



Guest Information Guide



Welcome

Set within more than 90 000 hectares of Kalahari wilderness, !Khamab Kalahari Reserve is a place shaped by quiet detail and open space. A rare world of stillness and expansive beauty, where luxury is defined by the sense of freedom.

!Khamab takes its name from the Nama word for the Cape fox, the only true fox found in sub-Saharan Africa. Typically associated with arid and semi-arid landscapes, this elusive species is far less renowned than the region's larger predators. Yet, its shy, nocturnal nature makes it a fitting and distinctive symbol of the reserve's quiet uniqueness.

Built on two decades of dedicated conservation, !Khamab is more than a destination; it is a living, evolving landscape. Its ambitious journey began with the consolidation of several former farms into a single, expansive property, marking the start of extensive land restoration efforts. This transformation has resulted in one of the most significant game reserves in South Africa, firmly establishing !Khamab as a respected leader in regional conservation.



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!Khamab and the Kalahari Region

In summer, dramatic storms sweep across vast horizons; in winter, the calcrete pans quietly draw wildlife into unassuming yet often remarkable encounters.

The word “Kalahari” evokes a powerful sense of wilderness and mystique- few landscapes conjure such vivid imagery at the mere mention of their name. Derived from the Tswana word Kgala, meaning “the great thirst,” the Kalahari is a semi-arid expanse defined by a striking mosaic of red sands, white pans, golden grasslands, and ancient camelthorn woodlands stretching endlessly in every direction. Tucked away on the south-eastern edge of this remarkable landscape, it is the largest conservation area in the North West Province by a considerable margin, safeguarding a significant portion of the Eastern Kalahari Bushveld.

Situated along the Molopo River, !Khamab lies within a natural ecological corridor that historically enabled the movement of characteristic Kalahari species between the Western Bushveld and the eastern reaches of the desert. While permanent surface water remains scarce, the river’s historical flow patterns played an important role in shaping these seasonal migrations.

Today, this interplay between aridity, water availability, and wildlife movement continues to inform !Khamab’s conservation approach- preserving a landscape that is as resilient as it is captivating.



Into the Wilderness

Space and Solitude

With just 15 rooms across the reserve, !Khamab offers a rare sense of privacy and seclusion, an experience far removed from the expected. Returned to its most natural state, and with ecological processes allowed to function with minimal human intervention, !Khamab offers guests the opportunity to step back in time and experience the Kalahari Bushveld in its most authentic visual form.

Here, there is the freedom to explore at your own pace, unhurried by schedules or demands or simply experience the privilege of doing nothing at all.

Each day is thoughtfully shaped around your personal interests, with your Host and Guide remaining flexible, adapting to the rhythm of the wild, shifting weather patterns, and the movement of wildlife. Your stay is entirely your own; shaped by your choices, your pace, and a deep reverence for the landscape.

Wildlife Diversity

Across !Khamab's restored landscapes, a remarkable diversity of wildlife now thrives. More than 50 mammal species and over 180 bird species have been recorded, supported by the reserve's ecosystem and carefully considered conservation management. The openness of the terrain, combined with exclusive access to the reserve, allows for quiet, immersive, and unhurried sightings, free from vehicle congestion or disturbance.

While the reserve is home to the renowned Big Five, its vast scale naturally means these encounters are not frequent or guaranteed. Time, patience, and an appreciation for the subtle rhythms of the landscape are key to truly understanding its movements and experiencing its deeper wilderness character.

Stargazing

Thanks to its remote and unspoilt location, the reserve offers some of the most remarkable stargazing in South Africa. The night skies evoke the journeys of early pioneers who once traversed and charted these lands by the stars. Viewed through a telescope and brought to life with guided laser-point narration, the constellations reveal their stories overhead, creating evenings that are both humbling and deeply transformative.

A Conservation First Safari

A 20-Year Success Story

The vision for !Khamab is to conserve an unspoilt Kalahari wilderness, one that truly reflects the character of the Eastern Kalahari Bushveld and sustains the full diversity of native flora and fauna that historically occurred in the region. It is a landscape where natural ecological processes are allowed to function with minimal human intervention. Today, this vision is not only spoken, but actively realised and evident in every aspect of the reserve.

