

Adventure in Kalahari Desert

13 days – 12 nights

Johannesburg, Vryburg, Au-grabies Falls, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Kuruman, Magaliesberg, Johannesburg

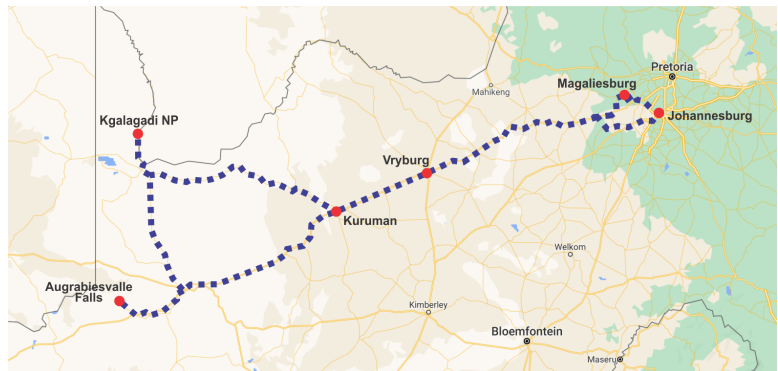
Safari, Adventure, Ecotourism, Discovery

**This program may be operated for individual or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary – Please call us to customize**

Two of the Big 5 live in Kgalagadi National Park: the lion and the leopard. There are no buffaloes, rhinos, or elephants. What could be a disadvantage is actually a plus as it makes Kgalagadi National Park a very unique wilderness sanctuary in South Africa. The species are adapted to the desert environment of the Kalahari which receives an average of 12,2 cubic inches of rain per year. It is no coincidence that the oryx is the emblem of Kgalagadi National Park.

Day 1: Johannesburg, Vryburg

You will be greeted upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport by your local guide. A 2 1/2-hour drive to Ventersdop for lunch at a local restaurant. Then, continue to Vryburg in the North West Province. Rest, dinner and overnight at the hotel. [D]



Day 2: Vryburg, Au-grabies Falls National Park

This morning we leave for Au-grabies Falls with a stop in Kathu for lunch. The first step of your South Africa tour begins with the discovery of the Au-grabies Falls National Park in the North Cape province. The impressive Au-grabies Falls flow from more than 200. feet high. Nicknamed "the place of great noises" by the Khoisan, the indigenous ethnic group of the region, it is here that the Bushmen used to come to hunt and fish. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Au-grabies Falls National Park

The park is home to 47 species of mammals including the jumping antelope and other kinds of eagles, otters, jackals, foxes and zebras. You will also enjoy the magnificent panoramas of the park, the gorges and the Orange River. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Au-grabies Falls, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Twee Rivieren)

Head north towards the border with Namibia and Botswana towards the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, arriving in time for lunch at the lodge. In the afternoon, enjoy a safari run for a first look at the park. It covers 8.9 million acres in the south of the Kalahari Desert and offers landscapes of red dunes where animal life subsists thanks to artificial water points. The flagship animal of this area is the oryx. This is also where the black-maned lions, a species endemic to the Kalahari, roam. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. [B/L/D]

Kalahari Seasons

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----|
| Not Advisable | | Best Time | | | Good Time | | | | | Not Advisable | |

Day 5: Kgalagadi TP (Twee Rivieren, Auchterlonie, Kij Kij, Melkvlei, Twee Rivieren - 83 miles)

For this first day of safari, walk along the Auob river to Auchterlonie. Along the trail the birds are in the spotlight: African hawk, scaly spurthroat, songbird, masked turtledove, ostrich, snake, white-browed mahali, shiny drongo, Cape wheatear. The bed of the river is also the habitat of many oryxes which live in small herds as well as of springboks. On the way, stop at the Auchterlonia Museum, which captures what life was like here a little over 100 years ago. It is also a picnic site. Then, take the cross track and you may see oryxes, ostriches and steenboks. In Kij Kij, go up north to the Melkvlei picnic site. On the way, you may sight cheetahs and some Kori bustards. On the return to Twee Rivieren camp, you may see hartebeest, new songbirds and social republicans around their huge nests. [B/L/D]

**Day 6: Kgalagadi TP (Twee Rivieren, Nossob, Bitterpan - 134 miles)**

This second day is a long day on the trails of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Hopefully you'll see oryx, wildebeest, springboks and ostriches and, maybe, some singing bears. In adults, the plumage is uniformly pale blue-gray or silvery gray. This new day is an opportunity to meet new species of birds such as the crowned lapwing, the peregrine falcon, the Burchell's ganga and the Cape dove. And new mammals too like meerkats and black-backed jackals. In Nossob, the landscapes of dunes flanked by shrubs are magnificent and provide the opportunity to sight some more animals. Arrive at Bitterpan Wilderness Camp mid-afternoon to settle in, have dinner and watch the sunset. [B/L/D]

Day 7: Kgalagadi TP (Bitterpan, Moravet, Dikbaardskolk, Union's End, Gharagab - 160 miles)

