Experience the Northern Cape

Discover the heart of the Northern Cape as you travel along its many routes and discover a myriad of uniquely diverse experiences. Each of the five regions offers interesting stop-overs and family-friendly activities. The Northern Cape is the proud home to six national parks, including two Transfrontier parks crossing into world-famous safari destinations such as Namibia and Botswana as well as five provincial nature reserves, two of the largest rivers in South Africa and three legendary deserts. Each different region further features a route experience that will capture the imaginations of those who dare to explore it.

The Northern Cape is all about real people, real culture, real adventure and real nature. Visit us now and create unforgettable holiday memories.

Explore the Routes

The five Northern Cape routes are specifically packaged to give the visitor an easy do-it-yourself option to explore the Northern Cape. The incredible year-round experiences coupled with our customary warm hospitality, the peace and tranquillity offered by off-the-beaten track towns and villages as well as uninterrupted spaces will allow you to embrace life-changing experiences and more importantly, have time to recharge and re-connect with each other.

Whether you are stopping or passing through, we wish you safe travels and many happy returns to this truly unique destination.

Front cover photo by Harry Cunningham @harry.digital from Pexels

NORTHERN CAPE ROUTES

Join us on a journey into the desert lands that shape the Northern Cape and you are sure to discover a province brimming with breath-taking wilderness vistas, where age-old cultures, apex predators and exhilarating adventures await.

Sprawling amber dune-scopes, undulating upon the outer rim of the oldest desert on Planet Earth The emerald shimmer of verdant vineyards, bisecting the arid plains unfolding along the meandering course of the Great Gariep. It is cobalt skies, stretching from horizon to horizon by day, and morphing into a billion stars when night falls. This is the Northern Cape.

The great thing is that the Northern Cape's many and varied attractions will appeal to the whole family. The area is rich in experiences, flower seasons, river rafting, diamond heritage, star-gazing and a world-renowned wines route.

With so many choices where to start? The eight Northern Cape routes are specifically packaged to give the visitor an easy do-it-yourself option to explore the province.

THE CAPE NAMIBIA ROUTE

The route meanders away from Cape Town along the N7 and include small towns, each with its own local flavour and a story to tell. The N7 highway stretches from Cape Town all the way through the Northern Cape before heading into neighbouring country Namibia. Crossing from the Western Cape into the Northern Cape, visitors will encounter towns which capture the Nama heritage of the province. Slow down and appreciate the unique stories of the people of Garies, Kamieskroon, Springbok, Okiep, Steinkopf and Vioolsdrift. During spring time, this route takes visitors into the core of the floral kaleidoscope that is the Namakwa floral season.

***Don't Miss**: 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.*



NAMAQUA COASTAL ROUTE

The route includes hidden gems like Garies, Kamieskroon, Hondeklip Bay, Koiingnaas and Kleinzee. Dozens of adventure and leisure options are available - Namaqua National Park, nature reserves, hidden coastal hamlets and some of the most remote hiking and 4x4 trails imaginable. Go succulent sleuthing with a botanical guide, hike the Springbok Klipkoppie for a dose of Anglo-Boer War history, explore the countless shipwrecks along the coast line and go on a five day slow packing guided trip. Breath-taking scenes of the Atlantic Ocean with sightings of dolphins and whales combined with great vistas of mountains and veld with endemic wildlife makes travelling in this area remarkable.

***Don't Miss:** Slow-packing through the Namaqua National Park early Spring September when the usually dusty plains are transformed into a kaleidoscopic flower carpets of colour.*

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.

***Don't Miss:** Follow in the footsteps of a traditional goat herder and learn about the lives of the nomads, be transported to years gone by through dancing and storytelling.*

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. Riemvasmaak hot springs, river rafting, fly fishing, kayaking, river cruises, 4x4, hiking and MTB trails and excellent birdwatching are some of the offerings. With the longest wine producing area in the Southern Hemisphere there are many opportunities for award winning wines and brandy tasting along the route.

