



Spellbinding Kalahari • South Africa

Join Wildlife Photographer **Hannes Lochner** for an unforgettable **8 days** Photographic Safari Experience to the **Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**.

Open Spaces and Predators of the Mystical Kalahari

During this quintessential photosafari, guests traverse the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park which is characterised by its red rolling sand dunes, the arid fossil river environment of the predator-rich Nossob River valley, open Acacia savannas, grassy plains and vegetated pans. The park is located largely within the southern Kalahari Desert and straddles the border between South Africa and Botswana. The smell of the first rains, the flowers after the rainy season, the birth of hundreds of springbok and, of course, seeing a big black-maned lion against the backdrop of a red dune. The dry river beds with its multitude of waterholes show predators and antelopes off at a premium and provide excellent photographic opportunities. In addition to the quadrupeds, the birdlife is also spectacular. Sunrise and sunsets in the Kalahari are incomparable and immerse the photographic subject in a magical light. The thunderstorms in summer present an even more spellbinding colour in the sky. Winter shows blue sky for weeks, the climate is pleasant and the air is dry.

The Kalahari is like a lost world tucked into the furthest corner of South Africa and it always delivers. There are no words that fully describe what an exceptional place it is. These are just a few features that draw one to this arid landscape, and for photographers this place is hot and sweaty but also chilly to freezing, but with enough patience, heaven on earth!



General Information



This trip offers a number of extraordinary photographic highlights!

- The trip offers you countless photographic scenes featuring the creatures of the Kalahari desert. In addition to the big cats, you will have excellent opportunities to photograph meerkats, large herds of antelopes, birds of prey, owls, African wild cats and many other animals.
- One trip takes place at the beginning of the Kalahari summer which brings fantastic colourful skies, thunderstorms and magical light. The other trip is at the end of the summer which brings an abundance of flowers and colourful landscapes.
- The red sand dunes form a spectacular background for photos of wildlife.
- Sunrise and sunsets in the Kalahari are incomparable and immerse the photographic subject in a magical light.
- The imposing star-spangled sky in the Kalahari is a very inspiring photographic subject and ideal for time-exposure photography.
- Photographic support for all skill levels and tour guiding from Hannes Lochner. Hardly anyone knows the region better than Hannes. He lived in the park for five years and, among other things, published three absolutely riveting illustrated books on the Kalahari.
- You will spend the nights inside the park in two beautiful, comfortable lodges whose surroundings are also ideal for hunting for photographic subjects.
- Small groups with a maximum of 6 participants and open 4x4 vehicles.





Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival at the Kgalagadi Lodge

Day 2 - Driving to Polentswa

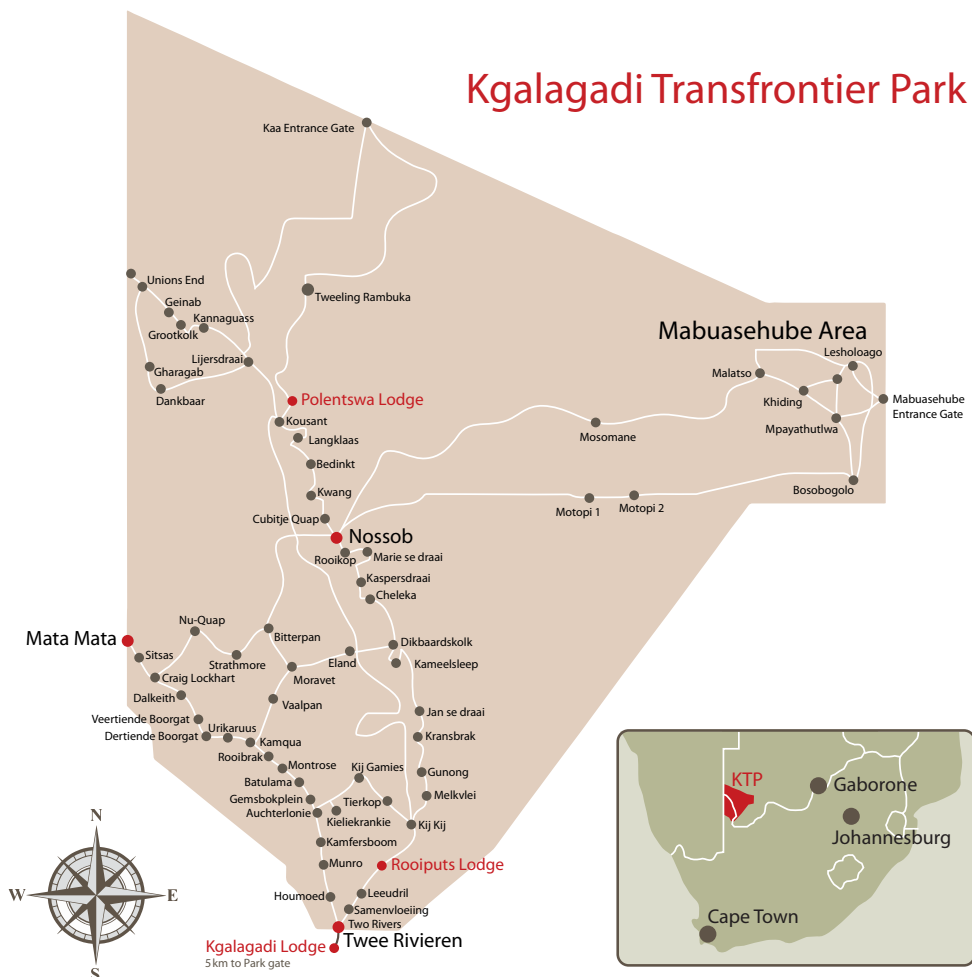
Day 3 & 4 - Days spent exploring the northern part of the Park

