

# places to stay and spaces to play

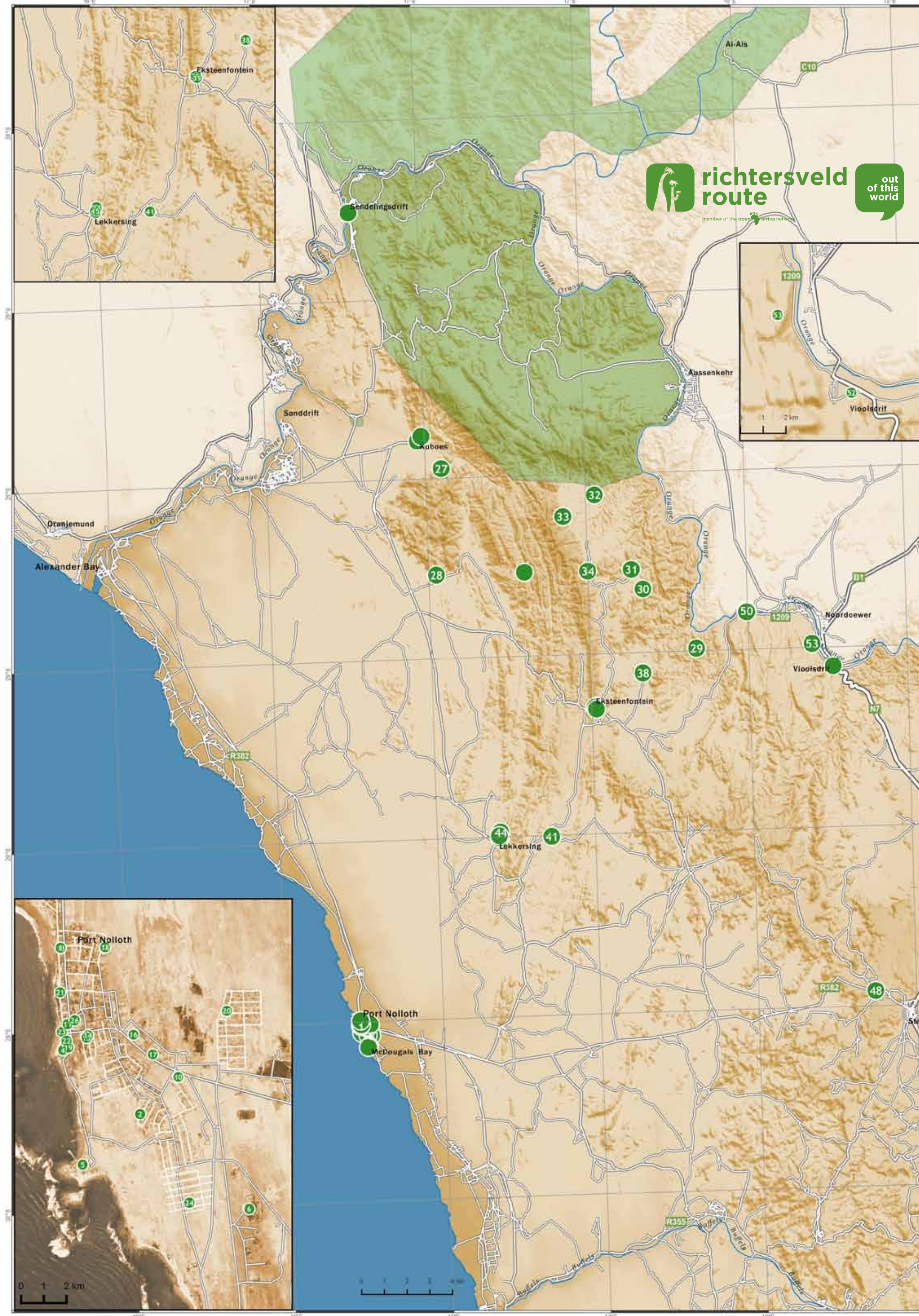
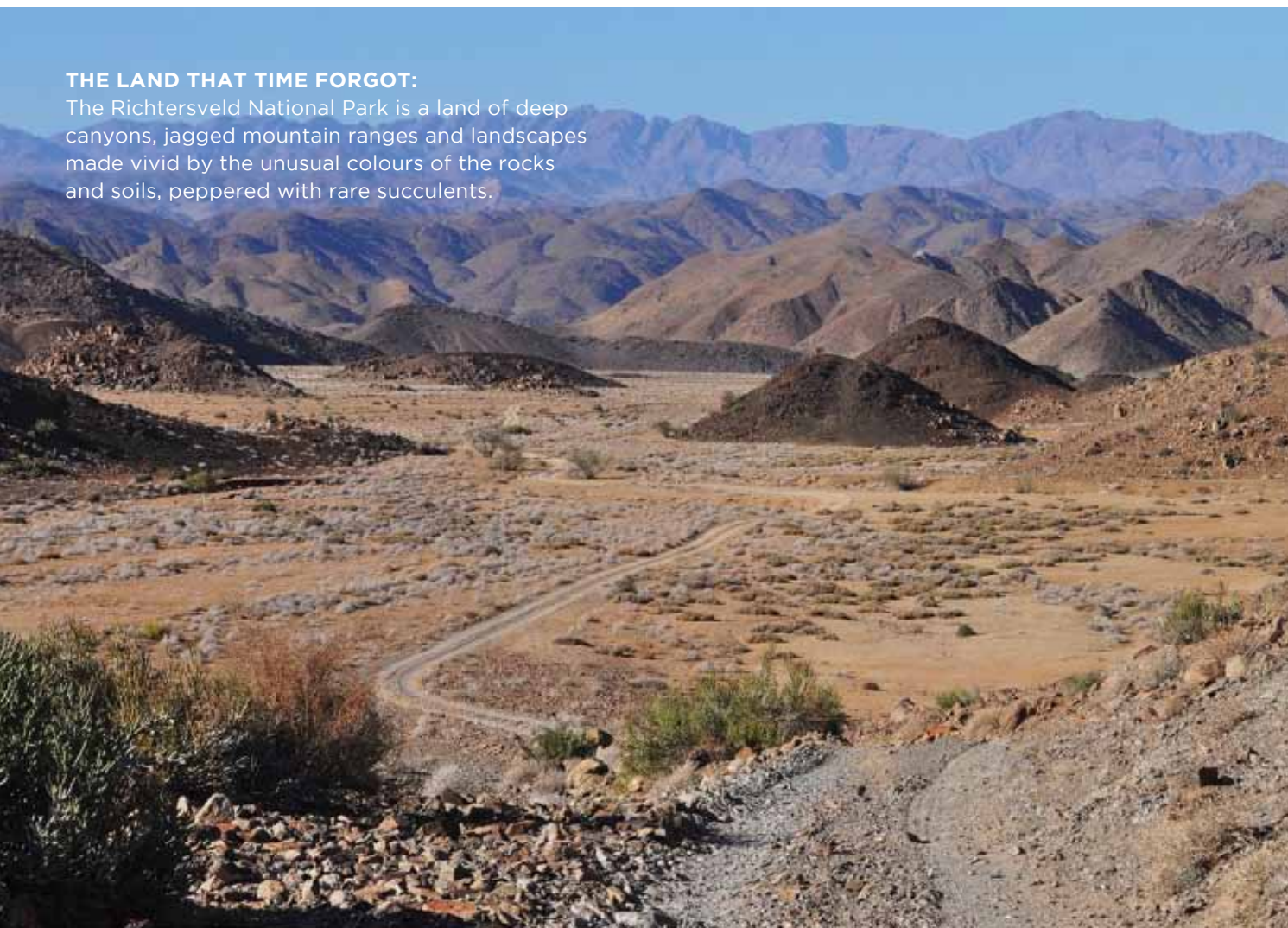
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### THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT:

