

meet the northern cape

The Northern Cape is scattered with diverse culture, rich frontier history and activities to suit every adrenaline junkie's taste. From hiking and 4x4 adventures to game spotting in unique parks, travellers of all persuasions will unearth a hidden gem here amongst some of the most unique flora in the world.

The Orange River runs through the Northern Cape, bringing life and painting the arid landscape with rich green belts, creating oases and havens for birdlife and other animals. The Kalahari Desert's shifting red sands that once rippled and moved are now mostly stable and home to hundreds of diverse species of flora and fauna.

The famous Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park extends across much of the Kalahari Desert and is a popular attraction for those looking for an escape into the silence of a wide horizons and open spaces interrupted only by the cry of the African fish eagle or roar of a Kalahari Lion.

Photographers, writers and storytellers have all been inspired by the vast and sweeping beauty of the Northern Cape with its big, blue skies, the cascading Augrabies Falls, mountainous desert of the Richtersveld and star-scattered skies.



NEARBY ROUTES: Kalahari Red Dune Route, Namaqua Coastal Route, Karoo Highlands Route, Richtersveld Route

WHO IS OPEN AFRICA?
Open Africa helps rural entrepreneurs feel confident to work together to revitalise their communities through tourism. We help people see and create opportunities and we open people's eyes to what's special outside of cities.

