

Introduction

Few sights are as awesome or a sound as deafening as water thundering down the 56m Augrabies Waterfall when the Orange River is in full flood.

The Khoi people called it 'Aukoerebis', or place of Great Noise, as this powerful flow of water is unleashed from rocky surroundings characterised by the 18km abyss of the Orange River Gorge.

Picturesque names such as Moon Rock, Ararat and Echo Corner are descriptive of this rocky region. Klipspringer and kokerboom (quiver trees) stand in stark silhouette against the African sky, silent sentinels in a strangely unique environment where only those that are able to adapt ultimately survive. The 55 383 hectares on both the northern and southern sides of the Orange River provide sanctuary to a diversity of species, from the very smallest succulents, birds and reptiles to Hartmann's mountain zebra, springbok, gemsbok and giraffe.

Areas of special interest include:

The Falls: As the Orange River approaches Augrabies Falls it divides itself into numerous channels before cascading down the 56 meter high waterfall. The river then continues its path through an 18 kilometer gorge. The sight and sound of the power of the water will not be easily forgotten.

Moon Rock: A massive exfoliation dome or "whaleback" which is a prominent landmark of Augrabies Falls. Walking to the summit will give one of the best views of the park and its surroundings.

Swart Rante: These foreboding black hills are another distinct landmark in Augrabies. Quartz-poor, these igneous rocks seem to form a natural border between the harsh environment of the gorge area and a more fertile area on the other side. The contrast between the two landscapes can best be seen from the top of Swart Rante.

Oranjekom & Ararat: These viewpoints give visitors the best opportunity to observe the massive gorge area as well as the wildlife that makes it their home. Essential to spot are the nesting Verreaux's (Black) Eagles, which prey on the abundant rock hyrax populations, as well as the Cape clawless otter which are sometimes seen below in the river in the morning or late afternoon.

Echo Corner: The furthest view point from the Rest Camp, the road to Echo Corner takes you through some of the park's most stunning scenery. As the name implies a long-lasting echo can be produced.

5 things to seek

- Rock hyrax (dassie)
- Broadley's Flat Lizard
- Klipspringer
- Verreaux's (Black) Eagle
- Hartmann's Mountain Zebra

Contact Information

- E-mail [Augrabies National Park](mailto:info@augrabiesnationalpark.co.za) or
- Tel: +27 (0) 54 452 9200
- Fax: +27 (0) 54 451 5003

Accommodation

Accommodation Types

[Camp sites](#)

- Caravan and camping sites in a shaded area.
- A maximum of six persons, one caravan/tent and one vehicle or one autovilla permitted per site.
- Communal camp kitchen with two-plated stoves, and sinks, communal ablution facilities, laundry and ironing room.
- All sites have power points.
- Please follow the link for more information on the unit, pictures and availability.

Chalets (CH2B)

- Self catering chalets with 2 single beds, a double sleeper couch (not suitable for adults), lounge/bedroom/kitchenette, WC & Shower, AC, Microwave, kitchen equipped with crockery and cutlery, braai facilities, restaurant and shop on site.

Chalets (CH2Z)

- Self catering chalets with 2 single beds, a double sleeper couch (not suitable for adults), lounge/bedroom/kitchenette, WC & Shower, AC, Microwave, kitchen equipped with crockery and cutlery, outside braai facilities, restaurant and shop on site. Units accessible for the mobility challenged.

[Family Cottages \(FA4S\)](#)

- Cottages with 2 (two) bedrooms, each with 2 single beds, a double sleeper couch (not suitable for adults), open plan kitchen/lounge, WC & Shower, AC, kitchen equipped with crockery and cutlery, outside braai facilities, restaurant and shop on site.

[Family Cottages \(FA4D\)](#)

- Cottages with 2 (two) bedrooms, (1) one en-suite with double bed and (1) one with 2 (two) single beds, a double sleeper couch (not suitable for adults), WC, Bath and Shower, AC, Microwave, kitchen equipped with crockery and cutlery, patio with braai facilities, restaurant and shop on site.

[Chalets \(CH2/4\)](#)

Please follow the link for more information on the unit, pictures and availability.

[Chalets \(CH2/4VD\)](#)

Please follow the link for more information on the unit, pictures and availability.

[Chalets CH2/4V](#)

Please follow the link for more information on the unit, pictures and availability.

