

Outdoor Adventures **BUSHWHACKED**

Orange River Rafting

Overnighter

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. THE TRIP

DAY 1

Our overnighter starts at our campsite in the morning. Here you are met by your guide. He/she will assist you with the indemnity form, lifejackets and a dry bag to keep your belongings dry. Your guide will then do a safety speech – don't worry, no paddling experience is needed.

After breakfast and packing all the equipment into the canoes and or rafts, we launch from our campsite and start our day's adventure. Here you will have a chance to see the birdlife that the Orange offers us – kingfishers, fish eagles, and so much more. Your guide will gladly share some information on the area.

You can expect some fast-flowing waters and stunning mountains. There is a jumping rock waiting for the brave!

The trip is very relaxed. No rush. You're welcome to bring your camera – there will be enough time to take photos and to get out of your boat and take a swimming break. Half way your guide will stop at a suitable bank and lunch will be served. After lunch you will hop back in your boat to enjoy the rest of your day. In the afternoon, your guide will find a camping spot for the night and will prepare you a meal on the open fire. This is your time to sit back, enjoy the sunset and sleep under a sky full of stars.

DAY 2

Your guide will prepare breakfast on the fire. After breakfast, we will load the boats and get back on the water for another half day's paddle. Lunch will be served on the water.

When we get to our takeout point, a vehicle will be waiting for you to take you back to the campsite again.

4. THE WEATHER

Generally, the weather is pretty warm throughout the year with hot days and comfortable nights. During the hotter months – November, December and January it can become incredibly hot with temperatures soaring into 40 C. While

during May, June, July and August temperatures become cooler – with sometimes very cold nights. So, it will be advisable to pack appropriately.

5. THE BOATS AND SAFETY

We use crocs – which are two-man inflatable canoes. They are incredibly easy to handle, are very stable and as they are inflatable, are unsinkable. Each trip will be accompanied by at least (2) two professional, registered river guides, who each carry throw ropes and are well versed in river rescue techniques and each person is given a life jacket which they are required to wear on the river.

The following is a guideline list of things to pack for the trip. As everything has to be packed on the canoes and taken with us, it would be wise to take as little as possible. It is also a good idea to pack in your older clothes, as your clothes will probably become very dirty.

WHAT TO PACK?

- 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.
- Straps or flip-flops (to be worn on the river).
- 2 x shorts.
- 2 x T-shirts.
- Underwear.
- Towel.
- Fishing gear*
- Small fold up chair*
- Camera
- Binoculars*
- Gloves (to paddle with eg. 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).