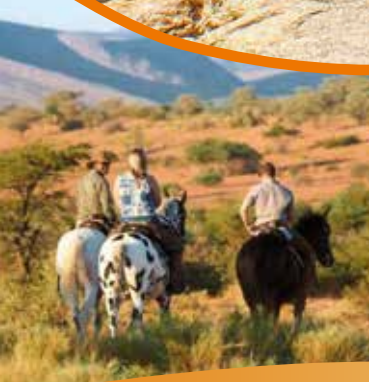
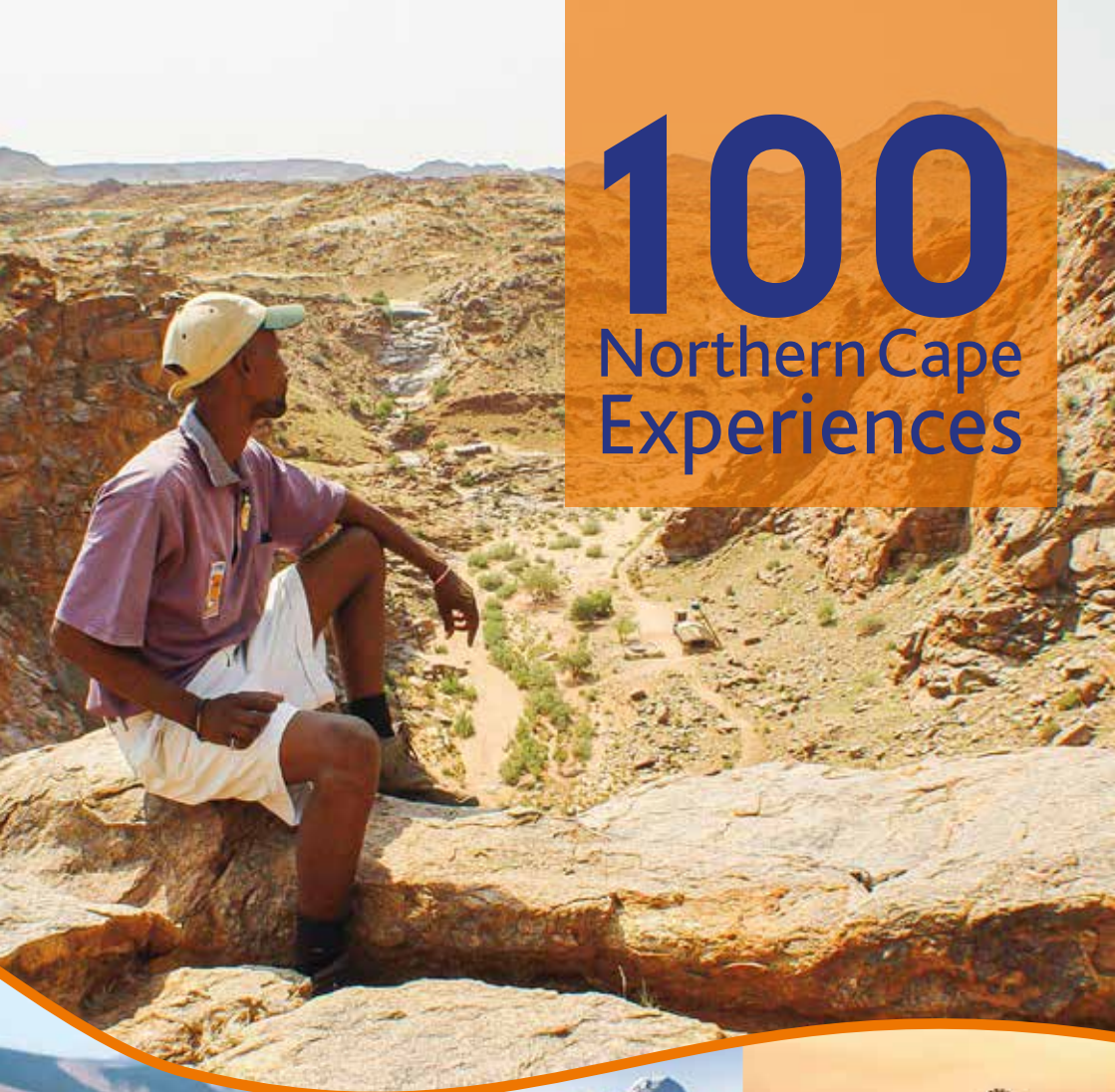


100

Northern Cape
Experiences



#NorthernCape



DIAMOND FIELDS REGION

KIMBERLEY is the capital city of the Northern Cape and is often referred to as the City of Diamonds. The memories of Kimberley's days as a tent town still linger today. Many old buildings, museums and one of South Africa's most important art galleries pay homage to the days of the diamond rush.

To see and do

- **Africana Library** - Containing missionary Robert Moffat's personal copy of his SeTswana translation of the Bible, the library is a rich repository of books, manuscripts and photographs portraying life in the Northern Cape. Tel: +27 (0)53 830 6247.
- **Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum** - The original Museum was built in 1907 in memory of Alexander McGregor, a former mayor. Today, as a satellite of the McGregor Museum, it houses new displays on Kimberley's suburban and township development. Tel: +27 (0)53 839 2700.
- **Belgravia Historical Walk** - The walk starts at the imposing McGregor Museum and meanders past sites such as the birth place of diamond magnate Harry Oppenheimer. The Halfway House, the world's only drive-in pub, the magnificent Dunluce and the Duggin-Cronin gallery which was erected 1889. Taste the Kimberley's romantic and glamorous past by taking a walk through Belgravia. Contact: +27 (0)82 963 6657.
- **Dronfield Nature Reserve** - Is well stocked with herds of eland, gemsbok, blue wildebeest, red hartebeest, zebra, giraffe, kudu, sable antelope and a wide range of resident bird life and overnight accommodation. Contact +27(0)53 839 4455.
- **Duggan-Cronin Gallery** - This Irish man, with his assistant Richard Madela by his side, travelled the length and breadth of the country photographing the lives of indigenous people. Contact: +27 (0)53 839 2743.
- **Honoured Dead Memorial** - Designed by Sir

Herbert Baker and built at CJ Rhodes' behest to honour those who died defending Kimberley during The Siege. 'Long Cecil', is mounted on the stylobate surrounded by shells from the Boer 'Long Tom'.

- **Ghost Trail Tour** - The shivering facts and fallacies about ghostly visitations are packed in a fun and entertaining guided ghost trail. Contact: +27 (0)82 572 0065.
- **Galeshewe Guided Township Tour** - learn more about the oldest township in the country, visit local artists and enjoy a taste of the local cuisine. Native Minds Tours. Contact: +27 (0)78 069 5104.
- **Kimberley Club** - A national monument since 1984, the Kimberley Club was established in August 1881 with past members such as CJ Rhodes, Leander Starr Jameson, Charles Dunnell Rudd, Barney Barnato, Sir Ernest and Harry Oppenheimer. Tel: +27(0)53 832 4224.
- **Kimberley Diamond Brewing Company** in Ritchie offers delicious meals and craft beer experience. Contact: +27 (0)66 212 7090.



