



Visitor Tips

1. Visitors should always have a good supply of water.
2. A 4x4 is required to traverse the Park.
3. As outdoor lighting in camps is limited, a torch/headlamp is required when walking outside at night.
4. Binoculars and cameras are a must.
5. An extra spare wheel, tools, spares, enough food and extra water containers are essential.

Where To Stay

Notices

Desert Knights Mountain Bike Adventure taking place from 02 - 08 September 2017:

We are excited to announce that the 2nd Desert Knights Mountain Bike Adventure is taking place from 02 - 08 September 2017.

We apologise in advance for any disturbance the 50 very excited cyclists may cause to tourists camping at De Hoop and Richtersberg campsites between 5 and 6 September 2017. We will endeavour to keep any disruptions to a minimum.

Regards,
Park Management

Pontoon at Sendelingsdrift open:

The Pontoon at Sendelingsdrift is open and operational as of today, 04 April 2016. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Hours for the laundry facilities:

Please be advised that the laundry facilities in the camping terrain can only be utilised during working hours which is between 07h30 and 16h00. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Things To See

1. The halfmens succulent - an iconic feature of the Park and a botanical wonder of the world.
2. The Hand of God rock formation
3. Jackal Buzzard

Accommodation

Sendelingsdrif Rest Camp

- A new rest camp has been built which consists of ten chalets (4 x 4 bed units and 6 x 2 bed units).
- All chalets are equipped with air conditioning, fridge and two plate electric stoves.
- All units have showers, front porches with views over the Gariep (Orange River) and there is a swimming pool in the camp.

There is still landscaping work being done and some further construction work is planned.

Potjiespram Rest Camp

- New ablutions have been built and showers (cold water only) are available.
- There are 18 Campsites and an Environmental Education Centre where school groups can stay over in traditional Nama huts.

De Hoop Camp Site

- This remains one of the most popular spots in the park and ablutions (cold showers) have been built to service 12 Campsites.

Richtersburg Camp Site

- As for De Hoop, this camp, which lies on the banks of the river, has been upgraded with ablutions (cold showers) to service six (6) Campsites.

Kokerboomkloof Camp Site

- The 8 camp sites are serviced by dry toilets.
- No water is available on site and the nearest water point is at Richtersberg (32km) away.
- Toilets available
- Access through Sendelingsdrift
- No power
- No shower / wash facilities
- Very rustic

Tatasberg and Ganakouriep Wilderness Camps

Each camp consists of:

- 4 x 2-bed self catering units with showers,
- 12 volt lighting system,
- fridges and gas stoves (hot and cold water).
- Should problems occur with the lights, paraffin lanterns are available.
- A caretaker is resident on site.
- The units will be swept out and the area kept clean but the washing of utensils and making of beds will be the responsibility of the guests for the duration of their stay.

Please note that the water at Ganakoeriep, Tatasberg and Hakkiesdoring is not suitable for drinking and it is recommended that guests should provide their own drinking water.

Hakkiesdoring Wilderness Camp

No information available at present.

Hiking Trails Base Camp

The Hiking Trails Base Camp, which is situated in the panoramic Ganakouriep Valley and accommodates 9 people opened in mid-July. Gas stoves, fridges and hot showers are available. The hiking trail itself is not open due to a shortage of qualified guides but groups under the control of an appropriately qualified guide may be allowed to hike.

It is strongly recommended that they take a person with extensive knowledge of the area with them to enhance their experience and minimise the risks associated with this terrain and climate.

Bookings: This unit will be taken three months in advance until such time as the trails issue has been resolved. It is also an ideal location from which to explore the Park by vehicle. Note that the water is not suitable for drinking and it is recommended that guests should bring their own drinking water.

To view the accommodation prices, refer to [Tariffs](#)

Activities & Facilities

Please note:

There is currently no ATM facility, shop or restaurant available in the Park. Guests are advised to bring their own supplies that will last for the whole duration of their stay. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Activities

Adventure and Outdoor Activities

- Flowering season – experience the springtime floral splendour of the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld area (between June and October, depending on good rains).
- Bird watching – almost 200 species in the park.

Guided Trails

- Vensterval Trail (4 days, 3 nights)
- Lelieshoek-Oemsberg Trail (3 days, 2 nights)
- Kodaspiek Trail (2 days, 1 night)
- The above mentioned are only available from 1 April to 30 September
- Guided walking trails will be conducted from a base camp called Hakiesdoring hiking camp soon.

