

# Desert Canyons Safari, Namibia

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** This morning you will be met at Cape Town International Airport. Flights should arrive by 09:00am or before. Once everyone has arrived, set off on the road transfer to the start of the ride. This is a journey of approximately 7 hours.

This evening have dinner and overnight at a guesthouse in the Springbok area, situated on the edge of the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. Springbok is the last major town before the Namibian border.

The following is a sample itinerary to be used as a rough guideline of how the days might pan out.

Usually you can expect to ride for between around 4 and 8 hours each day, covering 20-50 km over varied terrain. The route, overnight stops and hours in the saddle can change, but always with your best interests in mind.



**Day 2:** After the border crossing, reach Holoog Ranger Station in time for lunch. Here you will meet the horses and back-up crew. Set off on your first afternoon ride in and around Gaap River with its fascinating rock formations and rich plant diversity.

Overnight at Holoog (meaning 'hollow eye').



**Days 3-5:** Set off on horseback following the Gaap River. Traverse several small canyons that criss-cross this very plant-diverse area, which is also home to a number of game species including giraffe.

You may have some faster, exhilarating riding as you cross the wide plains.

Camp at Canon Roadhouse, with its curious 'living museum' of old cars and movie memorabilia. And overnight at the intimate Mountain Camp Lodge with its spectacular view.



**Days 6-10:** Start the day with a transfer to visit the main view-point of the Canyon (visit is taken on foot). Later, continue riding. Being both a winter and summer rainfall biome, this area is known for its rich diversity and large herds of seasonal plains game.

Ride out to your overnight stop at the hot springs at Ai Ais where the deliciously warm water of the spring can be enjoyed in the afternoon – bring your swimming costumes.



Finally dropping down into the valley of the Orange River, spend your last night on the banks of the river.

Day 11: After an early breakfast depart on a c. 9.5 hour road transfer, passing through the border, and on to Cape Town.

You may wish to stay on a few nights in Cape Town, but if flying home today, flights must have a scheduled departure time of after 20:00.