DESERT EXPLORER 2025: 07-Days | N(A)SC South (Camping OR Accommodated)

Validity: 2025



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"!

Please ensure that you have downloaded and read a copy of the <u>PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION</u> booklet as this document contains important information (e.g travel insurance, visas, your money, health etc) you need to know before you depart on tour

As your tour spends the day in the town of Victoria Falls on day 1, you are free to participate in the various activities available or explore the town. Please ensure that you report to Shearwater Explorers Village at the specified time below to meet with your crew.

Tour departure point

<u>07:00am</u> Haus Garnison, 4 Tobias Hainyeko Street, Swakopmund, Namibia

Tel: 002 64 403340 http://hausgarnison.com/

Tour ending point

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/

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 or Nomad to make these bookings.

What's included

Meals as outlined in the itinerary, which are prepared and served at the Nomad truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the Nomad truck / included highlights as per the itinerary / entrance fees to National Parks.

What's excluded

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

Countries Visited

Namibia, South Africa

Onward Travel

If you are interested to enhance your tour further, please contact us to receive a list of all the available options to suite your time frame and budget.

Green Seats – Travel Responsibly in Africa

Nomad has a non-profit Trust that looks after the people, animals and places that we visit. We realise that a footprint is left where we travel and for this reason, the Nomad Africa Trust was established. Your donation to the Trust is called a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box during your booking process (or contact us afterwards to add it) and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust is responsible for the administration of the funds collected from the sale of the green seats and these funds are distributed to various projects as identified by the Trust.

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TOUR ITINERARY

The town of Swakopmund is often referred to as the adventure capital of Namibia. There are numerous optional activities on offer which can be pre-booked and enjoyed prior to your tour starting. We suggest you arrive a day or two earlier to explore and experience Swakopmund.

Pre-Bookable Optionals Swakopmund Quadbiking / Dolphin Catamaran Cruise / Living Dunes Tour / Sandwich Harbour Dune Drive / Skeleton

Coast Cape Cross / Spitzkoppe Adventure Drive (min numbers may apply to activities)

Day 1 - Swakopmund to Sesriem

Leaving behind the charms of Swakopmund we continue our journey to Southern Namibia and the Namib Desert. While bidding a reluctant farewell to the ocean, we make a stop to commemorate our crossing of the Tropic of Capricorn this morning before turning east towards the heart of the desert. This afternoon, we have the privilege of joining a local expert for an enlightening desert excursion. Our local guide will introduce us to the wonders of the desert environment – an amazing introduction to the Namib that is sure to get all your senses ready for the next few days. An early night is advisable as tomorrow will see us up as the dawn breaks, but tonight we spend the night under the magnificent desert stars, knowing that the next day holds more adventures among the red sand dunes.

Accommodation Boesman's Camp https://bushmansdesertcapm-sossus.com OR Weltevrede Guest Farm

https://weltevredeguestfarm.com/OR Solitaire Roadhouse https://www.solitairenamibia.com/#roadhouse

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Swakopmund to Sesriem

Meals Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Tropic of Capricorn, Guided desert walk with local expert

Day 2 - 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 camp on the doorstep of the dune fields, we'll empty the red sand from our shoes and fall asleep to the unique calls of the elusive Barking Gecko.

Accommodation Hammerstein Lodge http://hammersteinlodge.com.na/ OR Weltevrede Guest Farm

https://weltevredeguestfarm.com/

OR Namib Desert Lodge https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/namib-desert-lodge

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei / Sesriem Canyon

Day 3 - Namib-Naukluft National Park Area

Today is put aside for you to relax and recharge while taking in the landscapes of the desert. Optional activities such as self-guided walks from camp are available.

Accommodation Hammerstein Lodge http://hammersteinlodge.com.na/ OR Weltevrede Guest Farm

https://weltevredeguestfarm.com/

OR Namib Desert Lodge https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/namib-desert-lodge

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with Shared Ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 – Keetmanshoop

This morning we pack up and turn east and head for Keetmanshoop. Every overland journey has some long travelling days and today is one of those as we spend most of the day driving onto our next destination. Our exploration of the desert concludes this afternoon with a visit to the Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playgrounds, named for the way in which the massive dolerite boulders have been placed on each other- creating rock formations and a series of mazes. Contrary to belief, the quiver tree is not really a tree, but a plant that can grow to between 200 – 300 years old.

Accommodation Schuetzenhaus Guesthouse https://schuetzenhaus-namibia.com/

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

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Route Namib Naukluft National Park area to Keetmanshoop

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Included Highlight Quiver Tree Forest, Giants Playground (this activity could take place the following morning)



Day 5 - Fish River Canyon - Orange River

The Fish River Canyon is the longest river in Namibia and the largest Canyon in Africa. We will drive to the rim of the Fish River Canyon and have an opportunity to stretch our legs with a gentle walk along the rim of the canyon, before we head further south and make our way to the Orange River, our final stop in Namibia. Our last night in Namibia is spent on the banks of the Orange River and the best way to experience the Orange River is by canoe. This afternoon you will have the opportunity to partake in an optional canoe trip on the river.

Accommodation Felix Unite Cabanas http://www.felixunite.com/accommodation_namibia/group_camping OR Norotshama River

Resort https://www.norotshamaresort.com/

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Keetmanshoop to Orange River
Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Quiver Tree Forest and Visit Giants Playground / Visit to the Fish River Canyon

Pre-Bookable Optional Orange River Canoe Trip (this optional activity could take place the following morning)

Day 6 – Orange River – Cederberg

A final border crossing sees us enter South Africa this morning as we travel through the desert landscapes of Namaqualand on our way to the Cederberg region. 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. Tonight we enjoy a traditional meal and celebrate the many memories we have made.

Accommodation Marcuskraal http://www.marcuskraal.co.za/index1.html
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Orange River to Citrusdal
Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight Traditional Dinner

Border Post Namibia: Noordoewer, Tel: +264 (0) 63 297 122, Open 24 hours

South Africa: Vioolsdrift, Tel: +27 (27) 761 8760, Open 24 hours

Day 7 - Cederberg - Cape Town

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 Cederberg region is known for its mountain fynbos and spectacular views of the rugged Cedarberg Mountains. Nearing Cape Town, you will notice Table Mountain appear in the distance and we will stop to look at Table Mountain from across Table Bay. Your tour ends upon arrival in Cape Town city centre.

Accommodation Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad.

Route Citrusdal to Cape Town

Meals Breakfast

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