Today our safari will take the direction of Gharagab Wilderness camp. The landscape is splendid, perhaps even more beautiful than the day before and is populated with steenboks and oryxes, a few more birds in this early hour including the Speckle-fronted Weaver and Kori bustard. Have breakfast in Dikbaardskolk and head to Nossob. You'll see a large amount of oryx and hartebeest in this area. At the Kousant waterhole observe Red-headed Finch and Yellow Canaries of Saint Helena coming to drink. Further north, close to the sparse forest you may see some greater kudu although the Park is not adapted to their biotope. At Union's End, the trail is easy, the scenery spectacular and the fauna richer in oryx, ostrich, steenbok and drongo. Arrive just before sunset for dinner. Overnight at the Gharagab camp. [B/L/D]

Day 8: Kgalagadi TP (Gharagab, Gharagab - 67 miles)

Today we go for a short day of safari. The landscapes of savannas and dunes are really beautiful. Take your time to observe around you: songbirds, steenboks, Kori bustards, hartebeest, black-backed jackals and badgers at the same time! After Lijersdraal, the large expanses of the Nossob river provide the usual antelopes but also crowned lapwing, white-eyed kestrel, peregrine falcon and great kudu. A feast for your eyes! Lunch at Union's End and time to stretch your legs and wait in the shade for a couple of hours. Then, we drive to the Geinab waterhole to see animals coming to drink. Return to Gharagab camp for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 9: Kgalagadi TP (Gharagab, Lijersdraal, Nossob, Bitterpan - 104 miles)

Today, we take the road south towards the Bitterpan Wilderness Camp. On the way observe Oryx, songbirds, steenboks, black-backed jackals and hartebeest. In Kousant, there is an opportunity to photograph the near-threatened Bateleur Eagle, the local Martial Eagle or a Peregrine Falcon standing on top of an acacia tree. Continue to Bitterpan for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 10: Kgalagadi TP (Bitterpan, Mata Mata, Twee Rivieren - 110 miles)

We head towards Twee Rivieren, where our visit began, via the Mata Mata camp of near the Namibian border. On the way meet Ostriches, Kori bustards, anteaters, oryx, steenbok and red-backed jackal.

Near Mata Mata you may see a leopard. Then, take the track to Twee Rivieren meeting giraffes and Otocyons or bat-eared foxes. Lunch around Kamqua where you can find some shade to rest before continuing to Twee Rivieren for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 11: Kgalagadi TP, Kuruman [South Africa]

You will exit east of Kgalagadi Park, via Mabuasehube, and continue driving through South Africa on the road towards Tsabong and the Mc Carthy's border post between Botswana and South Africa to arrive at Kuruman, in the North Cape Province, a barren land where missionaries settled in 1801. [B/L/D]

Day 12: Kuruman, Magaliesberg

Hit the road for the last leg of your tour heading to Magaliesberg in a beautiful mountainous region less than an hour from Pretoria, where the first hominids originated. This area is ideal for hiking and observing incredible flora and fauna. [B/L/D]

Day 13: Magaliesberg, Johannesburg, USA

After breakfast, continue to Johannesburg to visit the "Cradle of Humankind" site in the Maropeng region, a World Heritage Site. Discover the Cradle of Humanity which holds the secrets of the origin of our species. The visit is a fascinating journey that will take you 200 feet underground. Lunch at a local restaurant and transfer to Johannesburg International Airport to board your flight back home. [B/L]

[D] = Dinner | [B/L] = Breakfast, Lunch | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 12 nights' accommodation:
 - Vryburg 1 night
 - Augrabies Falls National Park 2 nights
 - Twee Rivieren 3 nights
 - Bitterpan 2 night
 - Gharagab 2 nights
 - Kuruman 1 night
 - Magaliesberg (Hartbeespoort) 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 12 lunches
 - 12 dinners
- Impressive Augrabies Falls
- Augrabies Park safari
- Safari in southern Kgalagadi Park
- Safaris in west central Kgalagadi Park
- Safaris in north Kgalagadi Park

- Visit the "Cradle of Humankind"
- English-speaking driver and guide for the tour
- Local guides in Kgalagadi Park
- A/C vehicle for the tour
- 4x4 vehicle in Kgalagadi Park
- Entrance and park fees as required
- Bottled water as necessary
- All local taxes

Tour does not include:

- International airfares
- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels in your Tour:

| City | Hotel Name | Tripadvisor |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Deluxe | | |
| Vryburg | Abella Bed & Breakfast | 5 |
| Augrabies Falls National Park | Tutwa Desert Lodge | 5 |
| Twee Rivieren | !Xaus Lodge | 4.5 |
| Bitterpan | Bitterpan Wilderness Camp | 4.5 |
| Gharagab | Gharagab Wilderness Camp | 5 |
| Kuruman | Red Sands Country Lodge | 4.5 |
| Magaliesberg (Hartbeespoort) | Stirling Manor Boutique Guest House | 4.5 |

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

- **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services; however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: ZA07JNB21FA

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.