

Experience the

Northern Cape

THE NORTHERN CAPE, renowned for its southern Kalahari scenery and Richtersveld mountain desert, its abundant diamonds and being home to the world's 'first people', the San-Bushmen, Griqua and Nama is undoubtedly South Africa's most unusual tourist destination. Not only is it completely different from other destinations in the country, it also is a destination full of uncanny surprises, in fact downright irony. Who would expect a desert to boast two of a country's biggest rivers, the Orange and Vaal River, running through it? Who would dream of finding the world's biggest flower display all along South Africa's roughest and wildest coastline? Who would believe that ten percent of South Africa's vineyards are growing in the Upington region? Who could have guessed that the Northern Cape is home to six national parks: [A]Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Mokala, Namaqua, Tankwa-Karoo, Augrabies Falls - the latter boasting the sixth highest waterfall in the world.

Not only is the Northern Cape a prime destination for nature and adventure lovers, it should be high on the list of travellers that are curious about indigenous people, archaeology, geology, life in the townships, diamonds, architecture, Anglo-Boer war history, cultural and liberation history.

Travel well as we wish you many happy returns to a truly unique destination!

Things to explore... from A-Z

Adventure Sport

- 4 x 4 – see list in the following panel
- Angling – coastal and fresh water
- Abseiling
- Hunting
- Mountain biking
- Paragliding
- White water rafting
- Hiking
- Skateboarding
- Dune boarding
- Quad biking
- Horse riding
- Birding
- Water sports
- Golfing

Tourism Attractions

Diamond Fields

- The Big Hole
- Belgravia Historic Walk
- Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme
- Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre
- Battlefields Route
- Robert Sobukwe House
- Northern Cape Provincial Legislature
- McGregor Museum
- William Humphreys Art Gallery
- Ghost Trail
- Township Tour

Karoo

- Vanderkloof Dam
- Karoo Architecture
- Khoisan Rock Art
- Karoo Battlefields
- Hippo Pool
- White and Roaring Sands
- Fossil Footprints
- Wine Cellar

Namakwa

- South African Astronomical Observatory
- Namaqua Flowers
- Mission Stations
- Mines – present and past
- Nama Culture
- Orange River Estuary
- Cape Fur Seal Colony
- Scenic Drives
- Shipwreck
- Quiver Tree Forest
- Waterfalls

Green Kalahari

- Riemvasmaak Hot Springs
- Red Dune Route
- Orange River Wine Cellar
- Date Palm Avenue
- SA Dried Fruit Co-operative
- Operating Waterwheels
- Quiver Tree Forest
- San Culture
- Verneukpan
- Hakskeenpan

Kalahari

- Hunting
- Roaring Kalahari Route
- The Eye of Kuruman
- Largest open pit iron ore mine in the world
- Wonderwerk cave
- Robert Moffat Mission Station
- Rock Art painting

4x4 Trails

- Nossob 4 x 4 Route: +27 (0) 12 4289111
- Pulai 4 x 4 Route: +27 (0) 721596726
- Richtersveld Route: +27 (0) 12 4289111
- Riemvasmaak Trails: +27 (0) 54 3372800
- Augrabies Route: +27 (0) 54 4529200
- Khamkirri: +27 (0) 827901309
- Kalahari Trail: +27 (0) 54 5310019
- Diamond Coast Trail: +27 (0) 27 8770028
- Witsand 4 x 4 Trails: +27 (0) 53 3131061/2
- Namaqua 4 x 4 Trail: +27 (0) 27 7128035
- Toekoms Trail: +27 (0) 83 3383048
- Banksgate Trail: +27 (0) 2062 ask for 1930

For further information visit

www.experiencenortherncape.com



Northern Cape at a glance

Land Area:	362 591.41km ² The largest province in South Africa
Population:	±1.058 million
Population Density:	3 per sq km
Capital City:	Kimberley
Major Towns:	Calvinia, Colesberg, De Aar, Kuruman, Springbok and Upington
Climate:	Hot to very hot in summer, mild to cold in winter
Major Airports:	Kimberley, Upington
Main Roads:	Good, suitable for all vehicles
Health:	Malaria-free
Languages:	Afrikaans, English, Nama, SeTswana and Xhosa

The regions



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
- McGregor museum
- For wildlife adventures, visit Dronfield Nature Reserve and Mokala National Park
- See the Lesser Flamingoes of Kamfers Dam.

