

NCS – 07 DAY DESERT EXPLORER

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 can be pre-purchased prior to your arrival or through your guide on day 1 of your tour. **This dossier has been written with the inclusion of the Activity Package items.**

Activity	Price
Kwa Ttu San experience	R 260.00
Guided desert walk with local expert	R 300.00
	R 560.00

Countries Visited

South Africa and Namibia

Vehicle

Adventure Truck

Malaria

None required.

Departure Point

8.00 am from 1st Floor Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket Street, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town, South Africa.
Tel: +27 (0) 82 578 2199. www.nomadtours.co.za

End Point

Dunedin Guesthouse Cnr. Theo-Ben Gurirab & Windhoek Street, Swakopmund, Namibia. Tel: +264 64 407 105.
www.dunedinstar.com

What’s included

Meals as indicated on the itinerary (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, registered guides and transport. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as “included highlights”.

What’s excluded

All items of a personal nature, alcohol, snacks, souvenirs, tips and optional activities (see list for an indication of prices).

Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some nationalities require visas for Namibia. See Pre Departure Booklet for more information.

Insurance

All clients require adequate Travel Insurance. Medical Insurance is not sufficient. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Travel Insurance is not provided. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website http://www.nomadtours.co.za/travel_insurance.html (Nomad World travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours)

Climate

The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information.

Currency and Banking

South African Rand is the most widely used currency on this route. Credit Cards cannot always be processed – especially in remote areas. Please see Pre Departure Booklet for detailed information on each country.

Vaccinations

No vaccinations are prescribed by law for the countries being visited on this tour. Please see the Pre Departure Information booklet for detailed information on vaccinations in Africa.

Onward Travel

This tour can be linked to the Desert and Delta tour or the South African Explorer beforehand.

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.

Arrival

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems.

Departure

Please book your flight to depart the day after the tour officially ends. This is to account for any delays that we may experience due to unpredictable road conditions.

Note: All information is subject to change without prior notice. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system.

Did you receive your Pre Departure Information Booklet?

If not please contact us at nomad@nomadtours.co.za and we will e-mail you the document; alternatively visit us at 1st Floor, Leadership House, 40 Shortmarket St, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town, to collect one. You can also download from our website at www.nomadtours.co.za. After hours contact number: +27 (0) 82 578 2199.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Country	Area	Activity	Price Range		
South Africa	Gariep/Orange River	Half Day Canoe Trip	R275	to	R495
Namibia	Swakopmund	Dinner at local restaurant	R200	to	R250
Namibia	Swakopmund	Quadbiking (1 x Hour)	R330	to	R380
Namibia	Swakopmund	Sandboarding	R275	to	R400
Namibia	Swakopmund	Sky Diving	R2100	to	R2300

Note:

There are more optional activities being created every day – we have listed only the most popular. If there is something specific you would like to do then speak to your guide as they will be able to assist you.

Day 1 South Africa – Cederberg Mountain Region

Leaving Cape Town we make our first stop at Table View and take photos of Table Mountain from across Table Bay. On the way to the Cederberg we visit !Kwa ttu where we enjoy a San guided tour & museum visit. After the tour, lunch will be prepared and afterwards we continue to our campsite in the Cederberg region. We arrive at our accommodation and your guides will give you a full briefing on the tour.

Meals:	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Marcuskraal: www.marcuskraal.co.za
Facilities:	Hot showers, shared ablutions, swimming pool
Included Activities:	!Kwa ttu San Guided tour
Route:	Cape Town to Citrusdal: ± 230 km
Travel time:	±5 hrs
Activity Package:	!Kwa ttu San Guided tour

Cederberg Mountains

The Cederberg mountains and nature reserve are located near Clanwilliam and named after the endangered Clanwilliam Cedars (*Widdringtonia cedarbergensis*), which are endemic to the area, growing at an altitude of 1 000 m to 1 500 m. Some species are believed to live up to 1000 years, but human activity has led to the destruction of most of the original forests. The mountains extend about 50 km north-south by 20 km east-west, the highest peak in the range is Sneeuberg (2 028 m). The area is defined by dramatic sandstone rock formations, often reddish in colour. Cederberg Wilderness Area was recently proclaimed one of eight World Heritage Sites within the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa. The area is also known for the San rock art and the discovery of important fossils, particularly in recent years. The fossils are of primitive fish and date back 450 million years to the Ordovician Period.

