



Roan antelope

A part of



Khaudum National Park

GUIDE
MAP

*Khaudum is wilderness; quintessential Kalahari woodland wilderness.
Feel it!*



NAMIBIA'S NATIONAL PARKS



Sands, woodlands and omiramba

Famous for its endless sands, Khaudum lies on the fringe of the Kalahari Basin. This was shaped over the last 65 million years, as the edges of southern Africa lifted after the supercontinent Gondwana split apart. The created depression filled with sand, producing the largest sand spread in the world. Remnant dunes from more arid periods still ripple across the park. The sands soak up surface water, but are blanketed now by woodlands dominated by burkea in the north, giving way to silver cluster-leaf shrubs and stands of purple-pod terminalia and Zambezi teak in the south. A network of acacia-lined omiramba laces the sandveld, providing temporary water after rain. Omuramba (plural omiramba) is a Herero name for the vague, dormant watercourses typical of this landscape.

Climate:

Rainfall: Annual average +- 475-525 mm

Wet season: Oct. to Apr. (most rain Jan.-Feb.)

Temperatures: Summer +- 18 to 32 °C, max. often above 40; winter +- 6 to 26 °C, min. seldom below 0; (hottest Sep.-Oct; coldest Jun.-Jul.)



False mopane grow into stately trees



Lions laze in the shade for much of the day

Roan, elephants and hornbills

Khaudum is at the interface between arid and moist savanna, and is home to arid area specialists such as gemsbok and species requiring lush habitat, like roan. With its preference for wild spaces, the shy roan is emblematic of the Khaudum wilderness. The atmosphere of timeless wild Africa is enhanced by elephants, while the wistful whistle of grey hornbills accentuates the abiding silences. Khaudum is a hornbill haven, with the largest, the ground hornbill, the smallest, the red-billed, as well as the African grey, the southern yellow-billed and Bradfield's hornbills all found here. The park is also a refuge for predators and raptors. These are often wary and not easily spotted, yet the mere knowledge that they are out there brings the bush alive. Lion, spotted hyaena and black-backed jackal are seen most often.

3 x 5 Special species to spot:

Predators: Cheetah, serval, brown hyaena, African wild dog, side-striped jackal

Raptors: White-headed vulture, dark chanting goshawk, African cuckoo hawk, lizard buzzard, Dickinson's kestrel

Trees: False mopane (ushivi), manketti, hairy corkwood, kiaat, Kalahari podberry



Eland are the largest of all the antelopes

The people and the park

While people have lived along the Okavango River for thousands of years, the earliest Khaudum records come from near Sikereti, where pottery from the 1500s was found. Although settlement here was restricted by a lack of permanent water, San hunter-gatherers have probably roamed these reaches 'forever'. Gciriku and HaMbukushu farmers now form the majority of people in conservancies north of the park. They first settled along the Okavango between 500 and 300 years ago, having moved south-west from the Zambezi River. No one of European origin ever settled in the Khaudum area, although the South African Dorsland Trek settlers passed through in the 1880s. They camped at the Dorsland Tree south of the park and stayed at Leeupan, hunting elephants, before moving on to Angola.

Park neighbours:

North: *George Mukoya & Muduva Nyangana Conservancies*

South: *Nyae Nyae Conservancy*
Botswana

West: *Private farms on communal land*

KAZA: *Khaudum is part of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (ratified 2011) linking state & community conservation areas in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia & Zimbabwe*

Development and conservation

The omiramba of the Khaudum were once a wildlife thoroughfare between the seasonal havens of Etosha and the Okavango Delta. Fences in Namibia and Botswana, and the border fence between them, now block these migrations. Khaudum remains unfenced to the north and south, where it abuts conservancies. Integrated park management enables coordinated activities that involve communities, boosting their socio-economic well-being. To aid joint management, the Khaudum North Complex was formed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the northern conservancies. Concession agreements allow the conservancies to establish tourism operations in Khaudum, such as the lodge and campsite developed in 2015. This benefits people around the park, promoting conservation.

