

DESERT EXPLORER 2021: 07 Days | NCS - Camping (North)

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 **PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION 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.**

Tour departure point

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

07:00am 40onBurg, 40 Burg Street

Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)21 426 4338

www.40onburg.co.za

Tour ending point

Amanpuri, Corner of Moses Garoeb Street & Anton Lubowski Street,

Swakopmund, Namibia

Tel: +264 64 405587

Maximum Number of Passengers

24

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 83 3600 686

If calling within South Africa: 083 3600 686

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.

40onBurg Hotel

More than just comfortable rooms and delicious aperitifs, **40onBurg Hotel** focusses on providing personal, impeccable service associated with old-world hospitality, complete with all the necessary modern conveniences. Their warm and friendly, locally procured and experienced team are on hand to ensure you feel super-comfortable, well cared for, and completely at home during your stay! The en-suite rooms are luxuriously spacious by international standards with the smallest starting at 4.5X5 metres. 40onBurg is the official tour departure point and ending point for Africa Tours & Safaris, for Cape Town.

What's included

All meals which are prepared and served at the truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / 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

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Onward Travel

This tour can be linked with a number of our other routes, including Botswana, Zimbabwe and even East Africa. 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.

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 Campsite http://www.marcuskraal.co.za/index1.html
Facilities	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

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	Fiddlers Creek Campsite http://www.bushwhacked.co.za
Facilities	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 Vioolsdrift
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Spring Wild Flowers (Seasonal July – September)

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, crossing the border into Namibia. We make a brief stop at the mineral hot springs for a dip in the pool before arriving at our camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation	NWR: Hobas Campsite http://www.nwrnamibia.com/hobas.htm
Facilities	Campsite 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 Fish River Canyon
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Swim in mineral hot springs (swimming pool)
Optional Activity	Half-day canoe trip
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 4 – Fish River Canyon, Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground

We rise early this morning, pack up our camp, making our way to the rim of the Fish River Canyon. We arrive in time to catch 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	Quiver Tree Forest https://www.quivertreeforest.com/home
Facilities	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

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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	NWR: Sesriem campsite https://www.nwr.com.na/resorts/sesriem-camp
Facilities	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
Included Highlight	Sesriem Canyon

Day 6 - Sossusvlei Dunes – Namib-Naukluft National Park

Watching the sunrise over the red dunes is an iconic highlight of any trip to Namibia and this morning we rise before the sun to capture this magnificent moment. A brisk climb up Dune 45 offers us the perfect vantage point to marvel at the changing colours of the desert sunrise. 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 day in the desert continues this afternoon as we join a local expert for an educational desert excursion. 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)
Facilities	Campsite with Shared Ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Namib-Naukluft NP – Naukluft Area
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Sunrise hike up Dune 45, 4x4 shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei, Guided desert walk with local expert

Day 7 - Swakopmund

Our final day in the desert continues 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. Today we continue west and 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. Arriving in Swakopmund your tour will come to an end. You will have the opportunity to book some of the many adventures on offer, should you wish to spend additional nights in the town.

Accommodation	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through us
Route	Naukluft Area to Swakopmund
Meals	Breakfast
Included Activity	Tropic of Capricorn, Walvis Bay Lagoon