Hiking Trails Base Camp

The Hiking Trails Base Camp, which is situated in the panoramic Ganakouriep Valley and accommodates 9 people opened in mid-July. Gas stoves, fridges and hot showers are available. The hiking trail itself is not open due to a shortage of qualified guides but groups under the control of an appropriately qualified guide may be allowed to hike. It is strongly recommended that they take a person with extensive knowledge of the area with them to enhance their experience and minimize the risks associated with this terrain and climate.

Bookings

This unit will be taken three months in advance until such time as the trails issue has been resolved. It is also an ideal location from which to explore the Park by vehicle. Note that the water is not suitable for drinking and it is recommended that guests should bring their own drinking water. The cost of this unit is R600 for the first four people and R100 for each subsequent person.

Facilities

No shops in the park, but fuel and cold drinks can be purchased at a small general store at Sendelingsdrift. The shop is open on weekdays only.

Pontoon at Sendelingsdrif

The old pont, that was last in service in 1988, when South West Africa (now Namibia) was still governed by South Africa, has been restored and offers an unusual and convenient way of crossing the Garib (Orange) River that separates the two countries. Before the opening of this border a very inconvenient 485km detour and about 4 hours drive had to be undertaken to cross from one side of the Park to the other.

Pont Regulations:

Maximum carrying capacity is 6 Metric Tones or:

- 2 standard 4x4 vehicles without trailers
- 1 standard 4x4 vehicle with trailer
- 2 standard light motor vehicles with trailers
- 1 bus with a seating capacity of less than 20

Hours:

Summer and winter: 8:00 – 16:15 (weather permitting)

For further information please phone the the park on 027 831 1506

Fuel

- Unleaded 95 - available at all times
- 50ppm Diesel - available at all times



Please note that there is an ATM available at the Sonskyn Café at Sendelingsdrift.

Natural and Cultural History

An international treaty, signed on 1 August 2003, incorporated the Ai–Ais Hot Springs Game Park in Namibia and |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld National Park in South Africa, resulting in the establishment of the Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park.

One of the main features of the combined park is the world's second largest canyon – the Fish River Canyon. At Sendelingsdrift, on the South African side, a pontoon has been established to ferry people and vehicles across the Orange River. The pontoon has a carrying capacity of a 32-seater bus or two fully loaded double cab 4x4 vehicles.

How to get there

Recommended routes to and from the park

The quickest way to get to the Park from N7 (RSA) and B1 (Namibia) is to turn off at Steinkopf and approach via Port Nolloth and Alexander Bay with only the last 80km being on dirt.

For those wishing to vary their route and get a broader picture of the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld the road from Violsdrift, via Kotzehoop, through spectacular scenery to Eksteenfontein and then on to Sendelingsdrift is one well worth traveling. (If you take this route please respect the interests of the Kotzehoop farmers whose crops are affected by the dust from speeding vehicles.)

- The scenic route via Kuboes, Lekkering and Eksteenfontein provides an additional dimension of what the region has to offer.
- Another spectacular route, recommended for 4x4 vehicles only, is over the mountain pass via Helskloof Reserve between Eksteenfontein and Violsdrift.
- Admission and overnight permits must be obtained at the park office at Sendelingsdrift before entering the park.
- Overnight visitors must arrive before 16:00 to reach camping sites before dark.
- Internal roads are 'farm tracks', mainly suited to 4x4 vehicles, but vehicles with high clearances such as kombis and LDV's do travel in the park. Sedan vehicles are not permitted.
- Due to deep-sanded riverbeds and rough mountain passes, driving in convoy is recommended.
- Single vehicles must sign an agreement to report back to park headquarters on departure.
- The old pont, that was last in service in 1988, when South West Africa (now Namibia) was still governed by South Africa, has been restored and offers an unusual and convenient way of crossing the Garib (Orange) River that separates the two countries. Before the opening of this border a very inconvenient 485km detour and about 4 hours drive had to be undertaken to cross from one side of the Park to the other.
- Driving in the park at night is not permitted.

