



Cape Desert Safari (17NCDS11) – Tour Dossier

Introduction

This exciting holiday offers you a comprehensive insight into some of Southern Africa's best adventure attractions. Our unique itinerary has been carefully designed to maximize your experiences in the time you have exploring this incredible continent with us. From Cape Town to giant sand dunes in ancient deserts, ancient rock paintings to incredible game viewing experiences of Etosha National Park – find those unforgettable memories. Embrace the magic of Africa with a tour that will leave you with a desire to discover more of this dynamic and diverse continent.

Included Highlights

Cape Town Township Tour*
Sesriem Canyon
Sossusvlei Shuttle & Deadvlei Guided Walk*
Dune 45

Spitzkoppe, Bushman Paintings
Etosha NP, Game Drive

***Highlights are included in the Adventure Pass**

Intended Itinerary

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

The description below assumes you have purchased the optional Adventure Pass for the tour.

Duration: 11 Days
Countries visited: South Africa, Namibia

Day 1:

Cape Town – Western Cape, South Africa

Distance travelled: +/-260 Km
Approx. driving time: 4.5 Hours

Our overland safari begins in cosmopolitan Cape Town, overlooked by Table Mountain and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, one of the world's most picturesque cities. Before we leave the city we take a tour of the Cape Flats, at one of Cape Town's intriguing townships, visiting some of the local people and community projects in the area. The townships illustrate both South Africa's tumultuous history and its hope for the future which makes for a fascinating visit. From here we head north through South Africa's Western Cape and through the fruit growing region of Citrusdal. Our campsite is located near the Olifants River overlooking the stunning Cederberg Mountains. After setting up camp there is an option to sample some of the local wines of the region, properly meet the rest of the group and enjoy our first night under the African sky.

Accommodation: *Highlanders Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Lunch included on township tour, Dinner*

WIFI: *No*

Optional Activities: *Wine tasting US\$10*

Day 2:

Western Cape – Gariep (Orange) River

Distance travelled: +/-400 Km
Approx. driving time: 8 Hours

Continuing north, the landscape gradually turns drier and rockier as we head towards the Namibian border. We set up camp tonight on the South African side of the Gariep (Orange) River, a stunning backdrop. Our camp provides you with the necessary comforts like hot showers, flush toilets, grassy campsites and bar facilities. You will be briefed on an optional Orange River canoe safari for later this afternoon or the following morning. There is also the option to hike to the lookout above the campsite and the Orange River is safe for swimming! The camp by night is showered with stars of the Richtersveld – a truly peaceful and tranquil experience.

Accommodation: *Umkulu Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Canoe safari US\$40*

Day 3:

Gariep (Orange) River – Fish River Canyon, Namibia

Distance travelled: +/-180 Km
Approx. driving time: 3.5 Hours

This morning we have the opportunity to partake in an optional canoe safari on the river, or simply relax on the water's edge before entering Namibia via Vioolsdrift Border post, arriving at the majestic Fish River Canyon in the mid-afternoon. One of the natural wonders of Africa, the canyon is some 500m deep and over 160km long and often



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referred to as the second largest canyon in the world. There are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers this afternoon especially at the canyons infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hells Corner'. A great opportunity to find a quiet spot and marvel at the sheer beauty of the Fish River Canyon.

Accommodation: Canyon Roadhouse - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Canoe safari US\$40

Day 4:

Fish River Canyon – Sesriem Area

Distance travelled: +/-600 Km

Approx. driving time: 10 Hours

After a night near the canyon we continue north to the Sesriem Area, the gateway to the Namib Naukluft National Park, containing the world's oldest desert and highest sand dunes. The Namib-Naukluft National Park contains part of the Namib Desert and the Naukluft mountain range. With an overall area of 49,768 km² it's larger than Switzerland and is the second largest game park in Africa and the fourth largest in the world. Here we set up camp for the evening under the starry Namibian sky.

Accommodation: Little Sossus Lodge - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 5:

Namib Naukluft National Park – Solitaire

Distance travelled: +/-220 Km

Approx. driving time: 4 Hours

This morning we enter the National Park to trek to the top of famous Dune 45. A spectacular sight but be warned, it's not an easy feat to reach the top as some dunes are over 300m high! After a well-deserved breakfast we continue deeper into the park for a short shuttle ride and nature walk to 'Dead Vlei', amidst the giant sand dunes – a real glimpse of Namibia's un-spoilt natural environment. Bring your camera – the shifting colours of the desert as the sun climbs throughout the mid/late morning offer some brilliant photographic opportunities. Departing from the dunes, we stop off at the smaller Sesriem Canyon where the multiple layers of rock and pebbles make for an interesting insight to what lies beneath the mountains of sand. Thereafter we make our way to Solitaire - Namibia's smallest town for the night.