!Khamab has been a pioneer in the reintroduction of endemic wildlife within a region of significant ecological importance, yet historically under-researched. Officially declared a Nature Reserve in 2025 under national legislation, it is recognised for its progressive conservation management, meaningful partnerships, and commitment to applied scientific research. This has firmly positioned !Khamab amongst South Africa's premier Big Five reserves and as a leader in regional conservation.

Your Contribution

Nature-based tourism offers a sustainable, long-term model for funding conservation at scale, with every guest's stay directly supporting the protection and restoration of this expansive wilderness. With no intermediaries, 100% of tourism revenue remains within the reserve, ensuring direct support to the ongoing protection and management of the reserve.

Our Lodges

In line with our conservation philosophy, !Khamab is committed to leaving only the lightest footprint. The lodges are designed with sustainability at their core, incorporating extensive solar energy systems, responsible water management, and recycling practices. Combined with strict, ethical guiding principles and low-impact activities, the reserve maintains a minimal environmental footprint while supporting local employment and skills development.

Conservation Initiatives

- A Safe Haven For Rehabilitated Pangolins
- Wildlife Security
- Ecological Adaptive Management.
- Research And Monitoring
- Elephant Contraception

Stay

Phênê Lodge

2 x Units [Each unit has 2 x suites and a shared lounge]

Situated on the reserve's northern edge, offering a classic thatched appearance, the lodge reflects classic safari elegance. This private homestead offers the ultimate luxury in space, with two communal lounges with fireplaces, indoor and outdoor dining areas and an upstairs bar.

The surrounding grounds extend an outdoor pool and poolside lapa, with a unique viewing deck overlooking a flood-lit natural waterhole.

Each unit is individually situated to offer the perfect retreat for families, multigenerational travel or two couples. The units are purposefully designed for sharing, offering a shared lounge, private suites with en-suite bathrooms and outdoor showers.



Stay

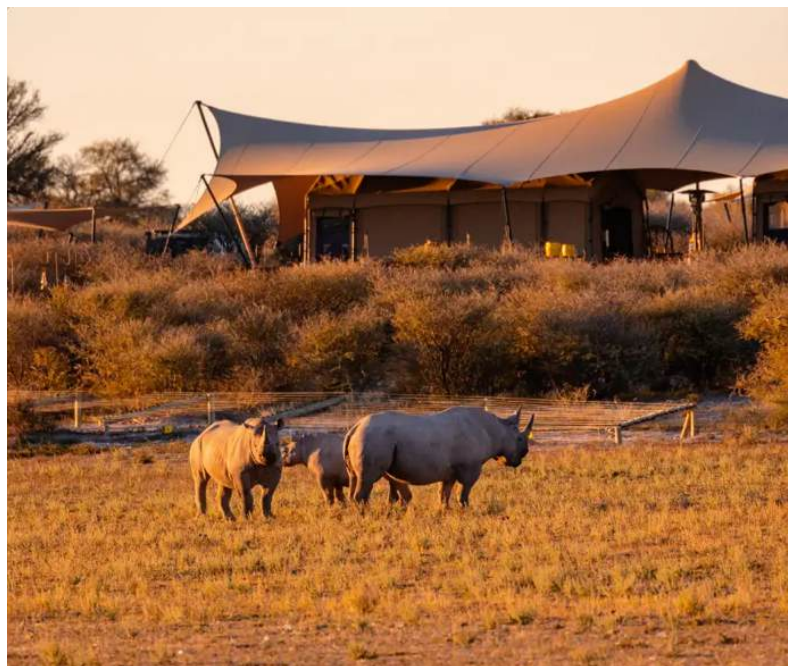
Kanako Expedition Camp

7 x Suites [5 x Stand alone and 1 x Interleading family tent]

Perched on the edge of the spectacular Sebedu Pan, Kanako offers an immersive experience shaped by canvas and open skies.

Thoughtfully positioned a generous distance apart, these tented suites offer secluded luxury. By combining an open-plan bedroom, lounge and en-suite tented bathroom, guests can enjoy a private deck and uninterrupted views of passing wildlife.

The communal areas invite a sense of relaxation and tented comfort. The appointment of the lodge is the perfect resting place for those who prefer to soak in the views from the comfort of a sofa.



