

INTRODUCTION

When Schalk van Niekerk traded all his possessions for an 83.5 carat stone owned by the Griqua Shepard, Zwartboy, Sir Richard Southey, Colonial Secretary of the Cape, declared with some justification: "This is the rock on which the future of South Africa will be built." For us, The Star of South Africa, as the gem became known, shines not in the East, but in the Northern Cape (Tourism Blueprint, 2006)

Diamonds certainly put the Northern Cape on the map, but it has far more to offer than these shiny stones. The Orange (Gariep) River brings life to this arid region. The province is well known for its colourful display flowers in Namaqualand, even if it is only for a fleeting period. The province also boasts Africa's first transfrontier game park, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and South Africa's only mountain desert Park, the |Ai-|Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park. It also hosts the southern hemisphere's largest astronomical observatory at Sutherland. The province is rich in San rock engravings and well known for its fossil finds.

The Northern Cape is the largest province in South Africa but the least populated. Furthermore, the climate is extreme with the highest and some of the lowest temperatures in the country recorded here. The region also has the lowest rainfall of all the provinces.

In 1994, the Cape Province was divided into three provinces, the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and the Northern Cape. The Northern Cape is also known as *Mntla Koloni* (Setswana) and *Noord-Kaap* (Afrikaans). The province is larger than Germany and almost the size of Montana (USA).

The North West, Free State, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Oranje (Gariep) River and Atlantic Ocean forms the borders. Namibia and Botswana are respectively located on the northwestern and northern borderline of the province.

COAT OF ARMS



Coat of arms of the Northern Cape

Motto

sa ka//a !asisi ?uisi

“ Strive for a better life”.

Ms Elsie Vaalbooi from Rietfontein, one of the last !Auni language of the Khomani supplied the phrase.

The motto was the first official South African motto in a KhoiSan language, adopted before the National Motto.

The Shield

The diamond shape depicts the province's mineral wealth.

Waves resemble the life-giving two rivers flowing through the province.

The Camelthorn, presents life and growth and is the most abundant tree in the region.

The yellow flowers are the Namakwa daisies and the symbolism for the natural beauty of the province.

The red triangle is the red dunes/soil of the Northern Cape and the sun.

The Gemsbok and the Kudu are the most common of the large antelopes and supports the shield.

The desert is represented by the **rocky, brown base**.

The crown resembles the beaded headdress of the San.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Area	372 889 km ² (Census 2011) previously 362,599 km ² (2001)
% of total area	30.54% (2011) previously 29.7% (2001)
Population	
Languages (SA Yearbook 2007/08)	<p>Census 2011 Afrikaans 53.8% Setswana 33.1% Xhosa 5.3% English 3.4% Sesotho 1.3%</p> <p>Census 2001 Afrikaans (68%); Setswana (20.8%)</p>
Races	<p>Census 2011 Black (50.4%) Coloured (40.3%) White (7.1%) Asian (0.7%)</p> <p>Census 2001 Coloured (51.6%); Black (35.7%); White (12.4%); Asian (0.3%)</p>
Unemployment rate	<p>Quarterly Labour Force Survey 24.9% (Q4:2013) 27.9% (Q3:2013) 28.3% (Q4:2012) 30% (Q3: 2012) 28.2% (Q3: 2011)</p>
Capital	Kimberley
Largest city	Kimberley
Premier	<p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sylvia Lucas (From 2 April 2013) <p>Previous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grizelda Cjiekella was appointed as acting premier on 20 February 2012 when Jenkins suffered a stroke and was admitted to intensive care. Hazel Jenkins (ANC) 2009-2012 Elizabeth Dipuo Peters (ANC) 2004-2009 Manne Dipico (ANC) 1994-2004

MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS

The Northern Cape Province is divided into five district municipalities, which are subdivided into 27 local municipalities

Frances Baard District Municipality

In June 2001 the "Diamantveld District Council" was renamed **Frances Baard District Municipality** in honour of Frances Baard, an anti-apartheid activist (see *Module 3, Component 2 : Historical Overview(Part 2) – Apartheid and Post-apartheid*).

- Sol Plaatje Local Municipality
- Dikgatlong Local Municipality
- Magareng Local Municipality
- Phokwane Local Municipality

MAIN TOWNS IN THE REGION

- BARKLY WEST
- DELPORTSHOOP
- GALESHEWE
- HARTSWATER
- JAN KEMPDORP
- KIMBERLEY
- MODDERRIVIER
- PAMPIERSTAD
- ROODEPAN
- WARRENTON
- WINDSORTON

Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

Today, Pixley ka Seme's name is almost completely unknown, but it was largely due to his ideas that the formation of the African National Congress was conceived and a conference organized of all the Chiefs and prominent educated Africans in Bloemfontein (8 January 1912).