Day 2 Namaqualand – Gariep (Orange) River

An early start, we head north via the distant town of Springbok, best known for its diamonds, copper and spring flowers. We then proceed to our camp located right beside the Namibian border. The camp is situated on the riverbank that forms the border between South Africa and Namibia.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Fiddlers Creek Campsite www.bushwhacked.co.za
Facilities:	Water not drinkable, bar, hot showers, shared ablutions.
Route:	Citrusdal to Orange river: ±570 km
Travel time:	±10 hrs

The Gariep (Orange) River

The Orange River was originally called the Nu Gariep (“great river”) by the indigenous Nama people. It was named the Orange River by Colonel Robert Gordon, commander of the Dutch East India Company garrison at Cape Town, on a trip to the interior. Gordon named the river in honour of William of Orange, although a popular belief is that it was named for its colour. Nowadays known by its original name Gariep River, it is the longest river in South Africa, covering 1 800 km. It rises in the Drakensberg mountains in Lesotho, where it is known as Senqu, flowing westwards through South Africa to the Atlantic Ocean at Alexander Bay. On its long journey, the Orange offers a variety of vistas: in places seamed by rugged mountain chains and in other parts by endless dune fields. The river forms part of the international border between South Africa and Namibia and between South Africa and Lesotho, as well as several provincial borders within South Africa. Although the river does not pass through any major cities, it plays an important role in the South African economy by providing water for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The Orange River is also responsible for the diamond deposits along the Namibian coast. Over millions of years it transported diamonds from the volcanic pipes in Kimberley in South Africa to the sea. From there, the currents took them northward and the surf deposited them into the dune fields of the Namib.

Day 3 Namibia – Gariep (Orange) River - Fish River Canyon

This morning there’s the chance to see the beautiful river valley by canoe or just relax at camp. After lunch we cross the border and travel to the Fish River Canyon. After a scenic walk along the edge of the canyon we enjoy our dinner while watching the sunset. This is also a fantastic photo opportunity. *Optional Activities: Half-Day Canoe Adventure.*

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Hobas Campsite www.nwr.com.na/hobas.html
Facilities:	Drinkable water, small kiosk, hot showers (sometimes), small swimming pool, bar
Route:	Orange River to Fish River Canyon. ±210 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs and a border crossing
Included Highlight:	Hike along the rim of the Fish River Canyon
Border posts:	South Africa: Vioolsdrift, Tel: +27 (27) 761 8760, Open 24 hours. Namibia: Noordoewer, Tel: +264 (0) 63 297 122, Open 24 hours.

Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world and the largest in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia. It features a gigantic ravine, in total about 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 m deep. The Fish River is the longest interior river in Namibia, but its flow is now a puny trickle compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. It cuts deep into the plateau which is today dry, stony and sparsely covered with hardy drought-resistant plants such as succulents. The river flows intermittently, usually flooding in late summer; and when it ceases to flow it becomes a chain of narrow pools on the sandy rock-strewn floor of the chasm.

The Fish River Canyon area has a typical semi-desert climate. During the hot summer months (October - March) temperatures can rise to 48°C during the day and cool to 30°C at night. Relief from the heat comes in short spells with occasional thunderstorms. The average annual rainfall in the canyon area is 100mm. During the short winters, temperatures can go below zero at night, but quickly pick up during the day to a moderate 20 to 28°C.

Day 4 Namib-Naukluft National Park

We arrive at the Namib-Naukluft National Park and set up camp, then enjoy a short hike into the Sesriem Canyon. Tonight enjoy the star-studded sky and enduring silence of the Namib Desert, only occasionally interrupted by the call of a Jackal or, a rather unique lizard, the barking gecko!