Stay

Phepheng Safari Camp

**Currently under construction, opening August 2026*

4 x Luxury tented suites

Overlooking a secluded calcrete pan, this premier lodge promises quiet sophistication where wilderness and refined comfort meet in effortless harmony.

Launching mid-2026

The camp is designed to feature expansive glass doors that open onto uninterrupted views of the pan. The central plunge pool sunken into the deck expands outwards, bringing the sense of nature closer to you.

Each structured tented suite flows seamlessly through generous interiors, complete with its own en-suite bathroom and outdoor shower. Embraced by its setting, the suites open onto private decks that take full advantage of the vistas ahead and passing wildlife interactions.



Activities

Daily Game Drives With Flexible Daily Planning

Safari activities are tailored around your preferences, ensuring intimate, uncrowded sightings. Conducted in an open game viewer, your personal Guide will take you through the unique ecosystem and landscape that embraces !Khamab.

Guided Walking Safaris

Walking safaris provide an intimate way to discover the Kalahari's hidden wonders, fostering a deeper appreciation for the wilderness on foot. Accompanied by a knowledgeable and qualified guide, these walks immerse you in the reserve's diverse flora and fauna.

Please note that this activity is subject to the availability of a qualified walking guide and is not suited for persons under the age of 16 years.

Underground Photographic Hide

Situated in the northern section of the reserve, our hide offers incredible, eye-level photography opportunities of wildlife at the waterhole.

Stargazing

One of the great wonders is experiencing the night sky. Free from light and city pollution, the Kalahari offers some of the finest stargazing in Southern Africa and is an ideal activity for all guests.

Bird Watching

!Khamab is a birdwatcher's delight, with more than 180 species. You can expect to catch a glimpse of birds of prey, such as the African fish eagle or fascinating vultures like the Lappet-faced vulture.

Photographic Opportunities

Whether you prefer photos of game and panoramic landscape shots or want to capture close-up details of the smaller species of insects and plant life on the reserve, your choices are endless.



What to Expect Upon Arrival

There's nothing quite like the anticipation of going on a South African safari, and if you've chosen !Khamab Kalahari Reserve, you're in for a truly unforgettable experience. Whether it's your first safari or you're a seasoned adventurer, preparing for your trip can feel overwhelming. That's why we've created this ultimate safari guide for !Khamab- packed with packing tips, what to expect, local info, and more to ensure your safari is stress-free and unforgettable.

Daily Itineraries

Home to an extraordinary number of endemic species, this vast wilderness offers a truly unique safari experience. Your expert guide will help you uncover the many wonders of the region, revealing how the entire ecosystem works in harmony to thrive in this rugged, semi-arid landscape.

Every day at !Khamab is a new chapter in your safari adventure. While no two days are the same, here's a glimpse into a typical day:

Morning Game Drives

Start your day at dawn in an open game viewer as the Kalahari wilderness comes to life. Wildlife is most active during early mornings, so keep your eyes peeled. Mid-drive, enjoy a coffee break with home-baked treats while soaking in the stunning landscape.

Afternoon Leisure

Spend your day unwinding at the lodge, enjoying locally inspired cuisine served up by our skilled chefs.

Evening Game Drives & Sundowners

Head out for your second drive as the sun dips over the Kalahari plains. Sundowner stops, a classic safari tradition, include gin and tonics or a glass of local South African wine, all while taking in spectacular sunsets.

Evenings Under the Stars

Back at the lodge, fires crackle, stars blanket the sky, and nature's soundtrack soothes your soul. It's here, in these quiet moments, that you reconnect with the wild and yourself.



What to Pack

Seasons

The Kalahari Desert has distinct seasons, with hot, wet summers [September- April] bringing dramatic thunderstorms and lush growth, while winters [May- August] are dry, sunny, and cooler, often with crisp mornings and cold nights.

