



7 Day Cape Town to Desert Cape Town to Swakopmund Overland Tour



HIGHLIGHTS

Cedarberg Region
Gariep (Orange) River
Fish River Canyon
Namib – Naukluft National Park
Sossusvlei

Guided Walk in Sossusvlei
Sesriem Canyon
Tropic of Capricorn
Walvis Bay Lagoon
Swakopmund

ITINERARY

7 Days
South Africa, Namibia

Information is subject to change. Travel times and accommodation can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

DAY 1 SOUTH AFRICA – CEDERBERG MOUNTAIN REGION

The Cederberg region not only boasts spectacular mountains and orange farms, but it is also the home of the Rooibos bush. Indigenous to the mountain slopes of the Cedarberg, this herbal beverage has earned an international reputation as a healthy and refreshing alternative to regular tea. The Cedarberg region is known for its mountain fynbos and spectacular views of the rugged Cedarberg Mountains. A dinner at our overnight stop offers an opportunity for us to get acquainted while enjoying some South African hospitality.



Accommodation	Marcuskraal http://www.marcuskraal.co.za/index1.html
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Cape Town to Citrusdal
Meals	Lunch & Dinner

Cederberg Mountains

The Cederberg mountains and nature reserve are located near Clanwilliam and named after the endangered Clanwilliam Cedars (*Widdringtonia cedarbergensis*), which are endemic to the area, growing at an altitude of 1 000 m to 1 500 m. Some species are believed to live up to 1000 years, but human activity has led to the destruction of most of the original forests. The mountains extend about 50 km north-south by 20 km east-west, the highest peak in the range is Sneeuberg (2 028 m). The area is defined by dramatic sandstone rock formations, often reddish in colour. Cederberg Wilderness Area was recently proclaimed one of eight World Heritage Sites within the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa. The area is also known for the San rock art and the discovery of important fossils, particularly in recent years. The fossils are of primitive fish and date back 450 million years to the Ordovician Period.

DAY 2 NAMAQUALAND – GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER

Namaqualand presents us with our first experience of the Desert vistas that will accompany us in the days ahead. We continue our journey north and after a short stop for supplies in Springbok, travel to our camp on the banks of the Orange River. If you are fortunate enough to be travelling in the spring months (July to September) you may encounter the wildflowers that have made this region famous. No matter the time of year though, the strange desert vistas offer a unique backdrop to this day's travel.

Accommodation	Fiddlers Creek Campsite http://www.bushwhacked.co.za
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Citrusdal to Orange River
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Included Highlight	Spring Wildflowers (Seasonal July – September)

The Gariep (Orange) River

The Orange River was originally called the Nu Gariep ("great river") by the indigenous Nama people. It was named the Orange River by Colonel Robert Gordon, commander of the Dutch East India Company garrison at Cape Town, on a trip to the interior. Gordon named the river in honour of William of Orange, although a popular belief is that it was named for its colour. Nowadays known by its original name Gariep River, it is the longest river in South Africa, covering 1 800 km. It rises in the Drakensberg mountains in Lesotho, where it is known as Senqu, flowing westwards through South Africa to the Atlantic Ocean at Alexander Bay. On its long journey, the Orange offers a variety of vistas: in places it is seamed by rugged mountain chains and in other parts, by endless dune fields. The river forms part of the international border between South Africa and Namibia and between South Africa and Lesotho as well as several provincial borders within South Africa. Although the river does not pass through any major cities, it plays an important role in the South African economy by providing water for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The Orange River is also responsible for the diamond deposits along the Namibian coast. Over millions of years it transported diamonds from the volcanic pipes in Kimberley in South Africa to the sea. From there, the currents took them northward and the surf deposited them into the dune fields of the Namib.