Don't Miss: *A visit to the Augrabies National Park and the world's six largest waterfall, the Augrabies Falls Augrabies waterfall.*



KALAHARI RED DUNE ROUTE

Discover the essence of the province in the heart of the Kalahari. 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, sand duning and surfing in the red sand and close encounters with meerkats. Explore South Africa's newest world heritage site - The Khomani San Cultural Landscape - and join a guided walk with the San Khomani to rediscover the ancient wisdom, customs and folklore of this ancient tribe.

***Don't Miss:** A visit to the world famed Kgalagadi Trans frontier Park is a must. Encounter magnificent oryx hold sway on the sandy swathes and discover the mighty Kalahari male lion high on the dune silhouetted against the sky. The largest conservation area within Africa it is also one of only two Dark skies sanctuary in Africa and 10 worldwide.*

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

***Don't Miss:** Kuruman Eye in Kuruman is a natural spring delivering about 20-million litres of clean, clear water daily to Kuruman.*

KAROO OASIS ROUTE

The route traverse through the towns of Warrenton, Kimberley, Hopetown, Britstown, Victoria West along the N12. 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 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.

***Don't Miss:** 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*

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. The area was named by the Khoi and San people, who left their legacy as art on the rocks. Explore many unique experiences such as dinosaur hunting in Richmond, the SKA radio telescopes in Carnarvon, Karoo architecture and corbelled houses, Anglo-Boer War sites, rock art, ancient Palaeo Surfaces, farm stays and great Karoo cuisine and hospitality. The small town of Nieuwoudtsville is your last stop before crossing the majestic Van Rhyns Pass and you find yourself once again en-route to Cape Town.

***Don't Miss:** A mere 3 hours away from Cape Town Sutherland is a small Karoo town, famous for snowy winters, excellent stargazing and dramatic landscapes. Home to the South African Large Telescope, the largest single optical telescope in the Southern Hemisphere makes Sutherland a popular micro travel destination.*



N12 – DISCOVER DIAMOND COUNTRY

From **Warrenton** in the north to **Victoria West** in the south, the N12 also takes in the towns of **Strydenburg, Britstown** and the provincial capital **Kimberley**. Stop along the route to trace the rich mining history of the **Diamond Fields region**. Over 21 630 carats of diamonds were mined in the agricultural town of **Warrenton**, which is also home to the Vaalharts Dam.

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**.

- Visit to **The Big Hole** - the largest hand-dug excavation in the world
- **Kimberley Museum** – get an enlightening insight into the lives of the miners
- Take a ride on the vintage tram - the only tram still running in the country
- **William Humphrey Art Gallery**, with work of great South African artists on display
- **McGregor museum** for a glimpse of days gone by
- For wildlife adventures, visit **Dronfield Nature Reserve, Mokala National Park, Mattanu Private Gane Reserve** and **Wintershoek Safaris**.
- See the Lesser Flamingoes of **Kamfers Dam**.

Onto **Britstown**, a perfect stop-over to stretch your legs.

- Stop at **Kambro Hiking Trails** with its hiking trails, children's playground and swimming dam.
- Or stop at the **Transkaroo Country Lodge** for a taste of true Karoo slow food and hospitality. Stay overnight and book a stargazing experience at reception.
- View the Khoisan Art on farms such as **Brakwater, Keurfontein, Maritzdam** and **Omdraaivlei.**
- Explore the **Indraf Café**, a small informal museum with all sorts of fascinating items from yesteryear.
- Other Historical sites include the magistrate's office, library, the old police station and the museum currently housed in the **Methodist Church**.

Visit **Hopetown Concentration Camp Cemetery** at the farm **Doornbult** which houses a number of significant **Anglo Boer War sites** such as Orange River Station, British Military Camps, a well preserved Block House, a Women's Concentration Camp and Cemetery for Concentration Camp Victims

Next is **Victoria West** which was named after Queen Victoria of England and marks the beginning of the Diamond Way, lying on the main route from Cape Town to Kimberley.

