

## Information and Itinerary



### **Kalahari 7 Nights (8 Days) 4x4 Budget Camping Tour**

*Experience the thrill of traveling through rarely seen areas in Southern Africa.*

Visit the Kgalagadi where the red dunes and scrub fade into infinity and herds of gemsbok, springbok, eland and blue wildebeest follow the seasons. This is where imposing camelthorn trees provide shade for huge black-maned lions and vantage points for leopards and many raptors. Explore Augrabies, called "Aukoerebis" or a "place of great noise" by the Khoi people, as this powerful flow of water is unleashed from rocky surroundings characterised by the 18km abyss of the Orange River Gorge.

We hope that this is the tour you dreamed of. Please do not hesitate to advise us if you have any questions related to this tour.

We eagerly await your response.

Best regards

Johan du Plooy

**Phone +27 82 852 2395**

## Kalahari 7 Nights (8 Days) 4x4 Budget Camping Tour

### Day by Day



**Start of Tour:** Upington

See details on the following pages

Days	Main Destination	Accommodation	Meal Plan
1	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
2	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
3	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
4	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
5	Augrabies Falls National Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
6	Augrabies Falls National Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
7	Augrabies Falls National Park	Budget Camping	At own expense
8	End of tour	No accommodation	At own expense



**End of Tour:** Upington

**Best Time To Visit:** March to May (The riverbeds attract animals)

**High Season:** Never (The park never gets very crowded)

**Best Weather:** May to September (Less hot during the day)

## Highlights

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- ❖ Kalahari
  - ❖ Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
  - ❖ Red dunes
  - ❖ 4x4 eco trail
  - ❖ Augrabies Falls National Park
  - ❖ Remote wilderness areas
  - ❖ Waterfall
  - ❖ Gorge
- 

## Example rental vehicle Supa/Cab Auto – two people



## Map



## Kalahari

The Kalahari Desert is a large semi-arid sandy savannah in southern Africa, covering 900,000 square kilometres (350,000 sq mi) and covering most of Botswana and parts of Namibia and South Africa.

Kalahari is derived from the Tswana word Kgala, meaning 'the great thirst', or Kgalagadi, meaning 'a waterless place'; the Kalahari has vast areas of red sand without any permanent surface water.

A semi-desert with vast areas of excellent grazing land after good rains, the Kalahari supports more animals and plants than a true desert, such as the Namib Desert to the west. Rainfall is low and summer temperatures are very high. The driest areas typically receive 110-200 millimetres (4.3-7.9 in) of rain per year, and the wettest areas just over 500 millimetres (20 in). The surrounding Kalahari Basin covers over 2,500,000 square kilometres (970,000 sq mi) and extends into Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, and into parts of Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**

Where red dunes and scrub fade into infinity and herds of gemsbok, springbok, eland and blue wildebeest follow the seasons, where imposing camelthorn trees provide shade for giant black-maned lions and vantage points for leopards and many birds of prey... this is the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

## **Augrabies Falls National Park**

Close to Upington, Augrabies Falls National Park lies on the banks of the mighty Orange River. The Khoi people called it 'Aukoerebis', or 'place of great noise', because of the mighty flow of water unleashed from its rocky surroundings.

Klipspringers and quiver trees stand in stark silhouette against the African sky in this unique geological environment where only those who can adapt ultimately survive. The park is home to the majestic Augrabies Falls, which plunge 56 metres into a spectacular 18km gorge below.

## **Riemvasmaak**

Riemvasmaak Hot Springs is one of the main attractions for visitors to the Northern Cape, located just north of Augrabies Falls, about 60km from the small town of Kakamas. It is surrounded by spectacular scenery and 80m high granite cliffs.

The hot springs are the result of volcanic eruptions. Although these are no longer active, the underground activity still heats the spring water and provides the most glorious warm water swimming pools.

## Start of your tour

We love this moment: your South Africa tour begins here. We'll answer all your questions and set you off to discover the amazing wildlife, people and landscapes that this remarkable country has to offer.

You either collect your vehicle when you fly to Upington for the start of your tour or you drive on your own to Upington if you already have a vehicle. You will meet your guide in Upington.