- **McGregor Museum** - A national monument, built in 1896 at Rhodes instigation as a hotel and health resort. The museum displays natural history, the siege of Kimberley, a Hall of Religions and the acclaimed Ancestors Gallery depicting three million years of human history in the Northern Cape. 5 Atlas Street Tel: +27 (0)53 839 2700.
- **Sol Plaatje** - Solomon Thekiso Plaatje famous for his literary efforts as an author and newspaper man, was also the first Secretary-General of the ANC. Angel Street. Tel: +27 (0)53 833 2526 (Please phone for opening hours).
- **Robert Sobukwe's House** - Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, founder and first president of the Pan Africanist Congress, spent his last years practising law in Kimberley under a banning order. Contact: +27 (0)78 069 5104.
- **The Big Hole & Kimberley Mine Museum** - the largest hand-dug excavation in the world. The spectacular site and the mining museum and town bring the magnificent era of Diamond Discovery in Kimberley back to life. Contact +27(0)53 830 4417.
- **William Humphrey Art Gallery** - Opened in 1952 it houses modern African art and some old masters. Contact: +27(0)53 831 1724.
- **Wildebessie Kuil Rock Art Centre** - Situated on a farm belonging to the! Xun & Khwe, who collaborated in making this pristine Khoisan heritage site open to the public. Contact +27(0)82 222 4777.
- **Take the Tram** - This vintage tram - introduced in 1887 - was refurbished to enhance the tourist experience of historical Kimberley, Book a ride at the Big Hole. Contact: +27 (0)53 830 6272.



Surrounding Towns

BARKLEY WEST - The discovery of diamonds at Klipdrift on the Vaal River in 1869 drew thousands of prospectors to the town which was renamed Barkly West in 1873. Renowned writer Sarah Gertrude Millin grew up in the district.

To see and do

- **Alluvial Diamond Diggings** - Licensed prospectors still sift the sand and gravel of the Vaal River for ever elusive diamonds. Guided tours only.
- **Barkly Bridge and Barkly West Museum** - Brought up-country by rail and ox wagon, this steel girdered bridge was the first to ford the Vaal River in 1885. The tollhouse was restored in 2000 as a museum with displays on local geology, archaeology and history.
- **Canteen Kopje** - Alluvial diamond diggings from 1870 revealed many archaeological sites. An open-air display explains the significance of early hand-axe industries (over a million years old).
- **Course of the Vaal River** - Characterised by breakwaters where diggers still labour, the river has many pools, rapids, waterfalls and features with odd names, eg Gong Gong, Beaumont's Folly and Bosman's Fortune.
- **Nooitgedacht Glacial Pavings** - 1 500-year-old rock engravings
- **St Mary's Anglican Church** - St Mary's Anglican Church, built in 1871, was the first church on the diamond fields.

CAMPBELL was renamed in honour of Reverend John Campbell who visited the Cape Colony in 1813. It has a multifaceted history and has been home to San, Koranna and, later, Griqua settlers drawn by the springs' Contact Campbell Tourism +27 (0)53 832 2657.

To see and do

- **Aloe Nature Reserve** - A kloof on the edge of the Ghaap Plateau, now the Aloe Nature Reserve, is mentioned in accounts by early travellers including Burchell and Andrew Smith.
- **Anglo-Boer War** - Visit Fabersput Battlefield, the monument to Kasie Briedenham and grave of Oupa Swartbooi (British spy).
- **Bartlett's Church** - Completed in 1831 and proclaimed a national monument in 1960, it is one of the oldest churches north of the Orange River.
- **Griqua Rebellion** - Place of the battle between the Settlers and the Grikwas in 1878.
- **Holy Ark Wood** - An amazing collection of trees and succulents.

HARTSWATER is one of two main towns in the Vaalharts Valley; an oasis on the edge of the arid Northern Cape border with North West.

To see and do

- **Burial Sites** - The burial site of Tswana Chief Galeshewe on the outskirts of the town.
- **Hartswater Wine Cellar** - Enjoy wine tasting and buy local wines, bottled under the Overvaal and Elements labels.
- **Poplar Lane** - The 38 km stretch of road is lined with poplar trees and is regarded as the longest of its kind in the world, and is a popular space for photographs, particularly wedding photographs.
- **Taung Skull** - Home to the Buxton quarry where Raymond Dart discovered the million-year-old skull of the Taung child and declared a heritage site in 1924.
- **Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme** - The scheme is thought to be one of the largest irrigation schemes in the world, covering 37 000 hectares

and watering well over 1000 farms

- **Vaalharts Cotton Factory** - Vaalharts is still the largest irrigation scheme in South Africa. Main crops include lucerne, cotton, maize, ground-nuts, and of late grapes, citrus and pecan nuts while fruits. The Cotton Factory is the largest manufacturer of the cotton in the region. Contact: +27 (0)79 874 9063.
- **Women's Memorial** - his tiny brick church has beautiful stained-glass windows and a powerful sculpted relief fitted on the wall celebrating women's role in society

JAN KEMPDORP was proclaimed in 1953 and named after General Jan Kemp, a former Minister of Lands. During the Second World War it was the site of a concentration camp housing German men regarded as potentially dangerous by the authorities.

To see and do

- **Vaalharts Museum** houses a vintage car collection, as well as agricultural equipment tracing the history of farming in the area.

WARRENTON was found in 1880 and named after Sir Charles Warren, diamonds were discovered here in 1888 and mining still continues.

To see and do

- When in town visit the **Old Sluice and waterwheel**, look out for the character-rich, historical buildings in town, the beautiful old steam locomotive outside the FNB, and unusual succulents – like the Albinica (Lithops lesliei).
- **Nyara Lodge** an enchanting, intimate five-star lodge situated 10 kilometres from Warrenton towards Kimberley on the N12. Contact: +27(0)53 204 0042.
- **Vaal-Harts Dam** is a popular fishing and boating spot with great picnic spot along its banks.
- **Ditshoswane Community Arts Centre** offers a vibrant and welcoming experience with good food, entertainment and creative art to purchase. Contact: +27 (0)61 970 9545.

DIAMOND FIELDS REGION ROUTES

KAROO OASIS ROUTE

The route traverse through the towns of Warrenton, Kimberley, Hopetown, Britstown, Victoria West along the N12, and It is the perfect stopover for travellers between Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Stop along the route to trace the rich mining history of the Diamond Fields region. The capital city of Kimberley became home to the Diamond Rush about 150 years ago when an 83-carat diamond was discovered on Colesburg Kopje. Your visit to Kimberley should include a visit to The Big Hole - the largest hand-dug excavation in the world and take a ride on the vintage tram - the only tram still running in the country. Follow along the historical mile and visit some of the oldest state homes, famed museums and galleries.

The route offers a myriad national game and nature reserves where visitors can enjoy fly-fishing kayaking, mountain biking, trail running, game drives and world class birding A good stop over along the route is Mokala National Park, Britstown for breakfast stop and Victoria West which was named after Queen Victoria of England, a great stop over for lunch or overnight.

Should your route take you to the Eastern Cape you will pass through the small town of Hanover and encounter South Africa's largest privately owned Karoo nature reserve. Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve Contact: +27 (0)82 567 9211.



EXPLORE ANGLO-BOER WAR ROUTE

The Battlefields Route allows visitors to relive the war between Great Britain and the Boer Republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State from 1899 to 1902. The Northern Cape played a decisive role in the war with the famous Kimberley siege and many of the major battles of the Western Campaign taking place within 120 kilometres of Kimberley.

