

A large, vibrant orange sand dune under a clear blue sky. A small group of people is visible on the slope of the dune, providing a sense of scale.

14 Days

# Namibia

## Orange River Explorer

Namibia is a country which has a palpable sense of wilderness and few countries in Africa are able to match its sheer natural beauty! In The Namib we will know we have been privileged to visit the planet's oldest and possibly its most beautiful deserts. While rafting on the Fish River we will observe at first hand the world's oldest rock desert as well as the Kingfisher and Fish Eagle and we will be awestruck by the million of stars as we sleep on the river bank besides the Willow and Ebony. The architecture of Swakopmund takes us back through time and Namibia's complex colonial history, while a visit to Kolmanskop will tell us its own dramatic story of the 'diamond rush'! We haven't even mentioned the Kalhari or abundant wildlife yet!



# Recommended expedition itinerary

Day  
1-2

## Arrive Windhoek via Johannesburg

Departure from Heathrow on an overnight flight from Heathrow. Arrive Windhoek via Johannesburg where we will be met, greeted and settled in.

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Day  
3

## Kalahari toward Fish River

After a good rest in Windhoek the scale of the country will become quickly apparent, as we start our journey south on the main highway, towards the Fish River Canyon. We will be travelling through the thin strip of Kalahari Desert that protrudes onto the eastern side of Namibia. The Kalahari Desert often surprises people when they first see it. It is very different from the Namib. Remember that the Kalahari is not a desert. It receives more rain than a true desert should. The Kalahari is a fossil desert. Don't expect to find tall Sossusvlei-style dunes devoid of greenery here. Tonight we will camp under a blanket of southern hemisphere stars!

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Day  
4

## Fish River

As your body adjusts to the environment (there is no jet lag) we will have a chance to explore the vast canyon. The Fish River Canyon is (allegedly) the 2nd largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon. The immensity of this magnificent landscape is truly breath taking. The towering rock faces and deep ravines were formed by water erosion and the collapse of the valley due to movements in the earth's crust over 500 million years ago. Today the canyon measures 160km long up to 27km wide and almost 550m at its deepest. It is fair to say that when we arrive at the canyon its exact location may still appear a bit of a mystery; the 500m vertical drop from the flat dry plateau is completely out of view!

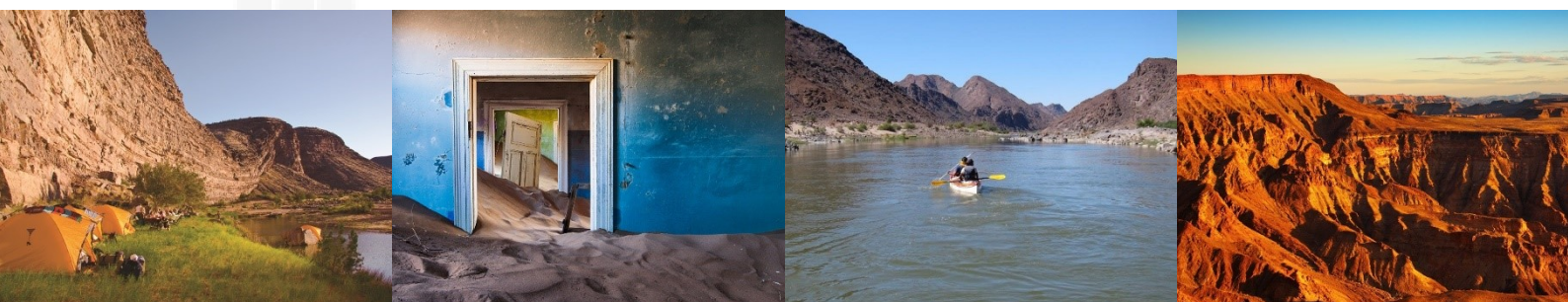
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Day  
5-7

## Orange River Rafting

This is an amazing experience, rafting through the oldest rock desert in the world. Not only will you be drifting down river but also back in time by 2 million years. Over the next three days we will have the chance to view the arid mountainous landscape as well as the green brilliance of the Malachite Kingfisher, the Fish Eagle and the aptly name Goliath Heron. Our bed will be the riverbanks lined with Willow and Ebony and our roof will be the ever-present millions of stars. This is an amazing way to explore and one you will not forget!

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Day  
8-9

## Aus

Over the next two days we'll participate in a number of conservation activities, including spending time at Tirimbina, a 345 hectare reserve dedicated to scientific research. We'll hike through the rainforest, uncovering and interpreting the secrets of this wonderful Reserve as we explore some of the more remote trails in the park. Each night we'll have the opportunity to witness the reserve on a night time trek. Under the supervision and guidance of the professional staff of Tirimbina we will also have two days of hands-on conservation in action as we visit different areas of the rainforest to measure several physical and biological parameters using simple scientific techniques and instruments, comparing these with past records to see how the biodiversity of the park is changing over time.

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Day  
10

## Sossusvlei

Traversing this bleak yet beautiful landscape, the terrain begins to change and we cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the ground begins to give way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib. There is some debate about the dunes at Sossusvlei being the highest in the world. After trekking up them we will certainly feel like they are! They are without doubt the one of the most spectacular sights we will see in Namibia. The best time to view Sossusvlei is close to sunrise or sunset; the constantly changing strong colours allowing for wonderful photographic opportunities. Something not to be missed!

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Day  
11

## Swakopmund

Welcome to Swakopmund, an oasis on the edge of the desert with palm-lined streets, seaside promenades and stunning beaches. This is Africa's and Namibia's leading adrenaline destination, with a wide range of activities to suit all ages and (most) egos. Included in the price is the sand boarding, however also available is quad biking, dune carting, parachuting, hot air ballooning, shark fishing, deep sea fishing and beach angling to name but a few.

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Day  
12

## Windhoek

After a night in a lodge you will make your way across the Namib Desert taking in the vast deserted expanse of Namibia! With some of the best cooked game meat available anywhere in the world, we can't fail to enjoy the last dinner together as you reflect on the adventures experienced and the memories made.

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Day  
13-14

## Depart Windhoek, via Johannesburg to Heathrow

A departure from Namibia returning to the UK via Johannesburg with no jet lag to slow you down on return.

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# Further information

## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

## Your expedition timeline



## Physical expedition rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

## Culture shock rating:



Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange an expedition launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening with opportunity for questions.



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