- Stop at the **Victoria Trading Post** on the road to/from the N1 for great coffee and local food. Stock up for the road with a selection of local delicacies.

From the bulb capital of **Nieuwoudtville** to **Victoria West**, the R63 takes travellers through the heart of the Hantam. Considered to be the bulb capital of the world, Nieuwoudtville is a place of hidden treasures. Must-see attractions to visit:

R63 - TRAVEL THE HANTAM HEARTLAND

- **Hantam National Botanical Garden** on the Glenlyn farm. Take a guided tour to view more than 500 000 endemic Bulbinella.
- Stop at the **Matjiesfontein Farmstall** to enjoy tea and light snacks in a historical building surrounded by a variety of wild flowers.
- The 100m plummet of the **Nieuwoudtville Falls** on the Doring River is an awesome natural wonder.
- **Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve** just 16km from Nieuwoudtville offers with a variety of walking trails and day hikes.

Calvinia is in the center of one of the country's largest wool and meat producing areas. The brilliant night skies present spectacular stargazing opportunities.

- Birdwatching at the **Akkerendam Nature Reserve**.
- Typical Karoo architecture – visit the **Neogothic-styled Dutch Reformed Church** and the **Hantam Huis**.
- The **Calvinia Museum** is based in the Art Deco synagogue and houses a collection portraying early European settlers.

Williston is an important junction that links most of the towns in the Hantam area.

- Take a break at the **Williston Mall** – a quaint place to shop, eat and stretch your legs, great milkshakes and splash pool for kids to cool down.

Carnarvon was once one of the busiest farming areas in the area.

- Visit the **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)** – the world's most powerful radio telescope.
- The small domed corbelled houses with their flat-stoned roofs are typical of the area and the legacy of early trek Boers.

From **Kimberley**, head for the divine contrasts of the Green Kalahari region. Small rural towns such as **Campbell, Griquatown (Griekwastad)** and **Groblershoop** offer welcome respite along the way.

- Stop for an excellent cup of coffee and homemade treats and gifts at **Proviand Restaurant** in **Griquatown**.
- The **Mary Moffat Museum** in Griquatown features exhibits capturing the history of missionary work in the area.
- Buy semi-precious stones of all shapes, colors and sizes, including local tiger's eye and jasper at **The Earth Treasures factory.**



N8 - GEAR UP FOR THE GREEN KALAHARI

- **Wildebeest Guest Farm** hosts geological and mineral tours, birdwatching, game drives and hikes.
- Visit the grave of Griqua leader **Andries Waterboer**, which is flanked by cannons that were a gift from Queen Victoria.
- **Boegoeberg Dam** near **Groblershoop** offers an oasis for travellers with numerous water sports activities.
- Travel along the N10 highway, which hugs the winding Orange River towards Upington, the hub of the Green Kalahari.

N 10 – KALAHARI TO KAROO

The N10 takes travellers from the green lush vineyards of the **Green Kalahari** across the awe-inspiring arid landscape, which seems to sweep on forever. Known to the Khoi San as the "Thirstland," this region is renowned for its warm and hospitable people. This route will take you from **Upington** towards **Middelburg** in the Eastern Cape passing through the Karoo towns of **Marydale, Prieska, Britstown, De Aar** and **Hanover**.

- Stop in **Marydale** and visit the impressive **Kokerboom Forest**
- Continuing to **Prieska**, cross the suspended bridge and visit the **Die Bos Nature Reserve** featuring indigenous trees and shrubs or **Ria Huysamen's Aloe Garden.**
- Continue to **Britstown**, a perfect overnight stop-over.
- Visit **Kambro Hiking Trails** with its hiking trails, children's playground and swimming dam.
- Take a break at the **Transkaroo Country Lodge** for a taste of true Karoo slow food and hospitality. Stay over and book a stargazing experience at reception.
- View the **Khoisan Art** on farms such as **Brakwater, Keurfontein, Maritzdam** and **Omdraaivlei.**
- Explore the **Indraf Café**, a small informal museum with all sorts of fascinating items from yesteryear.
- Other historical sites include the **magistrate's office, library, the old police station** and the museum currently housed in the **Methodist Church Britstown.**