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Sesriem campsite http://www.nwr.com.na/sesriem_campsite.html
Facilities:	Drinkable water, bar, swimming pool, hot showers, shared ablutions, shop.
Route:	Fish River Canyon to Namib-Naukluft Park ±560 km
Travel time:	±10 hr
Included Highlight:	Hike into Sesriem Canyon

The Namib Desert

The Namib Desert is one of the oldest and largest in the world, occupying an area of around 90 000 km², stretching 1 000 km along the Atlantic Ocean coast of Namibia. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for at least 55 million years, it is considered to be the second oldest desert in the world, after the Atacama Desert in Chile. It has less than 10 mm of rain annually and is almost completely barren, characterised by dramatic red dunes with sharp ridges, some of which tower 3 000m in the air, the highest in the

world. A section of the central Namib Desert incorporates The Namib-Naukluft Park, one of the largest national parks in Africa, as well as the Naukluft Mountains. Despite the harsh conditions, a variety of plant and animal life can be found in the desert. There are some unusual species of plants and animals that are found only in this desert.

The Sesriem Canyon, one of the highlights of the Namib Desert and the entrance point to the western section of the Namib Naukluft Park, was formed by the Tsauchab River, which carved the canyon out of sedimentary rock over the past two million years. During the rare rainfalls in the Naukluft Mountains, the river becomes rapid-running and strong and has over the years created the canyon, now 1 km long and up to 300 m wide. The water held in parts of the canyon provides water for a variety of wildlife that has adapted to life in this arid landscape.

The name *Sesriem* is Afrikaans and means "six belts", since the early travellers and settlers had to attach six belts together in order to reach buckets down into the canyon to scoop up water.

Day 5 Sossusvlei Dunes - Namib-Naukluft National Park

This is our earliest morning as we prepare for our hike up Dune 45 to marvel at the sunrise. After our hike, we will have the chance to visit Sossusvlei. Later, we join a local expert on a guided hike and learn more about the unique desert ecosystem and how the Bushmen survived in the harsh desert conditions.

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation:	Camp: Desert Shelter Cha-re (No website available)
Facilities:	Hot showers, good shared ablutions, swimming pool, bar
Route:	Sesriem to Solitaire ±100 km (excludes drive to and from desert walk)
Travel time:	±3 hrs (round trip into Sesriem plus drive to Solitaire)
Activity package:	Guided desert walk with local expert
Included Highlights:	Sunrise hike up Dune 45, explore Sossusvlei on foot

Namib-Naukluft National Park

Namib-Naukluft National Park is an ecological preserve in the Namib Desert. It is the largest game park in Africa, covering about 50 000 square km and a surprising collection of creatures survives in the hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, hyenas, gemsbok and jackals. Most of the life here is sustained by sea mists from the Atlantic and sporadic rainfall. The winds that bring in the fog are also responsible for creating the park's towering sand dunes, whose burnt orange color is a sign of their age. The color develops over time as iron in the sand is oxidized, like rusty metal; the older the dune, the brighter the color. These dunes are the tallest in the world; the most famous of which is Dune 45, which reaches more than 170 m. The dunes were numbered to make the area easier to navigate, and coincidentally Dune 45 is 45 km from Sesriem Canyon.

'Namib' means open space in the local Nama language, and the Namib Desert gave its name to form Namibia – "land of open spaces". The park was established in 1907 by the German Colonial Administration. The park's present boundaries were established in 1978 by the merging of the Namib Desert Park, the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park, parts of Diamond Area 1 and some other bits of surrounding government land.

The Park includes Sossusvlei, a clay pan in the central Namib Desert, fed by the Tsauchab River and known for the high, red sand dunes which surround it, forming a vast sand ocean.

Day 6 Swakopmund

After a brief photo stop while crossing the Tropic of Capricorn, we travel onto Namibia's Atlantic coast and the adventure capital, Swakopmund. Often there are flamingos at the Walvis Bay lagoon, just before we arrive in Swakopmund. You will be briefed on the many optional activities available here and then there is time to explore the town before dinner out at one of the local restaurants.