Britstown is a perfect stop-over to stretch the legs.

- Stop at Kambro Hiking Trails with its hiking trails, children's playground and swimming dam.
- View the Khoisan Art on farms such as Brakwater, Keurfontein, Maritzdam and Omdraai vle.
- **Victoria West** 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. Look out for the vintage green truck parked outside and the green-and-white striped corrugated iron building of the Victoria Trading Post.
- Relive the magic of Springbok rugby legend **Mannetjies Roux** at his museum.

Three Sisters is not an actual town, but a series of three very distinctive hills or koppies shaped almost like rondawels. It is a landmark that indicates the turn-off onto the N12 and a major entry point to the Northern Cape and Kimberley from Cape Town.

- A farm stay near Three Sisters promises gorgeous scenery, a welcome break, veld and mountains for hiking, typical Karoo hospitality and the promise of a home-reared lamb dinner.

R63 – TRAVEL THE HANTAM HEARTLAND

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:
 - 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 centre 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.
 - 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.
 - Stop in at Hantam Kraal for authentic, regional dishes.

- **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.

- **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. The best milkshake in the land, space for kids to run around and a splash pool to cool down.

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N7 – GATEWAY TO NAMIBIA

The N7 highway stretches from Cape Town and meanders its way through the Northern Cape before heading into neighbouring country Namibia. Crossing from the Western Cape into the Northern Cape, visitors will encounter towns capturing the Nama heritage of the province. Slow down and appreciate the unique stories of the people of Garies, Kamieskroon, Springbok and Steinkopf. The distinctive and enormous megalithic boulders carry the names of early Namakwa travellers and are aptly called the letter stones. During spring time, this route takes visitors into the core of the floral kaleidoscope that is the Namakwa floral season.

- Visit a Nama cultural settlement at Paulshoek near Kamieskroon.
- Marvel at the botanical diversity of the Namakwa National Park.
- Graves outside of town commemorates soldiers, who died in the Anglo Boer war.

Springbok is home to the first commercial copper mine in the country as well as the oldest smelting furnace of its kind in the country, which has been declared a national monument.

The renovated Dutch Reformed Church in **Steinkopf** hosts artwork from famous South African artists and the Immanuel Succulent Nursery offers a great stop-over with local arts and crafts and a tea garden.



N8 - GEAR UP FOR THE GREEN KALAHARI



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

- The Mary Moffat Museum in Griquatown features exhibits capturing the history of missionary work in the area.
- Buy semi-precious stones of all shapes, colours and sizes, including local tiger's eye and jasper at The Earth Treasures factory.
- Wildebeest Guest Farm hosts geological and mineral tours, bird watching, 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 Groblersshoop 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.

N14 - HEADING WEST

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

- Kuruman is known as the 'Oasis of the Kalahari' due to The Eye, a spring that yields 20 million litres 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
- Visit the world's largest open-cast iron mine with guided tours offered by appointment.

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 the itinerary to explore the amazing Quiver Tree Food & Wine Route. Taking in little towns such as **Kanoneiland**, **Kakamas**, **Keimoes** and **Kenhardt** exposes the essence of the region.

- Brandy and wine tastings.
- River resorts and rustic camping sites.
- Local delicacies such as raisins, pecan nuts producers
- Road stalls
- Rock shops
- Visit the local communities at Blocoso 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
- Khamkirri Private Game Reserve
- Riemvasmaak Hot Springs.

Carry on westwards to the former missionary station of **Pofadder** before heading for **Springbok**, home to the first commercial mine in the country and the oldest smelting furnace in Southern Africa.

