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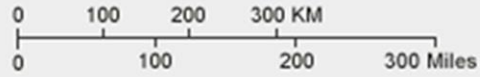
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Northern Cape

South Africa

- ★ National Capital
- Province Capital
- City or Town
- International Boundary
- Province Boundary*
- Road
- River

*Province boundaries are subject to change under provisions of the South African Constitution.



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The Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province, with desert landscapes, wildlife and gemstones. It shares the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park with Botswana, whose red sand dunes shelter lions and falcons. Wild daisies and other springtime flowers carpet the typically arid plains of Namaqualand, a region stretching into Namibia. In Kimberley, the provincial capital, The Big Hole mine recalls the 1870s diamond rush.



- **Capital City:** Kimberley
- **Airports:** Kimberley Airport (KIM), Upington (UTN)
- **Best time to visit:** best time to visit is from autumn to spring (April to October). The Kalahari grasses are shorter and so it's easier to see the game in the reserves and the wildlife comes to the rivers and waterholes to drink. This is also the best time to see the Augrabies Falls.
- **Climate:** Predominantly a semi-arid area with only a little rainfall in the summer (the exception being a little strip of winter-rainfall area along the coast).
- **Food specialities:** Roosterkoek (Bread dough is moulded into thick square-like shapes and cooked over an open fire to make these perfect braai snacks.) and venison potjie.
- **Language:** Afrikaans, Tswana, Xhosa, and English





