



Orange River Rafting Pre-Trip Briefing 4 Day & 5 Night

THE DRIVE

Vioolsdrift is situated on the South African side of the border between South Africa and Namibia. It is a distance of 690 km from Cape Town on the tarred N7. One should leave Cape Town relatively early on the morning prior to the trip departure date, as it is quite a long drive taking 7 to 8 hours by car.

THE BORDER POST

When you arrive in Vioolsdrift, you must first report to the customs officials at the border post and have your passport stamped to leave South Africa. Proceed over the bridge to Namibia, where you will be required to fill in a form before your passport is stamped. On the form, you are required to give the address in Namibia where you will be staying. Here you write – “Aussenkehr – Orange River” and “(5) five days” for the duration of stay. Once the Namibian authorities have stamped your passport, turn around and drive back over the bridge. At the South African border post explain that you are going to do a river trip with Bushwhacked Outdoor Adventures and that you just came to have your passport stamped. So in effect, you will have been stamped out of South Africa and into Namibia. On the last day of the trip, we are picked up on the Namibian side of the river and thus have to return from Namibia, so we have to carry our passports with us for the duration of the trip.

Please note: On arrival at the border, and the border is very busy i.e. long queues of cars and people - first come back to camp to rest. You can go back later e.g. after dinner.

THE CAMPSITE

“FIDDLERS CREEK CAMPSITE” – is situated on a small farm on the South African Bank of the Orange River, just 10 km from the border post on the gravel road. The camp is equipped with clean ablutions, hot and cold running water, flushing toilets, electricity and bar facilities. Your vehicle will be left at the campsite for the duration of the trip and we have a safe for your valuables.





THE TRIP

Please meet us at Fiddler's Creek campsite by no later than 5 o'clock (17h00) on the evening prior to the trip departure date. Here you will be met by your guides and given a pre-trip briefing on what to expect during the trip and a packing demonstration, followed by a delicious meal. The following morning you will be allocated your boats, shown how to pack these and given an in-depth safety speech by your lead guide.

THE 4 DAY 5 NIGHT TRIP

DAY 1

After breakfast and packing all the equipment into the canoes and/or rafts we get into the river from the campsite to begin our 4 (four) day river adventure. A slow paddle to the lunch spot will see that everyone gets used to paddling and controlling the canoes and/or rafts. We set up camp out in the open, under the stars on the bank of the river, at a site chosen by the lead guide, for the first evening. On the river there are no showers, toilets or power points.

DAY 2 & 3

Both full days of paddling, swimming and walks – each night camping under the stars at different sites further down the stream.

DAY 4

An early start after breakfast takes us to the takeout point at Aussenkeher or Sjambok (depending on water level) where our transport will be waiting to take us back to the base camp where we will spend the last night.

DAY 5

After coffee and a light breakfast, you set out on your journey home.

THE WEATHER

The weather is generally warm throughout the year, with hot days and comfortable nights. During the hotter months – November, December and January - temperatures can soar above 40°C. In contrast, the months of May, June, July and August tend to be cooler, and nights can sometimes get very cold. It's advisable to pack clothing suitable for both hot days and chilly nights.

THE BOATS AND SAFETY

We use crocs – two-man inflatable canoes that are incredibly easy to handle, highly stable, and unsinkable due to their inflatable design. Each trip is led by at least (2) two professional, registered river guides, who carry throw ropes and are trained in river rescue techniques. Every participant is provided with a life jacket, which must be worn while on the river.



What to pack?

The following is a guideline list of items to pack for the trip. Since everything must be carried on the canoes, it's best to pack as lightly as possible. We also recommend bringing older clothing, as your clothes are likely to get quite dirty during the journey.

- Warm sleeping bag with inner liner.
- Foam roll mat (available at most camping outlets).
- Small ground sheet or tarpaulin.
- Lightweight tent (optional – generally the weather is such that a tent is not required and one sleeps outside under the stars).
- Eating utensils – plate, bowl, mug, (preferably plastic or tin). Knife, fork and spoon
- Toiletry bag: toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving kit, hairbrush or comb, deodorant, biodegradable shampoo and soap.
- Strong black plastic bags (at least 4 per person) for waterproofing your personal belongings.
- Small personal first aid kit – a couple of plasters and pain pills.
- Insect repellent.
- Sun tan oil and sun block.
- Lip Ice.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- Hat or cap.
- Sunglasses with straps.
- Warm jacket, jersey or windbreaker.
- Long pants and warm top (for wearing in the evenings).
- Walking shoes.
- 2 x pairs of socks.
- Strops or flip-flops (to be worn on the river).
- 2 x shorts.
- 4 x T-shirts.
- Underwear.
- Towel.
- Fishing gear. *
- Small fold up chair. *
- Camera.
- Binoculars. *
- Gloves. * (to paddle with, e.g. cycling or climbing gloves)
- Sweets, chocolates, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
(please ensure that all refreshments are either in cans or decanted into plastic bottles, as broken glass tends to be hazardous in the river environment).

*Optional