The details of the siege, including the victories and setbacks suffered by can be relived at the Magersfontein and McGregor Museums. Included among these are the Battles from Orange River Station, including Modder River, Magersfontein, Belmont, Graspan. The town Modder River lies 39km south of Kimberley near the confluence of the Riet and Modder rivers. The town has three monuments commemorating the Anglo-Boer War Battle of Modder River in the vicinity.

By visiting the many battlefields and talking to the local inhabitants, a visitor is able to picture that distant war and bring it to life, recapturing the trials and tribulations of all who were concerned with the war.

CONTACTS

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Sol Plaatje Tourism: +27 (0)53 830 6779.

Karoo Oasis Route: +27 (0)82 567 9211.

Magersfontein Battlefield Museum:

+27 (0)53 839 2722.



GREEN KALAHARI REGION

Vast tracts of bleak, shimmering semidesert contrast dramatically with lush green vineyards filling the Orange River's fertile valleys. The region is further home to two meandering routes taking the visitor to the smaller hamlets and communities to explore and discover.

UPINGTON is the second biggest town in the province and a former mission station and is a contrasting sight of lush emerald green vineyards against the semi desert reds of the Kalahari Desert.

To see and do

- **Upington 26 Monument** - This monument in the township of Paballelo commemorates the role that the Upington 26 played in the fight against oppression and apartheid during the 80's
- **Camel and donkey monuments** - The monuments commemorate the crucial role these domestic animals played in the history of the region.
- **Date Palm Avenue** - Found at the entrance to Die Eiland Resort it is one of the longest palm avenues in the Southern Hemisphere – 1. 4km long.
- **Kalahari Oranje Museum Complex** - Originally built a church and mission station this now houses the museum. Contact: +27 (0) 82 3362785,.
- **Sakkie se Arkie Sunset Cruise** - Watch as the setting sun turn the might Orange river in molten gold. Contact: +27 (0)84 244 4408.
- **Orange River Wine Tasting Rooms.**- The world's second largest co-operative has an impressive tasting room in the town centre.

AUGRABIES and MARCHAND are two of the smaller towns of the region situated on the banks of the Orange River and surrounded by lush green vineyards.

To see and do

- **The Au-grabies National Park** named by the Khoi people "Aukoerebis" is the place of great noise. It is home to the Au-grabies Falls, the world's six largest waterfall which thunders down the 18km abyss of the Orange River Gorge.
- **17 great adventures** await visitors at the park which includes hiking, biking and 4x4 trails, kayaking, fly-fishing, incredible Instagram able points along the gorge walk. The night drive is exceptional as one experience the secretive and somewhat mystical world of the nocturnal animals.
- **The Kalahari Cheesemaking Company** is a "micro cheesery" near the town of Au-grabies and close to the Au-grabies Falls National Park. Their unique cheeses are a mixture of cow's, goat's and sheep-milk flavour profile. Contact 082 825 2704.

GROBLERSHOOP was the founded in 1936 is a farming and administrative centre in the Orange River Valley, east of Upington.

To see and do

- **Boegoeberg Holiday Resort** - Offers luxury self-catering chalets, hiking, fishing, canoeing, skiing and sailing.
- **Witsand Game Reserve** - Experience the roaring sands of the Kalahari, game drives, sand surfing and incredible birdwatching.

KAKAMAS and KEIMOES are quaint towns in the fertile valley in the Lower Orange River, and are famous for their table grapes which is exported world-wide.

To see and do

- **Die Pienk Padstal** - Foodies can enjoy typical Northern Cape farm produce crafts and light refreshments at this memorable local spot.
- **Kalahari Sushi** - Known far and wide around the world Find them at the Kalahari Getaway Hotel. Contact +27(0)54 431 0838
- **Akkerboom Padstal** - Situated between Kakamas and Keimoes his stylish padstal amidst a setting of lush vineyards. Contact: +27 (0)79 517 1343.
- **Bakkiespomp** is an old restored working waterwheel in the centre of the village which pumps water from the Gariep River to farms in the area. Located on the main street.
- **Sunset Vineyard Safari** - Explore the hundred islets of Keimoes in an open vehicle and a sundowner as the sun set behind the Tierberg mountain. Contact: 27 (0)82 743 1736.
- **Tierberg Nature Reserve** - The 160 hectares Nature Reserve features abundant aloes, succulents and is home to enormous herds of springbok.
- **World War 1 War Memorial** - The battle of Kakamas took place in 1915 and consisted of 3 skirmishes between German and Allied Forces. A memorial marks the location of the battle.

RIEMVASMAAK - North West of the little town of Kakamas and bordering the Augrabies National Park is the Riemvasmaak Community Conservancy, 75 000 hectares of land between the flowing Orange and dry Molopo rivers.

To do and see:

- **Adventure** - There are challenging 4x4 trails, several hiking trails, impressive rock climbing and abseiling (bring your own equipment though).
- **Birdwatching** - The black eagle breeds here, the fish eagle is often sighted and the while pale winged starlings are prolific.
- **Natural Beauty** - Riemvasmaak is 75 000ha of sheer mountain desert wilderness with imposing mountains, extensive desert plains and a wilderness born from violent volcanic activity millions of years ago, but it is land of beauty that takes on spiritual proportion. Indigenous camel thorn and shepherd's trees, and wildlife that includes creatures from hyraxes (also known as dassies) to antelope and baboon.
- **Riemvasmaak Hot Springs** invites visitors to relax in the natural wonder of these therapeutic waters. Cliff faces surround the springs, towering 80 meters over those that are delighting in the warmth of the waters below. Two swimming pools have been constructed at the springs.

GREEN KALAHARI REGION ROUTES

QUIVER TREE ROUTE

Named after the indigenous quiver tree, the Quiver Tree Route stretches along the mighty Orange River. It features quaint towns of Upington, Kakamas, Keimoes, Augrabies, Marchand, Kanoneiland, Kenhardt and Riemvasmaak. The route will appeal greatly to families, adventure and adrenaline seekers with activities such as river rafting, fly fishing, kayaking, river cruises, 4x4, hiking, MTB trails and excellent bird watching. With the longest wine producing area in the Southern Hemisphere there are many opportunities for world class wine and brandy tasting along the route. Contact Details: +27 (0)84 244 4408.

To see and do

- Riemvasmaak hot spring and hikes.
- Adventure experiences such as river rafting, fly fishing, kayaking, river cruises, hiking and excellent bird watching at Khamkirri. Contact: +27 (0) 84 244 4408.
- Excellent wine cellars along the route: **Bezalel Wine and Brandy Tasting** call +27 (0)83 257 4736. **Die Mas Wine Tasting** - contact: +27 (0)71 015 7131 - **Orange River Wine Tasting** - contact: +27 (0)54 495 0040 **Vineyard safari and sundowner tour** Contact: +27 (0)54 461 1635

KALAHARI RED DUNE ROUTE

Golden dunes, wide-open skies and flat-topped acacia trees epitomize the Kalahari Red Dune Route. Stretching from Upington right to the Namibian border, visitors traverse the villages of Ashkam, Groot and Klein Mier and Rietfontein. Adventure-loving families and adrenaline seekers can enjoy dune hikes at dawn, eagle- owl encounters, close encounters with meerkats, sand duning and surfing in the red sand,. Be sure to visit the newest world heritage site, Khomani Cultural Landscape Heritage Site. Contact Details: +27 (0)82 785 1600.