Tourism Information

NORTHERN CAPE TOURISM AUTHORITY
Tel: +27 (0) 53 833 1434 · Fax: +27 (0) 53 831 2937
Email: info@experiencenortherncape.com
www.experiencenortherncape.com

DIAMOND FIELD TOURISM

121 Bultfontein Road, Kimberley 8300
Tel: +27 53 832 7298 / Fax: +27 53 832 7211
Email: tourism@solplaatje.org.za

FRANCES BAARD TOURISM (KIMBERLEY)

51 Drakensberg Avenue, Carters Glen, Kimberley
Tel: +27 53 838 0911 / Fax: +27 53 861 1538
Email: nonhlanhla.khumalo@fbdm.co.za

GREEN KALAHARI TOURISM

30 Swartmodder Ave, Upington
Tel: +27 54 337 2800 / Fax: +27 54 332 6589
Email: greenkal@webmail.co.za
www.greenkalahari.com

UPINGTON TOURISM

Library Building, Mutual Street, Upington
Tel: +27 54 3387151 / Fax: +27 54 3387350
Email: tourism@kharahais.gov.za
Website: www.kharahais.gov.za

KALAHARI TOURISM

4 Federal Building, Mynbou Street, Kuruman
Tel: +27 53 712 8700
Email: info@taologaitsewe.gov.za
www.roaringkalahari.co.za

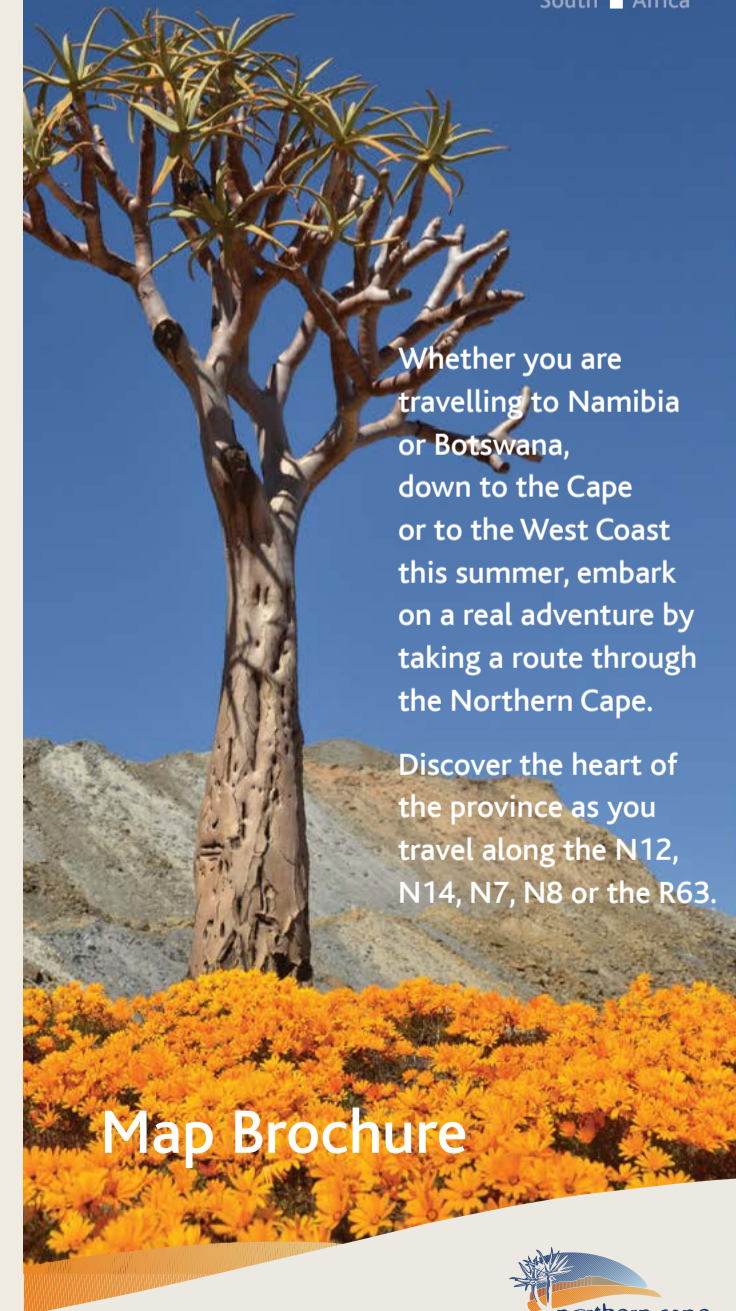
KAROO TOURISM

45 Voortrekker Street, De Aar
Tel: +27 53 632 9100 / +27 53 631 4176
Fax: +27 53 631 0105
Email: deaar@emthanjeni.co.za
Website: emthanjeni.co.za

