



## The Orange River Canoe Adventure

A river adventure on the Orange River is more than merely a river ride. The Richtersveld area with the majestic Orange River flowing through is awesomely beautiful. We offer you days of relaxation, visual beauty, incredible sunsets, nights filled with fun around the campfire and peaceful sleep under the stars.

Location - Noordoewer, Richtersveld area - Namibia, approx. 125km North of Springbok, 680km from Cape Town.

We supply all canoeing equipment, ie. 2 man Mohawk canoes, paddles and life-jackets. Experienced guides will accompany you providing catering, safety and assistance. All catering is handled by our guides and included in the overall price are breakfasts, lunches and suppers which are all five star meals. Liquor and soft drinks are however not included in the package. Glass bottles are not allowed on the river for conservation reasons, so please decant into plastic bottles or bring cans. We also supply buckets to keep all your clothes, cameras etc. dry and provide cooler boxes for drinks.

### Example Itinerary

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011

- 08h00 A meeting place will be arranged where you will jump aboard our luxury coaches.
- 08h30 Coaches depart from Cape Town for Noordoewer in Namibia.
- 13h00 Delicious Picnic Hampers will be served whilst on the move.
- 17h00 Arrive at Noordoewer in time for sundowners.
- 18h00 Dinner in Boma, under the exquisite starry skies, on the banks of the Orange River.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> November – 8<sup>9</sup>th November

Each day starts [for those energetic campers] with a stretch or functional training class, and [for those who prefer to lie in] coffee/tea in bed, followed by a sumptuous breakfast to build up the energies for the ensuing day ahead. You will be paddling downstream in your canoe, enjoying the warm water, floating, swimming and negotiating the easy Grade 2 rapids. Stopping for lunches will be an extravagance to be experienced. Sprawled under BOS beach umbrellas and on beach mats, you will be enticed with a chilled BOS cocktail, and noshing on a gourmet picnic luncheon. After

complete indulgence, you [and don't forget your buddy] will straddle, your only means of transport, and head off downstream, marvelling at ancient and spectacular rock formations, before drifting into your evening campsite only to be gob smacked.

On arrival at the evening campsite, put your feet up, enjoy a sundowner at your leisure whilst the river guides ensure that every comfort has been met. Our campsite massage therapist will ensure all strained muscles will be relieved of any tension. Your campsite will have been fully kitted out prior to your arrival with, either your bed under the starry sky or in a specially requested [add on] tent, a gourmet kitchen and a gorgeous themed social area.

Each evening will have a different entertaining theme, all of course accompanied by fine food and wines. Our themed evenings include a Colonial Safari sit down dinner, at a long beach banquet table decked out to the nines, accompanied by a wine and chocolate tasting. The next evening offers a tantalising, sensual Bohemian feel with freeform tents and lounge music to enhance the mood. Relax on large cushions and soak in the sensational Orange River sunsets. The final shipwreck evening will lull you into bamboo structures entangled with cloth and the drum of distant music. A treasure hunt leads to a well deserved prize

#### **9<sup>th</sup> November 2011:**

After another scrumptious outdoor breakfast, you will spend your last day on the river paddling to the takeout point.

There, we have coaches waiting for you and most importantly an ice-cold drink. It takes about 45 minutes to drive back to the base camp, where you can enjoy a shower and lunch.

After lunch luxuriate around the pool and bask your bod in the sun. Enjoy drinks at the pool bar. That evening, we will enjoy the Last Supper together.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

08h00 Breakfast in Camp

09h00 Depart for Cape Town.

17h00 Arrive in Cape Town

## **What is the weather like?**

Generally days are sunny. Between November and February it is extremely hot so come prepared. During the winter months it can get cold at night, so warmer clothing is required. Although this venue is in the desert, rain is not unheard of.

**N.B! Passports are required for entry into Namibia.**

**THE NAMIBIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE INTRODUCED A LEVY ON ALL VEHICLES ENTERING THEIR COUNTRY AND IS PAYABLE AT THE BORDER! PLEASE ENSURE A "ZA" STICKER IS ON YOUR VEHICLE. (R200.00 LEVY)**

For Emergencies:

Tel No. at Provenance: 00264-63 297161

RSA Operations : 027 761 8324

Ops Cape Town: 082 496 8951

To book, call : (021) 702 9400

## **NB! DONT FORGET YOUR PASSPORTS!!!**

## **WHAT MUST I TAKE**

#### **Essential:**

Passport

#### **Camping Equipment:**

Sleeping bag

Small Pillow

Torch / headlamp

Tent - optional (these can be provided at an additional cost should you not have your own)

Mattresses provided

#### **Clothing: (You don't need much if anything at all)**

Day clothing:

Costume

Shorts

T-shirts

Long sleeve linen / cotton top  
Kikoi / sarong  
Cap / hat  
River shoes (will get wet)

Night clothing:  
Shorts  
t-shirts  
land shoes (for dry land)  
windbreaker  
socks & underwear

The saying goes: **LESS IS MORE**

**Optional Extras:**

Fishing rod  
Camera  
Beach bats  
Frisbee  
Book

**Toiletries & Medication:**

Towel  
Personal toiletries  
Personal medication  
Insect repellent  
UV sunglasses  
25+ SPF Sunblock  
Good lip ice

**Refreshments:**

Whilst we have made provision to hydrate you with lots of champagne and wine whilst on the river at night, all other drinks are to be provided by yourself. We highly recommend that you bring along the following:  
Water - We suggest 3l of water per day.

First and last night at camp (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> November) will be a cash bar.