- **Khomani San (Bushmen) Experience** - rediscover the wisdom, customs and folklore of this ancient tribe with Vinkies Tours, Contact 27(0)72 977 0120.
- **Diamond T Coffee shop** - Great local fare and home baked delicacies and locally created arts and crafts. Contact: +27 (0)54 511 0025
- **Aunt Koera's Farm Kitchen** on the R360 between Askham & Andriesvale for traditional cuisine. Contact+27 83 588 8346.
- **Kalahari Info & Tented Camp** - They offer 4x4 dune experiences including sunset tours and dinners, accommodation and great local cuisine. Contact: +27(0) 63 048 0706.
- **Rooiduin Guest Farm** offers sand boarding 4x4 Route, camping, hiking and bird-watching. Contact: +27 63 846 1307.
- **Meerkat Encounters** - Kalahari Trials offers a sanctuary to many orphaned and injured meerkats and offers morning and evening walking tours and guided drives. Contact +27 (0)73 963 8577.
- **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park Encounter** magnificent herds of oryx, encounter the mighty Kalahari lion. The largest conservation area within Africa it is also home to a Dark skies sanctuary home to the Khomani Cultural Landscape Heritage Site.

CONTACTS

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Augrabies Falls National Park:

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Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park:

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Kalahari Red Dune Route: +27 (0)82 785 1600.

Quiver Tree Route: +27 (0)84 244 4408.



KALAHARI REGION

The sun-drenched Kalahari with its endless horizons evokes memories of a land before time. Its vast, ancient landscape undulates misty horizons that remember the beginning of time. A journey from Gauteng to Namibia, or the Cape, via Upington, brings unsuspecting travellers to the gateway of this mysterious land. It features two routes.

KURUMAN is the main town in the Kalahari region and is known as the “Oasis of the Kalahari”. The town is blessed with a permanent source of water and visitors are continually fascinated by this beautiful and progressive town.

To do and see

- **The Eye of Kuruman** is the largest spring in the southern hemisphere and delivers 20-30 million litres of crystal-clear water daily to the town and surrounding area. The calm waters are speckled with lilies and reflections from surrounding trees and shady grass verges is a place for quiet contemplation while watching fat carp and other fish species basking on the sandy bed.
- **Moffat Mission.** Situated just outside Kuruman the shady surrounds of the mission provide a peaceful interlude in which to contemplate the past history of the area. The mission is often described as the Northern Cape’s fount of Christianity, as it was a base for many ventures into the interior by missionaries. It is named after Robert Moffat, a Scottish missionary who lived and worked here from 1820 to 1870. He also translated the Bible into Setswana. It was also renowned explorer David Livingstone’s first home in Africa. Contact: Amina: +27(0)83 604 0804.
- **The Workshop Ko Kasi.** Situated in Mothibistad it has become known as a vibey, earthy, contemporary meeting place and sanctuary, built with recycled and natural materials. Come to the kasi (local slang for township) to mingle, dine, express your creativity, enjoy a retreat or a live show, or

head out on a cultural tour. Contact +27 (0)71 866 3517.

Surrounding Towns

BLACK ROCK lies 25km from Hotazel and is home to the province’s Assmang underground manganese mine.

To see and do

- View the manganese mineral collection- Assmang Geology office: Contact: +27 (0)53 751 5228.

DANIELSKUIL proclaimed as a town in 1892 is a small town situated below the Kuruman Hills north of Kimberley. Its fertile agricultural soil and abundant supply of underground water and springs has made it a welcome stop over for Griqua herdsmen on their trips to find grazing for their animals and 19th century travellers and explorers on their way north. The area is also rich in minerals and diamonds.

To see and do

- **Boesmansgat** - A unique natural sinkhole, renowned as the second deepest and largest of its kind in the world on the farm Mount Carmel. Contact: +27 (0)82 222 4777.
- **British Fort** - Built during the Anglo-Boer War, the fort is on a hillock overlooking the town.
- **Wonderwerk Cave** - 43kms north of Danielskuil on the R31 to Kuruman, this cave has a history covering almost a million years and is virtually a textbook account of the evolvement of humankind in South Africa. The deep cavern (140 metres) has been home to many peoples throughout the ages including, in more recent



times, a farmer by the name of N.J. Bosman. Together with his wife, eleven sons, and three daughters, he lived in the cave from 1909 to 1911 while he built the present homestead, and thereafter it was used as a shelter for his stock. There is a small museum at the site. Contact: +27 (0)82 222 4777.

DIBENG (first drinking place) was named by the SeTswana and is located on the banks of the dry Gamara River. The town has strong Dutch Reformed links with the congregations of Kuruman, Kathu and Olifantshoek.

To see and do

- **Doring Draad Kontrei Kuier Plek** - a quirky little bar and restaurant that combines the old-world charm and design features that are from a distinctly bygone era. A place where friends and family meet, relax and enjoy the one-of-a-kind intrigue and beauty of Deben and is famous for its gourmet Roosterkoek and local craft beers. Live music is the perfect way to round off this real South African "jol", while little ones will enjoy a donkey cart ride as their parents relax. Contact: +27(0)73 237 4566

HOTAZEL is set on a bush-covered, featureless plain. It is home to Samancor's Mamatwan open-quarry manganese ore mine and sinter plant,

Wessels underground manganese ore mine and railway terminus.

To see and do

- **Tswalu** - 71 km from the town on the R31 Tswalu is the largest privately-owned game reserve in South Africa and offer a memorable Kalahari experience. There are seventy mammal species including the desert black rhino and Kalahari lion and 200+ bird species. Contact: +27 (0)53 7819331.

POSTMASBURG was proclaimed a town on 6 June 1892 and named after the Rev J Postma, a Reformed Church minister. The town is complemented by a dam surrounded by lush, green vegetation and sparkling fountains and many quirky shops and markets.

To see and do

- **Town Walk** – Discover the many spectacular architecture and many historical sites which includes an old blue dolomite stone Reformed Church built in 1908, Reverend Dirk Postma's Statue and the rather impressive gun known as "Howitzer Gun" which stands at the civic centre which honours the men of Postmasburg who died during World War II.
- For the adventure seekers, there are plenty of thrilling 4x4 trails, hiking and biking in the area

KATHU (Sishen) is a mining town in area and it is strategically connected by road, rail and air through Kimberley and Upington.

To see and do

- **Sishen iron ore mine** - even for those only vaguely interested in great dusty holes in the earth and noisy, smoke-belching diesel machinery, a tour of the open cast minion the outskirts of Kathu, which is one of the biggest manmade holes in the world, is mind-boggling. The sheer size of the equipment includes the biggest trucks in the world carrying 340 tons of earth. When the pit is in full production, it uses 5-million litres of diesel every month - that's seven fuel tankers every single day. For mine tours contact:
- **Sishen Golf Course** - for golfers this beautiful 18-hole championship course at Kathu, with its grassed fairways meandering through a forest of centuries-old Camelthorn trees, is rated amongst the top 20 courses in South Africa. Contact: +27 (0)53 050 5727.

