

## WHAT TO EXPECT



### KIT AND COMFORTS

It gets hot on the water and you can become badly sunburnt. Wear a peaked cap under your helmet. Put on water-resistant sunscreen on your hands, face and legs. It is advisable to wear long-sleeved shirt and pants. Wear lace-on tackies or sandals. **Bring a light windcheater in case it gets windy or rainy.** You may bring a camera and also cigarettes which we pack in a dry bucket but do not guarantee. For the end of the trip, leave a dry pack of clothes in your vehicle. We provide refreshments during the trip (cool drinks, fruit, chips and sweets) for energy. On the day trip we provide a light picnic lunch. Bring your own water bottle. **No alcohol is allowed before or during the trip.** For afterwards bring a coolbox with drinks.

### TRANSPORT

Drivers take their cars or the group bus to the end where vehicles are safety parked. As we get off the river you can pack and go without waiting for the organizers to sort out and load river kit.

### SAFETY

We start each trip with a safety talk explaining how to paddle and safety precautions. You are accompanied by professional guides and fully equipped with boat, lifejacket and helmet. Rivers are very forgiving even if you fall in, and we will carry out rescues if and when boats get stuck on rocks or capsize. Every participant must sign the trip indemnity undertaking the trip at own risk.



### VREDEFORT DOME

BOOK TO VISIT AND LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND LARGEST VISIBLE CRATER, PROBABLY CAUSED BY AN ASTEROID IMPACT.

We offer Vaal-Dome rafting and walks. Bring good hiking shoes and socks, water bottle, hat and sunscreen, binoculars, a notebook and a pen. The hikes are not exhausting as the mountains are not high and the trails fairly easy.

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# RIVERMAN

2008-9

*Dances with Waves*

## VAAL RAFTING



Otter's Haunt is the base for RIVERMAN canoeing, rafting and kayaking tours, 2km from Parys on tar, in the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site. Vaal River Whitewater is graded 1-2+ in normal river flows, in other words, easy and non-technical. It does not compare to the big whitewater graded 3-5 on the Zambezi but in many ways it is more fun. We generally use 2-seater paddle-yourself Crocodile inflatables. You are accompanied by pro river guides and equipped with helmets and lifejackets by us.

**SEE KIT LIST ON BACK PAGE!**

**SEE TRIP PICTURES ON**

[www.riverman.co.za](http://www.riverman.co.za)

*and also visit*

[www.otters.co.za](http://www.otters.co.za)

[www.vdome.co.za](http://www.vdome.co.za)



## A VERY SPECIAL RIVER

To raft or kayak the Vaal in the Vredefort Dome is a very special experience. Our routes cross the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site.

It is a natural wonderland, with hundreds of islands creating habitats for birds and wildlife. Look out for cormorant, darter, many species of duck, leguaans, otters, vervet monkeys, and even signs of rooiakat (caracal) and porcupine.

The islands that create the rapids of the Vaal are a product of the geology of the Dome. Your guide will explain. The Vaal is also one of the world's oldest flowing rivers. In addition to rafting, we run tours of the Vredefort Dome itself. [www.vdome.co.za](http://www.vdome.co.za)

