

## Guided Desert Hike in the NamibRand Nature Reserve

*This beautiful walking trail will allow you to experience Namibia's stunning desert landscapes up close and on foot. You'll learn about the desert's varied fauna and flora as well as its unique geology, as you traverse the dunes, rocky hills and grass plains that make up the NamibRand Reserve. The desert holds big and small wonders of adaptation that could easily be missed if you were seated in a vehicle – travelling on foot with an experienced nature guide offers the best way to fully explore the region. The hike is conducted in small groups of no more than 8 and at a relaxed pace that can be adjusted to suit the needs and fitness of the group. Each night you will set up camp in the desert and sleep under the stars.*



### Day 01 – Arrive NamibRand Reserve

Arrive at the NamibRand Reserve by lunchtime. (We can arrange for a private vehicle hire for you – the drive from Windhoek takes 6 hours; from Sesriem, approx. 2 hours. It is also possible to fly from £190 per person). On arrival at the reserve you will meet with your guide before departing on a scenic drive to the start point of the trail. Here, you will be given a rucksack with some snacks (you may prefer to bring your own); all you need to do is add your binoculars, camera and any other essentials, and then you're set to go! The rest of your luggage will be transferred by vehicle.



From the starting point, it's a short walk of 2 hours through the sand dunes to your first night's camp. The dunes you encounter will be small vegetated dunes, rather than the huge sand towers encountered at Sossusvlei. Less dramatic, perhaps, but much easier to walk across! On arriving at camp, enjoy a sundowner, and marvel at the changing sky as the sun descends and the stars come out. You sleep tonight in the open on a roll-up bed.

### Day 02 – Hiking and Wildlife

Wake early before sunrise to tea, coffee and a light breakfast, before setting off in the cool of the morning. You will be given a picnic lunch to pack before you depart, which you'll be able to enjoy at leisure later, stopping under shady trees to avoid the heat of the day.

During the course of today's walk your guide will be able to explain to you many of the fascinating aspects of the Namib, such as how the desert flora survives in this harsh environment by tapping underground water sources, and how insect life, which is prolific, has adapted to the harsh environment.



Birding is very good and you may be lucky enough to spot one of the Namib's endemics, such as the Dune Lark. Larger animals you may encounter include Oryx, Ostrich, and Desert Fox.

The “morning news”, as written in the sand of the dunes, is always fascinating and with some luck – and your guide’s trained eyes – you may spot some of the desert specials, such as the Golden Mole, Dancing White Lady, Barking Gecko, and the Flightless Wasp to name a few. You spend a good part of the morning on the high dunes, before descending the other side to a dry riverbed.



As midday approaches you'll stop at a shady spot for a picnic lunch. There is plenty of time to relax, have a siesta and reflect on all that you have seen. As the heat recedes you proceed on over the dunes towards your second overnight spot. The scene in front of you is an endless sea of dunes and “fairy circles” with a backdrop of magnificent mountain scenery. Photography is spectacular as the shadows on the dunes create an ever-changing palette of colours as sunset approaches. Upon arrival at camp, a delicious dinner is served to mark the end of a long day.

The sound of Barking Geckoes, the occasional

cry of a Hyena, the hoo-hoo of Spotted Eagle Owls, and more likely than not, tranquil silence, accompanies you through the night.

Walking time: Morning: 4 – 4.5 hrs / Afternoon: 2 – 2.5 hrs, sleeping out in the open on stretcher beds (BLD)

### Day 03 - Homeward

Wake shortly before sunrise. Enjoy a coffee and a cooked breakfast, before setting off through the dune field. The soft, rolling dunes are interspersed by camel thorn trees, which provide welcome shade and an invitation to rest. Today's walk is easy and you can expect to arrive at the farmhouse at approximately 10:30am.



Later this morning, you'll have the option to visit the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) - a non-profit, donor sponsored trust, which aims at educating and empowering Namibians to live sustainably.



Your desert hiking tour ends at the farmhouse. Unless you are on a self-drive tour, onward transfer to your next destination is at additional cost.

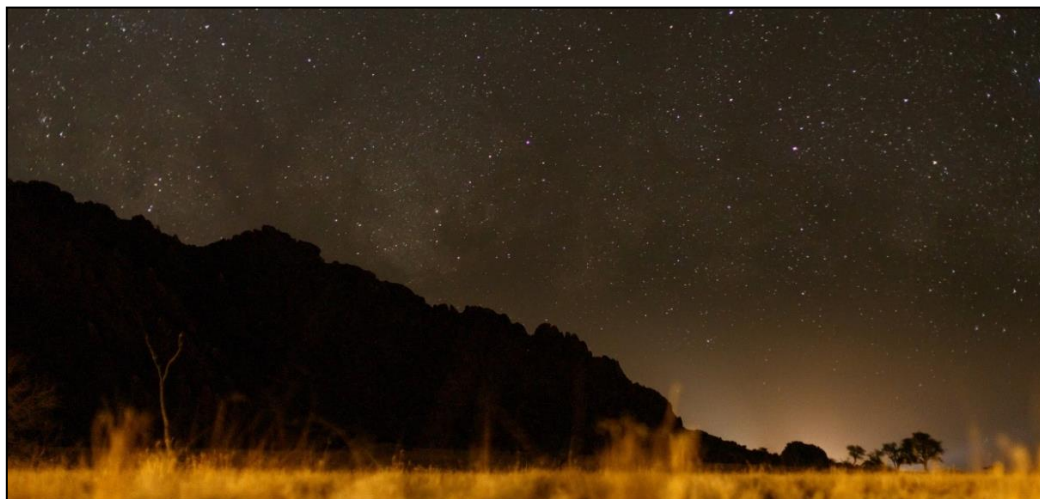
Walking time: Morning: 3 – 3.5 hrs (B)



**NB.** Sometimes this itinerary will be reversed, so that the same landscapes can be seen at different times of the day. This is at the operator's discretion.