OLIFANTSHOEK - the only town to be situated at the foot of the Langberg it used to be the land of the Tswana, especially the tribes like the Tlhaping and the Tlharo. A hundred years of Tswana reign came to an end in 1885 when the area was annexed and became part of British Betsjoeanaland. In 1895 British Betsjoeanaland

became part of the Cape Colony and town official was named Olifantshoek in 1895. It is also known as the 'Gateway to the White and Roaring Sands', it is known as the getaway to the roaring sands of the Kalahari, Witsand Nature Reserve which lies 78km south of the town.

To see and do

- **Langkloof Pass** - this scenic pass lies approximately 7km north-west of the town of Olifantshoek (Elephants Corner) in the Langberg Mountains.
- **Hiking** - The Neylan and the Pudu hiking trails are well worth exploring. Contact: +27 (0)53 723 6000.
- **Archaeological adventures** - there are numerous San Rock art paintings and engravings which can be viewed on Meerlust and Pan Heuwel farms. Learn how the San described animals as well as their many fascinating hunting antics. Contact: +27 (0)53 723 6000.
- **War Graves** - The war graves cemetery in Olifantshoek dates back to 1879 and are graves of the deceased during the Galeshewe wars fought between the Boers and the Tswana people on the western perimeter of the old Transvaal Republic. These graves can be seen are on the Fuller farm. Contact: +27 (0)53 723 6000.



- **Witsand Nature Reserve**, is home to the famous 'Bruisand' or Roaring Sands of the Kalahari, the Reserve offers overnight camping and chalet accommodation, hiking, sandboarding, mountain biking and a 40km 4WD route experiences through the dunes. Contact: +27 (0)83 656 2117.

VAN ZYLRSUS is a popular stopover for tourists on their way to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and is surrounded by the rust-red dunes of the Kalahari and offers true Kalahari hospitality and a paradise for biltong lovers.

To see and do

- **Visits to the infamous "Meerkat" project** - The town has seen some famous stars of the international BBC film series "Meerkat Manor". Visit the burrows the "meerkat celebrities" in their natural habitat. Contact: +27 (0)53 781 0201.
- **Game drives** - Tourists will be pleasantly surprised by the unique vegetation that exists in this "believed to be" dry desert which blossoms into a green and lush veld during the rainy season. Apart from visiting neighbouring game farms where exquisite sables, roam antelopes, black rhino, Eland, springbok and the gracious gemsbok can be spotted.
- **Bird Watching** - Van Zylsrus is home to hundreds of exotic and indigenous bird species. See the Kori Bustard (Gompou), "the heaviest flying bird on the planet" in its natural habitat as well as one of the noisiest birds on our planet, the korhaan. The yellow and red beek hornbills (also called the kok-kok) will be your beautiful morning alarm at sunrise.
- **Ancient Molopo visits** - Enjoy a traditional picnic or braai in the dry river beds of this amazing ancient historic symbol of the Kalahari of which many a song has been written.
- **Hiking trails** - Knowledgeable nature lovers have designed hiking trails where one can appreciate the splendour of the indigenous Kalahari vegetation – trees, shrubs, bulbs and cacti can all be easily identified – learn more about the ways in which Bushmen have used the vegetation for traditional healing and other exciting uses.
- **Stargazing** - Africa is world renowned for its enchanting evening skies, especially the Kalahari with its vast open planes and unpolluted air. The wonders of the heavenly bodies have never been so touchable and breath-taking than in the Kalahari. The ideal location for professional and amateur stargazers.

KALAHARI REGION ROUTES

EXPLORE THE ROARING KALAHARI ROUTE

The sheer size and distances of the Kalahari can be intimidating, but the members of the Roaring Kalahari Route make visitors feel at ease in this vast wilderness. The route starts in the oasis of Kuruman before heading through the tree-filled town of Kathu and northwards to Dibeng and the mining towns of Hotazel and Black Rock. It then heads to McCarthy's Rest on the Botswana border, back down to Van Zylsrus and westward to Askham with a detour to the unforgettable Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

The next stop on the itinerary is Upington, the largest town on the route before heading back east to Groblershoop and the Boegoeberg Dam. A stay-over at the Witsand Nature Reserve is an absolute must before you continue the journey to Griquatown and Danielskuil. Along the way visitors can visit and stay at some of the most hospitable and colourful guest houses, guest farms, resorts, parks and nature reserves in the country. Contact: +27 (0)53 781 0201.

GO GHAAP ROUTE

The Northern Cape has a fascinating new heritage route which offers a confluence of cultures and experiences. Explore famous archaeological sites, historic towns, amazing architecture, and a selection of nature and game reserves. Visitors can trace the early geological history (from 3 billion years ago) which created vast mineral wealth like iron, manganese, diamonds and limestone.

Follow in the footsteps of the early explorers and missionaries such as David Livingston, Henry Stanley and Richard Moffat. Relive the Anglo Tswana and Anglo-Boer Wars, explore the Wonderwerk Caves between Kuruman and Danielskuil. Rediscover the Khoisan history in Wildebeest Kuil near Barkly West. Along the way be sure to visit some of the most hospitable

guesthouses, world renowned game reserves and nature reserves and quirky hotels in the quaint towns of Postmasburg, Olifantshoek, Kathu, Hotazel, Dibeng Kuruman and Vanzylsrus. Contact: +27 (0)83 274 5461.

DON'T MISS:

- **Natural splendour** - Known as the "oasis of the Kalahari", the area has many natural springs and verdant green valleys with a number of private game and nature reserves, hiking mountain biking, game viewing, incredible birdwatching and stargazing.
- **Heritage sites** - The Wonderwerk Caves is an archaeological wonder believed to be at least two billion years old. There are further many historical grave sites dating from the Boer and Tswana Wars as well as the Anglo Boer war. There are further many San Engravings and paintings to be seen on local farms and off course the Moffat Museum in Kuruman.