PARK TIPS:

- *All tourist routes in Khaudum may require 4x4; the northern half of the park is particularly sandy*
- *The park is large and travel along sandy tracks is slow – plan plenty of time to enjoy the drive*
- *Waterholes offer the best game viewing in the dry season, especially during the hotter hours of the day*
- *Omiramba grasslands attract a variety of game during the cooler hours of morning and late afternoon*
- *Quiet time in woodlands can present great birding*

“ ... Khaudum is one of the last great places for unencumbered and uncrowded wilderness travel in a proclaimed national park in southern Africa... ”

Yellow-billed hornbill



Khaudum sunsets are often spectacular



Places to stay and nearby services

There are two places to stay in the park – upmarket lodging and camping at Xaudum Lodge in the north, and unserviced camping at Sikereti in the south. When travelling between the two, remember that sandy tracks mean slow going. Outside the park, there are accommodation options at Nhoma and Tsumkwe, and along the Okavango River. There are no fuel stations or shops in the park. These are available in Tsumkwe, Rundu and Divundu. The nearest hospitals are at Mangetti Dune (west of Tsumkwe), Nyangana and Rundu. Malaria is prevalent in populated areas. There is no mobile phone reception in the park.

Khaidum facts:

Proclamation: Game reserve 1989; national park 2007

Size: +- 3,874 km²

Altitude: +- 1,070 to 1,100 m above sea level

Biome: Broadleaved tree-and-shrub savanna

The making of Khaidum

The Khaidum area was identified as a conservation priority in the 1980s, with land pledged by the Gciriku Traditional Authority. The game reserve was proclaimed just prior to Namibia's independence and park development began soon after. Many artificial waterholes now provide permanent water for game. Wildlife is monitored through annual full moon waterhole counts and aerial censuses. Research includes monitoring wildlife with tracking collars, while fire management through controlled early burning avoids large-scale damage. New tourist receptions and park stations were built in 2016.

Park management stations: Khaidum; Sikereti

Access routes: From the north 46 km sandy track from B8 Rundu-Divundu tar road to Khaidum Gate; from the south 52 km sandy track from Tsumkwe to Sikereti Gate

SAFETY FIRST - main regulations:

- *Strictly no firearms or drones (UAVs) allowed in park*
- *Report to the tourist reception upon entry*
- *Travel with minimum of two vehicles for safety*
- *Stay on demarcated roads/tracks at all times*
- *Maximum driving speed 40 km/h; do not drive at night*
- *Carry enough water, food and fuel for entire stay in park*
- *Camp only at designated campsites*
- *Make fire only at campsites & do not collect firewood*
- *Do not disturb or feed wildlife or damage flora*
- *Be particularly careful around elephants and lions*
- *Campsites are unfenced – take special care*
- *Do not litter; take along all rubbish*

DRIVING TIPS - soft sand:

- *Reduce tyre pressure to about 65-75% of normal hard-surface pressure (pressures vary with tyre/vehicle type)*
- *Engage high-range four-wheel-drive at all times*
- *Avoid sudden acceleration, especially on take-off; this will only dig tyres into sand*
- *Drive in second or third gear at 20 to 40 km/h*
- *Avoid driving during hottest hours of day, when sand particles are loosest and going is toughest*
- *Stay in established tracks*
- *Check regularly that grass does not collect around exhaust – this may cause fire that can destroy vehicle*

Park access sunrise to sunset; no driving at night

More information: www.met.gov.na

Broadleaved savanna in beautiful winter colours



Common duiker are widespread yet elusive



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



KFW

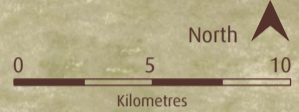


- Legend**
- International border
 - Park boundary
 - Park management station
 - Park entrance
 - Tourist reception
 - Lodge/restcamp
 - Campsite
 - Game viewing platform/hide
 - Waterhole
 - Omuramba
 - Public road 4x4
 - Unproclaimed road 4x4
 - Tourist route 4x4 (only with permit)
 - Distance between points (rounded to nearest kilometre)
 - Park management track No tourist entry
 - Airfield
- Location coordinates (degrees °, minutes ', seconds ")
 20°39'00" S 14°33'57" E

Communal Conservancies are legally registered community conservation areas with clearly defined borders and a constituted management body. They are run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism.