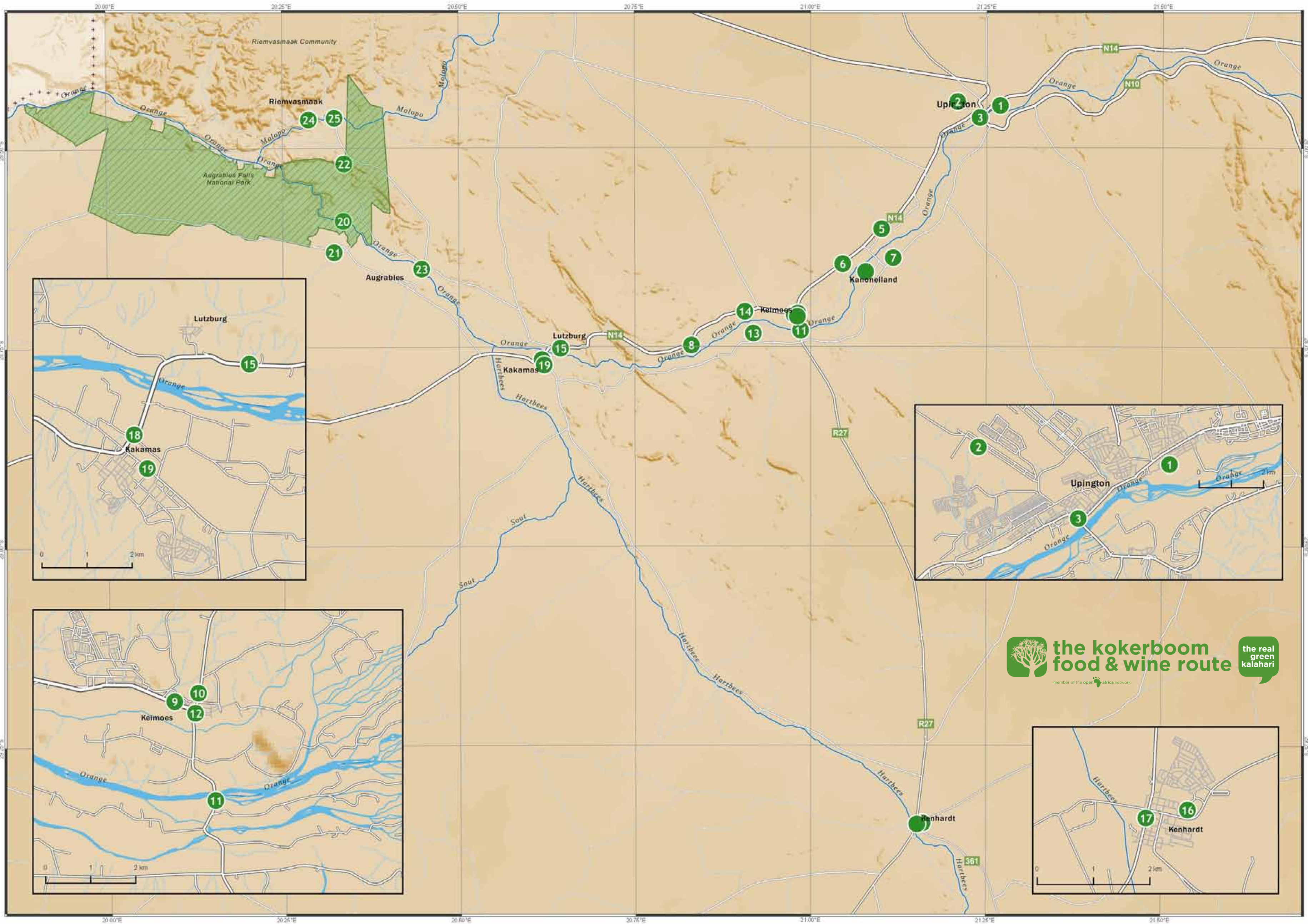


the kokerboom food & wine route
member of the open africa network

the real green kalahari



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places to stay and spaces to play

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the kokerboom food & wine route

The Kokerboom Food and Wine Route is a land of contrasts. This arid area with its rugged mountains and desert-adapted species is stifling hot in summer and icy cold during long winter nights. The Great Gariep, known more commonly as the Orange River, winds through the landscape and brings it life, painting greenbelts along its banks that contrast sharply with the rising rocky cliffs. Irrigation schemes have stretched the greenbelt into the desert, making acres of vineyards and other agriculture possible. Approximately 10% of South Africa's vineyards are found in the Orange River Valley and southern Kalahari.

The route takes the traveller into one of the most interesting and beautiful areas of South Africa's Northern Cape Province and embraces the towns and settlements of Keimoes, Kanoneiland, Kenhardt, Augrabies, Upington and Marchand. In addition to visiting the popular Augrabies Falls visitors can relax in hot springs, enjoy river-rafting, 4x4 trips, hiking, bird-watching and stop to sample local delicacies and wines.

The Kokerboom (Quiver tree) is a botanical symbol of that part of the world and so the route finds its name. Along the route one can experience dry, rugged mountains, desert adapted animal and plant life, red Kalahari dunes, stifling summer temperatures at day, and freezing desert temperatures at night.



