

!XAUS LODGE FACT SHEET

THE ACCOMMODATION



!Xaus Lodge comprises 12 individual chalets accommodating 24 guests, and a **central lodge building**. Communal facilities include a lounge, craft shop, dining room, central viewing deck with swimming pool and Boma.

Guests are accommodated in en-suite **chalets** each with its own deck overlooking the waterhole on the pan. They have Twin or King beds, high quality mattresses and linen, with winter sheets, hot water bottles and gas heaters for the cold months and ceiling fans for the hot months. Bedside tables with bedside lamps, wardrobe, writing table and chair, Luggage rack and floor rugs complete the furnishings.

The chalets are not air-conditioned. Traditional methods, using shade and damp cloths as means of keeping cool in this environment, are explained to guests. There are no hairdryers in the individual chalets because of the limited supply of electricity, but available on request.

Bathrooms have a large shower, wash-hand basin and separate flush toilet. We provide generous quantities of rooibos soap, moisturizing hand-cream and shampoo. Water is heated by on-demand gas.

ACTIVITIES AT !XAUS LODGE

Morning wilderness walks with our guide and trackers. Here you will 'read the newspaper' of the night before – seeing the animal spoor, being taught about plants and desert life. The distance covered depends on the abilities and interest of the guests.

Mid-morning walk on the pan. Go for a brief walk on the pan and get to understand the enormity of these desert salt pans.

Visit the local crafters. !Xaus Lodge is owned by the local Khomani San and Mier communities. Guests are invited to meet the crafter while at work, and get an insight into the modern lives of the local Bushman community, as





well as an opportunity to purchase crafts from the original artists.

Game drives. We offer afternoon or evening game drives, giving guest an opportunity to see the 'dune streets' and the game and birds in the area. This is a desert park and sightings are unpredictable and fascinating.

Sundowners on the dunes. A special treat for everyone is the evening 'sundowners' where guests are able to listen to the sunset from the top of a dune on the opposite side of the salt pan to the Lodge.

Night sky viewing and stargazing is wonderful at !Xaus Lodge. With no ambient light pollution the night sky is spectacular. Learn about the constellations with your naked eye, or view the Milky Way through our telescope.

An optional **Auob River Game Drive** is available for guests who stay 4 nights or longer. Guests staying for a shorter period may discuss the option with the Lodge manager for an additional fee.

A favorite activity of all guests at !Xaus Lodge is **the opportunity to relax and do nothing**. Each chalet has a viewing deck with chairs, and you are welcome to park off there and keep quietly at any time during your visit.

LIVING IN A LAND OF SCARCITY – INFORMATION FOR RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLERS

!Xaus Lodge is situated in a remote desert. This means that many of the resources and luxuries of modern life are limited or unavailable.



Water is an extremely scarce resource. It is hard and saline, and drinking water created through a reverse osmosis process. Please use this precious asset sparingly. Because linen cannot be washed in this saline water and is thus trucked to Twee Rivieren, it is not changed every day, and there are no guest laundry facilities.

Electricity is generated for four hours in the evening, and an hour mid-morning. This means no TVs, radios, electronic devices or electric kettles and espresso machines. What it does mean is wonderful hours of silence, and an opportunity to unwind from day-to-day life.

Telecommunications signals don't reach the Lodge. No cell phone, Wi-Fi, telephone or TV signals. The Lodge and the vehicles have 2-way radio links with SANParks facilities, and management have a satellite phone for emergencies. The joy of visiting !Xaus Lodge is that you will be 'off the grid'.



Supplies – especially food and drink - are trucked in from Upington – a 720km round trip. While we do try to stock as well as possible there are occasions when supplies run out, and we cannot re-stock overnight. Our meals are carefully planned, and cooked in the local Mier tradition. While the menu is fixed do tell us about your specific dietary requirements and dislikes before arrival so that we can adjust the menus accordingly.

A PLACE TO EXPERIENCE, NOT JUST TO OBSERVE

!Xaus Lodge offers a remote, tranquil desert experience for guests looking for total isolation, to be immersed in the environment and for an opportunity to interact with members of the resident Bushman community. It is important that guests are aware that whilst !Xaus Lodge is comfortably appointed with high standards of service, it is nevertheless “A place to experience not merely observe”. It offers a unique experience and is not just a place to stay overnight.