NAMAKWA TOURISM

Voortrekker Street, Springbok
Tel: 27 27 712 8035/6 / Fax: +27 27 712 1421
tourism@namakwa-dm.gov.za
www.namakwa-dm.gov.za

Experience Summer Northern Cape



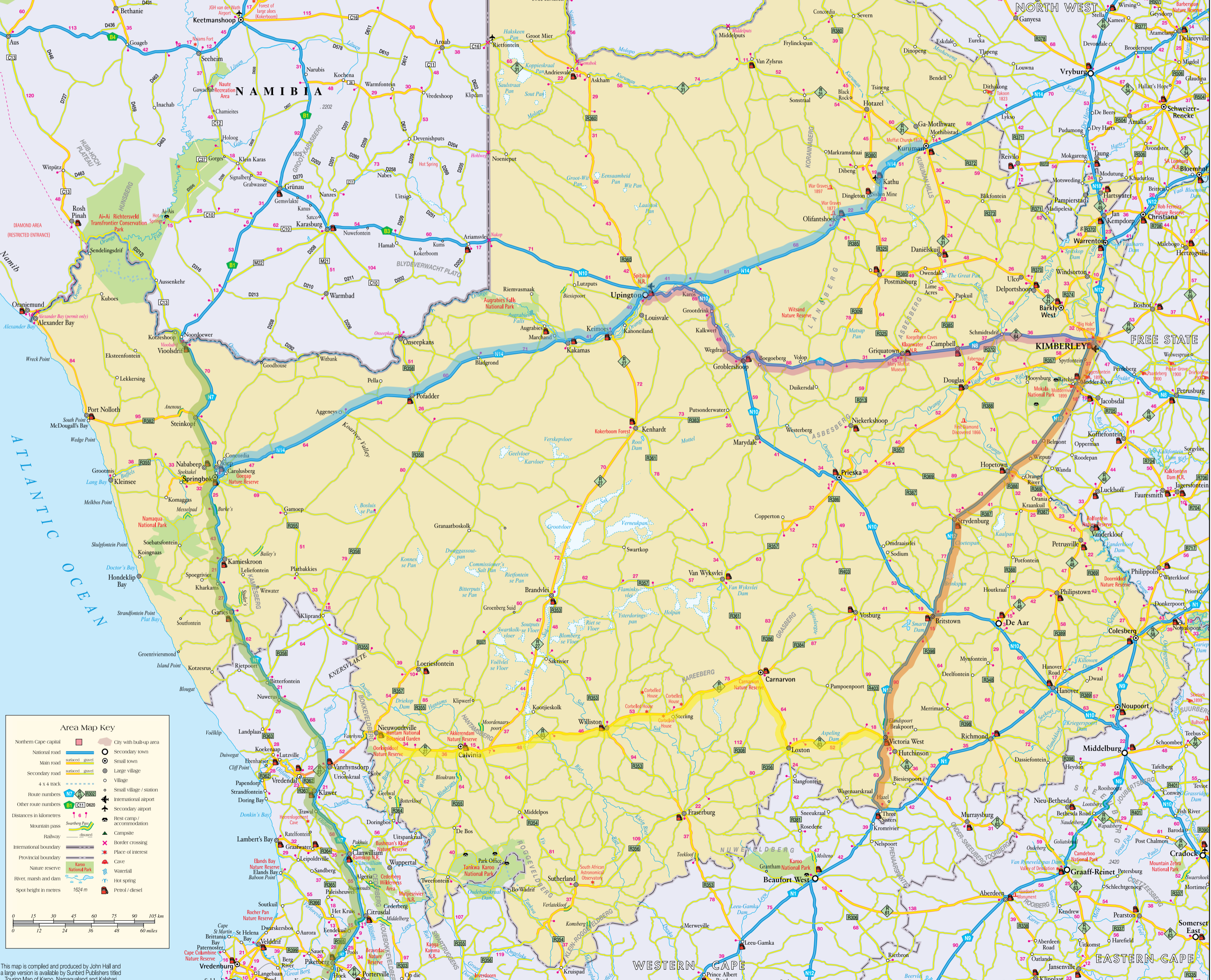
Whether you are travelling to Namibia or Botswana, down to the Cape or to the West Coast this summer, embark on a real adventure by taking a route through the Northern Cape.