take a tour

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- 1 AAN'T KANAAL B&B**
S-28.447514 E21.269069
Aan't Kanaal B&B offers bed and breakfast accommodation in a spacious house with four en-suite bedrooms and a self-catering flat. Esté Strauss
T +27 54 332 3722 / +27 82 411 3616
E info@aan kanaal.co.za
- 2 ORANGE RIVER CELLARS**
S-28.440642 E21.274605
Orange River Cellars offers an extensive range of Dry White, Natural Sweet, Dry Red and Dessert wines. The cellars are located in South Africa's most unique wine region in the Northern Cape and the vineyards stretch over a distance of 300km along the Orange River. Marlé Strauss
T +27 54 337 8800 E info@orangeriverwines.com
- 3 THE MILL**
S-28.462704 E21.240179
The Mill poses a very interesting one-stop shop for the tourist, the artist, the inquisitive and the local. It is here where time seems to pause while visitors indulge in the variety we have on offer. Beauty Mbangula-Maguda
T +27 84 620 7991 E beauty.mbangula@gmail.com
- 4 AFRICAN VINEYARD HOTEL/GUEST HOUSE & RESTAURANT**
S-28.65609 E21.07798
Experience total luxury 25km from Upington and 15km from Keimoes at African Vineyard on Kanoneiland, the largest inhabited inland island in South Africa. Escape to the island of slow living and slow food on a working raisin farm with an exquisite garden in which to relax. Experience country hospitality and friendly personal service that will make your stay a memorable one. Elmarie de Bruin
T +27 54 491 1400 / +27 83 461 1724 / +27 71 607 4582
E elmariedeb@vodamail.co.za
- 5 BEZALEL WINE & BRANDY ESTATE**
S-28.602380 E21.100657
In this vibrant valley with its fertile soil Dyasonsklip is one of the landmarks. Visitors can experience wine-tasting and game drives on the farm. Martiens Bezuidenhout
T +27 54 491 1325 / +27 83 257 4736
E marketing@bezalel.co.za
- 6 HEKSIE SE HUISE PADASTAL**
S-28.646160 E21.045415
A quaint farmstall selling quirky items and local produce. Rochelle Regenstien
T +27 79 741 7834 E RochelleRR@hotmail.co.uk
- 7 ORANJERUS RESORT**
S-28.638585 E21.117182
Oranjerus Resort is nestled right next to the Orange River. It is both a getaway and a holiday destination as well as a stopover for travellers and business travellers. Lourette Wiehahn
T +27 82 772 5896 / +27 82 772 5896
E oranjerus@mweb.co.za
- 8 AKKERBOOM GUESTHOUSE & FARM STALL**
S-28.748033 E20.83025
Akkerboom Farm Stall was originally an old farm house that is located on the family farm Akkerboom. They only sell the freshest local products. Trudie De Wet
T +27 54 463 0030 / +27 82 534 7433
E gannabos@tomail.co.za
- 9 ALOE VIEW GUESTHOUSE**
S-28.710299 E20.976199
This guesthouse offers accommodation in three en-suite rooms with air-conditioner, DSTv, coffee and tea facilities. Rose Nel
T +27 82 823 1296 E info@aloeview.com
- 10 DE WERF LODGE**
S-28.70819 E20.98164
De Werf welcomes travellers with grand archways to beautifully designed guestroom retreats and provides 22 luxurious and stylish en-suite rooms. Maxie Compion
T +27 54 461 1635 / +27 82 743 1736
E dewerf@mweb.co.za
- 11 IKAIA RIVER LODGE**
S-28.7297 E20.98557
Ikaia offers B&B accommodation. Activities include rowing, fishing and bird-watching. Amanda Van Niekerk
T +27 82 331 1353 E amanda@ikaia.co.za
- 12 KALAHARI VLEISHUIS (BUTCHERY)**
S-28.71223 E20.98095
Kalahari Vleishuis is popular for their biltong (jerky), droëwors (dried sausage) and chilli bites. Another speciality is 'Flip se rib'. Patricia van Niekerk
T +27 54 461 0134 / +27 71 684 4299
E patricia01@vodamail.co.za
- 13 KOMS QUIVER TREE NURSERY**
S-28.7333 E20.9183
This nursery offers a variety of quiver trees and succulents for sale. Marina Bothma
T +27 54 464 0195 / +27 72 374 9432
E bothmakokerbome@gmail.com
- 14 TKABIES CAMPING**
S-28.70581 E20.90625
Tkabies is situated on a working raisin farm. There are four campsites with electricity points and two fully-equipped self-catering chalets. Dorien Botha
T +27 54 461 2424 / +27 82 685 2069
E cdbot7@gmail.com
- 15 VERGELEGEN GUESTHOUSE, RESTAURANT & COFFEE SHOP**
S-28.7518 E20.644
The award winning guesthouse and restaurant is en-route to the Kalahari, Namibia, Namaqualand and Richtersveld, and is centrally located to visit a variety of attractions and activities. It offers 25 elegantly decorated en-suite rooms. Niel & Anelma Steenkamp
T +27 54 431 0976 / +27 82 564 6273
E info@vergelegenguesthouse.co.za
- 16 DE OUDE HERBERG COUNTRY LODGE**
S-29.347499 E21.15927
De Oude Herberg offers comfortable self-catering or B&B accommodation in Kenhardt. Linda Muller
T +27 54 651 0018 / +27 83 704 0218
E info@kenhardtguesthouse.co.za
- 17 OMA MIEMIE FARMSTALL & ACCOMMODATION**
S-29.348784 E21.15166
Oma Miemie Farmstall is a treasure in the Northern Cape town of Kenhardt. Lindie Huyser
T +27 54 651 0695 / +27 60 844 0713
E omamiemie@gmail.com