Optional Activities: Dinner out

Meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation:	Two per room: Dunedin Star Guest House: www.dunedinstar.com
Facilities:	En-suite, laundry, wireless internet, drinkable water
Route:	Solitaire to Swakopmund ±280 km
Travel time:	±4-5 hrs (including Walvis Bay)
Included Highlight:	Stop off in Walvis Bay to view Flamingos

Day 7 Swakopmund

This morning your tour ends. Keep the day free to relax, explore or participate in one of the many activities available here. Most popular are Quad biking in the Dunes or Tandem Skydiving. On a clear day's skydiving you can see all the way to the next day's destination! Taking a walk around Swakopmund's shops and having a leisurely lunch is also a great way to spend your day. *Optional Activities: Quad biking, Sand boarding, Sky Diving, Scenic Flights, Dinner out etc.*

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

Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 by German settlers, Swakopmund was intended to be the main harbour of German South-West Africa. Increased traffic between Germany and its colony necessitated establishing a port of its own, as Walvis Bay, located 33 kilometers south, was in British possession. The choice fell to a site north of the Swakop River, where water was readily available. There is a strong German architectural influence in the town, with its Bavarian-style buildings, including the Altes Gefängnis prison, designed by Heinrich Bause in 1909 and the Wörmannhaus, built in 1906 with a prominent tower, now a public library.

The area now known as Swakopmund was originally called "Tsoakhaub", a Nama word that can be translated as "excrement opening", an offensive but accurate description of the waters of the Swakop River when it flooded, carrying masses of mud, sand, vegetation and animal corpses to the Atlantic Ocean. The name was changed to "Swachaub" by German settlers, and with the proclamation of Swakopmund as an independent district of German South-West Africa in 1896, the present way of writing Swakopmund (meaning Estuary of the Swakop in German) came into use.

Surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides and the cold Atlantic waters to the west, Swakopmund enjoys a temperate climate. Rainfall is rare, but the cold Benguela current supplies moisture to the area in the form of fog that can reach as deep as 140 km inland. The fauna and flora of the area has adapted to this phenomenon and now relies upon the fog as a source of water.

Swakopmund is well known for adventure sports including: skydiving, sandboarding and quadbiking. Your guides will be able to assist you in deciding on a suitable activity, alternatively, spend the day exploring the town and enjoying the various coffee shops and souvenir shops.

Tour Ends

The tour ends at Dunedin Guest house www.dunedinstar.com. We suggest you book accommodation here for this evening. If you choose to stay elsewhere you will need to arrange a transfer.

TIPPING ON TOUR

Southern Africa: In general tipping in restaurants is expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides.

Our guides do work hard, but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. We recommend USD1 (or about R5) per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 3-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 3 envelopes are used and each crew member's name written on one. Place what you feel is fair in to each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

THE NOMAD AFRICAN TRUST www.nomadafricantrust.co.za

At Nomad we are passionate about the people, places and wildlife of Africa that make our tours so special. In order to give back we have set up the Nomad African Trust.

By the end of your tour you may have left-over local currency that you will not be able to change outside of its country of origin. Any assistance you could provide to the trust by donating this left over currency will be appreciated. Thank you for your help and please join our newsletter at the website above to receive regular updates on what we are doing to support our beneficiaries.



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Nomad gives you the opportunity to offset your carbon foot print by purchasing a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box on your booking form and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust will plant trees that are ecologically viable and that have very high carbon absorption.

Green Seats can be purchased at departure or on tour with your guide. For more information on our "Green Seats", please visit www.nomadtours.co.za/nomad_greenseats.html



THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING WITH NOMAD

At the end of your tour you will be provided with feedback forms. These forms are confidential and should be given to your crew in a sealed envelope. If you are not sure of the confidentiality of the feedback form please feel free to email us as well on

ops@nomadtours.co.za. Please make sure to also complete the feedback form as we use the answers on these forms to improve and maintain our service levels.

Accommodation providers are subject to change without notice, the accommodation listed in this dossier is our preferred supplier, but sometimes due to availability, we are unable to make use of the property listed in this dossier. If we cannot use the accommodation provider as listed we will substitute another property of similar standards.