

A PILGRIMAGE . JUNE 2026

Back to the Red Sand

Cape Town -> Karoo -> Kalahari . Illuminating the path home

It has always been the dream -- to make the great reconnection from South to North, tracing the ancient path back to the red sand of the Kalahari. This journey honors the life, art, and resting place of Vetkat Regopstaan Kruiper, Mier San artist and keeper of a world told through painted eggshell.

We will travel with Karoo elders, carry their art, document their knowledge, and stand together at the site where Vetkat lies -- in the sand he loved, near Xaus Lodge, in the heart of the +Khomani San homeland.

ITINERARY

June 6-7

Cape Town

Elders arrive from the Karoo. Painted eggshells and stories gather. The journey takes its first breath.

June 8

Cape Town -> Upington

Depart at dawn. The Karoo gives way to the Northern Cape. First night in Upington.

June 9

Upington -> Welkom

Deeper into the desert interior. Evening at Welkom.

June 10-11 . Two Nights

Xaus . The Red Sand

We sleep in the dunes near the site where Vetkat rests. Community gatherings, conversations, documentation, and the beginning of a media collaborative -- 3D scanning the eggs, archiving the art, centering the voices of elders and young people from the +Khomani San community.

June 12

Xaus -> Upington

Begin the return. The sand holds the memory of what was spoken.

June 13

Upington -> Cape Town

Journey closes. Stories and images carry the journey forward.



PURPOSE

Pilgrimage & Memory

A sacred act of reconnection -- South to North, city to sand -- to honor Vetkat's life and resting place in the Kalahari.

Documentation & Testimony

Filming elders and community members on reconnection, tradition, and art as an expression of spirit and cultural continuity.

Media Collaborative

3D scanning Vetkat's painted eggshells and building tools for the community to steward and manage the art online.

Community Partnership

Working alongside +Khomani San youth to co-develop archival practices rooted in their own protocols for cultural stewardship.

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ABOUT VETKAT

Vetkat Regopstaan Kruiper

A Mier San artist from the southern Kalahari, Vetkat painted elaborate scenes on ostrich eggshells -- a medium as ancient as the land itself. His work carries the memory of the +Khomani San people: their animals, their skies, their interior world.

These eggs travel with us from the Karoo back to the red sand -- completing a circle he always imagined. Vetkat passed in 2012, but his legacy lives on through the community's own creative and archival work.



+Khomani San community, Kalahari, 2024

HOW TO JOIN

To express interest or confirm your place, reach out directly. Space is intentionally limited to keep the journey intimate. Priority goes to those with existing relationships to the project and community.
michaellechuga@unm.edu

COST & SOLIDARITY

~\$950^{USD} ANTICIPATED PER PERSON

We anticipate the cost to be approximately \$950 USD per person. A final figure will be confirmed once we know the total number of travelers making the journey.

Airfare to Cape Town not included

- * Lodging throughout
- * All meals during travel
- * Transportation to & from the Kalahari
- * Community gathering & documentation sessions

Other travel expenses are the responsibility of each guest.

A note on solidarity pricing

If you are able to contribute beyond the base cost, we ask that you do. Additional contributions support travel and meals for Karoo elders, Belinda, and young people from the +Khomani San community.

No one's presence should be determined by what they can pay. If cost is a barrier, please reach out before deciding not to come.

Logistics & Timeline

- > Depart Cape Town: June 6, 2026
- > Return Cape Town: June 13, 2026
- > South Africa visa required for most non-SA travelers
- > Standard travel vaccinations recommended
- > Group size: approx. 10-14 travelers

"Illuminating the path back to the red sand."

JUNE 6-13, 2026 . CAPE TOWN TO KALAHARI

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