The Richtersveld National Park is a land of deep canyons, jagged mountain ranges and landscapes made vivid by the unusual colours of the rocks and soils, peppered with rare succulents.



**richtersveld route**  
member of the open africa network

out of this world

The Northern Cape is scattered with diverse culture, rich frontier history and activities to suit every adrenaline junkie's taste. From hiking and 4x4 adventures to game spotting in unique parks, travellers of all persuasions will unearth a hidden gem here amongst some of the most unique flora in the world.

meet the northern cape

The Orange River runs through the Northern Cape, bringing life and painting the arid landscape with rich green belts, creating oases and havens for birdlife and other animals. The Kalahari Desert's shifting red sands that once rippled and moved are now mostly stable and home to hundreds of diverse species of flora and fauna.

The famous Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park extends across much of the Kalahari Desert and is a popular attraction for those looking for an escape into the silence of a wide horizons and open spaces interrupted only by the cry of the African fish eagle or roar of a Kalahari Lion.

Photographers, writers and storytellers have all been inspired by the vast and sweeping beauty of the Northern Cape with its big, blue skies, the cascading Augrabies Falls, mountainous desert of the Richtersveld and star-scattered skies.



**NEARBY ROUTES:** Kokerboom Food & Wine Route, Namaqua Coastal Route, Kalahari Red Dune Route, Karoo Highlands Route

**WHO IS OPEN AFRICA?**  
Open Africa helps rural entrepreneurs feel confident to work together to revitalise their communities through tourism. We help people see and create opportunities and we open people's eyes to what's special outside of cities.



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out of this world

**ENQUIRIES/BOOKINGS**  
bookings@richtersveldroute.co.za  
+27 82 335 1399



# richtersveld route

The Richtersveld is a mountainous desert situated in the northwest corner of South Africa. To its west is the cold and rough Atlantic Ocean while the remarkable Orange River, the largest river in South Africa, winds along its northern border.

The Richtersveld has the highest diversity of succulent plants in the world (4 849 species, of which 1 940 are endemic), as well as eerie coastal mists, alluvial diamonds and truly indigenous cultures. Two of the most fascinating plants found in the Richtersveld are the Kokerboom or Quiver tree and the Halfmensboom or 'halfhuman tree'. Green succulent 'leaves' sprout from the top of many root-like branches on the Kokerboom, which are hollow and the San people used them as quivers for their arrows, thereby naming the tree. The Halfmensboom is a succulent that appears halfhuman, half-plant with its portly base and bush of green 'hair'. Its single stem with occasional short branches can reach 4m in height. An entertaining legend surrounds these interesting trees, but it is essential to visit the area and have it told by descendants of the Nama people.

The coast of Namaqualand and southern Namibia has huge deposits of alluvial diamonds are those that have been carried by wind and water down rivers over millions of years. They were rst discovered in 1926 by Captain Jack Carstens but the government stepped in and secured vast areas to control mining operations so as to not flood the market. Today, millions of Rands' worth of both alluvial and surface-mined diamonds are recovered each year in the Richtersveld area.



# travel info

#### CLIMATE

The Richtersveld has a harsh desert climate with temperatures reaching 50°C on summer days. Nights can be cold and dew often falls. Sunscreen, hats and cool clothing are essential.

#### TRAVEL

A main tarred road traces the outskirts of the Richtersveld Route area – the R382 road that leaves the N7 highway at Steinkopf and travels to Port Nolloth and then north along the coast to Alexander Bay. Dirt roads criss-cross the area between the tar road and the Orange River. The condition of these roads is variable, so it is always best to enquire with the locals should you be driving a non-4x4. If you are heading for the Richtersveld National Park, you have a number of options besides the tarred road along the coast.

#### BANKING

It would be wise to conduct all your banking in Port Nolloth or Springbok. Most shops in the Richtersveld towns are cash-only.

#### SUPPLIES

It is always advisable to have sufficient water supplies in your vehicle. Firewood should be bought, not collected from the veld.