As the temperatures are really high and the water a magnificent warm..... degrees, we also recommend that you bring along your favourite chilled cold beverage e.g. beer/cokes etc. Rather bring too much, you can never have enough!!!! We provide ice and cool boxes to ensure that your drinks stay chilled at all times.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS :

- **What boats do we use?**  
We use 2 man fiberglass Indian mowhawks.
- **Must I bring my own Crockery & Cutlery ?**  
No we supply all your crockery and cutlery for the trip.
- **How do mowhawks differ from crocs?**  
The mowhawks are faster and more maneuverable. In a headwind they are much easier. They are also more comfortable and can carry more equipment.
- **What grade is the river?**  
The river is grade 1 and 2. This means nothing too big and scary. Suitable for the entire family.
- **Will there be a guide to paddle me ?**  
The guides allocated to your trip will have a lot of equipment to carry so we cannot guarantee they can fit an extra person in their boat. Should you feel you definitely need someone to paddle you down please inform us when you book, and there may be an extra charge for this service. Please note this service is not available in season. (Easter, September School Holidays, December)
- **Where do we sleep?**  
Your sleep in a tent.. Due to the wilderness nature of the trip there are no permanent structures at any of the campsites. However when in camp there is an option to stay in the luxury Cabanas with en-suites at an additional fee, please feel free to enquire.
- **Where do I go to the toilet?**  
Each trip takes a portaloos on river with them. This will be set up each night, and we use a paddle to indicate whether it is engaged or not. This will be explained to you upon arrival.

- **Can I have a shower?**
- You can have a shower on the first night at our base camp, and when you return to the camp on the last day. Whilst on river, you are able to bathe (using bio-degradable soap) every evening.
- **What is the weather like?**
- From November to the end of March it can be very hot. (over 40 degrees c) A good hat and sunblock is imperative, as well as plenty drinking water. April, May, Sept, and Oct should be a little cooler. But still be prepared for the sun. June, July and August, temperatures are usually in the 20's during the day, with cooler evenings and nights. You also need to take precautions from the sun, but also need warm clothes for the evenings. It can be colder during the day, so take a light windcheater and a polypropolene.
- **Does it ever rain?**
- It is not common, but it does sometimes rain. Especially in the winter months,
- **How do I keep it waterproof?**
- We will provide you with 3 x 25 litre buckets between 2 people. Generally you share one bucket for both sleeping bags, and then have one each for your personal gear. These buckets are waterproof as long as they are closed properly. The guides will give you your buckets on arrival and explain to you how to close them & secure them to your boat. We do also sell dry bags at our shop at the Orange river should you feel happier using one of these as added protection for your personal goods.
- **Do I need to have paddling experience?**
- No you don't need any paddling experience. Your guides will give you a full briefing on how to paddle.
- **Are the guides qualified?**
- All our lead guides are qualified through the African Paddling Association. (APA)
- **How many guides will be on my trip?**
- Each trip will be led by a qualified and experienced guide. He will be assisted by a number of junior guides, with varying levels of experience and qualifications.
- We generally allocate 1 guide to every 10 guests.
- **Can I get cell phone reception on river?**
- No
- **What happens in the case of an accident?**
- All our lead guides are qualified in first aid, and carry a first aid kit with them.
- In the case of an emergency, as with any wilderness adventure, the guide will have to make his way to a phone and call for assistance from there.
- **Can I drink the river water?**
- Although the river water is clean and you cannot catch any diseases from it, we do not recommend you drink it. We do recommend that you bring at least 3 litres of liquid per person per day.
- **How many hours a day will we paddle?**
- This really depends on the group. Some people paddle a lot faster than others.
- However in general you will paddle for about 6 hours a day. 3 hours in the morning and 3 in the afternoon.
- **What time will we have lunch/stop in the evening?**
- Again, this depends very much on the group. Your guide will decide when to stop. Generally lunch will be between 12 midday and 2pm. There are so many variants, such as the time everyone gets up in the morning, if the group wants to float or paddle hard, etc.
- **What time will we get back to camp on the last day?**
- In general you should be back at the camp between 11am and 3 pm on the last day. This gives you time to drive home that evening.
- **Will we travel into the Richtersveld National Park?**
- Yes you do. But the scenery is so fantastic throughout the trip, it is not really a significant moment when we get into the Park.
- **Will I see any wildlife?**
- You will see plenty of wonderful birdlife and perhaps a vervet monkey, or baboon. There are mountain zebra, small buck and leopard in the mountains, but you are highly unlikely to see them.
- **What time of year will the river be at its highest?**
- The river is dam controlled so flows throughout the year. However, as it relies on the summer rainfall areas of the country for its water, it should be at its highest in March/April.
- **I used to be able to get into Namibia with an id book.**
- This is no longer possible, you require a passport.

- **What facilities are at base camp?**
- The base camp now has a 160 seater restaurant serving 3 meals per day, comprehensively stocked shop for any last minute items you may have forgotten. There is also a 24 hour internet cafe and vouchers can be purchased at the shop & bar, the bar is fully licensed and overlooks the pool and deck area. We also have a laundry facility for last minute washing.
- **Cabana Accommodation available?**
- There are 17 Standard Cabana's sleeping 2 each and two Family Cabanas sleeping 4 each along with the all new Luxury Honeymoon Suite. All this is available on a bed only basis and can be combined with all river trips based on availability to extend your stay or add that creature comfort whilst on adventure. All Cabanas have en-suite bathrooms, aircon and mini coffee bar stations with fridges.



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