



Ta Shebube, Polentswa

Location

Polentswa is located 222 km from Two Rivers along the predator rich Nossob Valley on the Botswana side of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The camp is nestled amongst tall trees and dwarf scrubs overlooking the Polentswa Pan with its waterhole and exciting game.

Co-ordinates: S25°03'13.21, E20°25'40.23

Area

The area around Polentswa Pan is dominated by vast flat and open tree savannah, interspersed by expansive grassy plains, large vegetated pans and smaller scattered salt pans and the characteristic fossil Nossob River which with its many waterholes attracts large numbers of game and birds. The area is malaria free.

The Camp & Facilities

Polentswa is a classic tented camp capturing the romance of this nostalgic bygone era. Nestled on top of a valley with far reaching views over Polentswa Pan known for its magnificent sunsets, the main building is on an elevated deck to catch the breeze and positioned under a canvas roof. Here guests can either recline with a sundowner and a book, watch the game visiting the camp's waterhole or merely contemplate the desert.

- Lounge area, a bar, dining room
- Reading area,
- Boma
- Viewing deck
- Waterhole

Accommodation

In contrast to Rooiputs, Polentswa's accommodation comprises of classic safari tents, all built on raised wooden platforms and under enormous canvas roofs that also encompass a spacious private veranda.

The tents are furnished with a huge bed which allows for exciting and far sweeping views of the Polentswa Pan.

The main building is originally furnished to reflect the spirit and essence of an authentic tented safari camp.

- 7 luxury classic safari tents;
- 2 desert suites/family units;
- All tents are privately set on raised wooden decks with a perfect view of the waterhole;
- Tents have a main sleeping area, dressing area, en suite bathroom with wash basin, adjoining shower area open to the desert and to the stars and a water born toilet.
- The sleeping area has double bed, high quality mattresses and linen ensuring a relaxed night's sleep;
- The tents are not ideal for twin beds.

Game Viewing & Activities

The Nossob riverbed is rated one of the best places in Southern Africa to view raptors particularly during the summer months when large numbers of migratory eagles, kites and falcons move through the park. Of the 80 raptors recorded in Southern Africa, 52 have been recorded in the KTP.

Specifically, Polentswa is a haven for birders with migratory birds passing through the Polentswa pen, offering rich opportunities for avi tourism.

Apart from the 300 species of birds found in the area, antilopes and predators are plentiful at Polentswa as in the rest of the park with over 60 species of mammals having been recorded in the park including the majestic gemsbok, blue wildebeest, springbok, red hartebeest, eland (the world's largest antelope) and steenbok. Predators are the area's big attraction and include the black maned Kalahari lions, leopard, cheetah, brown and spotted hyena, jackal and wildcat.

Activities

- Game drives: morning, afternoon/ sunset game drives OR full day game drive with picnic lunch; minimum 4 guests and subject to availability.
- Birding safari;
- Star gazing with camp telescope.

Optional activities*

- Polentswa 4 x 4 Wilderness Trail: for the more adventurous traveller – with real bush camping
- Wellness massages.

**at additional cost, subject to prior arrangement and availability*

Self-Drive Options

Self-drive guests and safari operators are welcome. The camp offers self-drive packages where activities are not included. Game drives in our game viewers with guide can be arranged on request and subject to availability. 4x4 vehicles are essential. The Polentswa 4x4 Wilderness Trail commences at Polentswa.

Children Policy

Children over the age of eight (8) years old are welcome to the camp and a family friendly tent is available for parents and children under twelve (12) years old. However, parents must be aware of the danger posed by wild animals and the children must be under strict supervision all the time.

Climate

The climate is typical for an arid area.

During summer between October to April, average temperatures can go beyond 40°C. Although this is the

rainy season, rainfall is quite scarce, often accompanied by dramatic thunderstorms.

Typically for this area is the strong and often destructive winds that appear from nowhere and often leaves everything impregnated with fine sand.

During winter between May and August the highest day temperatures are at a comfortable 26 – 30°C while the winter nights can be exceedingly cold with temperatures falling as low as 10°C below zero. The air is clear and dry. Winter is the best time to view game which often is congregated near the waterholes in the valley. Good game viewing can also be experienced towards the end of the rainy season.

Eco-Tourism

The camp is designed to ensure that its operations are carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner where flora and fauna are fully protected and conserved.

Programmes are in place to minimise the negative aspect of conventional tourism on the environment and enhance the cultural integrity of the local communities. Therefore, every effort is made to use green technologies at the camp such as solar power, and to promote recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation.

Electricity

Polentswa is powered by a solar panel system with generators as a back-up. Limited charging of batteries is available.

Water

Polentswa is serviced by two boreholes which provide water to the camp. The borehole water is very salty and a water purification system is used to remove the salt and provide potable water to the camp.

Hot and cold water is available in all tents.

However, due to the scarceness of water; guests are asked to use it considerately and we urge all guests to restrict showers to only a few minutes. For the same reason there are policies in place for the cleaning of guest towels and bed linen, and the camp offers no laundry service

Communications

As Polentswa is situated “in the middle of nowhere” – no cellular phone signal reaches the camp.

The camp has satellite phone for emergencies and internet on request.

Access

By Road

Polentswa can be accessed by road from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Alternatively, guests will be met at Two Rivers/Twee Rivieren Parks Entrance or airstrip and transferred to the Polentswa camp.

Distances

- Upington to Twee Rivieren: 250km on good tar road
- Gaborone to Two Rivers: 900km on good tar road
- Twee Rivieren/Two River to Polentswa turnoff on Nossob River: 220km on good gravel road, then 4km to camp on private sandy track (requires 4x4)

Border posts

- Twee Rivieren, South Africa: opens 7.30hrs, closes 16.00hrs
- Two Rivers, Botswana: opens 7.30hrs, closes 16.00hrs
- Mata Mata, Namibia: opens 8.00hrs, closes 16.30hrs

By air

- Daily scheduled flights from Johannesburg and Cape town to Upington (SAA Airlink www.flyairlink.com)
- There are private charter flight companies in Upington that can fly from Upington to Twee Rivieren in South Africa or Bokspits in Botswana.

Full day game-drive-transfer with picnic

From Rooiputs, guests on Ta Shebube's Desert Safari travel north along the length of the dry riverbed of the game-rich Nossob River to Polentswa with a delicious picnic half-way. The journey gives guests more insight to the Kgalagadi's natural attractions and interesting human history and is done as a full day game-drive-transfer with photographic opportunities en-route: 6.00 to 7.00 hours at game-viewing speed with picnic and drinks.

Road transfer

Rooiputs to Polentswa: 200 km on good gravel road,
-/+ 4 hours with packed lunch

Park Entry Fees

The park entrance fee and the Botswana Tourism levy are included in the rates but are subject to change. Currently the rates are BWP 20.00 per day for non-resident visitors, BWP 4.00 per day for vehicles and BPW 10.00 per person per night in tourism levy.

For more information

Ta Shebube (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 694 ABG, Sebele,
Gaborone, Botswana.
email: info@tashebube.com
Tel.: + (267) 3161696 Fax.: + (267) 3161695, Cell: + (267)
71578568
website: www.tashebube.com