#### CAMPING

It is inadvisable to sleep on bare ground as there are many scorpions in the area. Gas cookers are recommended as they are free of a fire hazard in the windy evenings.

- ANITA’S TAVERN** S-29.256361 E16.868181 A fully-licensed tavern, decorated with old diving equipment, most of which is on its original woodwork. Fridge. **T** +27 79 869 6814 / +27 84 726 7090

- AUKWATOWA TOURS** S-29.261634 E16.874946 Conrad Mouton is a registered tour guide and provides tailor-made tours into the Richtersveld World Heritage Site and Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. Conrad Mouton **T** +27 27 851 8026 / +27 27 851 7047 / +27 73 651 8833 **E** *conrad@aukwatowa.co.za*

- BEACH HOUSE** S-29.285542 E16.87953 Offers accommodation in self-catering houses situated on the beachfront in McDougall’s Bay. Jennepher Hammond **T** +27 27 851 8064 / +27 82 535 9411 **E** *beachhouse@vodamail.co.za*

- BEDROCK LODGE** S-29.256361 E16.868181 Includes self-catering cottages and a tea garden. Frederic Kuys **T** +27 27 851 8865 / +27 83 259 8865 **E** *bedrocklodge@telkomsa.net*

- BENGUELLA FISH SHOP** S-29.26547 E16.86959 Benguella Fish Shop sells fresh fish and crayfish and visitors can watch how fresh products are processed. Rose Malan **T** +27 72 912 9396 **E** *pieter.dam9@gmail.com*

- COUNTRY CLUB LODGE** S-29.26944 E16.8845 Country Club Lodge offers self-catering accommodation or bed and breakfast. Lorinda and Nicholeen Meyer **T** +27 27 851 7433 / +27 83 504 8591 **E** *accomodation@countryclubbn.net*

- CREATIVE WAYS** S-29.248331 E16.872301 Creative Ways offers personalised and custom-made canvas and leather products, ranging from handbag, docum-bags and canvas covers for camping equipment. Magda De Waal **T** +27 83 928 3571 **E** *dewaal@richtersveldtours.co.za*

- YIELD HOUSE** S-29.248251 E16.86828 Adorned with sandstone carvings, Yield House boasts undisturbed sea views and a relaxed atmosphere, perfect for an artist’s retreat. The house is self-catering and comfortably sleep up 12 people. The cottage/ en-suite room in the courtyard sleeps two people. Off-street parking is available in a double garage. Mandy Johnston **T** +27 84 400 8865 **E** *booking@yieldhouse.co.za*

- DIE OPELLIG KOMBUIS** S-29.255442 E16.870339 Die Opellig Kombuis serves freshly prepared ‘roosterkoek’ and ‘braai vleis’ (barbecued meat). Here guests will experience true local hospitality. Maria Seas **T** +27 79 670 7091

- GAMI/GOAS GUESTHOUSE B&B** S-29.2588 E16.8785 Situated approximately 2km from the beach in Port Nolloth, this B&B offers accommodation in five bedrooms. Miranda May Cloete **T** +27 27 851 7180 / +27 73 677 4014 **E** *miranda.manro@gmail.com*

- PORT FISHERIES** S-29.254303 E16.86869 Port Fisheries offers sit-down or take-away seafood meals. Willie Nelson **T** +27 27 851 7733 / +27 83 461 9909

- PORT INDIGO GUESTHOUSE & SELF-CATERING UNITS** S-29.284002 E16.880333 Port Indigo offers a range of charming 3-star accommodation on the beachfront in McDougall’s Bay. Rika/Thea Lotter **T** +27 27 851 8012 / +27 82 892 6344 **E** *portindigo@telkomsa.net*

- AUKWATOWA MUSEUM PORT NOLLOTH** S-29.256275 E16.868296 The museum presents the history of Port Nolloth from approximately 2000 years ago, including exhibits on environment and biodiversity. Facilities include internet access, a library, a museum, curio shop and tourist information. George Moyses **T** +27 27 851 8865 / +27 78 618 5512 **E** *bedrocklodge@telkomsa.net*