Gate Hours

- 1 October to 30 April: 07:00 – 19:00
- 1 May to 30 September: 07:00 – 18:00

GPS Coordinates

Name	Latitude	Longitude
Turn-off to Gannakouriep	S 28 18.454	E 17 06.202

Turn-off to Hakkiesdoring	S 28 23.682	E 17 10.308
Turn-off to Kokerboomkloof	S 28 19.768	E 17 16.758
Turn-off to Sendelingsdrift	S 28 27.939	E 16 52.273
Turn-off to Stofbakkies	S 28 29.128	E 16 49.687
Aloe Pearsonii	S 28 19.952	E 16 59.430
Basterkokerboom	S 28 25.156	E 16 53.052
De Hoop	S 28 11.021	E 17 10.682
Gannakouriep Hakkiesdoring fork	S 28 22.014	E 17 09.987
Gannakouriep Camp	S 28 23.247	E 17 09.586
Grasdrif ruins	S 28 20.137	E 17 22.839
Hakkiesdoring	S 28 23.621	E 17 10.148
Halfmensbome	S 28 08.335	E 16 58.973
Hand of God	S 28 07.318	E 17 00.579
Helskloof gate	S 28 17.958	E 16 57.328
Kodas Piek	S 28.22738	E 16.99216
Koerdegab Pass	S 28 16.516	E 17 02.612
Kokerboom	S 28 20.196	E 17 14.982
Kokerboomkloof camping area	S 28 18.434	E 17 17.476
Kuboes	S 28 26.764	E 16 59.522
Kubus Camp and Chalets	S 28 26.394	E 16 59.678
Lekkersing turn-off	S 28 27.149	E 16 56.869
Penkop Pass or Akkedis Pass	S 28 09.832	E 17 01.438
Potjiespram Camp	S 28 04.482	E 16 57.789
R1	S 28 06.819	E 16 56.101
R10	S 28 20.827	E 17 19.474
R11	S 28 14.717	E 17 12.095
R12	S 28 15.253	E 17 13.244
R13	S 28 13.840	E 17 03.307
R14	S 28 17.591	E 17 01.875
R15	S 28 16.770	E 16 59.682
R17	S 28 20.730	E 17 09.890
R18	S 28 23.670	E 17 09.256
R2	S 28 07.407	E 17 00.569
R3	S 28 11.582	E 17 03.211
R4	S 28 12.736	E 17 05.541
R5	S 28 11.115	E 17 07.490
R6	S 28 15.851	E 17 08.199
R7	S 28 18.336	E 17 07.423
R8	S 28 19.480	E 17 11.202
R9	S 28 21.923	E 17 14.082
Richtersberg Camp	S 28 15.056	E 17 12.793
Richtersveld Park Entrance	S 28 17.494	E 16 56.382
Sendelingsdrift	S 28 07.514	E 16 53.496
Springbokvlakte	S 28 19.845	E 17 15.867

Distances to the park (Sendelingsdrif)

From:

Cape Town - 875km Upington - 720km [Johannesburg](#) - 1 595km Durban - 1 992km Springbok - 320km Port Nolloth - 180km Alexander Bay - 90km

Distances in the park

- Sendelingsdrif – Helskloof Entry Gate - 22km (25 min)
- Helskloof Gate-Kokerboomkloof - 78.3km
- Helskloof Gate-Richtersberg - 68.5km
- Helskloof Gate- De Hoop - 53.7km
- Richtersberg – De Hoop - 8.1km (Deep sand and sharp rocks)
- Sendelingsdrif-Potjiespram - 9km
- Sendelingsdrif-De Hoop - 38.2km
- Sendelingsdrif / Richtersberg / Kokerboomkloof / Helskloof / Sendelingsdrift - 203km (9 hrs)

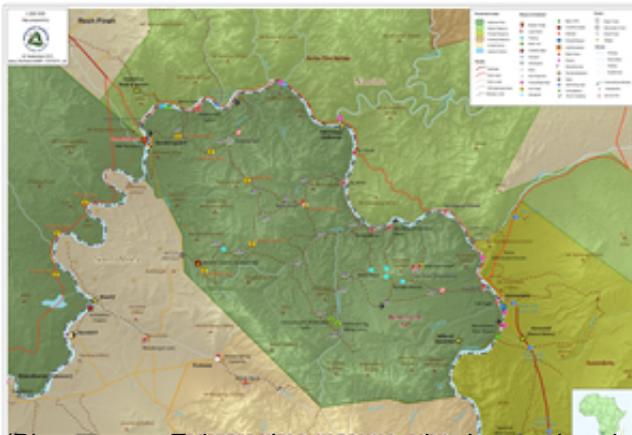
The Sendelingsdrif RSA / Namibia Borderpost and Pont

More information will be available soon.

