

RISE WITH THE LAND OF DUST AND DREAMS

**NORTHERN CAPE
INCENTIVE FACT BOOK**



NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

Namakwaland – Northern Cape





NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The largest of South Africa's provinces, yet with the smallest population, the Northern Cape is one of the more remote provinces in the country known for its big skies and lunar landscapes. The Northern Cape is special in so many ways - it is home to unique vegetation, wide open spaces and a range of exciting incentive activities. In spring, visit Namaqualand to see the incredible wild flowers, track a black-maned lion from your safari vehicle in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and learn all about how to live off the land from descendants of the Bushmen, who made a home for centuries in this harsh and arid climate. Visit the 'Place of Great Noise' - the dramatic Augrabies Falls - or go white-water rafting down the Orange River (a great team-building activity). Delegates can take 4x4 adventure safaris in the Richtersveld National Park and stay with the Nama people and learn more about their interesting cultures and traditions. For food lovers there is the Kokerboom Food and Wine Route, where local hospitality is put on show and there are numerous small towns definitely worth exploring. For a bit of urban action, visit Kimberley, home to the Kimberley Mine Museum and The Big Hole. This vast province has something to offer the incentive traveller in search of something very different, and there are certainly many memorable explorations, activities and adventures on offer in this out-of-the-ordinary world.



KEY ATTRACTIONS AND INSPIRING ACTIVITIES:

- **THE AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK:** One really shouldn't visit the Northern Cape without visiting the spectacular Augrabies Falls, particularly when the Orange River is in full flood and the powerful force of the water plummets down a 56m-high waterfall. The entire park covers 55 383ha and is home to a diversity of species of both animals and plants.
- **THE FLOWERS OF NAMAQUALAND:** In August and September, the arid desert of the Namaqualand area breaks out into a fantastic display of wild flowers. It's not surprising that visitors come from near and far to explore the area. Photographic safaris are very popular during this time, as are horse-back safaris.
- **THE AI-AIS K GALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK:** The first proclaimed transfrontier park in Africa, it combines South Africa's Kalahari Gemsbok National Park with Botswana's Gemsbok National Park – over 3,6-million hectares – and is home to the famous black-maned lions, a wide range of antelope, as well as pygmy falcons.
- **THE RICHTERSVELD CULTURAL AND BOTANICAL LANDSCAPE:** A renowned national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Richtersveld is also home to the Nama people – herders who have lived off the land for many years. The Richtersveld is a great place to go on 4x4 adventures, bird-watching getaways and canoe adventures. The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape is a remarkable mountainous desert region in the north-west.
- **KIMBERLEY:** The diamond town of Kimberley is home to the Kimberley Mine Museum, one of the Northern Cape's most popular tourist attractions and a tribute to the diamond-digging days of old. The museum includes viewing decks overlooking the famous Big Hole, as well as a number of heritage buildings.
- **THE ORANGE RIVER:** For watersports enthusiasts, activities along the Orange River are a major highlight. This incredible body of water stretches 2 200km from the Drakensberg (in Lesotho) to Alexander Bay (Atlantic Ocean). Fly-fishing, canoeing and white-water rafting are all popular along the Orange River, with well-appointed tour operators who take care of all of the details.
- **KOKERBOOM FOOD AND WINE ROUTE:** An emerging food and wine destination, this route takes the traveller through the small towns of Keimoes, Kenhardt, Hakoneiland, Augrabies, Upington and Marchland, with numerous wine and brandy tastings along the way. Enjoy Karoo lamb as you have never had it before, washed down by the finest brandy from the region. You might even get to taste biltong sushi in Kakamas!

The Big Hole, Kimberley – Northern Cape



NORTHERN CAPE: KIMBERLEY

Rise with the Land of Dust and Dreams

Kimberley has a pioneering spirit that is still in evidence today. The historic capital of the Northern Cape is the city of Kimberley - once at the heart of South Africa's diamond rush, when 50 000 diggers arrived in the town after the discovery of an 83-carat diamond on Colesberg Kopje in 1869. The Big Hole of Kimberley remains as a testament to that time - known as the world's largest hand-dug excavation. Needless to say, the Big Hole and the Kimberley Mine Museum are major tourist attractions. While Kimberley still has the charm of yesteryear, the city continues to thrive as a modern-day urban centre that punches way above its weight. It is also a great launch pad to explore the rest of the province, where the incentive traveller will find huge inspiration and the opportunity to become a modern-day explorer of note.