- PORT NOLLOTH PHARMACY** S-29.255243 E16.870478 A local pharmacy in Port Nolloth. Graham Thomas **T** +27 27 851 8240 / +27 82 805 8534 **E** *portlink@mwwebiz.co.za*

- PORT NOLLOTH SPAR** S-29.255443 E16.870338 Spar is a well-stocked supermarket that offers a pleasant shopping experience with excellent service. They sell everything from wine and wood to braai (barbeque) supplies. Wikus Burger **T** +27 27 851 8538 / +27 82 806 6893 **E** *kindways@telkomsa.net*

- PORT TYRES & SPARES** S-29.255327 E16.874592 Port Tyres & Spares offers services such as vehicle towing, mechanical services and wheel alignment. AB / Lezanie Schoeman **T** +27 27 851 7038 / +27 82 443 4831 **E** *pts@mwweb.co.za*

- RICHTERSVELD EXPERIENCE LODGE** S-29.25695 E16.87627 The Richtersveld Experience Lodge offers six spacious, fully-equipped apartments with safe parking on-site. Larissa Munnik **T** +27 27 851 7746 / +27 72 543 2132 **E** *port4x4@gmail.com*

- RICHTERSVELD TOURS** S-29.248325 E16.872307 Your hosts, Johan & Magda offer customised tours through the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park and the surrounding World Heritage Site. Tours provide special focus on culture, history and the geology within the area. Johan & Magda de Waal **T** +27 82 335 1399 / +27 83 928 3571 **E** *mail@richtersveldtours.co.za*

- SCOTIA INN HOTEL AND RESTAURANT** S-29.256151 E16.868676 The Scotia Inn Hotel will offer visitors to the West Coast an unforgettable experience. Lucinda **T** +27 27 851 8353 / +27 82 598 2146 **E** *infoscotia@mwweb.co.za*

- SIZAMILE GUESTHOUSE AND B&B** S-29.2537 E16.8831 Sizamile Guesthouse and B&B is situated in the township of Sizamile in Port Nolloth. They offer accommodation in five rooms. Ursula Mouton **T** +27 851 7628 / +27 72 501 8073 **E** *ursulamouton@gmail.com*

- THE BEACHHOUSE** S-29.25178 E16.86811 The Beachhouse is one of the original wood and corrugated iron houses that was shipped in from Europe in the late 1800s. This is the perfect place to watch the sunset, dolphins and whales. Irene Leyde **T** +27 74 107 2422 **E** *beachhouse.portnolloth@gmail.com*

- VESPETTI ITALIAN RESTAURANT** S-29.255627 E16.868535 An Italian-themed seaside eatery serving delicious, fresh foods ranging from pizzas and pastas to seafood platters and game hot pots. Lizna Van Deventer **T** +27 27 851 7843 / +27 82 775 8794 **E** *vdlizna@gmail.com*

- NEMO’S RESTAURANT** S-29.254902 E16.868123 Nemo’s is a family restaurant in Port Nolloth with spectac-

ular views over the ocean. The restaurant is famous for its mussel pot and homemade burgers. Helen & Kuki **T** +27 79 717 1781 / +27 82 776 6706 **E** *helen.smeiman@gmail.com*

- ELIAS BOAT RIDES** S-29.268790 E16.879111 Elias offers boat rides for visitors who would like to experience the Atlantic ocean. Trips can be either short visits to the islands near the beach or longer trips to destinations a few kilometres from Port Nolloth and McDougall’s Bay. Elias de Klerk **T** +27 78 361 5470 **E** *eliasdeklerk@gmail.com*

- VOETBAAI CHALETS** S-29.285497 E16.879133 Voetbaai Chalets offers self-catering accommodation on the beachfront. AP & Marlene Du Toit **T** +27 27 712 1141 / +27 83 633 2259 **E** *info@voetbaai.com*