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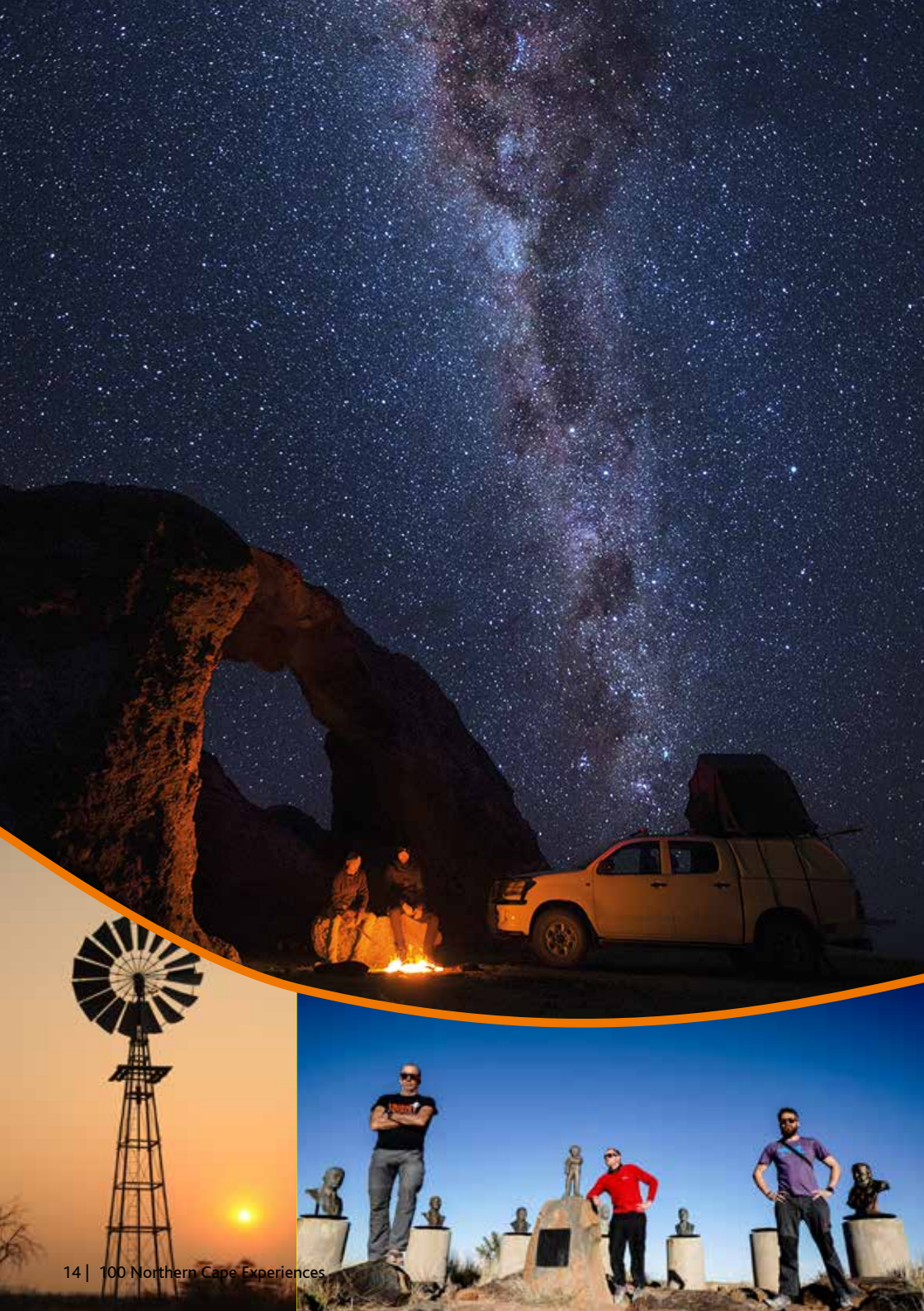
Kuruman Tourism: +27 (0)53 712 8816.

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Go Ghaap Route: +27 (0)83 274 5461.





KAROO REGION

The seemingly arid Karoo region quickly transforms itself with the first summer rains into waving fields of grasses with picturesque scenes of grazing sheep and spinning wind pumps. Visitors are enticed by its distinctive Karoo architecture, impressive churches and desolate valleys between flat-topped koppies (hills). This region offers visitors the traditional warm hospitality of its people combined with superb hunting, hiking and game watching.

KAROO REGION

Small, isolated but welcoming dorps, distinct Karoo architecture and imposing churches rest in valleys between desolate, flat-topped koppies forms the vast openness of the Northern Cape's Karoo. This region features two routes, the Karoo Highland Route and the Karoo Oasis route.

DE AAR is the third largest town in the Northern Cape and is centrally located on the main railway line between Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Namibia. There is plenty to do and see in De Aar:

To see and do

- **Khoisan Rock Engravings** - For viewing on Nootgedacht and Brandfontein farms contact, Ian +27 (0)82 553 0586.
- **The Garden of Remembrance** - The Deelfontein Cemetery honors fallen British troops during the Anglo Boer. Contact: Emthanjeni Tourism Office +27 (0) 53 632 9100.
- **Olive Schreiner's House and Restaurant** - visit the famous war activist and author's home and enjoy typical Karoo fare and hospitality amidst a selection of memorabilia Contact: +27 (0)83 300 7554.
- Other historical sites include **St Paul's Church, Town Hall** and **Standard Bank**. Contact: Noncedo Seekoei +27 (0)76 227 3014.
- Visit local artists and crafters such as **Sam Mooi, Fundiswa Banto and Ruth Issel**. Contact: Emthanjeni Tourism Office +27 (0) 53 632 9100.

- **Donkey cart tours** an absolute must! Contact: Noncedo Seekoei +27 (0)76 227 3014.

CARNARVON is one of the oldest towns within the Northern Cape. It started off as a mission station in 1847 named Schietfontein which evolved into a town named Harmsfontein in 1860 and renamed as Carnarvon in 1874.

To see and do

- **Carnarvon Museum** - originally served as a community hall for the Dutch Reformed Church it is now the town museum which houses a selection of artefacts and collections depicting the battles between the Xhosa, Boers, Koranna and Khoikhoi tribes and life in the 19th and 20th centuries. Contact: +27 (0)53 382 3012.
- **Historic Houses and Town Walk** - Apart from the typical Karoo houses there are many fine examples of late Victorian and Edwardian era homes and buildings in Carnarvon. Interesting buildings include the original buildings in De Bult, the old mansions belonging to the author and school teacher Dr DF Malherbe and the author, poet, teacher, medical practitioner and mayor of Carnarvon, Dr AG Visser. Other historic buildings include the parsonages of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Rhenish Mission Church, and the Uniting Reformed Church on "Unieplein" or Union Square. Contact: +27 (0)82 780 4209.
- **KOEËLKOP** (Water Reservoir) - During the South African Anglo Boer War a Rice pattern blockhouse was constructed on top of the

hill that overlooks Carnarvon, to guard the town against the lightning raids of the Boer Commandos. Today the water reservoir which supplies drinking water to the town is situated on this hill.

- **The Square Kilometre Array** near Carnarvon (SKA) - Carnarvon is now the centre of world-wide attention as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), more than 50 times as powerful as the Hubble Space telescope, will be the world's largest radio telescope with one million square metres of collecting area. Contact: +27 (0)61 525 3425.

COLESBERG is a traveler's oasis on the N1 national highway between Johannesburg and Cape Town and offers interesting historical tour experiences.

To see and do

- **Town walking tour** - visit the old horse-driven mill pub, the Anglican Church, the Kemper Museum much more. Contact Colesberg Tourism Office +27 (0)51 753 0678.

- **Colesberg Kemper Museum** dates back to 1861 and features the impressive Kemper Collection. It further has an impressive collection of Anglo-Boer War photographs and artefacts, a 19th century toy collection, a Karoo Nomad photographic exhibition and Erasmus Jacob's find of Eureka, the first recorded diamond found in South Africa. Contact: Colesberg Tourism Office +27 (0)51 753 0678.
- **Anglo Boer War** enthusiasts can visit the Grenadier Guard Rock, Memorial Hill and the military cemetery where more than 400 men from 20 regiments are buried. Contact: Colesberg Tourism Office +27 (0)51 753 0678.
- **Doornkloof Nature Reserve** is located on the southern eastern banks of the Vanderkloof Dam and offers game viewing, hiking and MTB trails, fishing, camping and overnight chalets. Contact: +27 (0)51 753 3006.

FRASERBURG was founded in 1851 and named after a Scottish cleric and immigrant, Rev Colin Fraser, and a in church elder, Meyburg.

To see and do

- **Gansfontein Palaeo Surface:** The rocks exposed here were originally deposited some 250 million years ago. On the farm Riethuisies there is a distinct trace fossil of a gastropod and the same trace fossil was found recently in Antarctica, of great importance for Palaeontologists. For visits contact: +27 (0)61 058 5594.

