



## A SURVIVAL KIT

Dear Festival partner.....

You will probably wonder why it should be necessary to have a section, which we call a 'survival kit'. Well, you need to understand the context here. This is not for survival, but rather for enjoyment in the Kalahari and if one is equipped and prepared for it; your stay will be so much more fun. So, we have decided to give a few markers which will help you with this. So, let's start at the very beginning:

- a) What to expect when you drive to the Kalahari:

This is a fun drive, in a sense also the beginning of the whole experience.

Driving from Upington (which is largely the only way to get to the Kalahari area where the festival is happening, you will leave Upington driving up north on a 200km journey where the landscape is going to change. Your possible last pit stop is Upington where you will need to equip yourself for the road. You don't need to buy all there, but advisable is to get your usual's for the long road: Water, something to eat and drink, fill up, as the next station is 190km further. The road up north will indicate: "Askham/Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park" and then you take the first approx. 90 km which is largely just one large stretch of easy driving road. The landscape is flat with grassy vegetation and some bush.

An interesting fact of this road is that German car manufacturers like Audi, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche, and some car manufacturers from other countries, use this road for testing their future car models. You will see some signage, which will indicate that these prototypes might pass you on the road, normally at very high speed as they have the necessary permissions for that. They are unbranded as the manufacturers do not want to reveal their future models and are normally black or grey in colour without any registration plates. For you; the normal 120km per hour is applicable.

Be careful of animals on the road. Kudus and other smaller antelope and species might cross the road. On night driving (if you have to), be very very cautious, as animals tend to come to the road at night. Advisable is not to exceed more than 100km per hour at night. Be careful and take serious note of the road and possible crossing inhabitants. You will pass big saltpan areas. You will probably have good cellphone reception most of the way, but there are sections where you will not have signal. After

approx. 90 km the dunes will start to appear on your journey. Vegetation will also change to a more savanna landscape; thorn bush, grass and the red dunes. The road will remain tarred and open but be careful (once again) for animals on the road. Clear signage will indicate the distances to Askham and the Park. Enjoy the drive; it's calm, tranquil and long... but beautiful. Askham (on your right) is the first town. Although small, you can enjoy the warm hospitality of the Kalahari there. You can fill up, even have coffee at the Diamond T Coffee shop or just experience this small town as you wish. There are a few shops at Askham where you could get some essentials as well. Although Askham has only one tarred road (main road), do not underestimate the rest of this little gem.

- b) Well, you are now in the Kalahari, and in the Kalahari Desert, but also very close to Botswana and Namibia. This brings us to the next section, and that is what to expect: Your area now is desert and the desert, of course, has its own dynamics. It's very dry; therefore, bring some skin ointment with you. It's hot and sunny; therefore, you will make it better if you bring a hat, sunglasses, sunblock, umbrella and easy wearing clothes. Yes, temperatures might rise in summertime to 45 degrees Celsius and of course in winter drop to -12 degrees Celsius. A water bottle is always a good-to have with you. You might get thirsty. It is advisable to wear comfortable shoes and possibly tekkies or closed shoes. When it is windy, scorpion's tends to move a lot over the sand, but with appropriate shoes you will not be confronted by these friendly creatures. Yes, they are in the area, it's their home and so are their other friends as well. So are mosquitos. Although not a big problem and definite not malaria-mosquitos, but they might visit occasionally. Therefore citronella oil, candles and mosquito repellent are advisable to bring along.
- c) The gravel roads in the Kalahari are usually in a fairly good condition, but refrain from speeding on the gravel roads. They are in some areas unpredictable with loose sand. If you go off-road into smaller roads, rather consult with people in the area as the roads cross sand dunes and with a 2x4 vehicle you might get stuck. It is advisable to deflate your tire pressure if you drive on these off-road areas, and be careful, as the sand is loose and equally unpredictable. A 4x4 vehicle is usually the better option. And if you do get stuck in the sand, just take it from there. Do not try spinning your wheels as you will just bury your vehicle deeper. Remove the sand and get yourself out easily.
- d) You are here to enjoy a festival, true. But; the Kalahari comes as a package. You are here to enjoy the culture, the sand, the people and the temperatures. Sunny days, mild to even chilly nights, so have something warm for the evenings. Sunrises and sunsets are completely unique and beautiful. Enjoy every moment of that. The area is most definitely not known for high rainfall, but if it rains; well then it makes a statement. Thunderstorms are dramatic and impressive. Lightning does happen in this area, which is picturesque, but be careful for lightning as well. All of this makes your camera a must bring on your itinerary.

- e) On a psychological note, your emotions might be affected. How? Well that we do not know; but the honesty of this landscape does not really allow you to not to be in touch with your emotions. Do not take this pointer for granted. So, allow yourself to be true to the landscape. Laugh enough, cry enough, smile always and dance on the dunes. It is advisable for the soul.
- f) Some other advice: If you suffer from sinus infections and such, bring yourself some meds for that. Also eye-drops if you have problems with dry air conditions. The dry air has this effect.
- g) It is always good to travel with a basic First Aid kit. Hospitals, doctors and other health care are far distances apart. The festival terrain, however, will be equipped with an emergency response unit.
- h) The night sky is completely covered with stars which feel very close to you. But the night is also very dark; bring a torch along, as you might need it to move at nighttime. If you believe in wishing upon a falling star, bring a notebook full of wishes because it tends to “rain” stars in one night.
- i) ATM’s and cash withdrawals are not always as easy in the area, although there are some facilities in Askham and at the Molopo Lodge. Most businesses have card facilities, but the festival is cash-driven. Therefore it is recommended that you bring cash along.
- j) The festival is an alcohol-free zone. Liquor stores in Askham and at the Molopo lodge will be able to provide in that department, but we would like to request visitors not too bring alcohol into the festival terrain.

So, in terms of all the above; this will help you to prepare for your visit to the Kalahari. The KDF 2016 is looking forward to have you as our festival partner, our guest and our friend. Enjoy every moment; enjoy the landscape and the energy of those who will welcome you on this land.

For any more details and enquiries, please feel welcome to email me at [hennie@sasi.org.za](mailto:hennie@sasi.org.za)

Regards



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