- WESKUS DIENSSTASIE** S-29.254027 E16.869326 Weskus Dienstasie is a petrol service station in Port Nolloth. Nico /Thelma Kotze **T** +27 27 851 8527 / +27 82 909 9394 **E** *nicossewa@hotmail.com*

- POTLEPEL GUEST FARM** S-29.228856 E17.685226 Potlepel Tourist Farm provides traditional Nama culture at its best with accommodation in furnished traditional Nama huts (no electricity), as well as a campsite. Activities include horse riding, mountain biking, hiking, and Nama cultural tours. Cultural school tours are also available. Leana Snyders **T** +27 78 847 1515 **E** *bokka.diepotlepel@gmail.com*

- KOOKFONTEIN RONDAWELS** S-29.24885 E17.7448 Offers six self-catering chalets which are the first of their kind in the Namaqua region and represent modern replicas of the Nama huts. Braai (barbeque) facilities are available. Letitia Louw **T** +27 72 721 8841 / +27 78 126 0808 **E** *enl@tourism@telkomsa.net*

- THE GROWCERY CAMP** S-28.69638 E17.49824 Situated on the banks of the Orange River, the Growcery Camp offers a tranquil environment with panoramic views of the river and the surrounding rock formations. Zahn du Toit **T** +27 21 853 7952 / +27 27 761 8007 / +27 82 082 6715 **E** *info@thegrowcery.co.za*

- UMKULU SAFARI & CANOE TRAILS** S-28.69804 E17.49843 Umkulu has a number of local guides in different countries and strives to offer travellers the best safaris and expedition trails in Africa. Hennie Prinsloo **T** +27 21 853 7952 / +27 82 575 3844 **E** *hennie@umkulu.co.za / info@umkulu.co.za*

- VIOLSDRIFT LODGE** S-28.77623 E17.63228 Violsdrift Lodge offers self-catering accommodation with braai (barbeque) facilities. Annetjie and Elna **T** +27 27 761 8778 **E** *info@violsdriftlodge.com*

- BUSHWHACKED** S-28.744541 E17.599976 River rafting and outdoor adventure camping. Maudie Bleach **T** +27 27 761 8953 / +27 83 325 7261 **E** *maudie@bushwacked.co.za*

- LUCKY PENNY RESTAURANT** S-29.259007 E16.874055 Lucky Penny Restaurant serves affordable homemade meals, pizzas, steaks and much more. Their speciality is seafood. They are also open for breakfast. The restaurant is wheelchair-friendly and can also accommodate large groups. Sonja Smith **T** +27 72 898 2568 **E** *heavenlydine@gmail.com*

# to do...

Activities on the Richtersveld Route include hiking, 4x4 trails, bird-watching, mountain biking and donkey-cart rides. Artists, seafood lovers, geologists, photographers and those interested in indigenous culture, diamond mining and desert-living will all find the Richtersveld enchanting.

Besides offering the above activities, the Richtersveld Route also embraces the Richtersveld National Park, a haven for the 4x4 enthusiast. The park is unique in that it is a contractual park – jointly managed by the local community and South African National Parks. Stock farmers may continue to graze their livestock in the park, thereby maintaining a centuries-old tradition. The Richtersveld National Park is also soon to be joined with parks in Namibia and possibly Angola to create a large Transfrontier Conservation Area.

Each small village in the Richtersveld has distinctive features and characteristics. The Richtersveld Route is therefore described under the towns seen on the map. A short background is given for each town, after which the facilities and activities are listed.

In the Richtersveld, the traditional culture of the inhabitants is a feature that should be explored and enjoyed. Visiting these hospitable and friendly people is an essential part of any trip to the area.

#### RICHTERSVELD WORLD HERITAGE SITE

S-28.633497 E17.150393 Gert or Jacorine +27 84 015 3690 / +27 84 618 1135

- GLYBANK CAMPSITE** S-28.486019 E17.024929 This site is located at the foot of southern reaches of the Ploegberg Mountains. Access is very easy with 2x2 vehicles along a dirt road 7km south-east of the town Kuboes. The site is situated alongside a sandy riverbed, scattered with trees and shrubs.