N10 - KALAHARI TO KAROO

De Aar is the third largest town in the Northern Cape with plenty to do and see:

- View the **Khoisan Rock Engravings** on **Nooitgedacht** and **Brandfontein Farms.**
- The **Garden of Remembrance** and the **Deelfontein Cemetery** honouring the British troops fallen during the war will appeal to Anglo Boer enthusiasts.
- **Olive Schreiner's House and Restaurant** – visit the famous war activist and author's home in De Aar, view a selection of artefacts and some of her articles whilst enjoying typical Karoo fare and hospitality.
- Other historical sites include **St Paul's Church, Town Hall** and **Standard Bank.**
- Visit **local artists** and crafters such as Sam Mooi, Fundiswa Banto and Ruth Issel.
- Great for stargazing, birding, paragliding and abseiling with donkey cart tours an absolute must!

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

- Visit **Olive Schreiner's** house.
- View the **Cenotaph Memorial** commemorating WW2.
- Historical buildings include the oldest building in town **Camdeboo House**, the **Dutch Reformed Church**, the police station and the **library** in Darling Street.
- Interesting crafts can be seen at the **Bear Lady, Joane Mallet's Shop, uNpopi Dolls** and **Angora Crafts & Restaurant.**
- Stop by to see **Mrs Nellies'** eclectic collection of agricultural implements form yesteryear.
- Visit the **Karoo Gariep Conservancy** for hippo watching and stargazing.

Continue on your way to **Middelburg**, Eastern Cape, explore the Karoo Recollection Route.

The N14 takes travellers from **Kuruman** in the Kalahari to **Springbok** in the Namakwa region via the mining town of **Kathu**, the regional commercial hub of Upington and along the **Quiver Tree Route**.



N14 - HEADING WEST

- **Kuruman** is known as the 'Oasis of the Kalahari" due to "The Eye", a spring that yields 20 million liters of water per day.
- Visit the **Moffat Mission** named after Robert Moffat, who translated the Bible into Setswana.
- **Wonderwerk Caves** - archaeological excavations of the 140m long caves, which dates back over a million years.
- Camp at the **Khai-Appel Recreation Resort** in Kathu, go horse riding and fishing.
- **The Workshop Ko Kasi** - a trendy township business situated in Mothibistad, Kuruman. It offers authentic African experiences, Kasi Café Workspace, laundromat, African Eco Spa Culture and Nature, tours and events. The Workshop Ko Kasi is a versatile space that currently houses a tea and books shop

The bustling town of **Upington** is home to several unique tourist attractions, including:

- Camel and donkey monuments commemorate the role these domestic animals played in the history of the region.
- The 1041m long Date Palm Avenue at the Eiland Resort – one of the longest palm avenues in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Water activities on the Orange River - sundowner cruises, bird-watching excursions and river rafting adventures.

Visitors are encouraged to add a day or two to their itinerary to explore the amazing **Kokerboom Food and Wine Route**. Taking in little towns such as **Kanoneiland, Kakamas, Keimoes** and **Kenhardt** exposes the essence of the region.

- Brandy and wine tastings.
- Road stalls to stock on local delicacies such as raisins, pecan nuts producers
- Rock shops
- Visit the local communities at Blocuso Trust or Riemvasmaak
- Take a ride in a donkey cart, affectionately called the Kalahari Ferrari by locals
- Visit the **Augrabies Falls National Park** with its 56m waterfall and awe-inspiring lookout points
- Experience the country's first vineyard safari and sundowner tour crossing some of the 100 islets in the small town of Keimoes. Enquire at De Werf Lodge in Keimoes

Carry on westwards pass Pofadder, stop at Pella and visit the very Catholic Church build in this area before heading for Springbok towards the end of it.