DAY 3 NAMIBIA - GARIEP (ORANGE) RIVER

While the Orange River was named after the Dutch Royal House, in recent times it has been referred to by its original name of Gariep, which simply means "river" in the indigenous Khoekhoe language. Beginning its journey in the mountains of Lesotho, the Orange River is the longest river in South Africa and offers a unique contrast to the desert landscapes along its banks. The best way to experience the river is by getting out on the water and this morning we have the opportunity to join an optional canoe trip on the river. Around midday (after lunch) we depart the Orange River and head inland, crossing the border into Namibia. We make a brief stop at the mineral hot



springs for a dip in the pool before arriving at our camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation	NWR: Hobas Campsite http://www.nwrnamibia.com/hobas.htm
Facilities	Campsite Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Orange/Gariep River to Fish River Canyon
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Swim in mineral hot springs (swimming pool)
Optional Activity	Half-day canoe trip
Border Post	South Africa: Vioolsdrift, Tel: +27 (27) 277 618 760, Open 24 hours Namibia: Noordoewer, Tel: +264 (0) 63 297 122, Open 24 hours

Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world and the largest in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia. It features a gigantic ravine, in total about 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 m deep. The Fish River is the longest interior river in Namibia, but its flow is now a puny trickle compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. It cuts deep into the plateau, which is today dry, stony and sparsely covered with hardy drought-resistant plants such as succulents. The river flows intermittently, usually flooding in late summer; and when it ceases to flow it becomes a chain of narrow pools on the sandy rock-strewn floor of the chasm.

The Fish River Canyon area has a typical semi-desert climate. During the hot summer months (October - March) temperatures can rise to 48°C during the day and cool to 30°C at night. Relief from the heat comes in short spells with occasional thunderstorms. The average annual rainfall in the canyon area is 100mm. During the short winters, temperatures can go below zero at night, but quickly pick up during the day to a moderate 20 to 28°C.

Ai-Ais

Ai-Ais meaning 'burning water' in the local Nama language, refers to the sulphurous thermal hot water springs found at the base of the mountains at the southern end of the Fish River Canyon. The Ai-Ais (pronounced "eye-ice") springs originate deep under the riverbed and form an oasis in the extremely arid area. During the Nama uprising of 1903–07, when the local Herero and Nama people rebelled against German colonial rule, the hot springs were used by German military forces as a base camp. In 1915, the area was again used as a base by South African troops who were recovering from wounds during the South-West Africa Campaign. In the 1960s the spring was proclaimed a national monument and became a conservation area and on 16 March 1971, the camp was officially opened. The thermal water, rich in sulphur, chloride and fluoride, has an average temperature of about 60 degrees C and is said to be therapeutic.

DAY 4

FISH RIVER CANYON, QUIVER TREE FOREST AND GIANTS PLAYGROUND

We rise early this morning, pack up our camp, making our way to the rim of the Fish River Canyon. We arrive in time to catch the morning sunrays filter through the canyon. After stretching our legs with a gentle walk along the rim of the canyon, we turn west and head for Keetmanshoop. Our afternoon will be spent meandering through the Quiver Tree Forest and The Giants Playground – named for the way in which the massive dolerite boulders have been placed on each other - creating rock formations and a series of mazes.

Accommodation	Seeheim Hotel http://www.seeheimhotel.com/
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlights	Scenic walk along the rim of Fish River Canyon / Visit to Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

Namib-Naukluft National Park

Namib-Naukluft National Park is an ecological preserve in the Namib Desert. It is the largest game park in Africa, covering about 50 000 square km and a surprising collection of creatures survives in the hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, hyenas, gemsbok and jackals. Most of the life here is sustained by sea mists from the Atlantic and sporadic rainfall. The winds that bring in the fog are also responsible for creating the park's



towering sand dunes, whose burnt orange color is a sign of their age. The color develops over time as iron in the sand is oxidized, like rusty metal; the older the dune, the brighter the color. These dunes are the tallest in the world; the most famous of which is Dune 45, which reaches more than 170 m. The dunes were numbered to make the area easier to navigate and coincidentally Dune 45 is 45 km from Sesriem Canyon.

