



## The Orange River Canoe Adventure

Felix Unite River Adventures have added this exciting and beautiful stretch to their portfolio.

This is a five day adventure on a section of the Orange that offers a variety of types of river, experiences ranging from desert conditions to lush date palms on the banks, rock gardens, the Khoum-Khoum falls, and a maze of channels and numerous fun rapids.

This section has been opened to try and reduce the impact of overcrowding in the Richtersveld National Park.

Pella to Goodhouse is not a section of the river that the man in the street can attempt without a good possibility of getting lost. Specialised guiding expertise and a sound infrastructure are required to negotiate the complicated maze of channels, rapids and the falls. Twenty years ago, two friends exploring the area each took a different split in the river, planning to meet at the next island. They saw each other five days later in Springbok!

This is not just another river trip, but more of an expedition. By using aerial photographs taken from a helicopter, it has been possible to chart a route, which has no more risk to clients than a hiking trail.

Pella itself is of considerable historic interest, as it was built by missionaries at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Unbelievably, two Roman Catholic Priests actually constructed a Cathedral in the middle of the desert, and without any formal training in building construction.

The concentration of bird life such as Goliath Herons, Bitterns, Rosy-faced lovebirds and an abundance of Fish Eagles on this stretch of river is breathtaking.

Felix Unite River Adventures supplies the infrastructure and all equipment, incl. lifejackets, 2 man Mohawk canoes, paddles etc... professional, knowledgeable river guides, excellent five star meals and camaraderie.

### Example Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive at starting point after 5pm. Your first meal, dinner, will be available until 9pm. If you arrive later there will be a hot water urn and coffee/tea/hot chocolate available. PLEASE DO NOT TURN OFF THE URN. Latecomers should endeavor to settle in with a minimum of noise, please.

Day 2: After a hearty breakfast and safety briefing, guests paddle off downstream. Each night is spent under the stars on the river bank.

Day 3 - 4 as above.

Last day, Day 5: Return to Starting point for lunch - thereafter depart at leisure. If you want to stay over, please arrange direct with Klein Pella Guesthouse.

### 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.

For Emergencies:

Tel No. at Provenance: 09264-63 297161

RSA Operations : 027 761 8324

Ops Cape Town: 082 496 8951

To book, call : (021) 702 9400

**NB! DON'T NEED PASSPORTS**

## WHAT MUST I TAKE

### PASSPORT:

You do not need passports for the Pella to Goodhouse Mission trip

### ZA STICKER:

Not Necessary

### WET GEAR:

Costume, shorts, hat or cap,  
track shoes /strops (something that will stay on your feet),long sleeved shirt, T-shirts, waterproof windbreaker.

### DRY GEAR :

Track shoes, underwear, towel, kikoi / sarong  
In the winter months a track-suit, woolen hat and gloves are advisable

### DRINKS:

Bring your own drinks, hard and soft, including water.  
This alternatively can be purchased at our base camp to avoid cross border taxes.  
Cans or boxes are a good idea (**no glass bottles, please**)  
**Ice and cooler boxes will be provided and there will be a re-supply point at the halfway mark.**

### GENERAL:

Knife, Fork, Spoon, Mug, Plate, Camera, small torch, toilet paper, toiletries (preferably biodegradable) compact sleeping bag, sleeping mat or air mattress, ground sheet, small fold up tent (advisable during the Winter months),insect repellent (please note that there is no Malaria in this region) sun protection lotion (a high factor is advisable during the Summer months) deck-chair and an umbrella

Please Note: air-mattress :our guides don't carry the manual air-pump. Please bring along your own.

Please will you take all vehicle registration documents with you, if travelling in own transport (This is the doc you receive from the traffic dept )

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS :

- **What boats do we use?**
  - We use 2 man fiberglass Indian mowhawks.
- **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. However it is more technical than the standard Orange River 4 & 6 Day Canoe trips
- **Will there be a guide to paddle me or my child?**
  - 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 the open, under the stars whilst on river and at camp. Due to the wilderness nature of the trip there are no permanent structures at any of the campsites.
- **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.
- **How will I get back to my car after the trip?**
  - We will pick you up at the take out point in a bus, and transport you back to the starting point, where you left your car.

- **Will my car be safe? And is their shade**
- The cars are parked at a farm that has 24 hour staff.
- **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,
- **Should I take a tent?**
- During the summer most people do not take a tent. There is however room for a small 2 man tent in your boats. During the winter it is recommended you take a tent, as the early mornings can be quite chilly.
- **Who carries all my gear?**
- You carry all your own gear in your boat with you, hence we use the mowhawks as they can comfortable accommodate all your gear.
- **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.
- **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 do I carry that amount of cool drink? What about my beers?**
- Each boat has a cool box, with which you can carry enough coldrink and your beers for 2 days. We meet you on your second day on river, to refill your coolbox with ice, and to give you the rest of your drinks. (your guide will indicate where to leave your re-supply drinks before you get on river)
- **Can my wife just join us at night in the camp?**
- Unfortunately there are only 2 access points on the river. One where you re-supply on day 2, and one where you take out.
- **If we do a 3 day trip. Where will we take out?**
- Your guide will decide. He will base his decision on the height of the river, weather conditions etc.
- **How many hours a day will we paddle?**
- This really depends on the group. Some people paddle a lot faster then 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 is the minimum and maximum age limits.?**
- We do not advise taking children younger than 8 years of age.
- There is no maximum age limit, though obviously you have to be relatively fit to do this trip.
- **How long is the drive to the river?**
- Actual driving time is about 6.5 hours. Then you have ½ an hour at the border, plus the time stopping on the way up. Generally 8 hours.
- **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 not applicable to this trip.

THE WETTER, THE BETTER