- **Old Parsonage Museum** - Built in 1856 for the Rev CA Bamberger, the first minister to the newly established congregation. It has a unique floor plan with four curved interior walls. Presently the town museum it houses unique collections and an exhibition of fossils. Contact: +27 (0)23 571 1265.
- **Pepperpot** - The six-sided structure, unique in South Africa, has become the symbol of Fraserburg. It was built by Adam Jacobs in 1861.
- **Town Walking Route** will take you past the many Victorian era houses in the town dating to the era of the Wool boom in the late 19th and early 20th centuries A map can be purchased at the local museum in Fraserburg.
- **Dinosaur Walk** - The distinct footprints of a Bradysaurus that passed this way approximately 190-million years ago. Other markings include water ripples, worm trails, and signs of fish marks. Contact: +27 (0)61 058 5594.

HANOVER claims to be the country's most central place. It is equidistant from Cape Town and Johannesburg, centrally positioned between Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Upington on the N1.

To see and do

- **Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve** offers a combination of nature, game and sheep farming. There are a few daily activities offering like a sunset drive to the Hippo pool, seeing the only hippo population in the Northern Cape, birdwatching and a Buchman Etching walk in the mornings. Contact: +27 (0)82 567 9211.

HOPETOWN is situated on the edge of the Great Karoo on the banks of the might Orange River and famed for the discovery of two of South Africa's largest diamond- the Eureka Diamond and Star of Africa between 1867 and 1869.

To see and do

- **Hopetown Concentration Camp Cemetery** - Voted as one of the best Anglo War memorial sites by the site South African Heritage foundation the memorial site and museum on the farm Doornbult on the outskirts of Hopetown houses a number of significant Anglo Boer War historical and archaeological artefacts and include a women's concentration camp and a cemetery. Contact: Mrs Rina Wiid +27 (0)53 203 8105.



- **Anglo Boer War** historical and archaeological sites such as Orange River Station, British Military Camps, and a well-preserved Block House can be found in close proximity of the farm. Contact: Mrs Rina Wiid +27(0) 53 203 8105.

RICHMOND has recently been named South Africa's first Book Town and Africa's only Book Town. It is situated on the N1 halfway between Johannesburg and Cape Town and the ideal stop over and destination for booklovers and authors alike.

To see and do

- **Richmond Bookbinding Project** an impressive display of the national and local artists can be seen at **Modern Arts Council & Art Board**, which also sells books made by the local women. Contact: +27 (0)78 957 6514.
- **Boekbedonnerd Book Festival** - the town hosts the annual literary event which attracts both authors and readers from far and wide each year. Contact: +27 (0)11 447 2517.
- **Horse Museum**, one of only two in the world offers equine-related displays, and quirky exhibits on fascinating things from days gone by! Contact: +27 (0)53 693 0176.

SUTHERLAND is a small Karoo town, famous for its warm hospitality, snowy winters, starlit nights and dramatic landscapes. Fascinating history, unique natural assets and numerous outdoor activities make Sutherland a popular a micro travel destination.

To see and do

- Stargazing - Sutherland is world renowned among astronomers for its year-round crystal-clear night skies. Visit the **Sutherland Planetarium**, the most modern and only privately-owned Digital Planetarium in South Africa for their unique sun gazing and other digital tours of the universe. Contact Sterland

for night sky tours on +27 (0)76 909 8635 and SALT for night and day tours. Contact: +27 (0)23 571 2436.

- **Walking town tour** - your walk will take you past most of the architecturally prominent buildings including the home of the prominent writing family, van Wyk Louws, the Groote Kerk dating back to 1870's and oldest church in the hinterland. It was occupied during the Anglo Boer War for 3 years.
- **Sterland Farm** – Situated just outside the main town they offer insightful fossil and botanical tours during the day and stargazing tours at night. Contact: +27 (0)23 571 1481.
- **The South African Astronomical Observatory (SALT)** is the largest optical telescope in the southern hemisphere (with 92 hexagonal mirrors) and offers a unique perspective on the stars. Contact for day and night star gazing tours and tours of the facilities. Contact: +27 (0)23 571 2436.

VICTORIA WEST was founded in 1843 and named after Queen Victoria of England. It is situated on the N12 halfway between Cape Town and Johannesburg making it the ideal stopover point for holiday makers or businessmen on a long journey.

To see and do

- Birding, Hiking, Mountain biking, Horse riding contact: +27 (0)73 763 9892.
- The Town Walk will take you past St John's Anglican Church, Victoria West Museum, De Oude Scholen, the Jewish Synagogue and the Oude Pastorie, the oldest house in town and the **Karoo Deli** for local delicacies and gifts. Contact: +27 (0)73 763 9892.
- **The Apollo Theatre** the only art deco building still preserved in SA is worth a visit not only for the architecture but to watch the complimentary short film of years gone by. Gift and coffee shop available. Contact: +27 (0)82 464 2690.

KAROO REGION ROUTES

KAROO HIGHLANDS ROUTE

This route features the small Karoo towns of Nieuwoudtville, Calvinia, Williston, Sutherland, Fraserburg, Carnarvon, Loxton and Victoria West - the heart of the Great Karoo. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Karoo with its wide-open plains and the many unique experiences on offer. Great Karoo cuisine and hospitality makes this a must do region. Contact Details: +27 (0)84 709 0218.

To see and do

- Stargazing at the world's largest astronomical observatory at Sutherland
- Karoo architecture and Karoo Lamb
- Corbelled houses were built by the trekboere according to an ancient Mediterranean European method of construction known as corbelling. Many of them have been turned into iconic accommodation options.
- Anglo-Boer War sites
- The Williston Mall in Williston – a quaint place to shop, eat and the world's greatest pink milkshakes Contact: +27 (0)72 018 7288.
- Nieuwoudtville Waterfall contact: +27 (0)27 218 1336 and Hantam Botanical Garden contact: +27 (0)27 218 1200.
- **"Windpompe" of the Karoo.** These tin flowers against the Karoo skyline is archetypal of this region and is locals refers to them as the "Great Matchmaker" between the marriage of the land and the water beneath.

KAROO OASIS ROUTE

The route traverse through the towns of Warrenton, Kimberley, Hopetown, Britstown along the N12 and De Aar Hanover and Richmond along the N6. It is the perfect stopover for travellers between Johannesburg and Cape Town and Johannesburg

and Eastern Cape. Contact: +27(0)82 567 9211.

To see and do

- Explore the rich mining history of Kimberley, the Big Hole, Vintage Tram and the Historical Walk
- Follow along the historical mile and visit some of the oldest state homes, famed museums and galleries.
- Enjoy fly-fishing, kayaking, mountain biking, trail running, game drives and world class birding at any one of the world class National parks or game reserves. Mokala National Park +27 (0)53 204 8000, Wintershoek Lodge +27 (0)82 464 6732, Imbasa Lodge +27 (0)82 777 7217, Gkhui Gkhui River Lodge +27 (0)53 831 1994.
- Onto **Britstown**, a perfect overnight stop-over at the **Transkaroo Country Lodge** for typical Karoo slow food and hospitality. Contact: +27 (0)53 672 0027.
- **Rolfontein Nature Reserve** is situated in Vanderkloof town and offers picnicking, hiking trails, fishing and an overnight tented camp. Contact: +27 (0)53 664 0900.
- **The Vanderkloof Dam** is the second largest dam in South Africa and offer great water activities such as angling, sailing, skiing and windsurfing. Contact: +27 (0)82 921 5245.