LOGISTICS AND DIRECTIONS

Coming from South Africa, visitors enter Twee Rivieren, and travel 64kms along Auob River Road towards Mata Mata to the Kamqua Picnic Site. Guests coming from Namibia enter at Mata Mata and travel the Auob River Road towards Twee Rivieren to the Kamqua Picnic Site.

We meet guests at Kamqua at 2.30pm on their day of arrival. Those with 4x4 vehicles who wish to tackle the 90-dune road to the Lodge may drive in convoy. Those with 2x4s park their vehicles in our parking facility, and enjoy the 35km, 90-dune trip to the Lodge in a Game Drive vehicle.

On the day of departure, the Lodge Manager will arrange to return you to your vehicle at a suitable time for you to reach your next destination.

ADDITIONAL LOGISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA

DETAILS OF ROAD ACCESS TO !XAUS LODGE

- Distance from Upington to Twee Rivieren is 260kms on tar. Traveling time is 2,5 to 3,0 hours
- Twee Rivieren (entry gate to KTP) to Kamqua picnic site (meeting point for !Xaus Lodge) is 64kms. It is a game drive all the way along the Auob river bed and takes approximately 1,5 hours.
- Kamqua picnic site to !Xaus Lodge is 30 kms on a single track, soft sand road through the dunes. A 4x4 vehicle is necessary for this leg of the journey if you do not use our transfer service. Traveling time is about 1,0 to 1,5 hours.
- Traveling times in the KTP can vary according to game sightings en-route.



TRANSFERS

- For guests flying in to Upington a return road transfer to Kamqua picnic site in KTP is R6160 per vehicle, which can take up to 7 passengers.
- From Kamqua guests are transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an Open Safari Vehicle (This transfer is included in the accommodation rate).

SELF-DRIVE OPTIONS

- Self-drive to Kamqua picnic site.
 - Can be done in any standard sedan motor vehicle.
 - Guests are met at Kamqua and escorted to the turnoff at Rooibrak to !Xaus Lodge. Guest vehicle are parked in a demarcated zone off the road behind the dunes for the duration of their stay at !Xaus Lodge.
 - Guests are then transferred to !Xaus Lodge in an Open Safari Vehicle.
- Self-drive directly to !Xaus Lodge.
 - 4x4 vehicle is definitely required.
 - Guests are met by a lodge guide at Kamqua picnic site and drive in convoy to !Xaus Lodge.
- Fuel can be purchased at Askham, Andriesvale (diesel only), Twee Rivieren and MataMata.
- Tyre pressures should be reduced to 1,6 bar for traveling on gravel roads in the KTP and to 1,4 bar if self-driving through the dunes to !Xaus Lodge.



BORDER POSTS

KTP is a fully functional transfrontier park. This means that while in the park there are no borders or boundaries. Border requirements only come into effect on entry or departure from KTP if you enter from one country, and depart into a different country. If you enter and depart from the same gate there are no border procedures, regardless of where you have travelled while in the park.

- Tweerivieren: South Africa entry and exit, opens 07.30 closes 16.00 all year
- Two Rivers: Botswana entry and exit, opens 07.30 closes 16.00 all year
- Mata Mata: Namibia entry and exit, opens 08.00 closes 16.30 all year

Note: Namibia operates with Daylight saving during summer and are 1 hour ahead of South Africa from 1st Sunday in September to the 1st Sunday in April the following year.



- Guests departing into Namibia or Botswana **must** clear Customs and Immigration at Tweerivieren even if they are planning to spend some days in KTP before their intended date of departure. **This is particularly important if exiting into Namibia because guests will be made to return from Mata Mata to Tweerivieren (120kms) if they have not cleared South African Customs and Immigration there.**

- Guests entering KTP from Namibia at Mata Mata are required to spend at least two nights in KTP before exiting into South Africa. Nights spent at !Xaus Lodge meet this requirement
- A valid passport is required for those who will enter and exit through different countries. No passport is required if entry and exit is through the same country.
- Self-drive guests must be in possession of the motor vehicle licence papers or a letter of authority from the vehicle owner or the car hire company if they intend to clear the border. These papers are not required if you are entering and returning through the same gate.

Park entry fees not included in !Xaus Lodge rates

- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (SANParks) charge a daily conservation fee is payable on entry into KTP (currently R48 for SA residents/ R192 for Foreign visitors).



[For more information, please download our Guest Booklet here.](#)

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