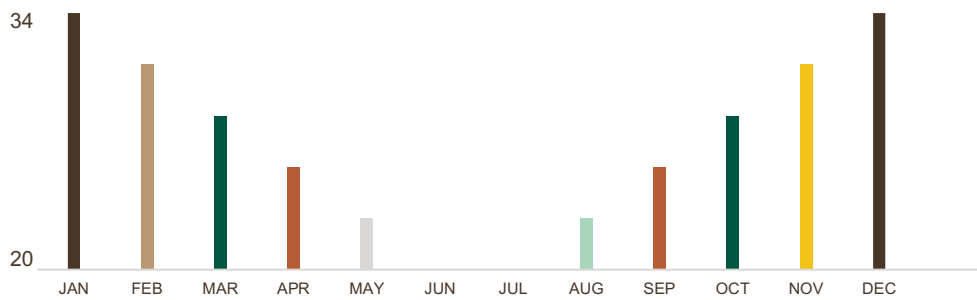




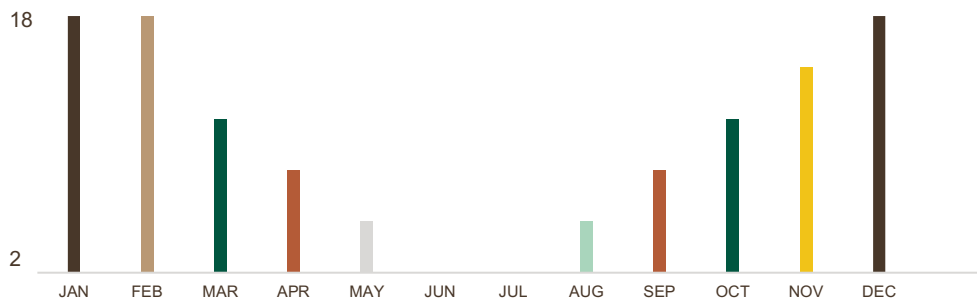
### THE SEASONS

The seasons in the southern Kalahari can be described in traditional terms (spring, summer, autumn, winter), but their nature and duration are very different. Summer lasts for almost six months.

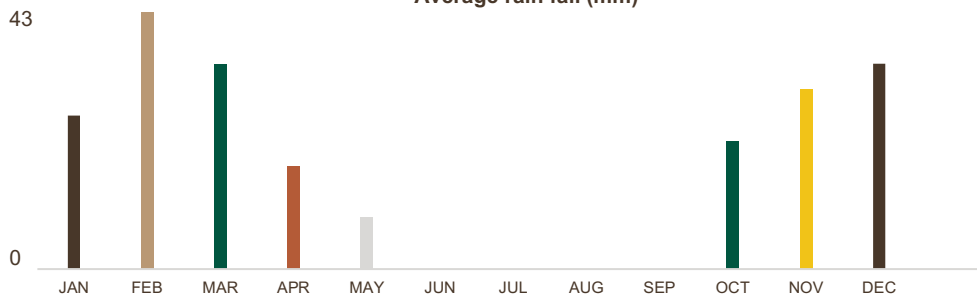
Average midday temperature (°C)



Average night-time temperature (°C)



Average rain fall (mm)





### Spring: September – October

The weather starts to warm up and days are very pleasant with some cool evenings in September

- Some cold fronts can still sweep through and it is best to pack some warm clothing just in case
- In the bush, blackthorn and honeybush are in blossom, scenting the evening air
- “Dry storms” may start forming on the horizon, heralding the approach of the rainy season
- Barking geckos start calling for mates with a cacophony unique to the Kalahari
- The three thorn thickets blossom with soft tissue-like flowers
- Meerkat pups begin emerging from their dens in anticipation of the rain

### Summer: November – March

Days are hot and evenings mild with occasional afternoon thunderstorms

- Migrant birds arrive making birding rewarding and exciting
- Many of the antelope calve early in summer and signs of new life abound
- Jackals and foxes bring their pups above ground after the first rains to enjoy the suddenly prolific insect life
- Rain is always unpredictable in the Kalahari, and if you are fortunate enough to experience it, the rapid transformation will astound you as the desert turns into a lush green spectacle with carpets of golden flowers

### Autumn: April – May

Mild days and cooler evenings. There may even be some late season rain.

- This is the greenest time of the year. The savannahs take on a beautifully silky appearance as the grass produces seeds which are blown away by the gentle autumn breeze
- May is the season where most of Tswalu's hands-on wildlife work is done (such as translocations)
- Autumn is the time of the rut; a frenzied time when antelope are in their best physical condition. They begin fighting to establish territories and seek mates
- Animals which hibernate through the short winter (such as leguans and tortoises) become very active, eating as much as they can before the first frost
- Many of the Kalahari fruits ripen and provide food for birds departing on their long migrations

### Winter: June – August

Daytime temperatures are cool and evenings become cold.

- The first frost falls and night-time temperatures can drop below freezing
- Conditions become very dry as humidity falls
- As the grass and bushes dry, sightings of rarer, smaller mammals, such as aardvark, aardwolf and pangolin increase. These shy nocturnal animals emerge in the daylight to enjoy the late afternoon sunshine
- Raptors begin building nests
- Large flocks of sandgrouse begin accumulating around the dwindling waterholes in the mornings
- The clear evening skies offer a star-gazing spectacle
- Dust devils (small swirling dust storms) drift across the sand dunes

#### WHAT TO PACK

- swimming costume (warmer months)
- something warm (just in case)
- sandals
- closed shoes for walking
- sunblock • camera • binoculars • chargers for devices