



/Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

www.sanparks.org

www.aridexperiences.com

YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE



BOUNDLESS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Nature Culture Community

an extraordinary mountain desert

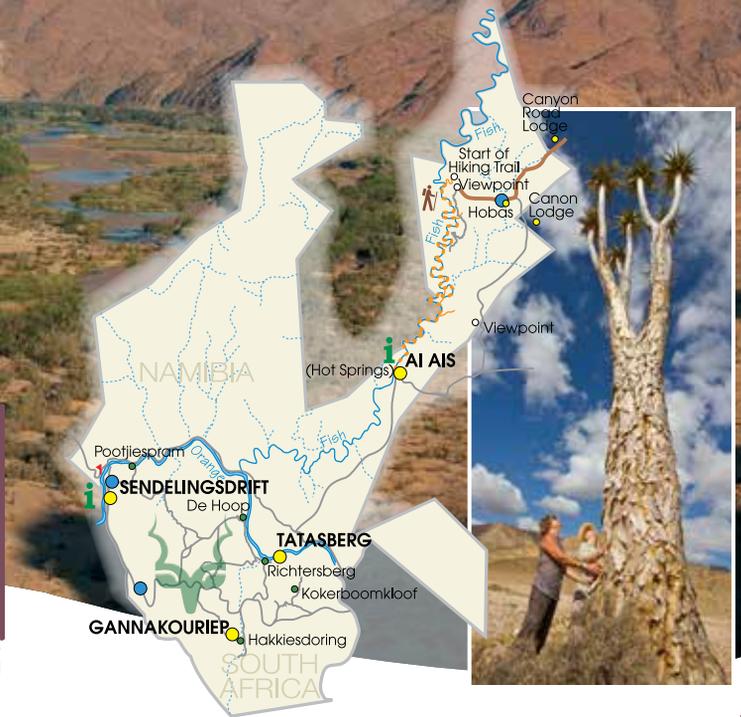


/AI /AIS - RICHTERSVELD

TRANSFRONTIER PARK

Hauntingly beautiful and seared by a blistering sun, the lava mountains and sandy plains form southern Africa's largest Mountain Desert Park. In August 2003 an international treaty was signed between the Presidents of South Africa and Namibia to form the /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. This has opened the way for border crossings within the Park between South Africa and Namibia, where a pont takes you across the Orange River at Sendelingsdrift.

Though surrealistically harsh (this is the driest area in the Northern Cape), the rugged Richtersveld side of the Park nurtures some 30% of all South Africa's succulent plant species. With less than 50mm of rain each year, it is



home to leopards, lizards and adventurers. Paradoxically beautiful, it is a land for those keen to 'rough it'. You can explore it from the comfort of your 4x4 or paddle the river, taking in the awe-inspiring, seldom-seen purity of a mountain desert wilderness. This is a harsh and unpredictable land where water is scarce and life-sustaining moisture comes in the form of early morning fog – called 'lhuries' or 'Malmokkies' by the local people – which rolls in from the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean, sustaining a remarkable range of small reptiles, birds and mammals. A staggering assortment of plant life, some species occurring nowhere else, is to be found here, with gnarled quiver trees, tall aloes and quaint 'half-mens' keeping vigil over this inscrutable landscape.



THE MIGHTY FISH RIVER CANYON

GETTING THERE

Sendelingsdrift is the main South African entrance to the Park. The closest substantial commercial centre is Springbok which is just over 300km away, depending on the route you take. You can drive to Sendelingsdrift with a two-wheel drive vehicle, but once in the Park, and to travel many of the alternative routes to and around the Park, you will need a **4x4 vehicle**. Sedan vehicles are not permitted. The most common route is north from Springbok on the N7, turning left at Steinkopf (49km) onto the R382 to Port Nolloth (94km). From Port Nolloth you head north for 84km to Alexander Bay. This is where the tarmac ends. From Alexander Bay head back inland for 90km to the Park gate.