- Ubuntu Local Municipality
- Umsombomvu Local Municipality
- Emthanjani Local Municipality
- Kareeberg Local Municipality
- Renosterberg Local Municipality
- Thembelihle Local Municipality
- Siyathemba Local Municipality
- Siyancuma Local Municipality

MAIN TOWNS IN THE REGION

- BELMONT
- BRITSTOWN
- CAMPBELL
- CARNARVON
- COLESBERG
- DE AAR
- DOUGLAS
- GRIEKWASTAD
- HANOVER
- HOPETOWN
- HUTCHINSON
- LOXTON
- MARYDALE
- NIEKERKSHOOP
- NORVALSPONT
- NOUPOORT
- PETRUSVILLE
- PHILIPSTOWN
- PLOOYSBURG
- PRIESKA
- RICHMOND(C)
- STRYDENBURG
- VANDERKLOOF
- VANWYKSVLEI
- VICTORIA-WES
- VOSBURG

Namakwa District Municipality

- Richtersveld Local Municipality
- Nama Khoi Local Municipality
- Kamiesberg Local Municipality
- Hantam Local Municipality
- Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality
- Khâi-Ma Local Municipality

MAIN TOWNS IN THE REGION

- AGGENEYS
- ALEXANDERBAAI
- BRANDVLEI
- CALVINIA
- FRASERBURG
- GARIES
- HONDEKLIPBAAI
- KAMIESKROON
- KLEINSEE
- KOMAGGAS
- LOERIESFONTEIN
- MIDDELPOS
- NABABEEP
- NIEUWOUDTVILLE
- ONSEEPKANS
- PELLA
- POFADDER
- PORT NOLLOTH
- SPRINGBOK
- STEINKOPF
- SUTHERLAND
- VIOOLSDRIF
- WILLISTON

ZF Mgcawu (previously Siyanda) Municipality

Named after Upington's first post-1994 democratically elected mayor, Zwelentlanga Fatman Mgcawu.

Former name: "Siyanda" – "we are growing" In the words of a wise leader, Mr Sicelo Mbondezi Executive Mayor: "It is not what you look at that matters but it's what you see and Siyanda District Municipality is definitely an institution with a vision, as they do "see" the people and their economic dilemmas".

*Others names for the region: **The Lower Orange** and a rich farming region fed by the Orange(Gariep) River, is also marketed as the **Green Kalahari. Gordonia.***

- Mier Local Municipality
- !Kai! Garib Local Municipality
- //Khara Hais Local Municipality
- !Kheis Local Municipality
- Tsantsabane Local Municipality
- Kgatelopele Local Municipality

MAIN TOWNS IN THE REGION

- DANIELSKUIL
- GROBLERSHOOP
- KAKAMAS
- KANONEILAND
- KEIMOS
- KENHARDT
- LIME ACRES
- NOENIEPUT
- POSTMASBURG
- RIETFONTEIN
- UPINGTON
- WITDRAAI

John Taolo Gaetsewe (formerly Kgalagadi) District Municipality

John Taolo Gaetsewe originally came from Maruping village in Ga-Segonyana. He was a respected ANC member and dedicated trade unionist.

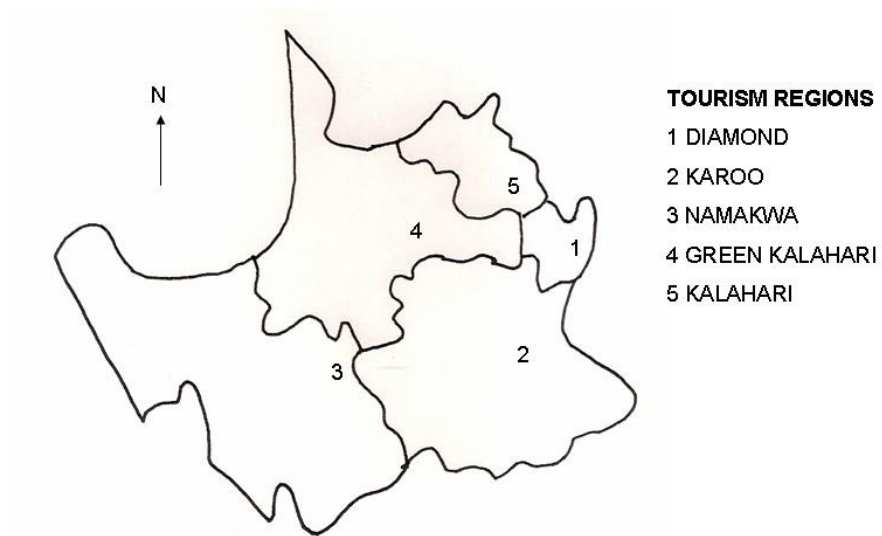
- Moshaweng Local Municipality
- Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality
- Gamagara Local Municipality