Accommodation: Solitaire Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 6:

Solitaire - Swakopmund

Distance travelled: +/-280 Km

Approx. driving time: 4.5 Hours

Leaving Solitaire, we head for the Atlantic coast for the next two nights, crossing over the Tropic of Capricorn, and stopping for a photo opportunity en route. Swakopmund makes for a refreshing change with cooler Atlantic sea air, a taste of civilization and a swathe of exciting things to do and places to explore Be daring and try some desert based adventure activities – quad biking, sand boarding, skydiving (weather permitting) and more! For those not seeking adventure enjoy what the town has to offer: shopping, restaurants, museums, aquarium, art galleries – or else simply walk along the promenade admiring the ocean, the quaint German-style architecture and indulge in the town's café culture.

N.B: For the sake of practicality, meals in Swakopmund are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back for meal times. Swakopmund town offers a variety of bakeries and cafes with a selection of reasonably priced meals (allow ZAR 50-100 per meal). Relax and enjoy these days at your own leisure.

Accommodation: Amanpuri Dorm Bed

Meals included: Breakfast x 1

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities – Sandboarding US\$50, Quad Biking US\$65, Skydiving US\$240, Deep sea fishing US\$120, scenic flights US\$300, Swakopmund Township Tour US\$40

Day 7:

Swakopmund

Today is a free day to enjoy all this quaint seaside town has to offer - from the many optional activities to the German patisseries, cafés and restaurants.

Accommodation: Amanpuri Dorm Bed

Meals included: Breakfast x 1

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities – Sandboarding US\$50, Quad Biking US\$65, Skydiving US\$240, Deep sea fishing US\$120, scenic flights US\$300, Swakopmund Township Tour US\$40



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Day 8:

Swakopmund to Spitzkoppe

Distance travelled: +/-150 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

Leaving the coast, we turn inland to the beautiful Damaraland region and explore Spitzkoppe where we admire ancient bushman paintings still visible on peculiar rock formations. The giant boulder-like rock formations peak at approx 1800m above sea level, and form a spectacular view. Take your time to explore the area and its delightful calmness. Keep an eye on the ever changing colour of the rock, especially during sunrise and sunset, when they acquire intense red shades. The most impressive rock painting is "Bushman Paradise" and the natural rock bridge is a favourite viewpoint.

The Spitzkoppe Rest camp lies at the base of the mountain and is owned and maintained by the local community. All proceeds from our visit go directly to this community.

Please note that some group members may be starting their tour on this day.

Accommodation: Spitzkoppe Community Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared basic toilet facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WiFi: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 9:

Spitzkoppe to Etosha

Distance travelled: +/-420 km

Approx. driving time: 6 Hours

From Spitzkoppe we turn north again making our way to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 sq. km surrounding a central salt depression or 'pan.' The pan is seasonally full of water but specially managed waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species. We spend two nights here, usually making camp near a floodlit waterhole. Observers frequently see a range of night visitors including elephant, giraffe, zebra, even lion and hyena, making it one of the most memorable wildlife encounters in Namibia - a truly African experience and a highlight of any trip to Namibia. We have a short afternoon game drive on entering the park and heading to the camp.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WiFi: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 10:

Etosha National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 250 Km

Approx. driving time: Full day including game drives

Today, we enjoy a full day game driving in this magnificent animal kingdom - taking in the park's main characteristic, the salt pan which can be seen from space - in search of elephant, rhino, zebra, giraffes and the numerous grazing animals frequently spotted around the water holes. Despite the dry nature of the terrain, the park sustains a wide variety of bird species including the large Kori Bustard, Secretary Bird and many other seed & insect eaters, as well as birds of prey.

After a full day game driving we return to camp, or onto the next camp and enjoy our last evening around the floodlit watering holes, observing natural animal behaviour at its best.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WiFi: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 11:

Etosha to Windhoek

Distance travelled: +/-420 Km

Approx. driving time: 8.5 Hours

Heading south, we arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, which is located in a basin between the Khomas Highland, Avas and Eros Mountains. Windhoek (Windycorner in English) is home to approximately two hundred thousand people, an extremely small capital by global standards. The city centre is characterized by a proliferation of German style buildings, a lasting reminder of Namibia's early colonial history and atmosphere.

Our safari finishes upon arrival in Windhoek.