We drive in convoy to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. As we drive northwards, the Kalahari will start to reveal herself to you. She will welcome you with views of red dunes and salt pans next to the road.

The Kalahari Desert is a large, semi-arid sandy savannah in Southern Africa, extending for 900,000 sq. km. It covers much of Botswana, as well as parts of Namibia and South Africa.

A 4x4 vehicle is best suited for the road and trail conditions you will experience on this tour. Rest assured, your guide is fully qualified to assist you with any 4x4 challenges that you might encounter.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 1

**Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

## Explore the Kgalagadi around the Twee Rivieren Camp

Join an early morning drive on an open game-viewing vehicle. The professional field guide will provide information about the animals, birds, vegetation, and more during the drive.

After the morning drive, we explore the Kgalagadi to the north of the Twee Rivieren Camp. Learn about the Nossob and Auob Rivers and how often they are in flood.

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park lies in the large sand-filled basin in the west of the Southern African subcontinent, known as the Kalahari. It covers almost one-third of the area and forms what may be the largest sandveld area in the world.

In 1999, Botswana and South Africa signed a historic bilateral agreement whereby both countries undertook to manage their adjacent national parks, the Gemsbok National Park and the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park as a single ecological unit. In 2000, Southern Africa's first peace park, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, was formally launched by presidents Mogae (Botswana) and Mbeki (South Africa).

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 2

**Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

Day 3

## Drive to the Mata Mata Camp and back

We follow the Auob River to the Mata Mata Camp. This is a slow drive visiting the waterholes along the river. Each waterhole will offer its own surprise. The Kalahari will reveal more of herself as we drive, who knows what animals and birds we will see on the dunes next to the river!

After stretching our legs at the Mata Mata Camp, we follow the Auob River back to the Twee Rivieren Camp. The Kalahari will definitely surprise us along the way.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 3

**Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

Days 4

## Explore the Kgalagadi around the Twee Rivieren Camp

We explore the Kgalagadi to the north of the Twee Rivieren Camp. The Leeudril 4x4 loop is on the menu for today. This is an interesting 4x4 trail crossing the dunes. Along this trail, you will experience more of the remoteness of the Kalahari.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 4

**Budget Camping with Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

## Drive from the Kgalagadi TFP to the Augrabies Falls NP

We say goodbye to the Kgalagadi TFP and drive to the Augrabies Falls NP via Upington.

Augrabies is derived from the Nama word as the Khoi people would refer to "Aukoerebis" meaning the "place of great noise." This refers to the Orange River water thundering its way down the 56m spectacular main waterfall.

The ancestors of modern history have inhabited the area surrounding the Orange River since the Early Stone Age. During this time, there is evidence that early man had developed weapons for hunting animals like hippopotamus. They knew to establish themselves near good water sources like the Orange River. During the Middle Stone Age, man had created more formal work tools and began to utilise fire. The Late Stone Age, which dates back 22,000 years, is characterised by tools that are smaller than the previous periods.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 5

**Budget Camping with Shared Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

## Explore the Augrabies Falls NP

You join a day drive in an open game-viewing vehicle. The professional field guide will provide information about the animals, birds, vegetation, etc. during the drive.

Stand next to the waterfall and "feel" the mighty Orange River being forced into and thundering down the 56m waterfall.

We use the rest of the day to explore more of the national park.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Day 6

**Budget Camping with Shared Ablution Facilities and Electricity**

## Visit Riemvasmaak hot springs

Today we drive to the Riemvasmaak hot springs. The road winds through the most amazing rock formations of all shapes, sizes and colours. The hot springs are one of the must-visit hot springs in South Africa. They were formed from volcanic eruptions that occurred centuries ago.

Riemvasmaak (pronounced "rim fus maack") means "tighten the strap" or "tied with straps". Riemvasmaak is 75,000 ha of sheer mountain desert wilderness located between the Orange and the dry Molopo Rivers. It is a wilderness born from violent volcanic activity millions of years ago, but it is a land of beauty that takes on spiritual proportions. Here you can relax in the hot springs dwarfed by 80m-high granite cliffs or simply set your soul free to soar with the black eagles through the lunar landscape.