Regions

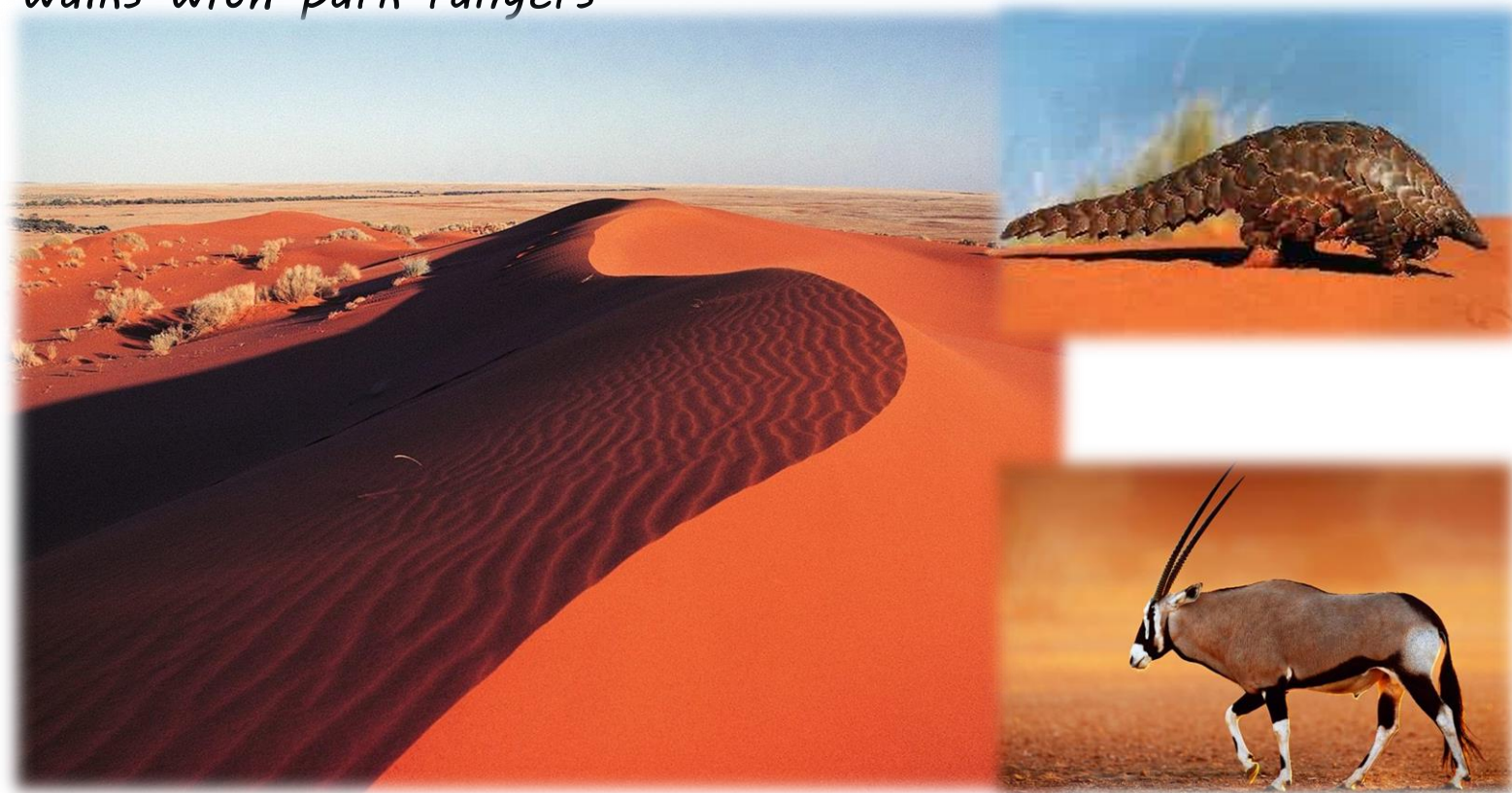


Regions - Kalahari



Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, part of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is a vast wildlife preserve in the Kalahari Desert region of Botswana and South Africa, bordering Namibia to the west. It's characterized by red dunes and dry rivers. Wildlife includes migrating herds of wildebeest and springbok, plus predators like raptors and black-maned Kalahari lions. Various lodges and wilderness camps offer game-viewing drives and guided walks with park rangers.



Regions - Green Kalahari



The Orange River flows through the province, forming the borders with the Free State in the southeast and with Namibia to the northwest. The river is also used to irrigate the many vineyards in the arid region near Upington.

Augrabies Falls - The Khoi people called the Augrabies Falls 'Aukoerebis', the place of the Great Noise, referring to the Orange River thundering its way downwards for 60 metres in a spectacular waterfall.



The best time for a visit is between April and September when the popular three-day Klipspringer Trail is open. This is also a cooler time of year. The waterfall is particularly when in flood, usually in February to April.

Regions - Diamond Fields



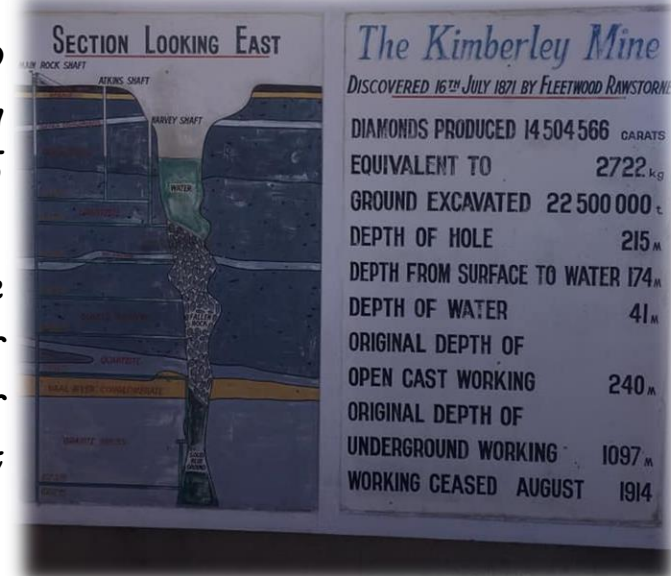
During the world's greatest diamond rush, hordes of prospectors converged on the Diamond Fields region, scouring the river banks and sifting soil in a frenetic quest for wealth. At times, there were as many as 30 000 diggers labouring all day and far into the night. Although the name Kimberley evokes images of glamour and romance, the diamond heyday was an era of blood, sweat and tears, high stakes and ruthless power struggles.

Kimberley developed around the huge hole in the ground, formerly a small hill known as Colesberg Koppie, where diamonds were discovered early in 1871. An observation platform provides a good view of the Big Hole, about 365 m deep and covering an area close on 15,5 ha.



Between 1871 and 1914, men toiled to remove some 25 million tons of earth from the site. It yielded about 14,5 million carats of diamonds.

Thousands of the lesser flamingo use the Kamfers Dam as one of only four breeding sites in Africa. For any birder this is one of the highlights of a visit to Kimberley.



Regions - Great Karoo



The southern towns of De Aar and Colesberg, in the Great Karoo, are major transport nodes between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

Occupying an epic area of 40, 000 square kilometres, the Great Karoo sweeps through South Africa with spectacular semi-desert vegetation and a fascinating history. Once an enormous inland sea, the region as it is now is the result of millions of years of ground-down volcanic matter which was deposited as silt upon the seabed and forms what geologists call the Karoo System



Regions - Namakwa



The Namaqualand region in the west is famous for its Namaqualand daisies.

The real flower show belongs to a series of drives that centre on the towns of Garies, Springbok, Kamieskroon and Port Nolloth, Namaqualand, Northern Cape, South Africa.

The best time to visit is during the months of August and September (predominantly, but sometimes also into October).

Because the flowers follow the sun, the best way to make sure that you see them is to drive backwards, or with the sun. Drive as far north as you can and make your way back slowly to Cape Town.

The town of Sutherland is one of the coldest towns in South Africa.

Alexander Bay in the extreme north-west of South Africa. It is located on the southern bank of the Orange River mouth. It was named for Sir James Alexander, who was the first person to map the area whilst on a Royal Geographical Society expedition into Namibia in 1836.