Discover the heart of the province as you travel along the N12, N14, N7, N8 or the R63.

Map Brochure

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							Uppington
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

Travel Distances



Area Map Key

- Northern Cape Capital
- National road
- Main road
- Secondary road
- 4 x 4 track
- Route numbers
- Other route numbers
- Distances in kilometers
- Mountain pass
- Footpath
- International boundary
- Provincial boundary
- Nature reserve
- River, marsh and dam
- Spot height in metres
- City with built-up area
- Secondary town
- Small town
- Large village
- Village
- Small village / station
- International airport
- Best camp / accommodation
- Waterfall
- Hot spring
- Petrol / desert

This map is compiled and produced by John Hall and a large version is available by Suburb Publishers titled 'Touring Map of Karoo, Namaqualand and Kalahari'



National Parks and Provincial Nature Reserves

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>National Parks</p> <p>Central Reservations
South African National Parks
Tel: +27 (0) 12 428 9111</p> <p> Ai- ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park
Tel: +27 (0) 27 831 1506</p> <p>Augrabies National Park
Tel: +27 (0) 544 529200</p> <p>Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
Tel: +27 (0) 54 561 2000</p> | <p>Mokala National Park
Tel: +27 (0) 53 204 0158</p> <p>Namaqua National Park
Tel: +27 (0) 27 672 1948</p> <p>Tankwa Karoo National Park
Tel: +27 (0) 27 341 1927</p> <p>Provincial Nature Reserves</p> <p>Doornkloof Nature Reserve
Tel: +27 (0) 51 753 3006</p> | <p>Goesgop Nature Reserve
Tel: +27 (0) 27 718 9906</p> <p>Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve
Tel: +27 (0) 27 218 1010</p> <p>Rolfontein Nature Reserve
Tel: +27 (0) 53 664 0171</p> <p>Witsand Nature Reserve
Tel: +27 (0) 83 2347573</p> |
|---|--|--|

General Travel Information

Tourist Safety
Though the Northern Cape is a safe haven for tourists, we urge you to take the same precautions you would in any other city or town. Avoid the unnecessary display of valuables and do not walk in deserted places or go out alone at night.

International dialling
The international dialling code for South Africa is 027. The first 0 in the local dialling code falls away eg. 053 833 1434 becomes 027 53 833 1434.

Banking
Most banks are open Mon-Fri 09h00-15h30 & Sat 09h00-11h00. Autobanks are found in bigger towns.

Petrol (Gas)
Though widely available at most towns, we recommend filling up before travelling long distances. On major routes and in bigger towns, petrol stations are open day and night.

Transport
Kimberley has air and rail links with most major South African cities. The luxurious Blue Train and Rovos Rail travels from Pretoria to Cape Town via Johannesburg and Kimberley. Uppington also has air links with all major cities in South Africa. Car Hire Companies are represented at the airport and in major towns.

Weather
The Northern Cape's weather is typical of desert and semidesert areas. We live in a large, dry region of fluctuating temperatures and varying topographies. The scant annual rainfall (50-400mm) is unreliable and very much lower than evaporation and, in January, afternoon temperatures are usually between 33-36° Celsius. In 1939, at Goodhouse on the Orange River, an all-time high of 47.8° was recorded! Though somewhat unusual, summer temperatures do sometimes top the 40° mark. Winter days are warm - the onset of night bringing dew and frost to supplement our low rainfall. Sutherland, in the Hantam Karoo, is one of the coldest towns in southern Africa. Its average minimum is -6°! In winter, snow often blankets its surrounding mountains. In general, though, take it that you'll enjoy hot summer days, warm company and cold nights. June - August.