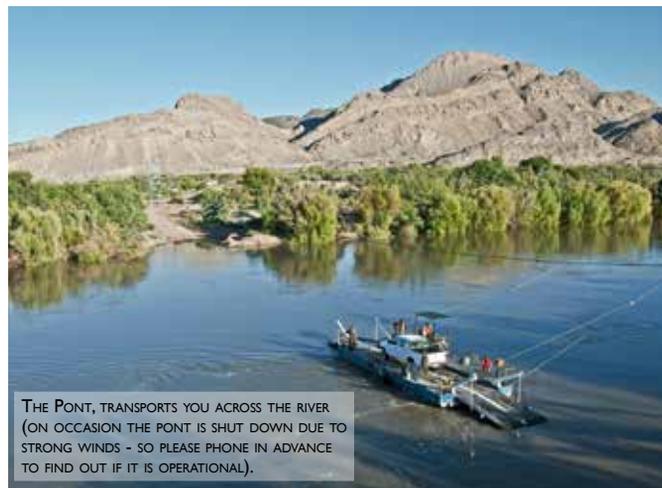
Besides being the entry point to the Richtersveld side of the Park, Sendelingsdrift is also a **border post** and entry to the Namibian side of the Park. A restored pont offers an unusual and convenient way of crossing the Orange (Gariiep) River that separates the two countries. The pont can carry a maximum of 6 metric tones and, weather permitting, runs from 8h00 to 16h15 daily.



ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

The rugged landscapes and high diversity of arid plant species are undoubtedly the biggest attractions of the Richtersveld. Added to that is the challenge of the **'OFFROAD' DRIVING**, the seclusion of the wilderness camps and the contrast that the Orange River brings to its arid surrounds. **FLY-FISHING** and **RIVER RAFTING** on the river are also very popular.

On the Namibian side the awesome Fish River Canyon and the **/AI /AIS HOT SPRINGS** are the main attractions. For those fit enough, the **5 DAY FISH RIVER CANYON HIKING TRAIL** is also very rewarding.



THE PONT, TRANSPORTS YOU ACROSS THE RIVER (ON OCCASION THE PONT IS SHUT DOWN DUE TO STRONG WINDS - SO PLEASE PHONE IN ADVANCE TO FIND OUT IF IT IS OPERATIONAL).

SENDELINGSDRIFT

RICHTERSVELD PARK REST CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETS 10

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER ROOM 4x4 people, 6x2 people

CAMPING SITES 12 with hot water ablutions (no electricity at campsites)

POWER SOURCE Electricity, 240v, 15amp, 24 hours (chalets only)

SUPPLIES A small supply store

OTHER FACILITIES Swimming pool, main Reception, Port of Entry control with pont crossing (enquire to confirm if pont is running)

All visitors to the Park have to report to the Reception at Sendelingsdrift, which is just inside the main gate.

The ten chalets are perfect for the first night's stopover or for those just wanting to make use of the pont. They are built in the style of an old mining camp and equipped with air conditioning, fridge and two plate electric stoves. The front porches all have views over the Orange (Gariep) River and there is a swimming pool. The nearby camping site is basic and enclosed.

The pont which takes you over the river to Namibia is close by.



POOTJIESPRAM

RICHTERSVELD CAMPSITE

NUMBER OF CAMPING SITES 18 with cold water ablutions

POWER SOURCE AND SUPPLIES None

ACTIVITIES Fly fishing, river rafting (own equipment needed) and swimming in the Orange River

EDUCATION CENTRE

FACILITIES Accommodation in traditional Nama huts

Pootjiespram is the largest campsite in the Richtersveld. Only eleven kilometres from Reception, it is situated on the banks of the Orange River and is a favourite first stop camp site as it is away from the more built up Sendelingsdrift.

Although there are cold water ablutions the sites are still very

informal and well spread out. The educational centre, with its traditional Nama matjieshuis to sleep in, also has a large boma. It is well away from the main camping site and can be booked for school groups.



ABOVE & RIGHT
ALL THE CAMPSITES AT
POOTJIESPRAM HAVE
ACCESS TO THE RIVER.

LEFT THE EDUCATIONAL
CENTRE IS WELL AWAY
FROM THE MAIN
CAMPING AREA



/AI / AIS- RICHTERSVELD

DE HOOP

RICHTERSVELD CAMPSITE

NUMBER OF CAMPING SITES 12 with cold water ablutions

POWER SOURCE AND SUPPLIES None

ACTIVITIES Fly fishing, river rafting (own equipment needed) and swimming in the Orange River

This is one of the most popular spots in the Park and is arguably the most centrally situated camp site that is also on the river. This area is also a favourite with fly-fisherman, birdwatchers and children.