Day 5 - The journey onward to Rooiputs

Day 6 & 7 - Days spent exploring the Rooiputs region

Day 8 - End of the photography trip

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on the safari date the itinerary above reverses so the trip starts at Rooiputs first and ends off at Polentswa Lodge.





Accommodation

Kgalagadi Lodge • Charming lodge just outside the gates of the park

On your first day you will stay in a charming lodge only a five minutes drive from the park entrance. The lodge offers a small restaurant, a pool and cozy bungalows. The lodge is situated on a red Kalahari sand dune. The perfect setting to get a first impression of the magical Kalahari desert.



Ta Shebube Rooiputs • Lodge in the south of the park

This comfortable lodge is located in the park, circa 25km from the park entrance. The area is particularly known for regular sightings of lions. The lodge contains 9 chalets built on wooden platforms. Each chalet contains a double bed or a twin bed, a seating area, a bathroom, an outdoor shower and a large veranda. The main building contains a lounge, a bar, the dining room and a reading area. There is also a small souvenir shop and a plunge pool, and massages can be booked.



Ta Shebube Polentswa • Beautiful lodge in the north of the park

Polentswa Lodge is a classic tented camp capturing the romance of a nostalgic bygone era. The camp comprises of six classic safari tents, one family unit and one luxury desert suite/honeymoon suite all built on raised wooden platforms and under huge canvas roofs that also encompass a private veranda. Each tent has a sleeping area, a desk, en-suite bathroom, and a surprising yet exhilarating outside shower open to the desert and to the stars. A private concession area allows for exclusive game drives with sundowners although most game are found along the Nossob valley.





Weather and Climate in the Kalahari



Interestingly, the Kalahari is not classified as a desert. The area experiences both wet and dry seasons making it a semi-arid region. Only certain parts of the south west can be considered true desert due to a lack of rainfall.

Summer - November to March - Kalahari summers are made of incredibly hot days and milder nights. The temperatures climb up to 40 degrees Celsius and higher. Summer brings rain; peak rainy season runs from February to April with the Kalahari receiving between 50-100mm on average. Although the rains can be unpredictable, you can expect occasional afternoon thunderstorms and arid areas which become lush and green after the rainfall. The rains bring out the Kalahari's flora and fauna. Acacia trees are stoic across the landscape and wildflowers bloom.

Autumn - April to May - The summer season comes to a close, bringing mild days and cool evenings. Typical temperatures are around 6°C in the morning and 25°C in the afternoon. Following the summer rains, autumn is also the greenest time of the year in many areas of the Kalahari.

Winter - June to August - Winter is the Kalahari's dry season. You can expect mild, pleasant days between 18 to 22 degrees but cold nights where the temperature can sometimes drop below freezing. The lack of humidity that hangs over the Kalahari during summer creates dry conditions during winter.

Spring - September to October - As spring arrives, the days become hotter and the nights warmer too. Temperatures increase to an average of 29°C in the afternoon. Mornings are still cold, but more tolerable at an average of 7°C. The Kalahari anticipates the summer rains and plants begin to come into bloom.