You can choose to prepare your own meals or visit the on-site restaurant.

Accommodation | Days 7

**Budget Camping with Shared Ablution Facilities and Electricity**



## Your last day with us

Today we drive back to Upington. This is your last day in the Kalahari region of South Africa. Next to the road, you will see the grape and related farming that is thriving in this harsh environment. You return your rental vehicle to the car hire company.

As our time together draws to a close, we say goodbye to our new friends and head back home. You will continue your journey to your next destination on your own, whenever you feel ready to leave. We hope that you will cherish the unforgettable memories you have made during your time with us and that you will have plenty of beautiful photos to share with your loved ones and friends.

## Kalahari 7 Nights (8 Days) 4x4 Budget Camping Tour

Have a look at the tour features and some of the frequently asked questions.

Features	
<b>Trail Grading</b>	2
<b>Vehicle Type:</b> 4x2	X
<b>Vehicle Type:</b> 4x4	√
<b>Tyre Type:</b> Off-road / All terrain tyres	√ <sup>1</sup>
<b>Tyre Type:</b> On-road	X <sup>1</sup>
<b>Accommodation Type:</b> Wild camping	X
<b>Accommodation Type:</b> Camping	√
<b>Accommodation Type:</b> Safari Tent	X
<b>Accommodation Type:</b> Wilderness cabin	X
<b>Accommodation Type:</b> Chalet	X
<b>Can I Tow an off-road trailer?</b>	√
<b>Can I Tow an off-road caravan?</b>	√
<b>Will my vehicle be scratched?</b>	X
<b>Must I remove my vehicle's sidesteps?</b>	X
<b>Do I need a compressor?</b>	√
<b>Children under the age of 12 years</b>	X

### Notes

1 Only off-road all terrain tyres; no on-road tyres.

Only tyres with a sidewall profile of 65 and more.

The area is very remote and it is not easy to obtain tyres when damaged.

### Places Available

Place for only five 4x4 vehicles on the tour.

A minimum of three vehicles is required for the tour to take place.

**Best Time To Visit:** March to May (The riverbeds attract animals)

**High Season:** Never (The park never gets very crowded)

**Best Weather:** May to September (Less hot during the day)

## Kalahari 7 Nights (8 Days) 4x4 Budget Camping Tour

### Included

Park fees, Hand-held radios, Professional 4x4 and overlanding adventure guide, Accommodation (camping) for two adults, Trail cost for one 4x4 vehicle with two adults, Professional field guide(s) where applicable, Activities as indicated

### Excluded

Additional accommodation before and after the tour, International flights, Domestic flights, Government imposed increase of taxes and/or park fees, Personal items (souvenirs, travel insurance, visa fees, etc.), Vehicle, Camping Equipment, Tips, Fuel, Toll fees, Drinking water (on all days), Snacks and beverages, Medicine, Fire wood, Food (on all days), Additional activities

### Payment Terms

A 80% deposit will ensure your place on the tour with the balance payable 60 days before the start of the tour.

Full payment if the booking is made less than 60 days before the start of the tour.

Request a quotation

<https://bonsai-sa.co.za/tours-contact-us.html>

### Terms and Conditions

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/4x4-tour-terms-and-conditions.pdf>

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/cancellation-policy.pdf>

<https://www.bonsai-sa.co.za/docs/payment-policy-int.pdf>

Your Tour Guides



## Bonai-SA 4x4 Adventures and Tours

Our relaxed 4x4 adventures and tours allow you access to remote areas in national parks and reserves that are not frequented by many visitors.

The surrounding wilderness, the remoteness and the seclusion of travelling through rarely-seen areas are the main thrills of our tours. A professional 4x4 Adventure Guide will lead the tour and a qualified Field/Nature Guide will assist when it is necessary. The guides will provide the necessary interpretation en-route and also ensure your safety.

### Contact Us

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**Contact Person:** Johan

#### Member of:

- South African Tourism Services Association
- South African Adventure Industry Association

#### Registration:

- Johan is registered as a professional adventure guide with the South African National Department of Tourism (GP 6210)



“If you think adventure is  
dangerous, try routine, it’s lethal”  
~ Paul Coelho

## **Colofon**

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