



19 Days

# Namibia

## Orange Rivers & Deep Canyons

Namibia is a country which has a palpable sense of wilderness, few countries are able to match its sheer natural beauty! In The Namib we are privileged to visit the planet's oldest and possibly its most beautiful deserts. After a multi day in one of the worlds largest canyons you will be pleased to rest as we float down the Orange River and observe at first hand the world's oldest rock desert as well as the Kingfisher and Fish Eagle. 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

Fly from the UK via Johannesburg from Heathrow on an overnight flight.

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Day  
3

## Kalahari towards 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  
4-8

## Gochas & Ai Ais

As your body adjusts to the environment (there is no jet lag) we will have a chance to explore the vast Fish River Canyon 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! The descent will be the hardest part of the trek but a night on a sandbank will refresh the legs and we will continue on this 4/5 day adventure. We will trek through startling and dramatic rock formations formed over a billion years ago, swim in shaded rock pools and rest our feet in sulphur pools. With the chance to view klipspringer, Haartmann's Mountain Zebra and enjoy star lit nights and stunning sunsets this is a trek we will not forget.

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Day  
9-12

## 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 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  
13-14

## Aus

We will be picked up early from the Orange River and our journey to Aus will take us via Kolmanskop, Namibia's most famous ghost town, situated in the Sperrgebiet or 'forbidden territory'. Just a few kilometres inland from the port of Luderitz, the discovery of a clear stone by a railway worker sparking a huge, frantic diamond rush, causing fortune hunters to converge in droves on Kolmanskop. As well as the odd clear stone you will need to keep a sharp look out for the Wild Desert Horses. We are deep in the heart of southern Namibia here and the terrain is harsh. The process of erosion in these areas is well advanced and we pass time rounded "koppies", arid terrain and outcrops of tortured rock.

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Day  
15

## 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  
16

## 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  
17

## 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  
18-19

## Depart Windhoek on overnight flight to UK

A departure from Namibia sees us fly overnight to the UK via Johannesburg. We arrive back into the UK on day 19.

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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:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip.

## Culture shock rating:

● ● ● ○ ○ 3/5

Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



# 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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