

Exclusive Guided Desert Walking Trail at NamibRand Nature Reserve

- leisurely, personal, fully catered and expertly guided - 2 nights / 3 days

Vast and eternal, but also picturesque and enchanting, NamibRand Nature Reserve embraces its visitor. On foot is the best way to feel the desert as you can experience the amazing details personally and in your own time. Walking here induces the mind to relax, allowing you to fully immerse into the magic of the world around you.



Tok Tokkie Trails takes you close to the desert's stunning beauty. Whilst walking, you will discover many secrets of the Namib that cannot be experienced when driving. You will get to feel different aspects of the desert – from mountainous terrain to sandy dunes. Fog-basking Tok Tokkie beetles, barking geckos, dancing spiders, bat-eared foxes, and many more - the desert is not deserted at all. Let your guide introduce you to this world, relax with a sundowner and enjoy a three-course dinner before falling asleep under the stars...



NamibRand Nature Reserve

- a model for private conservation and low-impact tourism (www.namibrand.com)
- about 200.000 hectares of protected area where wildlife can once again roam free
- livestock farms have been restored to their former pristine state boasting the full biodiversity of the Pro-Namib ecosystem
- recognized as an International Dark Sky Reserve with gold status (www.darksky.org)
- diversity of pristine landscapes
- a soulful destination for nature loving travellers

> *Sleep out in your "dune suite" under the stars!*

Tok Tokkie Trails Itinerary

Open from: Mid of February to early December

[Meals: B = Breakfast, L = Light lunch, D = Dinner]



Day 01

You should arrive at the Tok Tokkie Trails base **by 14h00**, where our friendly team will welcome you with some refreshments. You can refill water and pack your small daypack for the personal items you would like to take along on the walk. Your luggage will be transferred to the overnight camp by vehicle. The trails starts with a visit of the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET), a non-profit, donor sponsored trust, which aims to develop environmentally responsible citizens of Namibia. (www.nadeet.org).

A short scenic drive takes you to the starting point of the Tok Tokkie Trail. Today, you will walk over a slope strewn with

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mysterious "fairy circles" and over rolling sand dunes to the first overnight camp. The dunes are not the massive ones encountered at Sossusvlei, but small, vegetated dunes that have a unique beauty of their own. At camp, relax with a sundowner, marvel at the magnificent scenery and start "feeling" the desert before dinner is served. For most the first night spent out in the desert will be unforgettable. If the sky is clear and moonless, you will quickly understand why NamibRand Nature Reserve is one of the few International Dark Sky Reserves in the world.

Enjoy the Tok Tokkie Trails "desert luxuries"!

Walking time: 1 – 2 hrs, sleeping out in the open on stretcher beds; [D]

Day 02

Early morning tea or coffee is served before sunrise followed by a light breakfast so that you can set off in the cool of the early morning. The highlights of the walk are the breath-taking views of the dunes and plains as well as the "coming alive" of the desert as the guide allows you to feel, smell, taste and see the oldest living desert in the world. The "morning news", as written in the sand is always fascinating and with some luck and the guide's trained eyes, you may spot some of the desert specials (golden mole, dancing white lady, barking gecko, dune lark, flightless wasp just to name a few). You walk over a mountain saddle before descending gently to a dry riverbed. During the course of the day your guide will explain some wonders of the Namib to you - how the fascinating desert flora survives, how insect and reptile life adapts to the harsh environment and how mammals can survive here without water. Birding is surprisingly good and you may be lucky enough to see one of Namib endemics, the dune lark. Larger animals you might come across include bat-eared fox, oryx, springbok and ostrich. As we realize that our survival depends on the water that has been deposited for us, this will probably heighten our admiration for the plants and animals that dwell here.

There is so much to discover – the desert is alive!