- TIERHOEK CAMPSITE** S-28.633539 E16.871759 This site is situated at the foot of a kloof on the southern edge of the Ploegberg Mountains, in the south-eastern section of the heritage site. Access is by 2x2 vehicles off the main road between Kuboes and Lekkersing. There are two disused reservoirs as well as the ruins of a old farm house on the site. The site currently used as an camping site and picnic site. Water is available from a nearby borehole in the neighbouring kloof.

- KANIKAIP CAMPSITE** S-28.746401 E17.417749 The site is located on the grassy terraces on the lower banks of the Orange River. The sandy upper banks are covered with Rosyntje ‘Karree’ trees. Access and parking is along a sandy track running along the upper bank.

- SUN VALLEY CAMPSITE** S-28.661869 E17.33617 This site is situated at the bottom of Sun Valley on an exposed ridge of rocks. This site is rocky with sparse vegetation and is near a sandy river bed. Access is from the Fluorspar Circle Route along a steep rocky pass and along a sandy river bed. There is no access to water.

- FLUORSPAR VALLEY CAMPSITE** S-28.634199 E17.318729 This site is located amongst the ruins of an old abandoned mining settlement in the Fluorspar Valley. It is a sparsely vegetated site alongside a river bed and in the vicinity of an old house and disused dry-pit toilet. There is no access to water.

- ROSYNBOS CAMPSITE** S-28.52927 E17.26432 Rosynbos Campsite is one of the northernmost campsites that can be visited within the Richtersveld World Heritage Site and is only accessible via a 4x4 track. Like most campsites in the heart of the Richtersveld, travellers will need be completely self-sufficient.

- MATJIESKLOOF CAMPSITE** S-28.55793 E17.2136 This site is situated at the base of Matjieskloof on the northeastern slopes of the Stinkfontein Mountains. The site was previously used as a stock post and has been used informally as a camp site. The area is rocky with a reasonable amount of vegetation. There is and old reservoir which used to store water tapped from the natural spring higher up in the kloof. The kloof itself is relatively lush and green and access is by 4x4 vehicles off the road towards Sloopfontein, an extension of the North-South Road.

- BASTERFONTEIN CABINS AND CAMPSITE** S-28.634712 E17.250097 Basterfontein Cabins and Campsite is located just off the North- South Road, halfway between the turn-off towards Fluorspar Valley and Sun Valley on a koppie that faces the eastern slopes of the Stinkfontein Mountains. There is a dry river bed nearby and an old windmill that is no longer operational. The ground is rocky but there is a fair amount of vegetation cover. Basterfontein was once a stock post with a good supply of water pumped from the nearby borehole. The site is accessible along a 4x4 track.

- STINKFONTEIN CAMPSITE** This site lies high up on the south-eastern slopes of the Stinkfontein Mountain. It has magnificent views of the valley below and has previously been used as a stock post and by informal campers. The site itself is located on a relatively level section of the mountain just below a kloof. The site is rocky with a fair amount of scrubs, bushes and grasses. Access is up a steep track off the North-South Road.There is access to water.

- EKSTEENFONTEIN TOURISM INFO CENTRE** S-28.82452 E17.254829 The museum aims to collect pertinent information about the town and surrounding area and make this available to tourists. Joël Swartbooi **T** +27 71 434 7035 **E** *eksteenfontein@richtersveld.gov.za*

- KOM RUS ‘N BIETJIE** S-28.82452 E17.25483 Kom Rus ‘n Bietjie offers comfortable accommodation with lunch and dinner served on request. Estina Farmer **T** +27 84 376 9434 / +27 79 415 4070

- ROOIBERG GUESTHOUSE** S-28.77834 E17.3323 Rooiberg Guesthouse offers accommodation for up to 12 guests. Vytjie Strauss **T** +27 71 556 0951

- VILLA ROSA GUESTHOUSE** S-28.826575 E17.257208 A guesthouse in Eksteenfontein that offers comfortable accommodation to travellers. Maria Joseph **T** +27 72 157 8933

