see www.sanparks.org for current rates).

Travel Tips

Ports of entry for guests arriving by air:

Upington in South Africa: SA Express operates daily scheduled flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town. (see www.flysaa.co.za).

Tweervieren (entry gate to the KTP) offers a non-commercial landing facility. It has a 1.8km tarred landing strip in good condition that can accommodate aircraft of up to 5 500kg (Kingair 200 or equivalent).

!Xaus Lodge can be used for helicopter arrivals.

Road access to !Xaus Lodge:

The distance from Upington to Tweervieren is 260km of which 15km is on gravel (tarring is scheduled for completion by March 2009). Travelling time is two-and-a-half to three hours. From Tweervieren (entry gate to KTP) to Kamqua picnic site (meeting point for !Xaus Lodge) is 64km. It is a game drive all the way along the Auob river bed and takes approximately one-and-a-half hours. From Kamqua picnic site to !Xaus Lodge is 30km on a single-track soft sand road through the dunes. A 4x4 vehicle is necessary for this leg of the journey. Travelling time is one to one-and-a-half hours.

Transfers:

For guests flying in to Upington, a return road transfer to Kamqua picnic site in KTP is available. From Kamqua, guests are transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an open safari vehicle.

For guests flying to, or wishing to leave their vehicles at Tweervieren, a return road transfer to !Xaus Lodge is available.

Self-drive options:

Self-drive to Kamqua picnic site can be done in any standard sedan motor vehicle although a vehicle with good ground clearance is preferable. Guests are met at Kamqua picnic site and escorted to the !Xaus Lodge turnoff at Rooibrak waterhole. Guest vehicles are parked in a demarcated zone off the road behind the dunes for the duration of their stay at !Xaus Lodge and they are then transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an open safari vehicle.

For self-drive directly to !Xaus Lodge, a 4x4 vehicle is definitely required. Guests are met by a lodge guide at Kamqua picnic site and drive in convoy to !Xaus Lodge.

Fuel can be purchased at the towns of Askham or Andriesvale (diesel only) or at KTP's Tweerivieren and Mata Mata.

Tyre pressures should be reduced to 1,6 bar for travelling on gravel roads in the KTP and to 1,4 bar if self-driving through the dunes to !Xaus Lodge.



Border posts:

Tweerivieren:

South Africa entry and exit, opens 07h30 closes 16h00 all year.

Two Rivers:

Botswana entry and exit, opens 07h30 closes 16h00 all year.

Mata Mata:

Namibia entry and exit, opens 08h00 closes 16h30 all year.

Guests departing into Namibia or Botswana *must* clear Customs and Immigration at Tweerivieren even if they are planning to spend some days in KTP before their intended date of departure. *This is particularly important if exiting into Namibia because guests will be made to return from Mata Mata to Tweerivieren (120km) if they have not cleared South African Customs and Immigration there.*

Guests entering KTP from Namibia at Mata Mata are required to spend at least two nights in KTP before exiting into South Africa. Nights spent at !Xaus Lodge meet this requirement.

A valid passport is required if exiting into a country different to the one from which you have arrived.

Self-drive guests must be in possession of the motor vehicle licence papers or a letter of authority from the vehicle owner or the car hire company.



About the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP)

Background

South Africa's Kalahari Gemsbok National Park was proclaimed in 1931 and Botswana's Gemsbok National Park in 1938.

A little over 60 years later the governments of South Africa and Botswana signed the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) treaty unifying the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and the Gemsbok National Park and formalising the principle of co-operative management.

KTP is 3,8 million hectares (38 500km²) in extent making it one of the largest national parks in the world and it is only 3 500km² smaller than the Netherlands.

Climate

KTP falls in a semi-arid region of the Kalahari where the average annual rainfall in the southwest is 150mm rising to 350mm in the northeast. This rainfall, usually in the form of dramatic thunderstorms, falls between November and April.

The temperatures in the area vary from -11°C on cold winter nights to a sweltering 42°C in the shade on a summer's day. Our winter, from May to August is generally cool and dry. In spring, from September to October, the climate is also dry, but warming up in preparation for our summer which, along with autumn, brings the rainfall combined with high temperatures from November to April.

Fauna

While the Kgalagadi is renowned for its gemsbok and black-maned lion, it is also home to a large variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The antelope of the Kalahari, from the shy steenbok to the gemsbok—synonymous with the KTP—as well as the massive eland, have all found ways to adapt and survive in these desert conditions.

Apart from the famous black-maned lion, predators to be found in the park include leopard, cheetah, hyena (brown and spotted), black-backed jackal, Cape fox and the African wild cat, among others.