For lunch we will stop at a shady spot where you can enjoy the treats prepared by our chefs and fill up your water bottles. There is plenty of time to relax, have a siesta and reflect on all you have seen. As the heat recedes you start walking again up and over the dunes to your second overnight spot. The scene in front of you is a sea of endless dunes and "fairy circles" against a backdrop of magnificent mountain scenery. Photography is spectacular! The shadows on the dunes create an ever-changing palette of colors shortly before sunset. A sundowner and a delicious dinner after a long and enjoyable day are indeed welcome. You might hear some barking geckos, owls or just deafening silence.

Listen to the silence!

Walking time: morning: 4 – 4.5 hrs / afternoon: 2 – 2.5 hrs, sleeping out in the open on stretcher beds; [BLD]



Day 03

Once again you are woken in the soft light shortly before sunrise. Coffee and breakfast is served before you set off through the dune field. The soft and rolling dunes are interspersed by camel thorn trees, which provide welcome shade for a rest. Today's walk is easy and you arrive at Tok Tokkie farmhouse at approximately 11:30.

Walking time: morning: 3 – 3.5 hrs / afternoon: 0 hrs, [B]

Please note! Sometimes the trail is walked the other way around and the landscape will be seen at different times of the day than described above. This is at Tok Tokkie Trail's discretion.



Our service team transports your luggage!

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Tok Tokkie Trails Special Notes

1) Group size is limited to two to eight guests. Larger groups are possible on request.
2) Please arrive by 2 pm because once the group has left we cannot guarantee your transfer to the starting point. Extra transfers will be charged at the current rate. In case you experience a problem that prevents you from arriving in time please call +264-81 124 7398.
3) Lunch on day of arrival can be booked in advance (not included)
4) Whilst walking there are no facilities to charge batteries, so be sure to have sufficient batteries available.
5) Your guide will speak English.
6) Your luggage will be transported to the camps. You only need to carry the personal items you need during the day.
7) Tok Tokkie Trails is an outdoor experience. You will sleep out in the open on stretcher beds in a bedroll. All meals will also be served out in the dunes. Under special circumstances, e. g. unfavourable weather, tents are provided for sleeping, this is at Tok Tokkie Trail's discretion. Please also see the section on the climate.
8) Bathroom facilities comprise a long-drop toilet, bucket shower and a hand basin at the overnight camps.
9) Fresh water for drinking (from a borehole) will be available at the lunch spot and overnight camps.
10) If you have any special dietary requirements please inform us well in advance
11) Rates include all meals as stated above, the services of a guide and "back-up" crew as well as the group transfer to the starting point. Tea, coffee and juice, beer, wine and soft drinks are freely available at the overnight camps.
12) For the unlikely event of an accident or a medical emergency the guide carries a radio transceiver, a first-aid kit and he is trained in first aid. We strongly recommend all guests to take out medical and medical evacuation insurance with sufficient cover. Please be aware that Tok Tokkie Trails is in a remote location and there is no close-by rescue service.
13) Contact lenses are uncomfortable in the sandy and dry desert. Please wear your glasses instead.

What You Need to Bring

- Water bottles (at least 2 x 1 litres).
- Curiosity and good humour. Tok Tokkie Trails can offer you unforgettable experiences. In order to fully enjoy it, you must love nature and being outdoors with limited comforts.
- Camera equipment and binoculars – there are lots of opportunities to take great pictures!
- Comfortable worn-in walking shoes - NOT new shoes, these will cause great discomfort and spoil your walk.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen (at least factor 30) and insect repellent.
- Headlamp (torch) can be useful.
- Otherwise all equipment is provided, including a day pack for your personal things.