- RICHTERSVELD NATIONAL PARK** S-28.1269 E16.8923 This is the only mountainous desert park in South Africa. Hendrik Prins **T** +27 27 831 1506 **E** *hendrikp@sanparks.org*

**NB:** Remember to get your permit when travelling through the Richtersveld World Heritage Site.

# richtersveld world heritage site

The 160 000ha area of dramatic mountainous desert is a cultural landscape communally owned and managed. The area is made up of three key biomes (a large natural occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat); desert biome, succulent Karoo biome and fynbos biome. In addition to the botanic marvel, the site sustains the semi-nomadic pastoral livelihood of the Nama people, reflecting seasonal patterns that may have persisted for as long as two millennia in Southern Africa. It is the only area where the Nama people still construct portable rush-mat houses (haru om) and migrate to new grazing grounds seasonally.

Sights worth seeing within the Richtersveld World Heritage Site include the famous Vioolsdrift Petroglyphs (rock engravings), thought to be of either San or Strandloper origin, Fluorspar Valley is believed to hold an abundance of minerals under the earth’s surface, and the Rooiberg Picnic area, also known as the Halfmens Picnic spot, is a popular stop off due to the endemic Halfmens plants that grow on the surrounding slopes.

Ploegberg, a 500-million-year-old granite mountain was once farmed and hence received the name Ploegberg, referring to ploughing the land and nearby Kuboes is regarded by the local people as the village of Nama Heartland, dating back to 1844 with the establishment of a Rhenish mission station. The famous Kuboes Church dates back to 1888 and was constructed by the local community. The town of Eksteenfontein was established in the 1940’s and lies at the heart of the Richtersveld’s mountainous desert and lastly, Wondergat (wonder hole) is a sinkhole found at the foot of Corneliskop and is home of a mythical supernatural hero, Heitsi Eibib.

- KALKFONTEIN GUEST FARM AND RETREAT** S-29.0012 E17.1801 Kalkfontein Guest Farm and Retreat has a hall, dormitory and bungalows. Paulus Groenewald **T** +27 27 851 8395 / +27 76 820 3512 **E** *paulusgroenewald16@gmail.com*

- EKSTEENFONTEIN TEXTILE GROUP** S-28.822777 E17.256214 The textile group of Eksteenfontein prints beautiful fabrics that are used to produce different items. Sophia **T** +27 71 556 0951 **E** *eksteenfontein@south-north.co.za*

- LEKKERSING NAMA SOCIETY** S-29.001215 E17.09803 The Lekkersing Nama Society is a cultural organisation with the vision to rekindle the Nama culture. Marie Samson **T** +27 79 418 1623

- LEKKERSING CAMPSITE** S-28.993160 E17.099839 Lekkersing Community Campsite offers rustic camping at its best, situated in a scenic area with many exciting nearby places to explore and great hiking. Veronica/Sara/Regina **T** +27 27 851 7019 / +27 79 951 9125 / +27 79 617 4194

- RICHTERSVELD MUNICIPALITY** S-28.998055 E17.097699 A general information centre for the town. Marie Samson **T** +27 27 851 1111 / +27 79 418 1623 **E** *info@richtersveld.gov.za*

- KUBOES TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRE** S-28.446667 E16.988735 This site is situated at the entrance of the village and serves as a museum and tourism entrance point for the World Heritage Site, and to ensure all travellers purchase a legal permit to enter. The purpose of the project is to collect and restore the traditional and cultural historical tangibles and intangible information of the village people and their immediate surrounding area, and encourage youngsters to learn and be proud of their background.

- MOUNTAIN VALLEY GUESTHOUSE** S-28.440422 E16.994902 Mountain Valley Guesthouse is located a few kilometres from Kuboes and is located on an historical plantation site near the spring. Magnificent trees and the quiet river gently flow by as visitors relax on the veranda. The guest-house offers four self-catering bungalows (all en-suite) and sleeps 8 people.