Gate Registration & Indemnity Form

- [|A|-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park Gate Registration & Indemnity Form](#)

Park Map



(Please note: Enlarged map may take time to download)

Tariffs

Daily Conservation & Entry Fees

Accommodation & Camping Tariffs

General Tariff Information

- [General Tariffs Information](#)

Hints & Tips

- Insect Repellent is strongly recommended
- Binoculars and cameras are a must.
- As outdoor lighting in camps is limited, a torch/headlamp is required when walking outside at night.
- Cotton sheets will keep insects at bay.
- Plastic refuse bags are essential as all rubbish must be removed on departure.
- Firewood and kindling may not be collected in the park.
- Gas cookers are recommended due to evening winds.
- Extra spare wheel, tools, spares, enough food and extra water containers are essential.
- Make sure that you always have a good supply of water. Fresh water is available at Sendelingsdrift.
- Do not sleep on the bare ground as the park is ideal scorpion habitat.
- Driving off indicated routes and outside camping sites is a serious offence. It is harmful to the park and dangerous to the visitor.
- Scarves protect against dust and wet towels from extreme heat. Provide clothing for extreme temperatures.
- No pets, generators or outboard motors permitted.
- No quad bikes or motorbikes will be allowed inside the Park.
- Picking of plants, removal of seeds, rocks, crystals or driftwood is an offence. Please help us to preserve the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld's wilderness atmosphere.

Contact Information

For enquiries e-mail |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park or phone us on the following numbers:

- Park Tel: +27 (0)27 831 1506 (Reception) Fax: +27 (0)27 831 1175
email: RNPreservations@sanparks.org
- Park Manager
email: RNPparkmanager@sanparks.org
- Duty Manager
email: RNPdutymanager@sanparks.org
Cell: 084 742 9797

Birding

Find more birding information and [park bird checklist](#). You can also look at [information for birders](#).

Mammals

Species Checklist

Mammal species checklist **Order Insectivora**

Family Soricidae

Crocidura cyanea

Reddish-grey musk shrew

Family Macroscelididae

Elephantulus rupestris

Smith's rock elephant-shrew

Macroscelides proboscideus

Round-eared elephant shrew

Order Chiroptera

Family Molossidae

Sauromys petrophilus

Tadarida aegyptiaca

Family Vespertilionidae

Eptesicus capensis

Myotis seabrai

Family Nycteridae

Nycteris thebaica

Family Rhinolophidae

Rhinolophus capensis

Rhinolophus clivosus

Rhinolophus darlingi

Rhinolophus fumigatus

Family Hipposideridae

Hipposideros caffer

Order Primates

Family Cercopithecidae

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

Papio ursinus

Order Lagomorpha

Family Leporidae

Lepus capensis

Pronolagus rupestris

Order Rodentia

Family Bathyergidae

Cryptomys hottentotus

Family Hystricidae

Hystrix africaeaustralis

Family Gliridae

Graphiurus platyops

Family Sciuridae

Xerus inaurus

Family Petromuridae

Petromus typicus

Family Cricetidae

Desmodillus auricularis

Gerbillurus paeba

Malcothrix typica

Otomys unisulcatus

Parotomys brantsii

Parotomys littledalei

Petromyscus collinus

Family Muridae

Aethomys namaquensis

Rhabdomys pumilio

Thallomys paedulus

Order Carnivora

Family Hyaenidae

Hyaena brunnea

Proteles cristatus

Family felidae

Felis caracal

Felis lybica

Flat-headed free-tailed bat

Egyptian free-tailed bat

Cape serotine bat

Angola hairy bat (indeterminate)

Egyptian slit-faced bat

Cape horseshoe bat

Geophroy's horseshoe bat

Darling's horseshoe bat

Ruppell's horseshoe bat

Sundevall's leaf nosed bat

Vervet monkey

Chacma baboon

Cape hare

Smith's red rock hare

Common mole rat

Porcupine

Rock dormouse

Ground squirrel

Dassie rat

Short-tailed gerbil

Hairy-footed gerbil

Large-eared mouse

Bush karoo rat

Brant's whistling rat

Littledale's whistling rat

Pygmy rock mouse (indeterminate)