‘Namib’ means open space in the local Nama language and the Namib Desert gave its name to form Namibia – “land of open spaces”. The park was established in 1907 by the German Colonial Administration. The park's present boundaries were established in 1978 by the merging of the Namib Desert Park, the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park, parts of Diamond Area 1 and some other bits of surrounding government land.

The Park includes Sossusvlei, a clay pan in the central Namib Desert, fed by the Tsauchab River and known for the high, red sand dunes which surround it, forming a vast sand ocean. The Sesriem Canyon, another of the highlights of the Namib desert and the entrance point to the western section of the Namib Naukluft Park, was formed by the Tsauchab River, which carved the canyon out of sedimentary rock over the past two million years. During the rare rainfalls in the Naukluft Mountains, the river becomes rapid-running and strong and has over the years created the canyon, now 1 km long and up to 300 m wide. The water held in parts of the canyon provides water for a variety of wildlife that has adapted to life in this arid landscape.

The name *Sesriem* is Afrikaans and means "six belts", since the early travellers and settlers had to attach six belts together in order to reach buckets down into the canyon to scoop up water.

DAY 5

NAMIB-NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

Every overland journey has some long travelling days and today is one of those as we venture deeper into the Namib Desert. Our destination is the dune fields that cover the western reaches of the desert. Long dusty roads and sparsely populated farmlands offer us an insight into the vastness of rural Namibia. From the grasslands in the east to the red dunes of the west the slowly changing landscapes represents the many faces of this desert country. Tonight, we camp on the doorstep of the dune fields and fall asleep to the unique calls of the elusive Barking Gecko.

Accommodation	NWR: Sesriem campsite https://www.nwr.com.na/resorts/sesriem-camp
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Keetmanshoop to Namib Naukluft NP
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Sesriem Canyon

The Namib Desert

The Namib Desert is one of the oldest and largest in the world, occupying an area of around 90 000 km², stretching 1 000 km along the Atlantic Ocean coast of Namibia. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for at least 55 million years, it is considered to be the second oldest desert in the world, after the Atacama Desert in Chile. It has less than 10 mm of rain annually and is almost completely barren, characterised by dramatic red dunes with sharp ridges, some of which tower 3 000 m in the air, the highest in the world. A section of the central Namib Desert incorporates The Namib-Naukluft Park, one of the largest national parks in Africa as well as the Naukluft Mountains. Despite the harsh conditions, a variety of plant and animal life can be found in the desert. There are some unusual species of plants and animals that are found only in this desert.

Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei is one of the world's most remote and beautiful places, synonymous with sweeping sand dunes and astonishing sunsets. The salt and clay pan is enclosed by towering, vivid red dunes, which some say are the highest in the world, presenting a breath-taking picture, as their crimson colour clashes with the cobalt sky. Although the area is accessible, the roads are in quite a bad condition, so if you don't have a 4x4, it's wise to opt to be part of tours to Sossusvlei. The area is located within the Namib-Naukluft National Park of Namibia, in the heart of the exquisitely isolated desert. Sossus is Nama for 'no return', while vlei is the Afrikaans word for marsh, so effectively the area is known as 'no return marsh,' in reference to the fact that it is the Tsauchab River's natural endorheic drainage basin.



The region spans between the Koichab and Kuiseb rivers and is every photographer's dream destination. The dunes have a brilliant red palette and are best viewed at sunrise and sunset, when the sun's crepuscular rays cast them in an incandescent flaming hue, while the wind demonstrates its artistry, painting complex ripples in the sand. Imagine a solitary herd of Gemsbok stepping carefully on the crest of the sandbank, leaving soft footprints in the silt. The highest of all the dunes is 'Big Daddy' which dominates the landscape, measuring a remarkable 380 metres in height.

