

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park forms Africa's first Transfrontier National Park comprising the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in South Africa, which was proclaimed in 1931 mainly to protect the migrating game, especially the gemsbok as well as facilitating the movement of free roaming predators. Together with the adjacent Gemsbok National Park in Botswana, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park comprises an area of over approximately 2,5 million square kilometres – this makes it a part of the largest continuous area of sand in the world. The new 38000 km² park, known as Kgalagadi ('land of thirst'), represents an increasingly rare phenomenon in the world: a vast ecosystem relatively free of human influence. In recognition of the agreement between Botswana and South Africa no barriers to wildlife movement exist along the international boundary that separates the 9,591 km² Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in the Republic of South Africa and the 28,400 km² Gemsbok National Park in Botswana.

Red sand dunes, sparse vegetation and the dry riverbeds of the Nossob and surrounding central regions show antelope and predator species off in a setting of surreal beauty and provide optimum photographic opportunities. Kgalagadi could be considered a haven for birders especially when interested in birds of prey. Kgalagadi is the first Park to provide accommodation in three wilderness camps that, with no fences, invite the Kalahari and the tranquillity of Africa right into your room. And no, no one has been lost yet!

Wildlife

No fewer than 215 bird species over 400 plant species have been recorded.

You should see: Kalahari lion, gemsbok, blue wildebeest, eland, springbok, red hartebeest, duiker, steenbok, spotted hyaena, black-backed jackal, Springhare, meerkat

You may see: African Wild Cat, African Wild Dog (Painted Wolf), Antbear (Aardvark), Bat-Eared Fox, Caracal, Cheetah, Honey Badger, Leopard, Pangolin, Porcupine, Silver (Cape) Fox, genet, Steenbok

The usually dry riverbeds of the Auob and the Nossob Rivers provide the best game viewing. The roads between the camps follow these riverbeds.

Gemsbok – these large striking desert antelope are the emblem of the park.

Suricate (Meerkat) – these hyperactive little omnivores have a wonderfully intricate family structure.

Black-maned Kalahari Lions – Physically impressive, they are the kings of the Kalahari Desert.

Sociable weavers – the busy little birds construct huge communal nests.

Pygmy falcons – the park is famous for its birds of prey. This is the smallest falcon in Africa and is often seen around Sociable Weaver colonies

Did you know that:

Kgalagadi is the first Transfrontier Park to be established in Africa?

It is also known as the Peace Park?

At 3.8 million hectares, it is nearly twice the size of Kruger National Park?

It is the most North Westerly National Park in South Africa?

The name, Kgalagadi is derived from the SAN language and means "Place of thirst?"

Important Visitor Information

Shops in Mata Mata, Nossob and Twee Rivieren camps sell commodities that you will find in your local supermarket, including fresh meat, milk, cheese, eggs, wine, beer and spirits.

Filling stations in Mata Mata, Nossob and Twee Rivieren camps sell premium and unleaded petrol and diesel.

Twee Rivieren is the only camp with a restaurant and public telephones (card and coin).

Guests traveling to Twee Rivieren via Upington/Van Zylsrus must not drive at high speed as the gravel sections on both routes are badly corrugated.

Swimming pool in Twee Rivieren and Kalahari Tent camps.

Power points at camping sites, in Twee Rivieren, Mata Mata and Nossob camps.

Hide at waterhole in Mata Mata and Nossob camps.

Waterhole at Bitterpan, Grootkolk, Kieliekrankie, Urikaruus, Gharagab and Kalahari Tent camps.

Info centre at Twee Rivieren camp. Predator centre at Nossob camp.

Bitterpan, Grootkolk, Kieliekrankie, Urikaruus, Gharagab and Kalahari Tent camps are not fenced.

Guests staying at Bitterpan, Grootkolk, Kieliekrankie, Urikaruus, Gharagab and Kalahari Tent camps must take own wood and drinking water.

Only guests staying at Bitterpan and Gharagab are allowed to make use of 4X4 road to Bitterpan and Gharagab. NO TRAILERS ALLOWED.

Closest shop to Kalahari Tent camp is at Mata Mata camp (3 km away).

Departure time for the Nossob 4 x 4 eco-trail from Twee Rivieren or Nossob camp is 09:00.