MAIN TOWNS /SETTLEMENTS IN THE REGION

- BATHLAROS
- BOTHITHONG
- DEBEN
- DINGLETON
- HEUNINGVLEI
- KATHU
- KURUMAN
- MOTHIBISTAD
- OLIFANTSHOEK
- TSINENG

Module 1: Component 1: Province Overview

The course modules were compiled according to the Tourism Regions



GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE LANDSCAPE

The province is dominated by the **Karoo Basin** and consists mostly of sedimentary rocks and some dolerite intrusions. Kimberlite intrusions are responsible for the province's most precious natural resource, diamonds.

Regions:

- **The Upper Karoo**
- **The Great Karoo**

The south and south-east of the province is high-lying (1200m-1900m) in the Roggeveld and Nuweveld regions. The north is primarily **Kalahari Desert**, characterised by parallel red sand dunes and acacia tree dry savanna.

The **Namaqualand** region in the west is renowned for its spring flowers. This area is hilly to mountainous and consists of granites and other metamorphic rocks. The central areas are generally flat with interspersed saltpans and comprises of the following regions:

- **Sandveld**
- **The Knersvlakte**
- **Hardeveld or Klipkoppie**
- **Richtersveld and Klein Boesmanland**

The Ghaap Plateau a featureless terrain that is poor in outcrop, is located between Kimberley and Upington, north of the Orange River to the Kuruman Hills. The altitude varies between 900 and 1600m.

The main rivers

- **Gariep (Orange River)**

The largest dam in the country, the **Gariep** (previously known as the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam) has been built in the River, as well as the **Van der Kloof Dam** (PK le Roux Dam). In the 1970s it made irrigation to several regions in the Eastern and Northern Cape possible. The river descends 122 m (400 ft) in a course of 26 km (16 miles) over the "Hundred Falls" or Augrabies Falls.

- **Vaal River** – joined by the Harts- and Riet River
- **Molopo River** – forms the northern border of the province

Module 1: Component 1: Province Overview

The following are smaller rivers along the west coast	
Brak River	
Sout	
Bitter River	
Spoeg River	
Swartlintjies River	
Buffels River	
Kamma River	It never reaches the sea, but disappears in the sand at Port Nolloth
Holgat	

Mountains

East and south east

(The highest mountain peak in the Northern Cape is Rooiberg)

- Richtersveld
- Kamiesberg
- Hantam
- Roggeveldberge
- Basters
- Komsberg

Central and south west

- Kareeberg
- Nuweveld
- Renosterberg

North west

- Korannaberg
- Langeberg
- Asbestos Mountains
- Doringveldberg

CLIMATE

The Northern Cape is a large, dry region of fluctuating temperatures and varying topographies and is the most arid part of South Africa

Although Port Nolloth (west coast) and Durban (east coast) are on the same latitude, the annual temperatures vary with at least 6° C. This is attributed to the influence of the warm Agulhas (Indian Ocean) and the cold Benguela currents (Atlantic ocean) on the climate of South Africa.

The Benguela Current

Whereas the Agulhas Current originates within the warm waters of the Equator, the Benguela is a break away from the South Atlantic Current. The current is very cold due to the earth's rotation and frictional effect of the wind causing water to surface from a depth of 300m. It condenses moisture from sea breezes and resists evaporation, resulting in the desert conditions on the west coast. The winter weather-systems of the south-west Capes save this area from befalling the same fate.

Rainfall

- Mostly arid to semi-arid, few areas in the province receive more than 400mm of rainfall per annum.
- Rainfall generally increases from west to east.
- The west experiences most rainfall in winter, while the east receives most of its moisture from late summer thunderstorms.