Although the region is predominantly associated with draught, periodically the rains will fall and the vlei fills with water, attracting many animals and people to its banks. This sight is extremely rare and not one to be missed, as the area teems with life, adorning the undulating dunes.

Visit the majestic **Sesriem Canyon** which starts as a deep cleft in the ground, eventually expanding into a flattened plain. Witness the Naravlei, from the top of 'Big Mama' – an obliging dune which is well worth the climb and explore the haunting desolation of Dead Vlei, which is named for its numerous dead camelthorn trees, some of which are over 800 years old.

You will be amazed by the diversity of life which has adapted to the desert's harsh conditions, succeeding in surviving in one of the earth's most hostile environments. Be part of one of the reputable Sossusvlei tours which will open your eyes to the geographical and cultural history of the area.

DAY 6

SOSSUSVLEI DUNES - NAMIB-NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

Watching the sunrise over the red dunes is an iconic highlight of any trip to Namibia and this morning we rise before the sun to capture this magnificent moment. A brisk climb up Dune 45 offers us the perfect vantage point to marvel at the changing colours of the desert sunrise. Once satisfied we descend this famous dune and enjoy a hearty breakfast before catching a 4x4 transfer into Sossusvlei, here we will spend time on foot visiting the pans at Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Tonight, we empty the red sand from our shoes and spend the night under the magnificent desert stars, knowing that we have spent a full-day enjoying the wonders of this harsh land. This afternoon we join a local expert for an educational desert excursion.

Accommodation	Boesman's Camp (No website)
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Namib-Naukluft NP – Naukluft Area
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Sunrise hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei, Guided desert walk with local expert

Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 by German settlers, Swakopmund was intended to be the main harbour of German South-West Africa. Increased traffic between Germany and its colony necessitated the establishment of a port of its own, as Walvis Bay, located 33 kilometres south, was in British possession. The choice fell to a site north of the Swakop River where water was readily available. There is a strong German architectural influence in the town, with its Bavarian-style buildings, including the Altes Gefängnis prison, designed by Heinrich Bause in 1909 and the Wörmannhaus, built in 1906 with a prominent tower, now a public library.

The area is called Swakopmund and is formerly known as 'Tsoakhaub'. This word originated from the Namaqua culture. Directly translated, it means "excrement opening" which is an offensive but accurate description of the waters of the Swakop River when it flooded, carrying masses of mud, sand, vegetation and animal corpses to the Atlantic Ocean. The name was changed to "Swachaub" by German settlers and with the proclamation of Swakopmund as an independent district of German South-West Africa in 1896, the present way of writing Swakopmund (meaning Estuary of the Swakop in German) came into use.

Surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides and the cold Atlantic waters to the west, Swakopmund enjoys a temperate climate. Rainfall is rare but the cold Benguela current supplies moisture to the area in the form of fog that can reach as deep as 140 km inland. The fauna and flora of the area has adapted to this phenomenon and now



relies upon the fog as a source of water.

Swakopmund is well known for adventure sports including skydiving, sandboarding and quad biking. Your guides will be able to assist you in deciding on a suitable activity, alternatively, spend the day exploring the town and enjoying the various coffee shops and souvenir shops.

DAY 7 SWAKOPMUND

Our final day in the desert continues as we join a local expert for an educational desert excursion. Reluctantly we leave the Namib behind and after a stop to mark our crossing of the Tropic of Capricorn, we continue to the Atlantic coastline. Today we continue west and make our way to the coastal town of Swakopmund, where adventure and a dose of civilisation await. We make a brief stop at the Walvis Bay lagoon, where we hope to catch a glimpse of the flamingo's that feed in the shallows. Arriving in Swakopmund your tour will come to an end. You will have the opportunity to book some of the many adventures on offer, should you wish to spend additional nights in the town.

Accommodation	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through us
Route	Naukluft Area to Swakopmund
Meals	Breakfast
Included Activity	Tropic of Capricorn, Walvis Bay Lagoon

Tour Information

Tour departure point

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

07:00 am 40 On Burg, 40 Burg Street

Cape Town, South Africa.

