

Trek Namibia



Duration: 9 days

This challenging and rewarding trek combines spectacular desert scenery with rugged mountain terrain, wildlife and local culture in a fascinating area of Namibia called Damaraland.

The Brandberg is located on the edge of the Namib Desert and is the highest mountain in Namibia (2579m). Named the 'fire mountain' for the colour of its western face at sunset, its massif has been eroded over millions of years into spectacular ravines and boulders, and there are literally thousands of ancient rock paintings in the area.

Just to the north of the Brandberg lies the Ugab River Wilderness Area. The Ugab is one of the main rivers in the Namib, although it is dry for all but a few days of the year. This area not only attracts large game such as specially-adapted desert elephants, giraffe, and mountain zebra, but also has the largest population of free-roaming black rhinoceros in the world. Experienced local guides who will impart their knowledge of desert-adapted fauna and flora accompany us throughout.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart London

Depart London for Windhoek.

Day 2: Arrive Windhoek – Uis

Arrive at Windhoek International Airport and depart immediately for Uis, an abandoned tin mining town, 400km by road to the northwest of Windhoek. This is the last outpost for fuel and supplies. On arrival at Brandberg Rest Camp in Uis, we will have time to freshen up before dinner and a detailed briefing. Night camp.

Drive approx. 3.5-4 hours

Day 3: Uis – Ugab Wilderness Camp

Sunrise sees us heading deeper into the desert. We drive approx 40km to the Brandberg Massif and the famous Tsisab Ravine, home to numerous rock paintings, the most famous being the 'White Lady.' We spend the morning (approx 3 hours) exploring the Ravine's unique treasures. After lunch we trek 8km along the dry riverbed of a tributary of the Ugab River, in the shade of overhanging Brandberg acacias and tamarisk trees. The evening is spent at Ugab Wilderness Camp, our last chance to shower for the next few days! Night camp.

Trek approx. 5 hours / 12km

Day 4: Ugab Wilderness Camp – Night Camp

Walking soon after sun-up, we drop into the shady Ugab riverbed where the cool of the morning lingers. The surface is soft underfoot and saps our strength and, as the sun starts to beat fiercely down, the going gets tougher. Midway is an area of swampy reed bed, where the riverbed, just for a while, becomes wet and green. Lunch is followed by a long rest in the shade of camel-thorn acacia trees; post-midday sun is just too fierce to consider any exercise. If we made good progress during the morning we should reach camp at around lunchtime; if this is the case then late in the afternoon, as the air begins to cool, we can walk to a vantage point and watch the Brandberg Mountain 'burn' with the colours of the setting sun. We camp amongst the trees just beyond a small farm where local Herero farmers corral their goats, eking out a living in the harsh environment. Night camp.

Trek approx. 5-6 hrs / 16km

Day 5: Wilderness Camp

We rise early as usual, heading further along the Ugab River. The surrounding terrain is still desert-like plain, interspersed with pink granite 'inselbergs;' literally huge islands of rock left from volcanic activity deep underground millions of years ago. More soft sand underfoot keeps the going tough, and once more we seek shelter from the midday and early afternoon sun. To the left of the river lies an abandoned mine, where miners searched for the mineral tantalite in years gone by; the machinery lies preserved in the sand. Our camp is a short distance further along, amongst the shepherd trees. Night camp.

Trek approx. 4-5 hrs / 14km

Day 6: Wilderness Camp

Again an early start, and we strike out along the sandy riverbed, where our route takes us among shady trees and high rocky ravines; we have a good chance of seeing tiny steenboks that have adapted perfectly to the desert environment. There may be boggy areas, green reeds and possibly even cool pools of water. Due to seasonal fluctuations in the river's layout, we camp where we meet our back-up team and have supper under the stars. Night camp.

Trek approx. 7-8 hours / 28km

Day 7: Trek to Save the Rhino Camp

The final leg of our challenge sees us trekking along the riverbed, where we walk under giant albidia trees. Here we pass dramatically-folded sedimentary rock, through which the river has cut its path to the Atlantic Ocean; look out for mountain zebra which inhabit the area. We cross the confluence, where another large riverbed joins the Ugab, and continue through this dramatic scenery. This evening, after many dusty kilometres, we reach our final destination: the Save the Rhino camp. Here the basic facilities, such as bucket showers, will seem luxurious after our long, hot and challenging journey!

Trek approx. 5-6 hrs / 17km

Day 8: Transfer to Windhoek; depart for UK

Transfer to Windhoek and onto airport.

[Lunch and dinner not included]

Day 9: Arrive UK

Arrive London early morning.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All transport from London to Windhoek return
- All meals except where specified, accommodation and camping equipment
- Discover Adventure leaders; doctor with group of 15 or more participants; local guides and support team
- Vehicle support and back-up equipment
- Entry to any National Parks and sites visited as part of the itinerary

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- Namibia entry visa (no visa required for stays under 90 days at the time of writing)
- Airline taxes: we cap these so £250.00 is the maximum you will pay
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Tips for the local guides and support crew
- Inbound airport departure tax (no tax applied at the time of writing)
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Any applicable charges as per Terms and Conditions



Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 20 Apr 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.