- 18 DIE PIENK PADSTAL (THE PINK FARM STALL)**
S-28.7659 E20.6178
It's pink, it's prominent, it's the place for postcard pictures. It is Die Pienk Padstal, and it never fails to put a smile on the faces of visitors. Anne-mari
T +27 54 431 1457 / +27 83 381 9272
E pienkpadstal@gmail.com
- 19 YANUCK COFFEE SHOP**
S-28.77268 E20.62076
This fully-licensed coffee shop serves scrumptious breakfasts and light lunches. Lo-Ammi Louw / Monika Vermaak
T +27 54 431 0788 E yanuck.kakamas@gmail.com
- 20 AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK**
S-28.593268 E20.337430
Accommodation in the form of cottages or bungalows are available as well as a lovely shaded campsite. Leane van Wyk
T +27 54 452 9200 E augrabiesres@sanparks.org
- 21 DUNDI LODGE**
S-28.63083 E20.32288
Situated in close proximity to the renowned Augrabies Falls and in the heart of South Africa's largest export table-grade producing region, Dundi is a cool quiet and convenient retreat for both leisure and corporate visitors to the region. Berto van Zyl
T +27 54 451 9200 / +27 83 277 8550
E reservations@dundilodge.co.za
- 22 KALAHARI ADVENTURES**
Situated on the Banks of the Orange River near the Augrabies Falls National Park and home to wilderness adventures and safari experiences, Kalahari Adventures offers insight into the Kalahari Desert and the mighty Orange River. Craig
T +27 82 476 8213 E info@kalahari-adventures.co.za
- 23 KALAHARI RIVER AND SAFARI**
S-28.652031 E20.44706
Kalahari River & Safari river camp base is located on the northern bank of the Orange River where the cool waters of our magnificent river provide a welcome respite. Offering luxury tents, family units and camping facilities with a wide range of activities available. The bush bar is a great place to exchange harrowing or hilarious tales with your fellow adventurers over a cold drink and the outdoor restaurant area is nestled between indigenous trees next to the river and this is where we provide delicious al fresco dining for all meals. Philippa
T +27 84 244 4408 E info@kalahaririverandsafari.co.za
- 24 RIEMVASMAAK ECOTOURISM PROJECT**
S-28.4642 E20.2872
The Riemvasmaak Ecotourism Project is a community-based project with the aim to provide work for the locals and to open the fascinating area for tourism. Lionel Mapanga / Clarissa Damara
T +27 73 383 8812 E damaraclarissa@gmail.com
- 25 RIEMVASMAAK TOURISM GUIDE**
S-28.462278 E20.323734
Lional is a local guide and will gladly take visitors to explore the area. Lional Mapanga
T +27 73 383 8812 E damaraclarissa@gmail.com
- 26 UKUVUKA PASTAL EN VETPLANTKWEKERY**
Farmstall and featuring a succulent nursery full specimens from the Northern Cape and other provinces to be observed by locals and tourists. Sylvia Loxton
T +27 54 463 0000 / +27 82 926 8118
E sylvialoxton@yahoo.com
- 27 KEIMOES KALAHARI WATER HOLIDAY AND ADVENTURE FARM**
S-28.717887 E20.956264
Situated on a vineyard farm 4km from Keimoes on one of the paradise islands along the mighty Orange River. Dirk & Hettie Malan
T +27 54 461 2404 / +27 82 495 7999
E info@kalahariwater.co.za
- 28 ELMA'S ACCOMMODATION**
S-29.34749 E21.15912
Elma's Accommodation consists of guest houses, self catering Units and B&B's with unique Bushmanland character. Elma Le Roux
T +27 82 692 6350 E info@bushmanland.co.za
- 29 BELURANA RIVER MANOR**
S-28.463340 E21.241507
This lodge is beautifully decorated and Benita's hearty English breakfast prepares guests for the day's activities. Benita Steenkamp
T +27 54 332 4323 / +27 82 925 3029
E belurana@mweb.co.za
- 30 AUGRABIES HOT AIR BALLOONING**
S-28.661732 E20.412383
Soar above the rigged landscape of the lower Orange River Valley, taking in the extensive vineyards and their lifeblood, the magnificent Orange River. Andrew Hockly
T +27 79 888 9502 E augrabies@vodamail.co.za
- 31 DIE MAS WINE CELLAR & BRANDY DISTILLERY**
S-28.763668 E20.641575
Lovely accommodation on the farm with a wide range of activities, including hiking and fishing. The wine cellar is open daily Monday through to Saturday. Coetzer Hanekom
T +27 54 431 0245 / +27 82 9315 902
E coetzer@diemasvankakamas.co.za
- 32 KALAHARI GATEWAY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**
S-28.7759 E20.6245
This hotel ensures a comfortable stay and the restaurant has an excellent a la carte menu. Annatjie
T +27 54 431 0838 / +27 83 305 7613
E info@kalaharigateway.co.za
- 33 LAKE GRAPPA GUEST FARM AND SKI SCHOOL**
S-28.713611 E20.470218
Experience warm and friendly hospitality in luxurious self-catering chalets scattered about in the red Kalahari field. Gerrit / Marica
T +27 82 978 3949 E lakegrappa@mweb.co.za
- 34 THE OVERLOOK GUESTHOUSE**
S-28.70976 E20.977518
Three thatched chalets and a family suite with two bedrooms, all have a spectacular view of the Kalahari Desert and the vineyards of the Orange River Valley. Conveniently located, in the center of Keimoes on the hilltop, privacy is a priority at the Overlook.
T +27 54 461 1235 E info@overlook.co.za

tour the town

AUGRABIES

This small farming town is the gateway to the magnificent Augrabies Falls, which lies on the mighty Orange River some 25km away. The 28 000ha Augrabies Falls National Park was established in 1966, and the name is derived from the Khoi word 'aukurabis', which means "place of great noise". The pool at the bottom of the falls has many myths and legends surrounding it, and while it is virtually impossible to get to, it is mythically believed to contain a massive amount of diamonds. Another legend that surrounds the pool is that it is home to a giant river monster.