For trails that start in Twee Rivieren, it is advisable to book the night after the trail, in Nossob camp.

Distance from Upington – 260 km.

NB: Visitors must allow for the following traveling time from Twee Rivieren entrance gate, to the other camps:

Nossob - 3½ hours

Grootkolk - 6 hours

Gharagab - Not possible in one day

Bitterpan - 6½ hours

Kieliekrankie - 1½ hours
Urikaruus - 2 hours
Kalahari Tent Camp - 2½ hours
Mata Mata 2½ hours

Climate

The Kalahari is a semi-arid region with an average rainfall of 150mm in the southwest to 350mm in the northeast. The unreliable and irregular rains fall mostly during dramatic thunderstorms, often accompanied by strong winds and dust-storms, between November and April. The first rains transform the red dunes, covering them with the fresh yellow flowers of the dubbeltjie, *Tribulus terrestris*. Within two weeks fresh green grass begins to grow, but if the rains do not return, the vegetation will soon wither and the thirst land once again becomes apparent.

Temperatures vary greatly from -11°C on cold winter nights to 42°C in the shade on summer days when the ground surface temperature reaches a sizzling 70°C. During the winter months, when frost is common, the ground surface temperature can be 25°C lower than the temperature of the air. Winter in the Kalahari is a cool, dry season from September to October and then a hot, wet season from November to April.

Day travellers

There are communal ablution facilities at Twee Rivieren, Nossob and Mata Mata rest camps and picnic sites at Melkvlei, 50 km (north of Twee Rivieren), Dikbaardskolk, 56 km (South of Nossob) and at Kamqua between Twee Rivieren and Mata-Mata.

Contact Information

Take note

Pets are not allowed in a National Park.

Firearms must be declared at the gate where they will be sealed. The seal will be broken upon departure.

Shoes are essential on summer evenings for protection against the possibility of scorpion stings.

Keep an emergency supply of 10 litres water in your vehicle.

In the event of a breakdown, remain in your vehicle – it is the safest place.

This is a low risk malaria area. Consult your chemist.

Roads in the park have gravel surfaces.

Light aircraft may land on a tarred runway at Twee Rivieren. Prior permission must be obtained from the Park.

Hired cars may be collected at Twee Rivieren provided that an advance booking was made.

The travelling time from the entrance gate at Twee Rivieren to Nossob Rest Camp is 3.5 hours and to Mata Mata is 2.5 hours.

When driving from one rest camp to the other, travellers should depart with travelling times in mind to ensure arrival before sunset as no travelling is allowed in the park after dark.

Visitors to Botswana

Camping is available at Polentswa, Rooiputs, Two Rivers and in Mabuasehube. A 4x4 vehicle is necessary to access the Botswana side of the Park Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Kgalagadi Adventure Activities:

Operated from Twee Rivieren Camp and Nossob

MORNING WALK - 3 Hours (R110 per person)

AFTERNOON WALK - 2 Hours (R110 per person)

SUNSET DRIVE in open truck with spotlights - 3 Hours (R110 per person / R50 per child)

NIGHT GAME DRIVE in open truck with spotlights - 2 Hours (R110 per person / R50 per child)

- No children under 6 on the night game drives, and no children under 12 on the bush walks.
- All activities depart from reception.
- Report for activity at safari vehicle 15 minutes prior to departure time.
- All activities are subjected to weather and availability
- All activities can be booked at reception. Full payment is required upon making a booking. Cancellation fee is 100% of payment.
- Ask your guide to do your booking.

In case of emergency

South Africa: Contact our staff at reception or at staff houses.

Upington Medi-Clinic, tel. 054 3388900

Botswana: Maun, tel. 00267 6860444 or Gaborone tel. 00267 3901999

Medical Rescue: tel. 00267 3901601 or contact your nearest camp with radio communication.

For enquiries e-mail Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park or phone us on the following numbers:

Park Tel: + 27 (0) 54 561 2000

Fax: + 27 (0) 54 561 2005

Official hours

Office Hours - 07:30 to sundown

Gate Hours

January to February	06:00 – 19:30
March	06:30 – 19:00
April	07:00 – 18:30
May	07:00 – 18:00
June and July	07:30 – 18:00
August	07:00 – 18:30
September	06:30 – 18:30
October	06:00 – 19:00
November and December	05:30 – 19:30

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