# **DESERT EXPLORER 2025: 07 Days | NACSSG (Small Group)**

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

### **Pre-Tour Meet Up**

Join us for an optional pre-tour meet up from 17:00 to 19:00 the evening before departure, in the reception area of the DoubleTree by Hilton Upper Eastside Hotel (official departure point). It's a great chance to meet your fellow travellers and our crew, ask any questions about the tour, and complete any last-minute paperwork in a relaxed setting. Attending will help you feel more prepared and connected before the adventure ahead. If you can't make it due to prior commitments, don't worry—the morning meeting on departure day will still be available to finalize everything

#### 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

Stay@Swakop, 173 Anton Lubowski Street Kramersdorf, Swakopmund, Namibia

Tel: +264 81 634 5212, https://www.stay-at-swakop.com/

### **Maximum Number of Passengers**

12

### 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 tour itinerary / accommodation / qualified crew / transport in a 12-seater 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

## 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

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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.

## **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 <a href="http://www.marcuskraal.co.za/index1.html">http://www.marcuskraal.co.za/index1.html</a>
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

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

Route Cape Town to Citrusdal

Meals 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 <a href="http://www.felixunite.com/accommodation/cabanas">http://www.felixunite.com/accommodation/cabanas</a> OR Norotshama Resort

https://www.norotshamaresort.com/

**Facilities** Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

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

Route Citrusdal to Orange River
Meals Breakfast, 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 Ai Ais Resort <a href="http://www.nwr.com.na/index.php/resorts/ai-ais-hotsprings-spa">http://www.nwr.com.na/index.php/resorts/ai-ais-hotsprings-spa</a> OR Canyon Roadhouse

 $\underline{\text{https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/canyon-roadhouse}} \ \text{OR Hobas}$ 

https://www.nwr.com.na/resorts/hobas-lodge/

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

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

**Route** Orange/Gariep River to Ai-Ais

MealsBreakfast, DinnerPre-Bookable OptionalOrange River Canoe TripIncluded HighlightAis-Ais Hot springs

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

Having it's source in the eastern parts of the Naukluft Mountains, 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. Afterwards, 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 <a href="http://www.schuetzenhaus-namibia.com/">http://www.schuetzenhaus-namibia.com/</a>

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathrooms

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

**Route** Fish River Canyon to Keetmanshoop

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Included Highlights Scenic walk along the rim of Fish River Canyon (could be previous day) / 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 Taleni Desert Quiver Camp https://www.desertquivercamp.com/ OR Taleni Desert Camp

https://www.desertcamp.com/ OR Solitaire Roadhouse https://www.solitairenamibia.com/#roadhouse OR Namib Naukluft Lodge http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/namibnaukluftlodge.html OR Soft Adventure Camp

http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/softadventurecamp.html

Facilities Accommodated: 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

Meals Breakfast, 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. Our desert exploration concludes with a visit to the Sesriem Canyon. 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 Taleni Desert Quiver Camp https://www.desertquivercamp.com/ OR Taleni Desert Camp

https://www.desertcamp.com/ OR Solitaire Roadhouse https://www.solitairenamibia.com/#roadhouse OR Namib Naukluft Lodge http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/namibnaukluftlodge.html OR Soft Adventure Camp

http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com/softadventurecamp.html

Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite bathroom

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

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

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

## Day 7 – Swakopmund

On our final day in the desert, we have the privilege of joining a local expert for an enlightening desert excursion (this activity could take place the previous afternoon). 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 the bustling coastal town of Swakopmund where adventure awaits along with a welcome touch of civilization. Although your tour ends upon arrival in Swakopmund, you will be presented with the opportunity to book any number of thrilling adventures available.

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

**Route** Namib Naukluft National Park to Swakopmund

Meals Breakfast

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

**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)

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