This trip is 'hiking with style'! Although you will be in the middle of pristine nature, you can look forward to luxuries such as sundowners, 3 course dinners and meals out in the dunes, sleeping out under the stars, hot bucket shower and a toilet with splendid vistas. The back-up team do all the chores so you can relax and enjoy yourself.

Walking in a small group of 2 - 8 guests creates a unique experience. You will receive personal attention, and will have the space and time to fully appreciate the vast and serene calmness of the desert.



### **NamibRand Nature Reserve:**

The NamibRand Nature Reserve is a model for private conservation and low-impact tourism. The reserve integrates a number of former livestock farms into one huge protected area where wildlife can once again roam free. Comprising of more than 170.000 hectares the biodiversity is

astounding and includes endangered cheetah and lappet faced vulture as well as many of the Namib's famous endemics, including the Dune Lark and Grants Golden Mole. The funds generated through a daily per-bed fee from the few high-quality, low impact tourism concessions in the park sustain conservation and enable the Reserve to be financially self-sustaining. With its diversity of pristine landscapes it is a wonderful destination for nature-loving travellers.



## Climate

Winter and summer in Namibia differ from what you are used to in Europe. The winter in Namibia is the cooler dry season, which is characterised by high temperature changes and hardly any rainfall. It can get very cold at night in the desert (June to August down to -5°C). During the day temperatures may rise up to 25°C. The Namibian summer (January to end of March) is the rainy season and it seldom rains during the other months. November and December are very hot with temperatures over 30°C, so it is essential to pack suitable clothes. Rest assured that you will not encounter a grey sky.

## Star-gazing

The clear, unpolluted skies of the NamibRand Reserve provide some of the best opportunities for star-gazing in all of Africa, and there's perhaps no better way to experience the night sky than on a desert trek in which you camp under the stars. In recognition of its beautiful skies, the NamibRand Reserve was made Africa's first [International Dark Sky Reserve](#) in 2012, and is today one of only three reserves in the world with a gold rating from the International Dark Sky Association. To learn more, see the [NamibRand Reserve website](#).

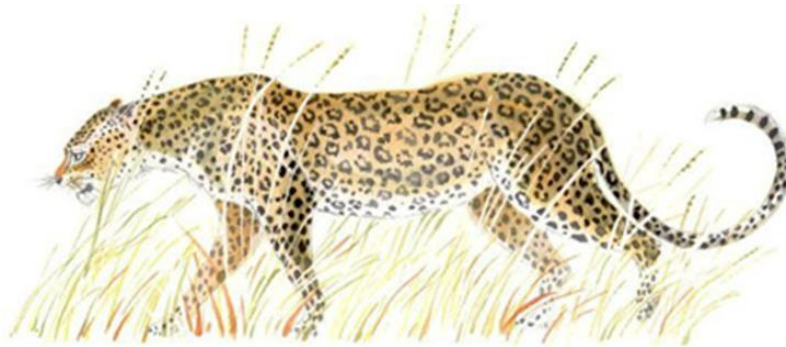


## Character of and requirements for the Trail

The trail is moderately challenging, but not intended to be an endurance test. A good level of fitness is nonetheless required, as the trail entails 7 to 8 hours of walking per day, albeit at a relaxed pace. Walking does not normally exceed 10 km a day; the pace is set to suit the group. Your main luggage will be transported by a back-up vehicle; you only have to carry a day pack, including picnic lunch, water and your camera equipment. You will mostly be trekking over sand dunes, and occasionally rough terrain. Please be aware of high temperature fluctuations, which can reach a high of 35°C during the day whilst sometimes plummeting down to -5°C at night, which can cause additional stress to your heart and circulation. We do recommend that you prepare yourself for the trail with some fitness training in order to get the most out of it.

## Notes

- 1) Personal packs should not weigh more than 10kg. Keep camera equipment light; a telephoto lens for animals and birds, and a wide angle for scenery are recommended. Whilst walking there are no facilities to charge batteries for video cameras so be sure to have sufficient batteries available.
- 2) You will sleep under the stars on comfortable stretcher beds in a bedroll. Under special circumstances (unfavourable weather, etc.) tents are provided.
- 3) Bathroom facilities comprise of a long-drop toilet, bucket shower and a hand basin.
- 4) All meals are included, the services of a guide and “back-up” crew, tea, coffee and juice, beer, wine and soft drinks are freely available in overnight camps.
- 5) Your guide will carry a radio transceiver and a first-aid kit in case of a medical incident. All guides have a working knowledge of first aid.



### Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£420 per person\***, based on twin share and travel during high season (July, August, September). Please contact us for low-season rates. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

#### Includes:

Accommodation and meals as described  
Activities as mentioned  
National Park entry fees

#### Excludes:

International flights  
Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote  
Items of a personal nature

*\* This price covers the cost of the walking tour only, not international flights or driven transfer to the NamibRand Reserve (flights from Windhoek are approx. £190 per person). This tour is typically booked as an extension to a longer Namibia itinerary, rather than as a standalone itinerary.*