

Sasendle Adventure Tours



Cape Namibia Route Southern Namibia Short Tour Special 2010/2011 7 days / 6 nights Tour Code **SNAMSHSP01 (G=Guided)**

The majestic Table Mountain disappears in our rear view mirror as we leave Cape Town and cruise north towards the South African/Namibian border. After crossing the Gariep (Orange) River into Namibia, at Vioolsdrif/Noordoewer, a wonder world of fascinating deserts, wildlife and vast ancient landscapes awaits the visitor. The great Fish River Canyon, the Succulent Karoo, the feral horses of the Namib and historic sites such as Aus, the 'ghost town' of Kolmanskop and Lüderitz are just some of the highlights to be explored in the south western parts of the country. While proceeding east into the Kalahari, we encounter a Giant's Playground and a Quiver Tree Forest.

The safari is guided and conducted in Sasendle 4x4 vehicles, with a min. of 2/max. of 12 participants. Accommodation is in comfortable guesthouses & tourist class lodges. Approx. 3100 km.

Day 1: Western Cape - Northern Cape - Namibia

We depart from **Cape Town** in the morning and travel north along the N7. After crossing the Gariep River, which forms the natural border between South Africa and Namibia, we soon reach our first overnight stop situated right on the river's bank. It borders the Ai-Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Park which spans some of the most spectacular scenery of the arid and desert environments in southern Africa. The park is characterised by a unique and impressive variety of plant species.

Orange River Lodge comprises of 12 double and family rooms, each with private bathroom, air-conditioning, TV and tea/coffee facility. Meals are served in a thatched lapa and a bar offers typical friendly Namibian atmosphere.

Overnight Orange River Lodge (DBB)

Day 2: Full Day Excursion Ai-Ais & Fish River Canyon

Spectacular scenery of rugged hills and granite domes line the first part of our route north through the fascinating landscapes of the Nama Karoo with its unique fauna and flora. A break at the Ai-Ais Rest Camp provides opportunities for having lunch (optional), taking a walk, enjoying a swimming pool filled with thermal water from a natural spring, and observing the rich birdlife at the southern end of the world's second-largest canyon: the Fish River Canyon. Carved into dark layers of rock by the Fish River that originates 600 km further north in the Naukluft Mountains and drains into the Gariep River south of Ai-Ais, its steep winding gorges are a sight to behold. On our way north to the canyon's most famous viewpoints near Hobas, first magnificent vistas of this natural wonder may be enjoyed. The Fish River Canyon, - approx. 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and 700m deep -, is a silent witness of the unfathomable forces at work that broke apart the ancient super-continent of Gondwana.

Canon Mountain Camp (DBB)

Day 3: Gariep River - Succulent Karoo/Aus

Depending on weather and road conditions, our tour continues west into the Succulent Karoo and to the fringes of the Namib Desert near Aus, either via Sendelingsdrift and Rosh Pinah or via the Klein Karas Mountains and Seeheim. Both routes take the visitor through the mostly uninhabited terrain of Nama Karoo characterised by wind-swept plains and rugged mountain ranges that support little else but crouching vegetation and small game species. This part of Namibia is situated in the transition zone of summer and winter rain falls and receives only very little rain during both seasons. When it does though, nature explodes into a kaleidoscope of colours from the tiny flowers of countless succulents.

We take a brief look at the historic village of Aus prior to check-in at our accommodation for the coming 2 nights.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista (DBB)

Day 4: Full Day Excursion Lüderitz & Kolmanskop

After traversing the gravel plains of the newly established Sperrgebiet National Park, previously known as the Prohibited Diamond Area, we reach the 'ghost town' of Kolmanskop where the first diamonds in Southern Africa were found, about 100 years ago. Once the most modernly equipped and busy base of fortune seekers, the Kolmanskop of today fights a never-ending battle against the shifting sands of the Namib Desert. During a guided tour around the remaining buildings, the diamond fever of days-gone-by comes alive once more.

Our next stop is the quaint harbour town of Lüderitz with its interesting German colonial background and curious array of historical buildings. Angra Paguena, the Little Bay, was already known to European seafarers in the 1600s but a permanent trading post followed a town were only established at the end of 19th century. In recent years, the harbor of Lüderitz – being only one of two natural deep-sea harbours on the Namibian coast – increasingly gained importance in the country's export trade. On the desert plains west of Aus live some of the world's few wild desert-dwelling horses. These magnificent creatures may often be observed roaming the sparsely vegetated plains and valleys of the south-eastern Namib Naukluft Park and gathering at a permanent watering point that was established in recent years to ensure the small group's survival also in years of severe drought. Although the horses' origins remain shrouded in mystery, even after extensive scientific research, it is great news for any animal lover that their number is on the increase again.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista (DBB)

Day 5: Namib Desert – Kalahari/Namibia

After a leisurely breakfast, our safari continues eastward and via Keetmanshoop into the south-western extents of the Kalahari that covers most of Botswana but stretches into Namibia as much as into South Africa. Commonly called a desert due to its lack of surface water this is anything but a desolate, lifeless place. Kalahari sand is very fertile given sufficient water and its magnificent vegetated dune belts support an array of wildlife.

On its western fringes, one finds extraordinary natural features such as the Giant's Playground made up of huge granite boulders, Namibia's densest quiver tree forest comprising of more than 5000 specimens, and Mesosaurus fossils that provide the most convincing proof that Southern Africa and South America were once part of the same continent. We visit these unusual sites en route to today's overnight accommodation.

Overnight Mesosaurus Camp (DBB)

Day 6: Kalahari/Namibia – Kalahari/South Africa

Today, our tour proceeds through the ever-changing landscapes of the south-western Kalahari in order to return to South Africa via the Noordoewer post to our last night's destination at Orange River Lodge.

Overnight Orange River Lodge (DBB)

Day 7: Return to Cape Town

Today we return through Citrusdal where most of South Africa's citrus fruits are grown, passed the picturesque Cedarberg Mountain Range and via Piketberg and Malmesbury to Cape Town.

Tour Prices: Please refer to our price lists for Guided Safaris

Departures: On request; tour operators are welcome to request fixed dates

Group Sizes: Min. 2/Max. 4 participants per 4x4 vehicle – Max. 12 guests per departure

Larger groups will be quoted on request & subject to availability of suitable services only

Inclusions & Exclusions

Southern Namibia Short Tour Special 2010/2011

7 days / 6 nights

Tour Code **SNAMSHSP01 (G=Guided)**

Included:

- SAT transport in 4x4 vehicle; Public Liability & Passenger Liability Insurance
- Services of a licensed English speaking driver-guide per vehicle
- 6 nights accommodation in comfortable guesthouses/guest farms and tourist class lodges. Meals as stated in program.
- Fees for nature conservation areas, sightseeing & activities as per itinerary (unless stipulated as "OPTIONAL")
- Portage in overnight facilities
- Non-alcoholic beverages on tour vehicle during overland drives (in limited quantities)
- Detailed itinerary & info on places of interest

Excluded:

- Flights / Visa & Permits / Travel Insurances of any kind
- Cost related to the personal use of 3G internet access & GSM cell phone provided by SAT on tour
- Tips & gratuities to hotel/restaurant personnel and guides
- Alcoholic and any other beverages in addition to those included above
- Any optional services/meals/activities/excursions not included/not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any expense of a personal nature such as for phone calls, laundry services, souvenirs, and similar

For more information about this safari please contact:

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