General Information

Two three-bedded bungalows have been adapted for persons with mobility impairments.

To view the accommodation prices, refer to [Tariffs](#)

Activities & Facilities

Activities

- Waterfall viewpoints walking distance from the restaurant complex.
- Game viewing at leisure using own vehicle.
- [Klipspringer Hiking Trail](#): 3 days, 2 nights and a maximum of 12 persons per group, and minimum of 2 persons per group. Advance booking essential. Closed October to March due to heat.
- [Dassie Nature Trail](#): This 5km self-guided hiking trail leads you on a circular route starting at the Rest Camp, following along the gorge to Arrow Point, then heading out into the veld by the Potholes and Moonrock before heading back to the Rest Camp. Maps are available at reception.
 - Arrow Point (one hour)
 - Potholes (one hour)
 - Moon Rock (one hour)
- **Night drives**: minimum 4 persons required to secure, subject to availability. ****Please book directly with Park.****
- Mountain bikes are allowed inside the park provided cyclists remain on the official roads.
- The Wilderness Road is 94km long and will take approximately 6 hours to complete in a 4x4 vehicle. There is a scenic picnic spot halfway along the road with ablution and braai facilities.
- Several panoramic viewpoints can be visited inside the park, all of which give stunning vistas of the park, the gorge and the Orange River. These points also provide great opportunities to spot our [local birdlife](#).

Facilities

- Picnic area for Day Visitors with ablution and barbecue facilities, and a swimming pool.
- Shop, Shibula Restaurant.
- No ATM facility available.
- Public telephones, fuel.
- Three swimming pools for residents and the pool hours are as follows:
 - October to March - 6:30am to 7:30pm
 - April to September - 7:30am to 5:30pm
- Information on birds, reptile and mammal species found in the park, is available at reception on request
- [Conference Facilities](#)

Natural & Cultural History

A Brief History of the Park

The name Augrabies was given to the Water Fall by a Swede, Hendrik Jakob Wikar, when he passed there in 1799.

The name is derived from the Nama word as the Khoi people would refer to "Aukoerebis" meaning the "Place of Great Noise." This refers to the Orange River water thundering its way down the 56 m spectacular main Water Fall.

In 1954 the Upington Publicity Association requested the National Parks Board to proclaim the water fall a national park. After the Minister of Lands approved the Park in principle in 1955, the Department of Water Affairs objected to the proclamation of a national park. After a series of negotiations, Augrabies Falls National Park was eventually proclaimed on 5 August 1966. The park currently consists of 55 383 hectares. The establishment was based on the following objectives:

- To conserve and restore the biotic diversity of the Orange River Broken Veld with its associated flora and fauna
- To maintain the Augrabies Water Fall and its surroundings in an unspoilt state
- To provide opportunities for Environmental Education and
- To provide opportunities for research of the fascinating flora and fauna."

Early Stone Age

The ancestors of modern history have inhabited the area surrounding the Orange River since the Early Stone Age. During this time, there is evidence that early man had developed weapons for hunting animal like hippopotamus. They knew to establish themselves near good water sources like the Orange River. During the Middle Stone Age man had created more formal work tools and began to utilise fire. The Late Stone Age, which dates back 22 000 years, is characterized by tools that are smaller from the previous periods. The most prolific archaeological features are the stone cairns or graves from the later Stone Age. Excavations have shown that not all the cairns contains human skeletal remains.

Culture

The area is inhabited by the Nama People who over the centuries have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions of the area.

A traditional expression from this area is that the traditional domed huts known as 'matjieshuise' and a direct translation would be 'mat houses'. These houses are extremely well suited for the hot climate in this area. During the summer, the stems and culms from which the mats are mad up of shrink, allowing gaps to appear. This results in a breeze being able to flow through and cool the hut down. In winter the stems expand keeping out the cold winds and rain.

Traditional Food

Many delicacies unique to this area may be enjoyed here, like homegrown raisins and dried fruit. Traditional dishes like "puff adders" (named after the snake); are intestines with the fatty portion inward, stuffed with minced liver and skilpadje (tortoise) stomach net fat wrapped around a small piece of liver are always popular.

Maps

Camp Map



Park Map



Dassie Trail Map



Klipspringer Trail Map



Tariffs

- [General Tariffs Information](#)