What to Pack

Packing smart makes a big difference, especially in the semi-arid Kalahari climate, where temperatures can vary drastically. Here's your !Khamab safari packing list:

Essentials:

- Wide-Brim Sun Hat: The African sun can be intense; protect your face and neck.
- High-SPF Sunscreen: A must, even in cooler months.
- Camera with Zoom Lens: Capture intimate wildlife moments. Don't forget extra batteries, memory cards and an electrical adaptor.
- Sunglasses: Polarised lenses help reduce glare during game drives, especially during peak sunlight.
- Binoculars: While guides often carry a pair, having your own ensures you never miss a wildlife sighting.
- Comfortable Walking Shoes: Perfect for exploring the bush on foot.
- Reusable Water Bottle: !Khamab provides every guest with a reusable bottle and has convenient refill stations.
- Lip Balm with SPF: The dry climate and wind can be surprisingly harsh on lips.
- Power Bank: South Africa occasionally experiences scheduled power outages (load shedding). A power bank can be a lifesaver.
- Prescription Glasses: Dusty conditions can make contact lenses uncomfortable. Always bring a backup.

Clothing Tips:

- Neutral Tones: Think khaki, olive, or beige, ideal for blending into the bush and staying cool. Long sleeves and pants are also helpful in minimising sun exposure.
- Lightweight, Breathable Fabrics: Quick-dry clothing is best in case of rain or sweat.
- Layers for Warmth: Early mornings and evenings can be chilly. Always pack a warm jacket or fleece, even in summer.
- Winter Visits? (May–August): Pack thermals, gloves, scarves, and beanies. Temperatures can drop significantly.
- Ladies, Pack a Sports Bra: Game drive roads can be bumpy, comfort first!

Travel Tips

Driving in South Africa

Drive on the left-hand side of the road. Seatbelts are mandatory. Non-residents can drive with a valid license from their home country, which must be in English, with a photo and signature.

Connectivity

WiFi: Available in main areas for light browsing and communication.

Cellphone Reception: Please note that there is no reliable network connectivity on the reserve.

Electricity in South Africa

Standard supply: 220/230V AC, 50Hz.

Plug types: Mostly 3-pin (Type M) and 2-pin.

Adapters are available at the lodge, but it's wise to bring your own.

Language & Culture

South Africa has 11 official languages, with English widely spoken at Sanbona. The country's diverse heritage includes Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, Afrikaner, and Khoi-San cultures- something you'll feel woven into your experience.

Health

!Khamab Kalahari Reserve is located in a malaria-free area, and it is not necessary to take any prophylactic medication. Being in a malaria-free region of South Africa makes !Khamab particularly suitable for the elderly and families travelling with children.

South Africa has world-class medical facilities, with a large network of hospitals. As a safety precaution, ensure that you have adequate health and travel insurance.

Currency & Payments

Local currency: South African Rand (ZAR).

Credit cards are widely accepted.

You can exchange currency at banks, forex bureaus, or select hotels.

VAT (15%) refunds are available upon departure with original receipts.

Gratuities – What's Customary at !Khamab?

Gratuities are not included in your booking but are always appreciated for excellent service. Tips for general staff are pooled, while guides receive tips individually.

Recommended Gratuities:

Safari Guide: R 450 per room, per day

Lodge Staff: R 350 per room, per day

Gratuity envelopes will be provided for your convenience

Getting to !Khamab

There are a few ways in which one can access the reserve, the below has been listed in order of recommendation:

- Air Transfer

Flying, is the most time-effective way to start your experience. Charter flights are easily available from Cape Town or OR Tambo, with Lanseria offers a slightly shorter routing than OR Tambo. Flight time from Lanseria is approximately 1h15- 1h45 (depending on the aircraft type).

While our runway is currently under development, we make use of the Minnesota airstrip on a neighbouring farm along our fence line. One of the Khamab team will then collect the guests from the airstrip and transfer them to the preferred lodge. Internal reserve transfer times vary depending on the preferred lodge.

- Road Transfer

The shortest road routing would be to fly into Kimberley Airport and then have a transfer company assist with a road transfer. The drive time is approximately 5h30, travelling north past Vryburg. Kimberley currently offers convenient flight times from both CPT and JNB, landing earlier in the morning and departing later in the evening, making it feasible for a single-day travel. For guests who are not comfortable going off the beaten track, a chauffeured road transfer is advisable.

- Self-Drive

Self-drive in a suitable 4x4 vehicle is an option for those who don't mind the adventure. While a high-clearance vehicle is also suitable, if there are unexpected rains, for peace of mind I recommend securing a 4x4 vehicle.

Drive times from Kimberley Airport is approximately 5h30

Drive times from Lanseria Airport is approximately 7hrs