The falls are an awesome sight to behold, as the water thunders down into the 18km abyss of the Orange River Gorge. The river drops 191m, which makes it one of the largest cataract type waterfalls in the world. Besides the magnificent and thunderous falls, visitors can see colourful lizards basking on the rocks and other interesting wildlife.

KEIMOES

Many tourists travel through Keimoes en route to and from Gauteng and Cape Town. Travellers are initially drawn by the Tierberg and the Water Wheel, but little do they realise that this lush green town in the semi desert consists of more than 120 islands - with people actually living on most of them!

Keimoes boasts a rich and lively history. When one uses some imagination, it is easy to picture the Korana Chiefs Klaas Lukas and Piet Rooi who used to hide with up to 10,000 stolen livestock on the island maze in the 19th century. That explains the apt name of one of the koppies - Loerberg. Directly translated this means "Mountain from where one can peep". The completion of the first water channels in 1883 led to the rapid growth of the settlement.

The first school opened in 1887, and the Mission Church and a mill were completed in 1889. Many battles were fought during the first and second Korana Wars with the government forces using canons with great success. Hence, other names like Kanoneiland and Skanskoppeiland, meaning 'Canon Island' and 'Barricade Hill Island' respectively came about. Coming and going on the island is dependent on the whims of the Orange River and its varying water levels.

One of the milestones in the history of Keimoes is the installation of a pont at Milldrift in 1907 and Rooikop Island in 1910. From early on grape farming was the backbone of agriculture in and around Keimoes. In the early 1900s the town was known for its "Keimoes-blits" - an infamous liquor with an even more infamous kick - distilled from hanepoot and crystal grapes.

The islands are linked by a network of suspension bridges. The pupils of Klip Island School have to cross such a bridge every day to get to class; quite a nerve-racking experience when the river is in flood. At one stage, sixty of these bridges provided the necessary connection for farmers to bring their produce to the markets. If one takes into account that such a bridge can only bear 100 pounds of weight at one stage, it becomes clear that farming and transport of goods between the islands must have been no easy task. The first documented export of produce from Keimoes was for 2000 cases of oranges in 1927.

Today, Keimoes is a prime source of table grapes exported to Europe. Floods have been part of everyday life for the people of Keimoes. Most memorable were the floods of 1925, 1934, 1974 and 1988.



KANONEILAND

Kanoneiland is a beautiful settlement in the Northern Cape situated on the largest inland island in the gorgeous Orange River Valley, and is the biggest river settlement in the country. Kanoneiland gets its name from the days of combat when Koranna river pirates

under the leadership of Klaas Pofadder lived on the island and hid in the dense foliage. In 1879 the island was attacked by a small cannon for a number of days by a force of 80 policemen under Captain Dyason. In response, the Korannas built their own cannon from a hollow aloë stem. They loaded this with gunpowder and when they fired, it exploded and killed six Koranna. The cannon used by the Cape Field Artillery can still be seen today in front of the old school building.

In 1928, a group of 52 private settlers began to clear this beautiful island for cultivation. The irrigation scheme in the area supports the lush vineyards that are truly glorious to encounter. In winter, the island can hardly be seen and looks like a series of vineyards on dry land. However, when it is rainy season, the water levels rise quite considerably and the islanders often have to put up barrages to prevent the water from flooding the island. Fortunately, the residential parts have been built on the highest parts of the island and the islanders' homes are generally safe.



KENHARDT

The town of Kenhardt is situated 75km south of Keimoes on the R27 towards Brandvlei and Calvinia. Kenhardt is situated along the Hartbees River, which is a tributary of the Orange River.

The origin of the name 'Kenhardt' is obscure, but it is known that the town started as a police outpost in December 1868. It was the result of a special magistrate and a company of 50 mounted police pitching their camp under a giant Camelthorn tree. Their purpose was to protect white farmers from cattle rustlers and Koranna Khoe raiders, the original inhabitants of the land. For many years the village of Kenhardt was the most remote settlement in the north-western Cape Colony. A church was established by the Dutch Reformed Church in 1889.