The park has a rich birdlife—264 species of birds have been recorded of which 78 are residents, 16 seasonal migrants, 18 nomads and 152 are vagrants and irregular visitors. Two-thirds of southern Africa’s raptor species can be spotted in the KTP.

A wide variety of reptiles and amphibians can also be seen in the park, among which is the yellow Cape cobra that can often be seen slithering in and out of the enormous sociable weaver nests.

Flora

The deceptively monotonous looking Kalahari plays host to hundreds of species of flora and even after 20 years of intense research, new flowering plants are discovered each year. The soft parallel-running sand dunes are covered with a patchy vegetation of grass, shrubs and trees that serve to stabilise the dunes and offer protection from rain and wind. The camelthorn and shepherd’s trees are a source of life within the KTP ecosystem. They provide food but most importantly they provide shade from the harsh summer sun. The umbrella-shaped canopy of the shepherd’s tree not only provides shade but has the effect of lowering the temperature of the sand below from a shocking 73°C to 21°C.



Neighbouring Communities

‡Khomani San

The San, known to many of us as Bushmen, are descended from the original hunting and gathering groups who have occupied southern Africa for the last 150 000 years. It is thought that a drought throughout Africa at the time may have enabled this group of people to adapt to the harsh arid conditions of the Kalahari. The San are not one society, but a collective of different peoples with different languages and cultural practices. They are united by their life of hunting and gathering in southern Africa, particularly in the Kalahari.

There are about 100 000 San living in southern Africa today, mostly scattered through the rural areas of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The ‡Khomani San are the group that live predominantly in the Kalahari area of the Northern Cape, many of whom reside in the vicinity of KTP.

Mier

The Mier community originated mainly from the people of Captain Vilander who settled in an area between the Orange River, Rietfontein and into German South West Africa (Namibia) more than 150 years ago. The community is steeped in a rich history of farming with sheep, cattle and goats as well as horses and donkeys, which are still used as a means of transport in the area. Rietfontein is home to the municipal offices of the Mier region, a border post with Namibia and a well-regarded secondary boarding school that caters for the high school education of the children of the region.



Additional Accommodation in the Area

Other Kalahari experiences you may enjoy

Northern Cape Tourism's website (www.northerncape.org.za) contains details of accommodation and activities available in this special part of South Africa.

Apart from SANParks' own camps in the KTP (www.sanparks.org) accommodation that we can recommend include:

Our neighbours:

- Hendrik and Getruida Bott in Filandersbron who have a lovely guesthouse called Klip Kolk Lodge, offering traditional Mier cooking, which gives easy access to the border post at Rietfontein. Tel: +27 72 159 6726 or email klipkolk.bott@gmail.com.
- Professor Anne Rasa's Kalahari Trails between Andriesvale and Tweerivieren. Website: www.kalahari-trails.co.za.
- Molopo Lodge in Andriesvale, 60km from the KTP. Tel: +27 54 511 0008.

Near Van Zylsrus:

- Tswalu Kalahari Reserve: a luxury lodge in a private game reserve. Website: www.tswalu.com.

In Upington:

- Aan't Kanaal: +27 54 332 3722
- La Boheme Guest House: www.laboHEME.co.za
- African River Lodge: +27 54 331 1846
- Le Must Manor: +27 54 332 3971
- A La Fugue Guest House: +27 54 338 0424
- Libby's Lodge: +27 54 332 2661

Near Augrabies National Park:

- Khamkirri: an adventure destination in a private game reserve. Website: www.khamkirri.co.za.

Research on the Kalahari

Much research has been done and many books have been published on the history of the Kalahari and surrounding areas, it's people and their cultures. Further information can be obtained from Professor Keyan Tomaselli (tomasell@ukzn.ac.za) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Culture, Communication and Media Studies unit; from Sharon Ries (sharon@origins.org.za), Public Relations Manager of the Origins Centre at the University of Witwatersrand (www.originscentre.co.za) or from Nanette Fleming (uruketrack@telkomsa.net) at the Andriesvale office of the South African San Institute (SASI) (www.san.org.za).

Among the many books published, some that you may find of interest and that can be obtained through the Origins Centre and other booksellers include:

- *Voices of the San* by Willemien le Roux and Alison White
- *The Bushmen of Southern Africa* by Andy Smith, Candy Malherbe and others
- *San Spirituality* by David Lewis-Williams and Dawid Pearce
- *Kalahari Rainsong* by Belinda Kruijer and Elana Bregin
- *Stories op die Wind*, a collection of Northern Cape Folk Tales (Published by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation)

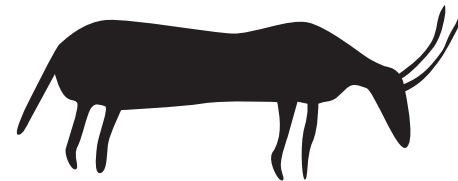
A selection of these books is available is available in our lounge for your enjoyment.