Temperatures

- Many areas experience extreme heat, with the hottest temperatures in South Africa measured along the Namibian border.
- Summers maximums are generally 30°C or higher, sometimes higher than 40°C.
- Winters are usually frosty and clear, with southern areas sometimes becoming bitterly cold, such as Sutherland, which often receives snow and temperatures occasionally drop below the -10°C mark.

	January max	January min	June max	June min	Annual rainfall
Kimberley	33°C	18°C	18°C	3°C	414mm
Springbok	30°C	15°	17°C	7°C	195mm
Sutherland	27°C	9°C	13°C	-3°C	237mm
Upington (Green Kalahari)					50-350mm

NATURE AND CONSERVATION

The largest part of the province falls within the Nama-Karoo biome, with a vegetation of low shrubland and grass, and trees limited to water courses in the Northern Cape.

World Heritage Site

| Ai- | Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park

Lava mountains and sandy plains are characteristic of southern Africa's largest mountain desert park. It is home to the world's richest desert flora and the human-like elephant's trunk (halfmens).

Other National Parks

- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
- Augrabies Falls National Park
- Namaqua National Park (inclusive of the Skilpad Nature Reserve)
- Tankwa Karoo National Park
- **Mokala National Park**
"Where Endangered Species Roam..."
 Mokala, SANParks newest park (replacing the Vaalbos National Park) is situated approximately 80km south-southwest of Kimberley.

Ramsar Wetland Site

- Orange River Mouth
- Kamfersdam (2km north of Kimberley) has the possibility of being accepted as a Ramsar Site.

Some other interesting Reserves

Tswalu Desert Reserve	Situated on the edge of the Kalahari desert Tswalu Desert Reserve is the largest privately owned game reserve in South Africa.
Witsand Nature Reserve	The Witsand (White Sands) Nature Reserve boasts white sands surrounded by a sea of Red Kalahari sand and 'Brulsand' (roaring sands).
Goegap Nature Reserve	Outside Springbok - some of its succulents are so rare they are found nowhere else in the world.
Karoo Gariep Conservancy	The conservancy was founded in 2005 by P.C. Ferreira. It is home to the only hippos in the Karoo. They have been reintroduced after the last ones were shot out of this system more than 200 years ago.
Quiver Tree Forest (Niewoudtville)	The largest and the most southerly colony of Aloe dichotoma (quiver tree / kokerboom). It is one of South Africa's giant aloes.

ECONOMY

Only 2% of the province is used for crop farming, mainly under irrigation.

In the Orange River Valley, especially at Upington, Kakamas and Keimoes, grapes and fruit are cultivated intensively.

Wheat, fruit, peanuts, maize and cotton are produced at the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme near Warrenton.

96% of the land is used for stock farming, including beef cattle in the savanna biome and sheep or goats elsewhere, as well as game farming. The economy of a large part of the Northern Cape, the interior Karoo, depends on sheepfarming, while the karakul-pelt industry is one of the most important in the Gordonia district of Upington.

Industries

- **Dried-fruit and wine industries.**
- **Fishing**
 - Compared to mining, the fishing sector brings in a small value added to the economy of the Province.
 - However, projections by the provincial government suggest that the sector will have increased value addition over time.

Mining

The Northern Cape is rich in minerals.

- The country's chief diamond pipes are found in the Kimberley district and alluvial diamonds are also extracted from the beaches and the sea between Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth.
- The Sishen Mine near Kathu is the biggest source of iron ore in South Africa.
- Copper is mined at Springbok, Aggeneys and Okiep, the latter being one of the oldest mines in the country.
- Other minerals include asbestos, manganese, fluorspar, semi-precious stones and marble.

The area of the Northern Cape that borders Namibia has the highest solar radiation intensity in southern Africa. However, the current solar energy use contributes a very small portion of the total energy supply in the province and could be much higher with the increase of the use of solar energy technologies.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport	The Northern Cape has an excellent road network, which makes its interior easily accessible from South Africa's major cities.
Railway	De Aar is the second most important junction of South Africa's railway network. Iron ore, in high demand for the export markets, is transported on the 861 km- railway line from Sishen (Northern Cape) to Saldanha (KwaZulu-Natal).
Harbours	No major harbours. Port Nolloth used to serve for the export of copper but is currently only used by pleasure crafts and small vessels employed by the diamond mining industry.
Major Airports	Kimberley and Upington
Education	Approximately 70% of the population has not finished Secondary school.
Health	The prevalence of HIV in the province is about 8.4%.