Kenhardt's main economic activity is sheep farming (dorpers and karakul), but wheat is cultivated along the courses of the Hartbees, Sak and Olifants Rivers.

UPINGTON

In 1870, a Hottentot chieftain called Klaas Lucas, realising the value of being able to read and write, and knowing that the missionaries could help his people acquire these skills, appealed for the establishment of a mission station at Olyfenhoutdrift (ford at the olivewood trees). The Reverend Christiaan Schröder was sent up from Cape Town, and permission to establish the Olyfenhoutdrift Mission was secured from Klaas Pofadder, who claimed ownership of the area. The foundations were laid in 1873 and building followed.

Pioneer settlers such as Japie Lutz and the Reverend Schröder were quick to realise the irrigation possibilities along the Orange River. They hand dug the first irrigation canals in 1880 and some of them are still in use today. Since then, the once small mission station has grown rapidly and become the commercial, agricultural and educational centre of the Gordonia district, today known as Upington. The district was named after Sir Gordon Sprigg, a former prime minister of the Cape Colony. Upington is an oasis surrounded by the harsh Kalahari landscape; a fertile place that offers travellers a peaceful and pleasant stopover.

Upington is surrounded by vast red-orange sand plains and semi-desert, and through it runs the lush Orange River valley. More than ten percent of South Africa's vineyards, or 23.5 million vines, are cultivated along the lower Orange River. Upington can best be described as a Kalahari Town and an 'emerald oasis' on the banks of South Africa's biggest River.

Upington is not only the gateway to the main attractions of the Kalahari region, but also has its own gems that make it more of a destination than a stopover.

KAKAMAS

Kakamas developed as a town between the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was a time of war and world depression and the bitterly poor people from the surrounding areas came to the church in Kakamas for help. They were offered the option to trade their la-



bour for food. Canals had already been built in the near-by town of Upington and a similar project was proposed for Kakamas.

It was found that, at Neusberg (meaning 'Nose Mountain', as it resembles a nose) about 10km from Kakamas, the river's course was such that, if a canal was built, the water would flow automatically, doing away with the need for pumps. Work began on the furrows - men, women and children dug relentlessly, manually. Often, the people would work at night to escape the intense heat of the day.

Two canals or furrows were eventually completed, called the South and the North canals. During construction of the North canal, however, it became obvious that two tunnels would have to be built to maintain a gradient that facilitated the automatic water flow. Japie Lütz, from Upington, did the calculations and laid down the necessary measurements. Eventually, the two tunnels were completed.

Amazingly, they were both excavated from either side and met precisely - an impressive feat given it was achieved without the use of modern equipment. These hand-dug tunnels, one of them an impressive 160m long, are still in use and have been declared national monuments. A small settlement in the area, Lutzburg, is named after the self-trained engineer who designed the tunnels.

Once the canals and tunnels had been constructed, it was possible for the people to begin farming. A number of water wheels (some still in use today) were built to lift the water from the canals into pipes for distribution into the fields. The community began planting food crops, and then expanded operations to include grapes. Originally it was mainly raisin grapes being produced in the area, but these days the area is renowned for its seedless table grapes and its wines. Because it is so warm in the area, the grapes ripen early and the crops can receive good prices in northern-hemisphere markets. In the 1960s, the state took over the control of the canals from the church. The land was divided and private people could acquire it.

The first hydroelectric scheme in South Africa was also started in Kakamas - at a place where the North canal dropped rapidly in elevation. This hydroelectric station is no-longer working, but the building at the scheme and the Egyptian-style transformer building in Kakamas town can still be visited. The two canals were eventually lined with cement in the 1990s.

RIEMVASMAAK

Riemvasmaak (pronounced 'rim fus maack') means 'tighten the strap' or 'tied with straps'. Early in the 1900s, the Bushmen who also lived in the area stole the community's stock animals. These stock thieves were caught and tied to a large rock in the Molopo River with thongs or straps (called 'rieme' in Afrikaans). When the community people came to fetch the thieves the next morning, all they found were the straps left lying on the rocks. From then onwards, the area was known as Riemvasmaak and the community as the 'Riemvasmakers'.

The Riemvasmaak Ecotourism Project is a community-based project, started with the aim to provide work for the locals and to open the fascinating area for tourism. Besides the interesting name of the area, the region has an interesting history.