Namaqua rock mouse

Striped mouse

Black-tailed tree rat

Brown hyaena (rare)

Aardwolf (rare)

Caracal

African wild cat (vulnerable)

<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Leopard (rare)
Family Canidae	
<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Black-backed jackal
<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Bat-eared fox
<i>Vulpes chama</i>	Silver fox
Family Mustelidae	
<i>Aonyx capensis</i>	Cape clawless otter
<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>	Striped polecat
<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Honey badger (vulnerable)
Family Viverridae	
<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	Water mongoose
<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	Yellow mongoose
<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>	Small grey mongoose
<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Small-spotted genet
<i>Suricata suricatta</i>	Suricate
Order Hyracoidea	
Family Procaviidae	
<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Rock hyrax
Order Perissodactyla	
Family Equidae	
<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	Zebra hartmann's
Order Artiodactyla	
Family Bovidae	
<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Klipspringer
<i>Pelea capreolus</i>	Rhebok grey
<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Steenbok
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Duiker grey

Vegetation

The |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld National Park is a very good example of one of the most interesting mega-ecosystems of the world, the succulent Karoo.

There is no desert flora on our planet, possessing similar species richness and individuality of flora. On a surface area of one square kilometre more than 360 plant species of flowering plants (angiosperms) are found at a site with an average rainfall of only 68 mm per year.

The |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld includes two floristic kingdoms. A magnificent variety of dwarf shrubs with water-storing leaves, belongs to the succulent Karoo region of the Greater Cape Flora, while its western portion forms part of the East Gariep Centre, the most important centre of the Nama Karoo Region. The |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld is divided into two portions belonging to two major climatical systems, the temperate winter rainfall region with its high air humidity, and the inland region with higher temperatures and important summer rains and low humidity, respectively. Both units are closely placed against each other, separated by a narrow transition zone of about 10 to 20 km.

One outstanding example of such unique life forms is the psammophorous plants, i.e. plant species that are fixing a layer of sand to their surface in order to build a protective shelter against the force of sand storms and the related sand blasting.

The |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld is widely reckoned as one of the world's richest succulent areas. It is estimated

that 50 genera out of a total of 160 from the Mesembryanthemaceae family occur here.

A number of endemic plant species only occur in small colonies on the highest peaks. About 30% of the total floristic composition is endemic to the park.

There are four main landscape units: the Orange River and adjacent floodplains; gentle undulating plains (distributed in the summer/all year round rainfall area); rolling hills; and rugged mountains.

Two trees are particularly associated with the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld: the bastard quiver tree (Kiewiet April 2001) and the half-mens (half-human), *Pachypodium namaquanum*. The half-mens is a succulent with an unbranched, cylindrical stem, 1.5 to 2.5 m, and sometimes up to 4 m, in height. Near the top, it has a tuft of branches, which lean northwards at an angle of 20 – 30 degrees. The Namas revere the human-like trees as the embodiment of their ancestors, half human, half plant, mourning for their ancient Namibian home.

People with disabilities

Wheelchair Access

- There are accessible accommodation units at the park's two wilderness camps: Tatasberg and Ganakouriep. Both these units have roll-in showers. There is currently no accessible accommodation at the main camp at Sendelingsdrif, but this omission will hopefully be corrected soon.
- View the [accessibility features overview for |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park](#), as featured in the Rolling Inspiration magazine.
- Please see additional information on [Wheelchair Accessibility](#)

Accommodation

Tatasberg Wilderness Camp:

[Reed Cabin \(RC2Z\)](#)

The unit is accessible to the mobility challenged. The cabin features two single beds and a bathroom with a shower. The unit also includes a braai facility on deck, gas stove (no oven), fridge, ramp and utensils. Guests have to provide their own drinking water and fire wood. The cabin makes use of solar power and there are no plug points.



Ganakouriep Wilderness Camp:

[Canvas Cabin \(CC2Z\)](#)

The unit is accessible to the mobility challenged. The cabin features two single beds and a bathroom with a shower. The unit also includes braai facilities, gas stove (no oven), fridge ramp and utensils. Guests have to provide their own drinking water and fire wood. The cabin makes use of solar power and there are no plug points.





Please note:

Accommodation images may differ from the actual units as refurbishment of various accommodation types occur on an on-going basis.