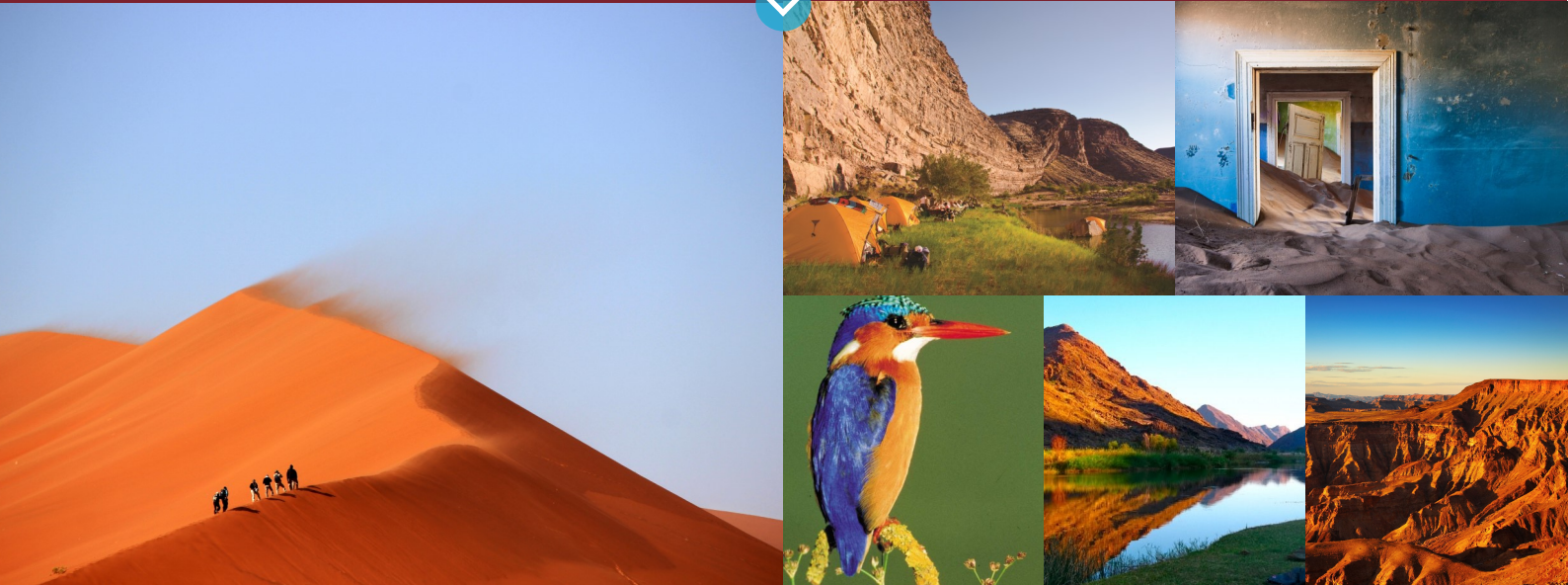


# Namibia

## Orange Rivers & Deep Canyons



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. 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 Kalahari or abundant wildlife yet!



### Recommended itinerary:

Culture shock rating:   
Physical rating: 

**Day 1 – Departure and overnight flight, Heathrow – Windhoek via Johannesburg**

**Day 2 – Arrival and overnight in Windhoek**

**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!

**Day 4 to 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.

**Days 9 to 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 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!

#### 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 kilometers 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.

#### 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 terrain 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!

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Day 18: Depart Windhoek, via Johannesburg to Heathrow

#### Day 19 : Arrive UK

#### Important information:

*It is important to realise that the itinerary needs to be flexible. While every effort will be made to follow the above schedule, in the event of political problems, airline schedule changes or natural events, we will do our best to make your trip as enjoyable and hassle-free as possible, but it is important to EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED and be prepared to accept some slight changes. Relax and have faith in your guides.*



For more information and a detailed quote, please contact us:

telephone: 01392 660056

email: [schools@thestc.co.uk](mailto:schools@thestc.co.uk)

website: [www.thestc.co.uk](http://www.thestc.co.uk)