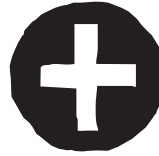
Additional books are available from Rozenberg Publishers (www.rozenbergps.com):

- *Writing in the San/d: Autoethnography among Indigenous Southern Africans* edited by Keyan G. Tomaselli, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- *Where Global Contradictions are Sharpest: research Stories from the Kalahari* by Keyan Tomaselli

Also of interest:

Representing Aboriginality: A post-colonial analysis of the key trends of representing aboriginality in South African, Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand film by Sacha Clelland-Stokes (www.intervention.dk/indexip.htm)





Safety Considerations and Emergency Procedures

Safety considerations:

- The lodge has satellite telephone and internet connection for use in an emergency.
 - The lodge itself and all its vehicles are equipped with radios and are able to communicate with SANParks restcamps in the case of emergency.
 - It is important that guests ensure that they have the necessary medical insurance and contact details in the event of a medical evacuation being necessary.
 - In the event of medical evacuation being required light aircraft up to 5500kgs can fly in to Tweerivieren and helicopters can fly directly to the lodge.
 - Please be aware that the nearest medical facility that can be reached by road is at Askham, 160 km from the lodge
 - Please familiarize yourself with the location of the lodge management accommodation units so that you are able to alert them to any emergency that may take place during the night – see location marked on picture.
- Please familiarize yourself with the location of the dining and swimming pool deck as this is the gathering point where management or a designated staff member will issue instructions in the event of any emergency – see location marked in picture.



Fire:

- Fire is an ever present threat in the Kalahari, either as a consequence of veld fires, electrical storms or human error.
- Remember too that you are residing in a thatched (grass roofed) chalet surrounded by extensive wooden decks in a remote wilderness area.



Safety Considerations and Emergency Procedures

- Therefore in order to limit the likelihood of a human error fire please:
 - exercise extreme caution when operating gas appliances in your chalet such as room heaters and water heaters – ask a staff member for help if necessary
 - extinguish all candles before going to sleep
 - do not smoke in your chalet

Animals and reptiles:

- The lodge is unfenced and located in a National Park that is home to a variety of dangerous predators and reptiles.
- In the summer months one needs to be aware of blister beetles and scorpions so at night whilst the lights in your chalet are on please keep the windows closed and wear closed shoes especially when walking on the sand or spending time in the boma
- Our lodge managers, guides and staff are present in the vicinity of the main lodge complex from early morning until after dinner and are constantly on the look out for the presence of predators and reptiles.

- Guests must however be aware, and advise their children accordingly, of the need to be vigilant at all times to the potential for an encounter with a predator or reptile as such an encounter may carry the risk of injury or death.
- Guests should not wander around the lodge complex or along the walkways unaccompanied, after the generator has switched off at night.
- Under no circumstances should guests or their children leave the wooden walkways without the express knowledge and permission of the lodge management.

Emergency procedures in the case of fire:

In your chalet or public areas:

- There is a powder filled fire extinguisher on the wall as you enter your chalet as well as in all public areas.
- Please familiarize yourself with their location and the operating instructions on the extinguisher.
- If you are unable to extinguish a fire in your chalet, please vacate the chalet immediately and raise the alarm in order to



Safety Considerations and Emergency Procedures

summon help from the lodge management and staff.

- Please alert all guests in neighbouring chalets.
- Gather on the deck of the lodge at the swimming pool and await further instructions from the lodge management.

In the vicinity of the lodge:

- Immediately you observe a fire please raise the alarm and alert the lodge management or one of the staff.
- If the fire appears threatening in any way please alert all guests in neighbouring chalets.
- Gather on the deck of the lodge at the swimming pool and await further instructions from the lodge management.

Emergency procedures in the case of an encounter with a predator or reptile:

- Should you encounter a reptile or predator in your chalet or on the walkways do not run but instead slowly retreat facing the animal and immediately raise the alarm and alert the lodge

management or one of the staff.

- In the rare event that you are bitten by a snake or stung by a scorpion try to commit its description to memory as this will assist in determining the necessary treatment. Please be aware that snake bite serum can only be administered by a qualified medical practitioner and for this reason we do not stock serum at the lodge.
- In the highly unlikely event of an attack by a predator, loudly shout for assistance and endeavour to retreat at all times facing the animal. Do not run.

Medical emergency:

- Should you experience medical emergency of any kind please raise the alarm and alert the lodge management or one of the staff.
- Please ensure that you have adequate insurance cover for medical evacuation in the event of any emergency and that you have the appropriate contact telephone numbers with you.