Disclaimer: Great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this Guidemap. However, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (as well as the funding agency and authors) cannot be held responsible for any error or inaccuracy it might contain, nor for any loss or inconvenience this may cause.

Khaidum is interpreted to mean 'omuramba of the buffalo'; it is spelt variously as Khaidum (park name); Xaidum (lodge & campsite name) or Kaidom (omuramba name).
 Buffaloes occurred in Khaidum in the past.
 Muduva Nyangana Conservancy



The horse antelope

The roan, *Hippotragus equinus*, is a shy and rare species. Its horse-like build and gait have earned it the species name *equinus*. Roan favour lightly wooded savanna with areas of medium to tall grass, and need regular access to water. They are susceptible to environmental changes and have their stronghold in Khaidum, where the habitat is ideal. This is the largest population in Namibia and one of the largest in southern Africa. From here, roan have been moved back to former ranges elsewhere. Roan live in small nursery herds of a dozen or so, guarded by a dominant bull. Herds may use the same area over many years, while bachelor groups roam more widely.



Wild dogs - the eternal wanderers of Khaidum

The wild dog, *Lycaon pictus*, is one of the most endangered large predators in Africa. Wild dogs live in packs of a dozen or more animals. They are extremely efficient hunters, chasing down prey in collaborative hunts. They are amongst the most social of all predators and have a complex hierarchy. Pups are born blind in an underground den and are cared for by most pack members, which bring them food. Wild dogs roam over huge areas, with no park large enough to permanently contain them. Beyond the parks, they come into conflict with livestock farmers and are often killed.



Elephants dominate a landscape - the great herds of the park

Like few other animals, African elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, have the ability to dominate - and alter - entire landscapes. Prior to the establishment of permanent waterholes in Khaidum, the great pachyderms used this area only seasonally. Elephants need to drink almost daily. As the Khaidum dried up after the rains, the herds moved on. The migrations have long been disrupted by fences and human settlement, and around 3,000 elephants now live more or less permanently in the park. This affects the park's vegetation, especially around waterholes - adult elephants consume up to 200 kilogrammes of plants a day. Seasonal movement into the neighbouring conservancies, especially Nyae Nyae in the south, provides important relief. Movement to the west is inhibited by the development of cattle farms, and results in conflicts over water and crops. Promoting a tolerance of wildlife amongst park neighbours and striving for a balance between farming and conservation is a central aim of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, which also seeks to reestablish old migration routes.

- Wildlife:**
- Aardvark
 - Aardwolf
 - African elephant
 - African savanna hare
 - African wild cat
 - African wild dog
 - Bat-eared fox
 - Black-backed jackal
 - Black-footed cat
 - Blue wildebeest
 - Brown hyaena
 - Cape fox
 - Cape porcupine
 - Caracal
 - Cheetah
 - Common duiker
 - Eland
 - Gemsbok (oryx)
 - Giraffe
 - Honey badger
 - Impala
 - Kudu
 - Leopard
 - Lion
 - Pangolin
 - Reedbuck
 - Roan
 - Serval
 - Side-striped jackal
 - Spotted hyaena
 - Springhare
 - Steenbok
 - Tsessebe
 - Vervet monkey
 - Warthog
- + 320 bird species
 + 60 tree species

to Tsumkwe
 52 km from Sikereti Gate

Nyae Nyae Conservancy

Sikereti Gate

Sikereti Tourist Reception & Management Station

Sikereti Campsite

19°06'16" S 20°42'20" E

19°10'01" S 20°42'13" E

Soncana

Shiyambi

Omuramba

Kremetart

Elandsvlakte

Tsau

Dussie

Leeupan

Doringstraat

Burkea

Khaidum

Khaidum Lodge & Campsite

18°30'18" S 20°45'13" E

18°23'25" S 20°42'58" E

Khaidum Gate

to B8 Rundu-Divundu
 46 km from Khaidum Gate

George Mukoya Conservancy

Muduva Nyangana Conservancy

to Tsumkwe

to Tsumkwe

to Tsumkwe

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