Clothing Needed

- Light and comfortable clothing, jacket and pullover for cool evenings, rain protection
- Especially in the winter months warm clothes, including beanie, scarf and gloves are a must
- Comfortable, closed shoes for the evenings
- A hat or cap for sun protection is essential

Climate

The seasons in Namibia are reversed compared to those in Europe. During the European winter months we have summer in Namibia and vice versa. The winter in Namibia is the cooler dry season, which is characterised by high temperature changes and rare rainfall. Especially at night it can get very cold (June to August down to -5°C). During the day temperatures may rise up to 25°C (but it can also be cool). These are differences that can be challenging for the body. Especially cold fronts from Antarctica can bring uncomfortable weather, although mostly only for a short time. The Namibian summer (approx. October to end of March) is the rainy season and it seldom rains during the other months but winter rain can occur – to be well prepared even rain gear might be advisable. The summer months can be very hot with temperatures over 30°C, so it is essential to pack the suitable clothes. Especially in the winter months, we

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strongly advise to pack warm clothes - beanies, a scarf and gloves might be very welcome at times!! But rest assured that you will not encounter a grey sky that will linger for weeks. Please note that the natural variability of the weather can bring about unusual weather conditions.

Character of and Requirements for the Trail

The trail is not difficult, but challenging. Fitness and good condition is essential as the trails entail 7 to 8 hours walking. Walking does normally not 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 a lunch pack, water and your camera equipment. As some of the routes lead through rough terrain and over sand dunes it requires well-balanced and secure walking. Please be aware of high temperature fluctuations, which can reach 35°C or more during the day whilst sometimes plummeting down to -5°C at night, which can cause additional stress to your heart and circulation. It is indispensable and vital to drink enough water. We recommend you to prepare yourself for the trail with some fitness training and if necessary get a health check.

Force Majeure

It goes without saying that we do our utmost to conduct the tour as described in the program; we cannot vouch for it, however. Unfavorable weather conditions, organizational problems, unforeseen events or other factors may force us to change the course of the tour. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Own Risk & Insurance

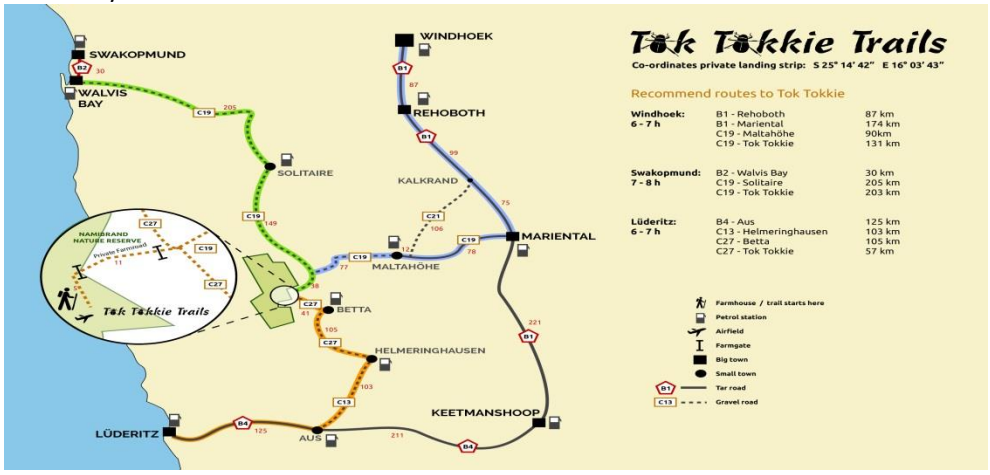
We explicitly point out that the participation in this tour is entirely at the guests' own risk. We urgently recommend that comprehensive insurance cover be taken out before embarking on the tour to

- make provision for cancellation and curtailment
- medical expenses, emergency evacuation, repatriation
- loss or damage of personal baggage

Unlimited Travel & Car Hire cc will not be held responsible for any costs arising from any of the above events. Restriction of liability also applies if clients are unaware of this policy.

How to find us

Tok Tokkie Trails is situated about 110 km / ca. 2 hours south of Sesriem, about 500 km / 6 hours' drive from Windhoek and Swakopmund. The turn off is about 400 m from the junction of C27/826 and D827. From the gate on C27/D826 (there is a signpost) you drive about 11 km through a fenced corridor to a second gate where you turn left until you reach the Tok Tokkie Trails base (Die Duine Homestead), the trail starting point (4x2, 4x4 is not needed). Please report at the base if you see any wildlife inside the corridor.



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