

DESERT EXPLORER 2024: 07 Days | DTNACS/DTNCS (North)

Validity: 2024



All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice. Changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience where possible. Overnight accommodation stops can change without prior notification, depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour dossier one week prior to your tour departure date, however, changes are possible within 7 days prior to your tour departure.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travellers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average"!

Tour departure point

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

08:00am DoubleTree by Hilton Cape Town – Upper Eastside

31 Brickfield Road, Woodstock, Cape Town

Tel: +27 (0)21 404 0570, <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cptuedi-doubletree-cape-town-upper-eastside/>

Tour ending point

Haus Garrison, 4 Tobias Hainyeko Street, Swakopmund, Namibia

Tel: 002 64 403340 <http://hausgarrison.com/>

Maximum Number of Passengers

20

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 overland truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the overland 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

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - South Africa – Cederberg Region

Leaving Cape Town we make a last stop for a look back at Table Mountain from across Table Bay. No road trip is complete without a stop at a traditional “Padstal”, these small farm stalls dot the byways of South Africa and offer a variety of homemade treats and bakes. The Cedarberg 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. 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	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: 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
Included Highlight	Traditional Dinner

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, we 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 wild flowers 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	Felix Unite Cabanas http://www.felixunite.com/accommodation/cabanas
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: 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
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

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 to our overnight stop. At Ais Ais, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the mineral and sulphur rich hot springs.

Accommodation	NWR: Ai Ais Resort http://www.nwr.com.na/index.php/resorts/ai-ais-hotspots-spa
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with 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 Ai-Ais
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlights	Ais-Ais Hot springs

Day 4 – Fish River Canyon, Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

We rise early this morning and drive to the rim of the Fish River Canyon. We will have time to watch the morning sunrises 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	Schutzenhaus Guesthouse http://www.schuetzenhaus-namibia.com/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathrooms Camping: 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

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.

DESERT EXPLORER 2024: 07 Days | DTNACS/DTNCS (North)

Validity: 2024



Accommodation	Hammerstein Lodge http://hammersteinlodge.com/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: 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

Day 6 - Sossusvlei Dunes – Namib-Naukluft National Park

Today we will rise early for our drive to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. We will enter the park just after sunrise and travel through to the famous Dune 45. A brisk climb up Dune 45 offers us the perfect vantage point to marvel at the changing colours of the desert. 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.

Accommodation	Boesman's Camp (No website available)
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Sesriem Canyon / Hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei

Day 7 - Swakopmund

On our final day in the desert, we have the privilege of joining a local expert for an enlightening desert excursion. While bidding a reluctant farewell to the Namib, we make a stop to commemorate our crossing of the Tropic of Capricorn. Having taken in the wonders of the Namib Desert we turn west and head into the sunset to our next destination, the bustling coastal town of Swakopmund where adventure awaits along with a welcome touch of civilization. Upon arriving in Swakopmund, we will be presented with the opportunity to book any number of thrilling adventures available. Your tour comes to an end upon arrival in Swakopmund.

Accommodation	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through your agent.
Route	Namibia Naukluft National Park to Swakopmund
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Included Highlight	Tropic of Capricorn, Guided desert walk with local expert