



KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK | NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



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LIVING IN A LAND OF SCARCITY – INFORMATION FOR RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLERS

!Xaus Lodge is situated in a remote desert. This means that many of the luxuries of modern life are limited or unavailable.

Water is an extremely scarce resource. It is hard and saline and drinking water is created through a reverse osmosis process. Please use this precious asset sparingly. Because linen cannot be washed in this saline water, it thus has to be trucked to our laundry in Twee Rivieren, and therefore it is not changed every day. There are no guest laundry facilities at the lodge

Electricity is generated between 7-10am and 5 - 10pm. This means no TVs, radios, electronic devices or electric kettles and espresso machines. What it does mean is wonderful hours of silence, and an opportunity to unwind from day-to-day life.

Telecommunications signals don't reach the Lodge. No cell phone, Wi-Fi, telephone or TV signals. The lodge management has a satellite phone for emergencies. The joy of visiting !Xaus Lodge is that you will be 'off the grid'.

Supplies – especially food and drink - are trucked in from Upington – a 720km round trip. While we do try to stock as well as possible there are occasions when supplies run out, and we cannot re-stock overnight. Our meals are carefully planned and cooked based on locally available, fresh food, using the best possible ingredients we can source. While the menu is fixed, do tell us about your specific dietary requirements and dislikes before arrival so that we can adjust your meals accordingly.



ACCOMMODATION

!Xaus Lodge, a Fair Trade Tourism certified destination, offers a remote, tranquil desert experience for guests looking for total isolation, to be immersed in the environment and for an opportunity to interact with both communities that own the lodge, the Mier, mainly involved in the hospitality services at the lodge, and members of the resident Bushman community working at the craft school. It is important that guests are aware that whilst !Xaus Lodge is comfortably appointed with a high standard of service, it is nevertheless “A place to experience not merely observe”. It offers a unique experience and is not just a place to stay overnight.

The lodge comprises 12 individual chalets accommodating 24 guests, and a central lodge building. Communal facilities include a lounge, craft shop, dining room, central viewing deck with swimming pool and Lapa. Guests are accommodated in en-suite chalets each with its own deck overlooking the waterhole on the pan. They have Twin or King beds, high quality mattresses and linen, with hot water bottles and gas heaters for the cold months and ceiling fans for the hot months. Bedside tables with bedside lamps, wardrobe, writing table and chair, luggage rack and floor rugs complete the furnishings.

The chalets are not air-conditioned. Traditional methods, using shade and damp cloths as means of keeping cool in this environment, are explained to guests. There are no hairdryers in the individual chalets because of the limited supply of electricity, but available on request.

Bathrooms have a large shower, vanity and separate flush toilet. We provide generous quantities of rooibos soap, moisturizing hand-cream and shampoo because the water is very saline. Water is heated by on-demand gas.



ACTIVITIES



VISIT THE LOCAL CRAFTING SCHOOL

Guests are invited to meet the crafters at the school, and get an insight into the modern lives of the local Bushman community, as well as an opportunity to purchase crafts from the original artists. The school is set up to give elders an opportunity to pass on traditional skills to the younger generation who do not necessarily live a traditional lifestyle. Guests will thus experience the interaction between ancient traditions and modern lifestyles.

MORNING WILDERNESS WALKS WITH OUR GUIDE AND TRACKERS

Here you will 'read the newspaper' of the night before – seeing the animal spoor, being taught about plants and desert life. For safety considerations, regrettably children under the age of 12 may not participate on the morning wilderness walk.

GAME DRIVES

We offer afternoon and night game drives, giving guests an opportunity to see the 'dune streets' and the game and birds in the area. This is a desert park and sightings are unpredictable and fascinating. An optional river drive is also available, this must be pre-booked, and is charged for separately.

NIGHTSKY VIEWING AND STARGAZING

With no ambient light pollution, the night sky is spectacular at !Xaus Lodge. Learn about the constellations with your naked eye, or view the Milky Way.

SUNDOWNERS ON THE DUNES

A special treat for everyone is the evening 'sundowners' where guests are able to listen to the sunset from the top of a dune on the opposite side of the salt pan to the lodge.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA

ROAD ACCESS TO !XAUS LODGE

- Distance from Upington to Twee Rivieren is 260km's on tar. Traveling time is 2,5 to 3,0 hours
- Twee Rivieren (entry gate to KTP) to Kamqua picnic site (meeting point for !Xaus Lodge) is 64km's. It is a game drive all the way along the Auob river bed and takes approximately 1,5 hours.
- Kamqua picnic site to !Xaus Lodge is 30 kms on a single track, soft sand road through the dunes. A 4x4 vehicle is necessary for this leg of the journey if you do not use our transfer service. Traveling time is about 1,0 to 1,5 hours.
- Traveling times in the KTP can vary according to game sightings en-route.

Note: There is a max speed limit in the park of 50km/h.

TRANSFERS - 2:30PM AT KAMQUA

- From Kamqua Picnic Site at 2:30pm, guests are transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an Open Safari Vehicle (This transfer is included in the accommodation rate).
- For guests flying in to Upington a return road transfer to Kamqua picnic site in the KTP is available. Please request a quote when you book with us.

SELF DRIVE TO KAMQUA PICNIC SITE

- Can be done in any standard sedan motor vehicle.
- Guests are met at Kamqua Picnic Site and escorted to the turnoff at Rooibrak to !Xaus Lodge. Guest vehicle are parked in a demarcated zone off the road behind the dunes for the duration of their stay at !Xaus Lodge.
- Guests are then transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an Open Safari Vehicle.

SELF-DRIVE DIRECTLY TO !XAUS LODGE

- 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 Askham, Andriesvale (diesel only), Twee Rivieren and Mata Mata.
- Tyre pressures should be reduced to 1,6 bar for traveling on gravel roads in the KTP and to 1,4 bar if self-driving through the dunes to !Xaus Lodge.

Note: No person is to enter the lodge road without an accompanying guide.

NEAREST AIRPORT: UPINGTON INTERNATIONAL

Arrival: An early flight into Upington is necessary to be at Kamqua by 2:30pm.

Departure: A late afternoon flight from Upington is necessary as guests will reach Kamqua at appr. 11:00am





BORDER POSTS

KTP is a fully functional transfrontier park. This means that while in the park there are no borders or boundaries. Border requirements only come into effect on entry or departure from KTP if you enter from one country, and depart into a different country. If you enter and depart from the same gate there are no border procedures, regardless of where you have travelled while in the park.

- Tweerivieren: South Africa entry and exit, opens 07.30 closes 16.00 all year
- Two Rivers: Botswana entry and exit, opens 07.30 closes 16.00 all year
- Mata Mata: Namibia entry and exit, opens 08.00 closes 16.30 all year

Note: Namibia operates with Daylight saving during summer and is 1 hour ahead of South Africa from 1st Sunday in September to the 1st Sunday in April the following 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 (120kms) 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 for those who will enter and exit through different countries. No passport is required if entry and exit is through the same country.
- Self-drive guests must be in possession of the motor vehicle license papers or a letter of authority from the vehicle owner or the car hire company if they intend to clear the border. These papers are not required if you are entering and returning through the same gate.

PARK ENTRY FEES NOT INCLUDED IN !XAUS LODGE RATES

- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (SANParks) charge a daily conservation fee, payable on entry into KTP.

Visit <https://www.sanparks.org/parks/kgalagadi/tourism/tariffs.php> to check the latest rates.