Asbestos Mines

"Although there are no operational asbestos mines in the Northern Cape, environmental exposure is still a concern as fibers from unrehabilitated mine dumps can become airborne. The concentration of asbestos in the air is not known, as no monitoring is currently done. Very little is known about the health impact of asbestos in the Northern Cape, although in Prieska about 5 new cases (out of a population of about 15 000) of mesothelioma are diagnosed per year (although the mines in the area have been closed since 1979)." Northern Cape SOE Report (2004)

MAIN ROUTES

The Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province, and distances between towns are enormous due to its sparse population.

Various National Roads traverse the Province

- N1** Colesberg along the N1 is a popular overnight venue for travellers from Gauteng to Cape Town.
- N7** The N7 (south north) is the main route through Namaqualand onto the Namibian border. Springbok is the main town along this route and from here roads (mainly gravel roads) lead to the West Coast towns and the Richtersveld.
- N10** The N10 arrives from the Eastern Cape (close to Port Elizabeth) passing De Aar, Prieska and Upington, the major cities on this route up to the border with Namibia.
- N12** The N12 offers an alternative route from Gauteng to the Western Cape. The major town on route being the capital of the province, Kimberley.
- N14** For the first somewhat 150km, the N14 (north easterly direction) from Springbok, only passes the small settlements of Aggenys (a mining town) and Pella (home to the largest date farm in South Africa) up to Pofadder. From there it is another 125km before reaching the fertile valley of the Orange valley. The route exits the province at Kuruman.

The R360 is the main route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Other important roads across the Karoo are the R27 from Upington to Calvinia, Nieuwoudtville (famous for its Quiver Forest) joining the N7 at Vanrhynsdorp. These towns can also be reached by the R63, along Carnarvon and Williston, both known for their corbelled houses.

About the Northern Cape course

Course Description: Cover the Provincial, Cultural, Historical and Natural Overview for the province, as well as all the cities and towns according to tourism regions. It also includes information about the origin and history of the towns, the origin and meaning of place names, claims to fame, economical activities, sites, attractions and things to do.

Important notice: This is only a theoretical course and does not automatically qualify the student as a tourist guide for the Northern Cape Province.

Assessment to qualify as a Northern Cape Provincial guide
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Apply to Makiti Guides & Tours (an accredited Cathsseta Provider 613/P/060074/2006) for assessment.

Qualification requirements for provincial courses

1. The National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding NQF L4 (20155) or FETC: Tourist guiding NQF L4 (71549). A copy of the Theta/Cathsseta certificate will be required as proof. (A skills certificate will not be acceptable).
2. Level I first aid certificate

Registered Culture Provincial Guides with the relevant qualifications (see above):

- Can proceed immediately with assessment involving assignments and a knowledge questionnaire.

Registered Nature Guides:

- First needs to complete a bridging course to obtain the FETC: Tourist guiding NQF L4 (71549) certificate. This will partly involve Recognition for prior learning (RPL).

Candidates wishing to become a Culture Provincial Guide:

- Enrol for the FETC: Tourist Guiding NQF L4 (Basics & Advanced courses). The latter will include the assessment for the province.

Contact us for any further information.

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Resources and further reading

Bulpin, TV. *Majestic South Africa – Land of Splendour and beauty*. Reader's Digest Association. 1999.

Department of Agriculture, Northern Cape.

SA Yearbook 2013-2014

The Tourism Blueprint Reference Guide to the Nine Provinces of South Africa including Swaziland & Lesotho. Tourism Blueprint. 2006.

Statistical reports

Census 2001 & 2011

Labour force surveys

Brochures and maps

Brochure of South Africa's Northern Cape. Northern Cape Tourism Authority

Explorer Map South Africa Eastern Cape. Randbird Publishers. 2003

The South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL) map

Websites

<http://ports.co.za>

<http://members.virtualtourist.com>

www.anc.org.za

www.environment.gov.za/soer (2004 Northern Cape - State of the environment report overview)

www.northerncape.gov.za

www.sanparks.org

www.siyanda-dm.co.za

www.taologaetsewe.gov.za/images/profile.pdfwww.nieuwoudtville.co.za

www.transnet.co.za

www.whoswhosa.co.za

www.wikipedia.org

Practical Exploration

Makiti Guides & Tours (Pty) Ltd. August 2008

Photos

ML Kruger - Makiti Guides & Tours (Pty) Ltd. August 2008

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