TOURISM INFORMATION

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GREEN KALAHARI TOURISM
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UPINGTON TOURISM
Cnr Mutual & Market Street, Library Building, Upington, 8801
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KALAHARI TOURISM
Livingstone and Main Road, Kuruman, 8460
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KAROO TOURISM
Colesberg Kemper Museum, Murray Street, Colesberg, 9795
Tel +27 51 753 0678 Fax +27 86 601 1015
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DE AAR TOURISM (including Britstown and Hanover)
42 Pixley Ka Seme Road, De Aar, 7000
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Experience
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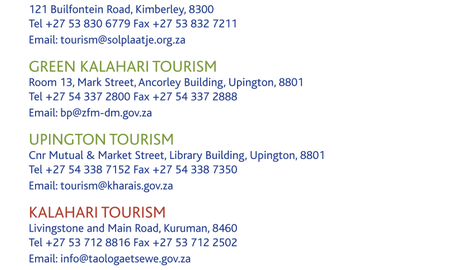

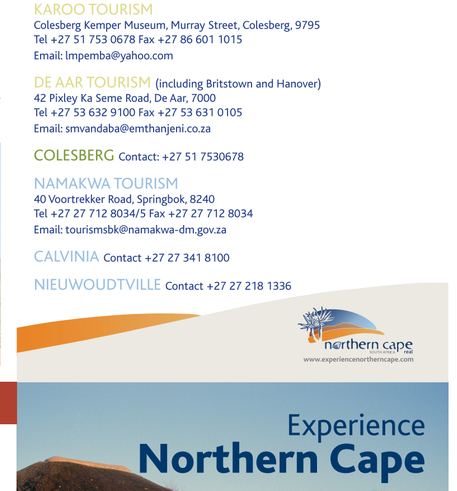

Map Brochure

South Africa
NORTHERN CAPE
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Travel Distances

825	1520	1175	1040	1553	418	837	806	403	337	666	712	460	641	Calvinia
454	965	623	520	881	779	219	486	560	857	522	284	143	Colesberg	
520	1132	744	557	980	762	346	507	426	813	547	305	De Aar		
752	832	467	750	842	960	175	202	409	800	238	Kimberly			
990	873	519	988	1080	1084	413	140	263	662	Kuruman				
1291	1543	1274	1365	1642	554	975	813	399	Springbok					
912	1144	875	958	1242	822	576	403	Upington						
955	742	382	920	805	1162	315	Vryburg							
636	771	417	575	667	998	Bloemfontein								
756	1780	1405	1039	1662	Cape Town									
926	690	595	668	Durban										
300	1215	994	East London											
1060	356	Johannesburg												
1375	Nelspruit													
Port Elizabeth														


BOTSWANA
NAMIBIA
NORTH WEST
MAHIKENG
FREE STATE
KIMBERLEY
WESTERN CAPE
EASTERN CAPE
Mabuasehube Area
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
Upington
Kuruman
Vryburg
De Aar
Prieska
Carnarvon
Calvinia
Kenhardt
Kakamas
Groblershoop
Griquatown
Hopetown
Britstown
Colesberg
Noupoort
Middelburg
Cradock
Somerset East
Beaufort West
Graaff-Reinet
Aberdeen
Williston
Victoria West
Richmond
Hanover
Loxton
Hutchinson
Van Zyl's Rus
Middelpos
Sonstraal
Hotazel
Kathu
Olifantshoek
Postmasburg
Danielskuil
Warrenton
Christiana
Kimberley
Barkly West
Delportshoop
Ulco
Windsorton
Papkuil
Griquatown
Campbell
Schmidtsdrif
Petrusville
Philipstown
Hopetown
Strydenburg
Vanderkloof
Orange River
Prieska
Copperton
Marydale
Nieuwoudtville
Hantam National Botanical Garden
Loeriesfontein
Calvinia
Carnarvon
Williston
Fraserburg
Sutherland
Loxton
Victoria West
Richmond