FACT FILE: /Ai-/AIS–RICHTERSVELD TRANSFRONTIER PARK

GENERAL

Size: ± 5,982 km² (/Ai-/Ais 4,358; Richtersveld 1,624)
Proclamation: /Ai-/Ais Hot Springs Game Park 1968;
Richtersveld National Park 1991;
/Ai-/Ais–Richtersveld Transfrontier Park 2003
Altitude: ± 50 to 1,650 m above sea level
Biome: Succulent Karoo, Nama Karoo, Namib Desert
Park stations: Hobas (MET, Namibia);
Sendelingsdrift (SanParks, South Africa)

WEATHER

Rainfall: Annual average less than 50 mm (SW) to ± 100 mm (NE)
Rainy season: Erratic rainfall at any time of year
Temperatures: Summer ± 13 to 40°C; max. often above 40°C (hottest Jan-Feb)
(daily range) Winter ± 6 to 27°C; min. rarely below 0°C (coldest Jun & Jul)

PARK NEIGHBOURS

North: Freehold land
South: Richtersveld World Heritage Site
East: Gondwana Canyon Park & freehold land
West: Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park; freehold land
Beyond: Through the NAM-PLACE Project, /Ai-/Ais HSGP is part of the
Greater Fish River Canyon Landscape, linking the park with
conservation initiatives on surrounding freehold land

GET THERE

Entrances: Hobas (access via C37), /Ai-/Ais (access via C10),
Gamgab & Dreigat Gates (both accessed via C13);
Sendelingsdrift & Helskloof Gates (access via South Africa)
Air: There are airstrips at Hobas & Rosh Pinah

The name /Ai-/Ais comes from the hot springs along the Fish River at the /Ai-/Ais Hotsprings Spa.
It is derived from a Nama expression, and is said to mean 'burning water'.
/Ai means splash or splatter. /Ais literally means female cousin.
The word /aes (pronounced with a click sound followed by 'ace') means fire.
The name should thus probably be /ai-/aes - 'splashing fire'.

An inspector of the Rhenish Mission Society, Dr E. Richter visited Kuboes in 1830.
A mission station was then established at the settlement & the area became known as the Richtersveld (veld is Afrikaans for open, uncultivated land).

Find out more: www.namibia-nature-parks.com
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