RICHTERSBERG

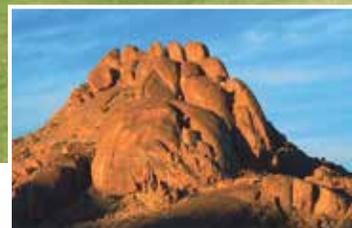
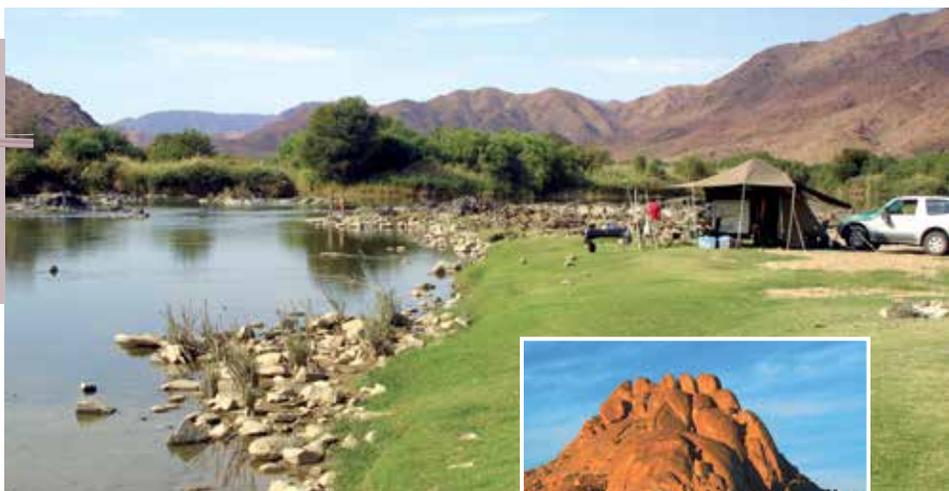
RICHTERSVELD CAMPSITE

NUMBER OF CAMPING SITES 6 with cold water ablutions

POWER SOURCE AND SUPPLIES None

ACTIVITIES Fly fishing, river rafting (own equipment needed) and swimming in the Orange River

Another popular spot for those who want to have the river flowing past their tent. The camp, like De Hoop, overlooks the river and the rugged mountains on the Namibian side. These are complemented by the jagged peaks of the awesome Tatasberg range.



KOKERBOOMKLOOF

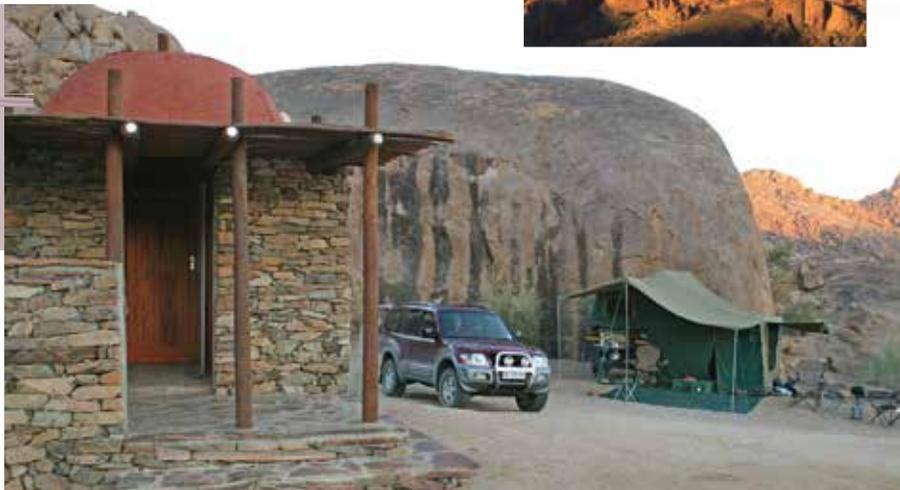
RICHTERSVELD CAMPSITE

NUMBER OF CAMPING SITES 8 with dry toilets

POWER SOURCE AND SUPPLIES None

ACTIVITIES Boulder hopping, viewing of the most awesome rock formations

This Kloof is favoured by photographers as it's home to some of the best rock formations in the Richtersveld. The rocks seem to absorb the light and the hues of the rocks change throughout the day. The campsites are all snuggled up against massive boulders. *There is no water available, therefore bring your own.* The closest water is at Richtersberg, 32km away.



TATASBERG

RICHTERSVELD WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETs 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar lights and geysers (no conventional plugs)

OTHER FACILITIES Orange River frontage

Tatasberg Wilderness Camp, within sight of the Orange River, is beautifully constructed of natural materials that blend into the surrounds. The uniquely designed chalets have their own design, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and are fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer. Solar panels provide light and gas geysers provide hot water.