Tel: +27 (0)21 426 4338, www.40onburg.co.za

Tour ending point

Amanpuri, Corner of Moses Garoeb Street & Anton Lubowski Street,

Swakopmund, Namibia

Tel: +264 64 405587

Maximum Number of Passengers

24

After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer, or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 0027 82 578 2199

If calling within South Africa: 082 578 2199

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends to allow for delays and changes.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour, we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent to make these bookings.



What's included

All meals which are prepared and served at the tour truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the tour truck / included highlights as per the itinerary / entrance fees to National Parks.

What's excluded

Items of a personal nature (snacks, alcohol, bottled water, soft drinks, tips) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities) / souvenirs

Countries Visited

South Africa, Namibia

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

We provide you with a great tour however there are always additional optional activities that you can do en route, at the various places you will find a selection of Optional Activities that can be booked on the tour you have chosen .- Your guide will also help you choose what is best for you. If you want to do an extra night drive or go white water rafting or bungee jumping -we will make sure you book this with the safest and most professional operator. Some optional activities operate concurrently so the group may have to decide as a team which optional activities they'd prefer to do. On the Pre-departure information your consultant sends you will be a lengthy list of what the locals offer in the various places we visit and spend time. These are as the name says totally optional and you do not always have to do an activity to enjoy being in an area, simply walking around the local markets or interacting with the locals is an experience with in itself.

General

All information is subject to change without prior notice, changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better-quality experience. This would be where we are able to make improvements, sometimes last-minute decisions due to the nature of the tour/event. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, or any unforeseen circumstances. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system. Please ensure that you have received the latest version of this dossier- your consultant will send you a link to do this, we ask clients to download the latest tour dossier 1 week before your tours departure so you are up to date with any changes.

Meals

Breakfast: As breakfast is served very early in the morning (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, guides will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

Lunch: Lunch is generally served at a picnic spot next to the road en route to a destination. As the guides only have approximately 45 minutes to get everyone off the truck, prepare lunch and then get everyone back on the truck again, lunches consist of sandwiches and salads (rice salad, pasta salad, tuna salad and green salad) which are quick and easy to prepare but which are quite filling. They do have meal plans which they should stick to, to ensure that there is variety on a day to day basis.

Dinner: This is when the guides get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional cuisine consisting of braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (mince), spaghetti and fish and chicken dishes.

Most evenings are spent talking about Africa. Your tour dossier will have details of where you will be each night and the prices of meals if we are spending an evening at leisure in a city or town. After or during dinner, guides will do briefings, please use this opportunity to discuss things with them.

Special Requirements

Please confirm to us in writing if you are a vegetarian or if you suffer from any allergies (i.e nuts, milk, fish) (i.e. vegetarian), allergies (i.e. nuts, milk, fish). Where possible our guides do try and accommodate clients with intolerances (i.e. gluten, lactose), however we cannot guarantee the availability of speciality foods en-route and we therefore recommend you to bring these items with you or purchase them prior to departing on your tour.



Luggage

We advise clients to be as light as possible when travelling through Africa. It is not a destination where you want to lug suitcases and heavy bags around. Lodges rarely have suitcase ramps meaning wheels are sometimes more of a hindrance and also impact on the case fitting in the lockers. On booking the pre-departure info will have a packing guide to help you prepare, however please note hard suitcases are not suitable. Soft bags are needed to fit in the luggage lockers.

Pre-Departure Information Booklet:

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure Booklet to help you prepare, below is some basic tour information.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details.

General Enquiries & Reservations	- info@detourafrica.co.za
Toll Free US/Canada	- 1-800-287-0823
Toll Free UK	- 0-808-134-9963
Toll Free Australia	- 1-800-897-833
Other Countries	- + 27 21 424 1115

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