CONTACTS

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Tankwa Karoo National Park:

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Karoo Highlands Route: +27 (0)84 709 0218.

Karoo Oasis Route: +27 (0)82 567 9211.

NAMAKWALAND REGION

Dance with the daisies in early spring. Fall into step on the Nama Riel at the Pella Festival. Sift through the shipwrecks on the Diamond Coast. Follow the old Anglo-Boer War and copper mining trails. Stoep-sit on a Victorian veranda in Port Nolloth. Drink in the magic of the Namakwa Region - Northern Cape.

WELCOME TO THE NAMAKWA REGION

This region combines the unspoilt expanses of Namaqualand and Hantam Karoo - a region of exquisite natural beauty and contrast. Each spring it transforms into a flamboyant spread of wild flowers. The region is further home to two meandering routes taking the visitor to the many smaller hamlets and communities to explore and discover,

SPRINGBOK is the largest town of the region and its mining history, flora and connection to the Second Boer War makes it a rich hub of natural and cultural heritage. It is still widely used as a stopover for those traveling between South Africa and Namibia on the Cape to Namibia Route.

To see and do

- **Monument Koppie** - A historical site, graves and landmark commemorating the early skirmishes of General Jan Smuts and the English army during the Anglo Boer War.
- **Blue Copper Mine** - Copper was discovered in this area as early as 1685 and the start of commercial mining in South Africa.
- **Goegap Nature Reserve** bursts into a riot of vivid colors every Spring. The reserve offers 7km Myers Hiking Trail that allow every visitor to enjoy, not only the flowers but also the birdlife and other wildlife of the area.

CALVINIA is the second largest town of the area and in the center of the country's largest wool and meat producing areas.

To see and do

- Birdwatching at the **Akkerendam Nature Reserve**. Contact: +27 (0) 27 341 8500.
- **The Calvinia Museum** is based in the Art Deco synagogue and houses a collection portraying early European settler. Contact: +27 (0) 27 341 1043.
- Typical Karoo architecture - visit the **Neogothic-styled Dutch Reformed Church** and the Hantam Huis.
- **Tankwa Karoo National Park** is about four hours from Cape Town, it is situated in the open space on between Ceres, Calvinia and Sutherland. Visitors can indulge in some bird watching, and take advantage of the pure air and clear night skies to do some star gazing. Contact: +27 (0)27 341 1927.

NIEUWOUTVILLE is considered to be the bulb capital of the world and a town with many hidden treasures. Must-see attractions to visit:

- **The Hantam National Botanical Garden** on the Glenlyn farm. Take a guided tour to view more than 500 000 endemic Bulbinella. Contact: +27 (0) 27 218 1200.
- Stop at the **Matjiesfontein Farmstall** to enjoy tea and light snacks in a historical building surrounded by a variety of wild flowers. Contact: +27 (0) 27 218 1217.

- The 100m plummet of the **Nieuwoudtville Falls** on the Doring River is an awesome natural wonder. Contact: Nieuwoudtville Tourism Office +27 (0) 27 218 1336.
- Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve just 16km from Nieuwoudtville offers a variety of walking trails and day hikes. Contact: +27 (0) 27 218 1159.

LELIEFONTEIN is one of Namakwa's secret hideaways. During springtime the surrounding hills are transformed in a kaleidoscope of colour. A visit to the "Windpomp" museum featuring more than 100 wind pumps is not to be missed.



NAMAKWALAND REGION ROUTES

RICHTERSVELD ROUTE - The Richtersveld is South Africa's only mountain desert and the route travels along rugged gravel roads to quaint towns such as Eksteensfontein, Sendelingsdrift, Lekkersing, Kuboes and Sandrift. The Orange River presents a more leisurely pace with river rafting and the best wilderness fly-fishing in South Africa, while the entire Richtersveld is a mountain biker's dream.

To see and do

- A visit to the **/Ai-/Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park** is a must for your Bucket list. Conjure up a desolate and forbidding landscape hiding a treasure-chest containing the world's richest desert flora.
- In **Steinkopf** do not miss the renovated **Dutch Reformed Church** which houses artwork from famous South African artists.
- **Rhenish Mission Station** was established and in 1821.
- **River-rafting** along the mighty Orange River is a bucket-list experience: Drift along in the golden African sunshine and watch the scenery unfolds along the banks. Join one of several river operators for ½ to multi day river experiences suitable for the entire family.

- **Nama World Heritage Experience** - rediscover the wisdom, customs and folklore of this ancient tribe in a ½ to multi day tour experience – Bucket List Experience!
- **Sandrift** is truly the District Six of the Richtersveld. Alive with landscapes, unique flora and fauna and the fascinating myths and stories that haunt this river settlement.
- **Vioolsdrift** is near the border post to Namibia and offers several camp sites on the banks of the Orange River.

NAMAQUA COASTAL ROUTE

The route includes hidden gems like Garies, Kamieskroon, Hondeklip Bay, Koiingnaas and Kleinzee. Dozens of adventure and leisure options are available along this mostly coastal route. Namaqua National Park, nature reserves, hidden coastal hamlets, and some of the most remote hiking and 4x4 trails imaginable will offer many a family and "bucket list" experiences.

To see and do

- Explore the countless shipwrecks along the coast line on a five-day slow packing guided trip with great sightings of dolphins, whales and land animals. – A Bucket List Experience
- **Port Nolloth** a quaint coastal resort town well known for diamonds and cray-fishing industries.

- Visit **Vera's Kookskerm** for traditional meals include veldkos like melkkluitjies (milk dumplings), pofadder derm (liver sausage), skilpadjies (liver in kidney fat) afval (tripe) and those warm, tasty roosterkoek.
- **McDougall's Bay** just south of Port Nolloth this is a popular for camping, boating, fishing and cray fishing.
- **Kleinzee** is about 100km south from Port Nolloth and this hamlet is well-known for its oyster and abalone exports.
- The abundant bird life at the **Buffel's River estuary** offers is a must do for birders.
- **Kleinzee Shipwreck 4x4 Tour** is a fantastic trek over the dune fields exploring the famed ships that found a watery end. Book at the **Kleinzee Museum**, also worth a visit. The shipwreck tour is offering a choice between a guided or self -drive 4x4 trip between Kleinzee and Koiingnaas - a definite Bucket list Experience!
- **Hondeklip Bay** is further down the coast line and known for its peace, tranquillity and breath-taking scenery offering a real escape from the busy urban life.
- Visit the **Dog Stone**, after which the village was named and the famed **Aristea Shipwreck** of 1945 - a haunting remnant of yesteryear.

- **Spitfire Rock** creates a breath-taking and dramatic Instagram able backdrop for photographs of dramatic water sprays as huge waves hit the rock face. A definite add on for your "bucket list" of the Northern Cape.

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Goegap Nature Reserve: + 27 27 718 9906

Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve: +27 27 218 1159

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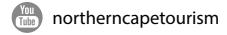
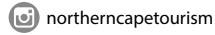
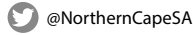
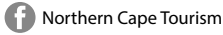
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