## TRIPS ON THE RIVER

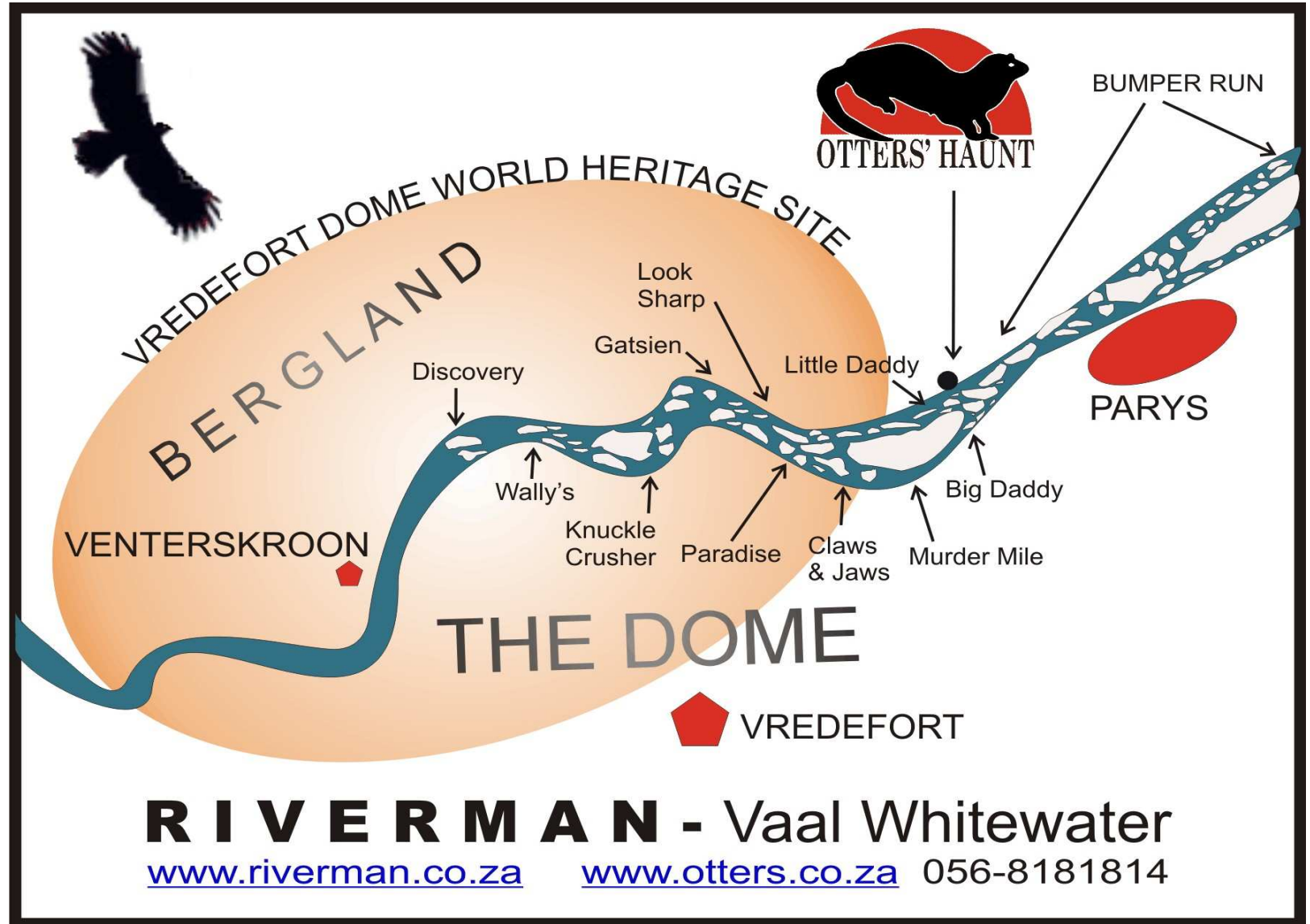
*There are several options:*

### Whitewater Rafting

- **HALF DAY** – 3.5 hours, usually starting at Otters' Haunt and including about six good rapids.
- **FULL DAY** – 6 hours, starting at Otters or above, depending on water flows, and including more and bigger rapids. Lunch included.
- **BUMPER RUN** – 3 hours, starting above Parys town and running past golf island. Not for sissies! Fast & tricky whitewater.

### Flatwater Canoeing

- **MALACHITE TRAIL** – 2-3 hours among the islands, enjoy peace and wildlife.
- **CANOE DOME** – Full day, downriver in the Dome, seeing the Bergland from the water. Lunch.



**OTTERS' HAUNT** is a secluded guest house and bush camp on the Vaal River, 2 km from Parys on tar, owned and run by Karen and Graeme Addison. It is an ideal spot for a family or group getaway.

**ACCOMMODATION** – stay over to enjoy the environment, paddling, mountain biking, hiking and birdwatching.

**RIVERMAN** is owned and run by Graeme Addison, who pioneered South Africa's popular rafting routes. He also came up with the concept and first design of the Croc inflatable. Ask him about his experiences!

Trips are led by experienced guides and all boating equipment is provided.