GANNAKOURIEP

RICHTERSVELD WILDERNESS CAMP

NUMBER OF CHALETs 4

MAXIMUM PEOPLE PER CHALET 2 people

POWER SOURCE Solar lights and geysers (no conventional plugs)

OTHER FACILITIES Within a rocky valley

Gannakouriep is situated in a rocky valley that has a wild feeling about it. Each chalet has its own unique design, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and is fully equipped with cooking utensils, cutlery, linen and fridge/freezer. Solar panels provide light and gas geysers provide hot water. It also caters for people using wheelchairs. Please note that the water at Gannakouriep is very high in mineral content and is therefore not suitable for drinking. *Guests should bring their own drinking water.*

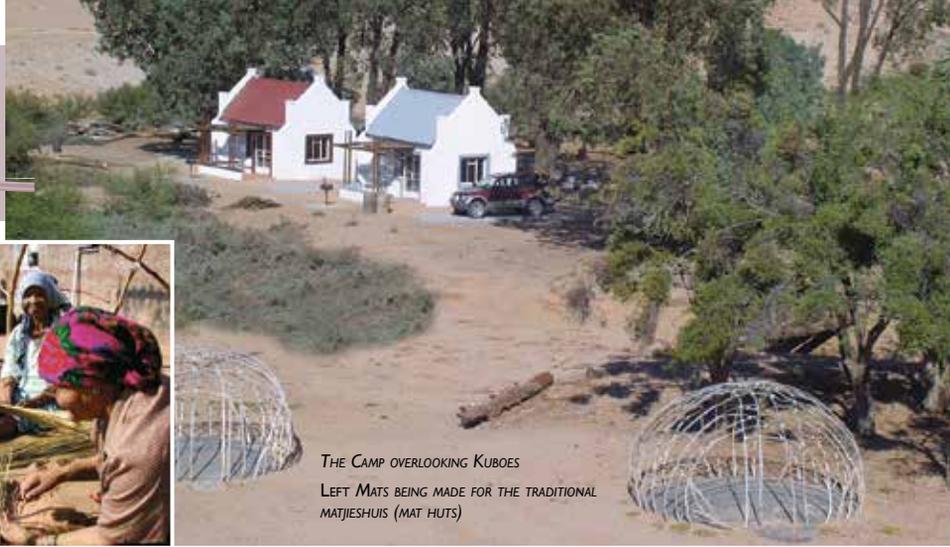


/AI /AIS- RICHTERSVELD

RICHTERSVELD CONSERVANCY

COMMUNITY ACCOMMODATION

The Namas are an integral part of the Richtersveld and no visit to the Park would be complete without visiting (and preferably overnighting in) at least one of the surrounding villages of Lekkersing, Eksteenfontein, Sanddrift or Kuboes. For more information contact the Richtersveld Reception. Tel +27 (0)27 831-1506



THE CAMP OVERLOOKING KUBOES
LEFT MATS BEING MADE FOR THE TRADITIONAL
MATJIESHUIS (MAT HUTS)

/Ai /Ais

NAMIBIAN PARK CAMPS

The Namibian side of the Park gives you the choice of staying at /Ai /Ais Hot Springs Resort or the Hobas Camp site. /Ai /Ais, meaning 'burning water', is situated at the southern end of Namibia's Fish River Canyon. The /Ai /Ais Hot Springs Resort has thermal baths in the spa complex that are particularly soothing for people suffering from rheumatism. There are indoor pools of various temperatures and an outdoor pool. Visitors can choose between flats, rondawels and camping sites. There is also a filling station and a restaurant. The Hobas camp site is situated at the northern end of the Fish River Canyon and is also a good place to overnight before starting the Fish River Hiking Trail. /Ai /Ais Reception Tel 092 6463 262045 (office hours) Hobas Reception Tel 092 6463 266028 (office hours)



GONDWANA CAÑON PARK

Outside the Park, just a few kilometres east of the Fish River Canyon, is a well managed private conservation area named Gondwana Cañon Park where four types of lodging can be found.



E-mail: info@gondwanapark.com Tel +264 (0)61 230066

OFFICIAL /AI /AIS-RICHTERSVELD TRAVEL GUIDE

A detailed travel guide of the /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park is available at the Park Reception. This A4 publication has over 160 full colour photographs and covers the history of the Park, the conservancy, climate, geology, and resource management. To help you get around it includes a detailed map with times and distances between camps, waterholes and attractions.

The guide is sold at the Sendelingsdrift Reception