Accessibility

Kimberley is accessible via both Johannesburg and Cape Town. Daily flights include:

- Two flights from Cape Town
- Five flights from Johannesburg

Johannesburg is the gateway to South Africa via OR Tambo International Airport - the largest airport in Africa. Connecting flights via Johannesburg include:

- Europe: Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Zurich

- Middle East: Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Dubai, Jeddah
- North America: Washington, New York
- South America: Buenos Aires, Sao Paolo
- Asia: Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Singapore
- Australia: Perth, Sydney
- Africa: all major cities

Kimberley is an eight- to nine-hour drive from Cape Town and a six- to seven-hour drive from Johannesburg.

Where to stay

There are more than 1 510 graded establishments including 5 five-star rooms; 461 four-star rooms and 902 three-star rooms. Perhaps the most famous residence is the Kimberley Club, which dates all the way back to 1881, but other excellent city hotels include the Garden Court, the Protea Hotel Kimberley and the Protea Hotel Oasis.

For something entirely different, when staying in the Northern Cape, there is the Naries Namakwa Retreat, built in traditional Nama style, or the ultra-remote !Xaus Lodge in Kgalagadi National Park, run by the Mier and Khomani San communities.



Exceptional incentive activities

- **SHIPWRECKS AND SEAFOOD:** Along the coastline (in places like Port Nolloth and Kleinsee), incentive travellers can go on a shipwreck tour followed by crayfish braais on the beach (in season). There are a number of shipwreck routes and trails along the West Coast – definitely worth exploring.
- **TAKE A GHOST TOUR OF KIMBERLEY:** Your tour begins at the Honoured Dead Memorial in the centre of the city before heading off to visit historic houses and monuments, including Rudd House, the African Library, the William McGregor Museum, the old De Beers boardroom and, if you don't have any sightings of apparitions, you are bound to have lots of fun.
- **GUIDED TRAILS WITH KALAHARI BUSHMEN OR SAN:** For unique insights into the way of life of the Kalahari Bushmen or San people, book a space on a guided trail with a Bushman tracker in the Kalahari. Get to know all about how they survived for centuries in this arid landscape – learn about medicinal plants, their incredible hunter-gatherer skills and their folk tales and traditions.
- **STARGAZING IN SUTHERLAND:** Known for its chilly temperatures during the winter months, Sutherland is also known as a top stargazing destination. Home to the South African Astronomical Observatory and the Southern African Large Telescope, its clear night skies have earned the town the name, 'the Gateway to the Universe'.
- **PADDLING DOWN THE LESSER-KNOWN BITS OF THE ORANGE RIVER:** Paddling the Orange River is one of the most popular activities in the Northern Cape. However, you need to know where to go for the more rustic adventures. The best spots are located in the Richtersveld, Further upriver, near Pofadder, Gravity Adventures offers exciting trips on the pristine and uncrowded Orange Gorge and Raap en Skraap sections, while just below the Augrabies Falls, adventure operator Khamkirri will guide you through the rapids on inflatable crocs (rafts) on anything from half-day to five-day trips.
- **BOATING ON THE 'SAKKIE SE ARKIE' IN UPINGTON:** A great way to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Orange River is to take a sundowner boat cruise. There are many boating options available in the Northern Cape, but one that stands out is Sakkie se Arkie, a large river boat that operates out of Upington. Snacks and drinks are served on board and all the delegate needs to do is enjoy the journey.
- **SANDBOARDING ON THE WITSAND DUNES:** The Northern Cape is an excellent sandboarding destination and a number of local operators offer sandboarding lessons and tours. The dunes near Kakamas and Witsand are very popular and both expert boarders and novices are more than welcome – boards can be rented on arrival.
- **MATTANU PRIVATE RESERVE:** Located about 50km north-west of Kimberley, Mattanu Private Reserve offers the ultimate Kalahari game experience – there are roan, sable, buffalo, golden oryx, golden gnu and many other types of antelope and wild animals. One can view the animals on a quad-bike, safari vehicle and even by helicopter. Luxury tents provide accommodation and the place is known for its fantastic cuisine.
- **HOT-AIR BALLOONING:** For the ultimate 'soft adventure', book your space on a hot-air balloon that will take you floating over the lower Orange River and Augrabies. Get an altogether different view of the land before stopping for a celebratory breakfast.
- **THE NOSSOB 4X4 ECO TRAIL:** This guided trail stretches for more than 214km over the red dunes of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park and is a must for those who enjoy roughing it. The trail runs for over three nights and is a fantastic adventure, with numerous stops en route to photograph the scenery in the heart of no-man's land.

Augrabies Falls – Northern Cape

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