

African rafting and desert adventure



Highlights

On this South African holiday you will visit 4 of Africa's deserts, the second largest canyon in the world and spend three days rafting the mighty River Orange. Not only that, but you also get to go on safari as well! After 12 days on this adventure, we can guarantee that Africa will be well and truly under your skin.

Your twelve day adventure begins in Cape Town where you will leave the coast and city life and head inland towards the vast deserts of Africa. Passing through the beautiful mountain town of Ceres, home to many of South Africa's fruit producers, you will then leave the lush valley behind you and enter the semi desert of the Ceres-Karoo. Driving through this flat, rocky landscape covered with scrubby bush, you will start to get a feel for how vast South Africa is! You will finally reach Brandvlei, a quiet oasis town which will be your home for the night.

On the next day, you will drive deeper into the hinterland before reaching the magnificent Orange river – the longest in South Africa. After enjoying a delicious picnic lunch taking in the views, you will head to Augrabue Falls. The waterfall is 60 metres high and an awe-inspiring sight. The sound of the water cascading into the gorge below is almost hypnotic. Legend has it that there is a never ending supply of diamonds at the foot of the waterfall, if you squint your eyes you might see them glisten..

Onwards on the following day to the hottest town in South Africa, Upington. Here, you will stock up on supplies before continuing to Kaglagadi National Park. Enjoy watching an outstanding sunset above the rusty coloured sand and rocky shrubs of the Kalahari desert, before settling down to camp for the night. Take in the beautiful night sky and the sounds of the desert from your tent and prepare yourself for some serious wildlife spotting in the morning.

The park is home to huge herds of wildebeest, elands and springboks which make appetising prey for the predatory hyenas, lions and leopards also resident here. After 2 game drives, you will hopefully have seen many of these, but no fear if you have missed some, as you will transfer to another part of the park for more chances to see wild animals including giraffes and meercats.

Leaving the game spotting behind, you will set off for your third desert; the Namib. Your home for the night will be at a campsite right near to the Fish River Canyon. The second largest canyon in the world is quite a sight to behold and as you drink your sundowner here, we guarantee you will be lost for words.

Your rafting trip starts the next day as you begin your exploration of the 4th desert, the Richtersveld desert reserve. Your luggage will be taken care of, so all you need to do is paddle and explore the lush riverbanks with the rugged mountains as a backdrop.

Whilst you will be sad to leave the tranquillity of the river behind you, after 2 nights of camping wild on the banks of the river, you will be glad to have a shower! Chill out in a hammock at the rafting base camp before starting your journey back to the real world the next day.

You will return to Cape Town via the relaxed town of Elands Bay on the West Coast. Your final night will be spent here, where you will enjoy a delicious fresh seafood meal and a stroll along the endless beach before your trip of a lifetime comes to an end.

Prices from

1,335 GBP (12 days) per person

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Is it for me?

South Africa is a vast country and the distances involved in this journey are large, so you will be spending a fair amount of time in the car. Transport is in the form of a Land Rover, so sit back and enjoy the sights of the desert from the comfort of your vehicle. This is an adventure holiday, a chance to get well and truly off the beaten track, it is not about luxury. Your accommodation will be in a mixture of hotels and tents, so whilst you will have a roof (or canvas) above your head, it is basic camping, embrace it and enjoy the night sky and campfires, but don't bring your hairdryer!! Your three days rafting trip is obviously on the water, whilst you don't need to be able to swim, as life jackets are provided, it does help if you are confident in the water.

Accommodation

Apart from a night in a hotel at either end of your trip, you'll be camping in the bush. All camping equipment and meals are provided, the emphasis is on great food, think fresh seafood, camp cooking and meals in local restaurants.

Itinerary

Day 1: We depart Cape Town and drive through the beautiful town of Ceres, named after the Greek goddess of fertility, before we enter the first of our semi-desert area, the Ceres Karoo. We overnight in a hotel in the sleepy town of Brandvlei. Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 2: After a hearty hotel breakfast we drive further into Bushmanland, passing Kenhardt, before we reach Keimoes and the mighty Orange (Gariiep) river. We have lunch on the banks of SA's longest river, before we visit Augrabies Falls. Overnight camping in Kamkirri. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 3: Leaving early from Augrabies, we visit the jewel of the Kalahari, Upington, where we re-supply our stocks before we drive to the Kaglagadi National Park. We have our first game drive en route to Nossob camp site! Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 4: A full day of game drives! We leave as the sun rises and look for the majestic black-maned Kalahari lion, the vast herds of gemsbok and springbok and the illusive leopard. Also be sure to look out for the many raptors, abundant in this great park. We come back to camp at circa 10h00, have hearty brunch, and relax till about 15h00 before we commence on our second game drive for the day! Overnight camping in Nossob again. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 5: Today we make our way towards to south west and Mata-Mata camp, renowned for its giraffe. Be sure to look out for the little creatures that make the Kalahari special, meerkat, cape fox and brown hyena, amongst others. We follow the same plan as yesterday, with our second game drive in the afternoon. Overnight camping in Mata Mata. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 6: We sadly leave the park and head out at Mata-Mata gate, travelling through the straights of the Kalahari towards the majestic Fish river canyon, the 2nd largest canyon in the world. We have sundowners and dinner at the edge of the canyon. Overnight camping in Hobas, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 7: A short drive gets us to our base camp on the banks of the mighty Orange at lunch time. Here we pack our rafts and head of on a wonderful 3 nights in this mountainous desert, the only one in South Africa. All equipment needed for this great adventure is taken on the guide boats; you just paddle your own gear and a cooler box with drinks. Camp overnight on the banks of the Orange River, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 8,9: We explore this magical river eco-system, sleeping under the stars, swimming, hiking and relaxing in the beautiful Richtersveld, proclaimed a world heritage site in 2006. Overnight camping on the banks of the Orange, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 10: After lunch we transit back to base camp where we will have a well deserved shower and an ice cold drink at base camp. Dinner is served in the camp's restaurant overlooking the mighty Gariiep. We savour the adventure we shared over a glass of wine and a fine pizza. Overnight camping in Oewerbos, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 11: We start early and make our way south towards the lovely town of Elands Bay, a gem on the west coast. We have dinner in the world renowned Muisbosskerm, where a feast of fresh seafood awaits us. Our last night see us reminiscing about the fauna and flora and scenery we shared over the last 11 days. Overnight hotel in Elands Bay, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 12: After a leisurely stroll on the beach, we head south again on the west coast road, having our last lunch at the well known hotel in Paternoster. Be sure to visit the party bar on the way out! We arrive in Cape Town at circa 16h00 where we will drop you at your hotel.

Details

Price includes

Price includes Transport in land rover safari vehicles, all meals as indicated, all entrance fees into National parks, all hotel and camping, all camping and eating utensils, guides, onboard library, selected drinks.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

12 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

Not relevant