Accommodation: No Accommodation

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WiFi: No

Optional Activities: Nil



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Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Camping Overland Tour

Travelling on an overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to 'expect the unexpected' in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile. Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

Africa provides an ever-changing environment, power failures, water and fuel shortages, temperature fluctuations, and other uncontrollable / unplanned situations do occur. You will need to remain flexible, understanding and good-humoured. "African time" can be difficult and frustrating for those who are used to a very structured life, so this is something to keep in mind!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

All tour highlights, 2- person dome tents, fully equipped safari vehicles, camping and cooking equipment, mattresses, service of two crew, all road and vehicle taxes, all ground transportation, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Adventure Pass Activities and Excursions (optional), visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks, sleeping bag and items of personal nature. **NB:** Lunch and dinner in Swakopmund on Days 6 & 7 is not included in the tour price

ADVENTURE PASS:

Every Overland tour has an Adventure Pass which is paid to your tour leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour (or pre-paid by arrangement prior to your tour). This is separate and in addition to the Tour Price, which is paid before travel, and is paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2006 edition notes). The Adventure Pass covers selected park entries, activities and excursions along the way where payment goes directly to the supplier. The purpose of the separate payment is to ensure local suppliers benefit directly from the income.

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS:

These are optional activities that are booked during your holiday and paid directly to the provider while on tour. These options offer a variety of experiences and allow you the freedom to decide what activities you would like to do.

ACCOMMODATION:

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, sewn-in groundsheets, zip-up insect screens and foam mattresses. We mainly use campsites, which usually have reasonable wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop, bar or swimming pool. The facilities on this tour may be more rustic than other destinations.

TRANSPORT:

24-seater, self-contained, custom-built safari truck with on-board tables, plug sockets, freezer, water tank, library, i-pod jack, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers.

GAME PARK VISITS

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience using local guides and smaller vehicles it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit.



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Tour Preparation

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Cape Town and Windhoek are well served by a number of airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the tour. Swakopmund can be easily accessed from Windhoek.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Cape Town. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 08:00 on day 1 and ends in Windhoek on day 11.**

Meeting point in **Cape Town**

Ashanti Lodge, Green Point

Address: 23 Antrim Rd,
Three Anchor Bay,
Cape Town, 8005

Contact Details: Tel +27 21 433 1619

E-mail: info@ashanti.co.za

Pre Dep Meeting: 18:00 prior to departure day

Tour start time: 08:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Windhoek:**

Urban Camp

Address: 2 Schanzen Road
Windhoek
Namibia

Tel +264 61 244251

E-mail: booking@urbancamp.net

Tour end time: Late afternoon of day 1

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Cape Town early on day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive the day before departure to overcome any jet-lag and to acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation for you – please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements. However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings.

If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of this part of Africa. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival but you can also pre book this with Acacia.

See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices**

Description	Price (USD)	Description	Price (USD)
Cape Town		Windhoek	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin/ double pp/pn	\$40	Post tour accommodation – Garden Tent Twin pp/pn	\$30
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	\$60	Post tour accommodation – Garden Tent Single pp/pn	\$55
Pre tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn	\$25		

ADVENTURE PASS

Paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2006 edition notes) directly to your Tour Leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour, or pre-paid by arrangement, the Adventure Pass of this tour covers the following –

Sossusvlei 4x4 shuttle & guided walk	√
Cape Town Township Tour	√

LUGGAGE

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. You also need a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A power bank is useful for recharging electronic devices. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, issued when you book.



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VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Please be aware that some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend you seek professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R
Namibia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R

R = Recommended, R* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required

NB To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk for other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
S. Africa	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Namibia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to:

http://www.acacia-africa.com/travel_info/travel_documents.php for more details.

In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for Activities and Excursions, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget South African Rand 150-200 per day (South African Rand can be used in Namibia). Also keep some US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

Spending money Spending money is best carried as cash. South African Rand can be used throughout South Africa & Namibia and can be obtained from an ATM on arrival. US dollars (Us Dollars in clean, un-torn, post 2006 edition notes) is also accepted for many optional activities & at markets throughout Africa. We have an on-board passenger safe for security and your guide will advise how and when you can exchange money (US dollars, Sterling or Euro) to local currency throughout the tour.

Currencies are as follows: South Africa – Rand; Namibia – Namibian Dollar. Please note that Rand is legal tender in Namibia at the same rate of exchange as the Namibian Dollar.

ATM machines are found in Southern Africa. Please note they are sometimes unreliable (and therefore should not be relied upon).

Credit cards can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).



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We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash and some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (USD)	Activity	Price (USD)
South Africa		Deep Sea Fishing	\$120
Orange River Canoeing	\$40	Scenic flights	\$300
Wine Tasting	\$10	Tandem skydive	\$240
Namibia		Swakopmund Township Tour	\$40
Quad Biking	\$65	Kayaking	\$70
Sand Boarding	\$50		

Responsible Travel

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

Contact Us

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Get Connected

WIFI on tour:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.

Join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travellers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter! Or tag us at #AcaciaAfrica

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Camping & Accommodated Overland Tours, Small Group Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, please visit www.acacia-africa.com