

DESERT EXPLORER 2019: 07 Days | Cape Town to Swakopmund - Accommodated (North)

Meals Included on Tour

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOT
Breakfast	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
Lunch	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	4
Dinner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	6

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - South Africa – Cederberg Region

Leaving Cape Town this morning we make a last stop for a look back at Table Mountain from across Table Bay. The Cederberg region not only boasts spectacular mountains and orange farms, but it is also the home of the Rooibos bush and today we will visit a working Rooibos tea farm and see the plants of Rooibos and Buchu that occur naturally in the wild. Indigenous to the mountain slopes of the Cederberg, 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	Two per room with en-suite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Cape Town to Citrusdal
Activity Package	Rooibos tea farm visit

Day 2 - Namaqualand – Gariiep (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 OR Bundi http://www.bundi.co.za/orangerivercanoeing.htm
Facilities	Two per room with en-suite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Citrusdal to Orange River
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 – Gariiep (Orange) River – Fish River Canyon

While the Orange River was named after the Dutch Royal House, in recent times it has been referred to by its original name of Gariiep, 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 we depart the Orange River and head inland to our overnight stop.

Accommodation	NWR: Ai Ais Resort http://www.nwr.com.na/index.php/resorts/ai-ais-hotspots-spa
Facilities	Two per room with en-suite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Orange/Gariiep River to Ai-Ais

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 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	Schutzenhaus Guesthouse http://www.schuetzenhaus-namibia.com/
Facilities	Two per room with en-suite bathrooms <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop
Included Highlights	Scenic walk along the rim of Fish River Canyon / Visit to Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

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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 Namib Naukluft Habitat <http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/> OR Desert Camp <http://desertcamp.com/>
Facilities Two per room with en-suite bathroom
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route Keetmanshoop to Namib Naukluft NP

Day 6 - Sossusvlei Dunes – Namib-Naukluft National Park

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 Namib Naukluft Habitat <http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/> OR Desert Camp <http://desertcamp.com/>
Facilities Two per room with en-suite bathroom
Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlight Sesriem Canyon / Hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei

Day 7 - Swakopmund

Our final day in the desert comes to an end 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. We 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. Although your tour comes to an end upon arrival in Swakopmund, you will have the opportunity to book some of the many adventures on offer, should you wish to extend your stay.

Accommodation Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through your tour consultant.
Route Naukluft Area to Swakopmund
Included Activity Tropic of Capricorn, Walvis Bay Lagoon
Activity Package Guided desert walk with local expert

This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package.

Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be 'essential activities' on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package must be pre-booked along with your tour booking. We cannot always guarantee availability of the activities if you only book on the morning of your tour departure .

If you are travelling as a single supplement guest and have purchased the single supplement, please note that the single supplement does not cover any Activity Package items which include accommodation. All items booked under the Activity Package are booked on a per person sharing basis and you will not be entitled to a single room during these activities.

Activity	Price
Rooibos tea farm visit	R 180
Guided desert walk with local expert	R 370
	R 550

This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package.

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.

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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.

Tour departure point

07:00 am 40onBurg, 40 Burg Street, Cape Town, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0)21 426 4338, www.40onburg.co.za

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

Tour ending point

Amanpuri, Corner of Moses Garoeb Street & Anton Lubowski Street, Swakopmund, Namibia
Tel: +264 64 405587

What's included

Meals (Breakfast x 6 / Lunch x 4 / Dinner x 6) (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the truck) / accommodation / qualified crew / transport in the 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 / activity packages and optional activities).

Countries Visited

South Africa, Namibia

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"!
