

# Wolwedans Active

This four-night experience combines the creature comforts of Wolwedans with two nights under the stars, hiking the breathtakingly beautiful TokTokkie trail. Spend your first night at Wolwedans, then embark on a close to nature hiking trail for two nights (sleeping on a stretcher under the stars) and reward yourself with another night at Wolwedans. If you seek more adventure, we can include some horse riding (subject to availability), hot-air ballooning and/or a scenic flight to Sossusvlei and the Diamond coast (subject to availability of planes). The options are endless, and we are by no means bound to the itinerary below.

Please engage with our [TravelDesk](#) to tailor your perfect NamibRand big short break. Here, in this land of endless blue skies, vast plains and countless creatures enacting nature's savagely exciting passion play, you will find beauty feeding your soul, tranquillity to clear your mind and space for your imagination to fly!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### **DESTINATION: NamibRand Nature Reserve**

**Programme:** Arrive before or after lunch (pending previous destination). If you arrive for lunch, you can take part in an afternoon nature drive with sundowners in the dunes. If you arrive later, sundowners in the dunes or at camp. Freshen up and enjoy dinner.

**Accommodation:** Wolwedans Dunes Lodge (full board & activities) or Wolwedans Dune Camp

### DAY 2

#### **DESTINATION: NamibRand Nature Reserve**

**Programme:** Awake to the pristine desert dawn and soak in the atmosphere and landscape from your bed whilst enjoying early morning tea. Breakfast at leisure. This morning lends itself to do a Wolwedans sustainability tour. Learn about water supply in the desert, power generation (by solar), visit the vegetable gardens, horse stables and workshops as well as our vocational training centre. You will gain good understanding of what it takes to run a highly sustainable safari camp or lodge operation in the middle of nowhere. Enjoy an early lunch in the vegetable garden or at Dune Camp, followed by a transfer to Die Duine Farm (Tok Tokkie base), where you meet your fellow 'trackers'.

The TokTokkie team welcomes you with some refreshments. You refill your water bottle and you receive a 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. Transfer by short scenic drive to the starting point of the Tok Tokkie Trail. Today, your walk takes you over a slope strewn with mysterious "fairy circles" and over rolling sand dunes to the first overnight camp.

The dunes you encounter during your hike are not the massive ones you see 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 hikers, the first night spent out in the desert is unforgettable. If the sky is clear and moonless, you quickly realize why the NamibRand Nature Reserve is one of the few International Dark Sky Reserves in the world. **Walking time today: 1 – 2 hrs**

**Accommodation: Stretcher under a blanket of stars**

### **DAY 3**

**DESTINATION: NamibRand Nature Reserve**

Early morning tea or coffee is served before sunrise followed by a light breakfast allowing you to set off in the cool of the early morning. The highlights of today’s walk are the breathtaking 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, 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 explains some of the 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.

**Walking time: morning: 4 – 4.5 hrs / afternoon: 2 – 2.5 hrs**

**Accommodation: Stretcher under a blanket of stars**

### **DAY 4**

**DESTINATION: NamibRand Nature Reserve**

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 the Tok Tokkie farmhouse at approximately 11:30. If time allows you visit the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET), a non-profit, donor sponsored trust, which aims to develop environmentally responsible children of Namibia.

[www.nadeet.org](http://www.nadeet.org)

**Walking time: morning: 3 – 3.5 hrs**

Before noon, you are transferred back to Wolwedans (Dune Camp or Lodge) and relax for the rest of the afternoon (perhaps you would like to enjoy a massage). You join a final sundowner drive, returning to camp for well-deserved a five-course meal.\*

**Accommodation: Wolwedans Dunes Lodge (full board & activities)**

## **DAY 5**

**DESTINATION: NamibRand Nature Reserve & beyond**

**Programme:** Departure after breakfast (by rental car, road transfer or plane)

**Optional Extra Experiences at Wolwedans (ad-hoc)**

- Horseback sundowner rides (April – October, pending availability of horses)
- Scenic flight to Sossusvlei and the Diamond Coast (pending availability of a plane)
- Hot-air Ballooning (can be pre-booked) on Day 2 or departure day
- Massage (recommended on last afternoon)

**TRAVELING:** There are many ways to reach NamibRand, the most convenient mode of travel would be to fly (we suggest seat rate for 2-3 pax and private charter for 3-4 pax). Flying is quite expensive though and hence you might opt to rent a car and drive. In case you would drive to Dunes Lodge, we suggest you leave your car there, and return to Wolwedans after Tok Tokkie. The third option would be a guided transfer to NamibRand by road (the journey is the destination) and a return flight out of Wolwedans or Aandster/Boulders. Your journey to the NamibRand Nature Reserve takes you via the impressive Spreetshoogte Pass, have lunch in quirky Solitaire (google it) and arrive at NamibRand in the afternoon (in time for as sunset in nature).

**PRICE: ON REQUEST. CONTACT [TRAVELDESK@WOLWEDANS.COM](mailto:TRAVELDESK@WOLWEDANS.COM)**

Cost of travel to and from NamibRand varies considerably, pending travel mode and is quoted in addition to the NamibRand package. Please contact our travel desk to discuss these options.

### **SERVICE:**

*Included:* Accommodation and full board at Wolwedans. Transfers to/from airfields (if applicable), scenic nature drives on the NamibRand Nature Reserve, Tok-Tokkie Trails (fully inclusive), emergency evacuation cover, taxes and park fees.

*Excluded:* Imported beverages and vintage wines, all optional extras, personal items

*Excluded:* Getting there and back. Air taxi (seat rate) or private charter from Windhoek/Eros to Wolwedans is excluded as rates change frequently. Quotes will be provided on request.

You can opt for a fly & drive combination. We can arrange a guided road transfers or self-drive to Wolwedans (possibly with one night at Sossusvlei). The options are endless and will be tailored to suit each guest available time, budget and preference.

***Air taxi information:***

The Air Taxi (Tiras Taxi) times from Windhoek to Wolwedans are:

- Summer: Check in at 09h15 at Eros Airport for departure at 10h00
- Winter: Check in at 08h15 at Eros Airport for departure at 09h00

The Air Taxi (Tiras Taxi) times from Wolwedans to Windhoek are:

- Summer: Estimated time of departure from Wolwedans between 11h45 – 14h00. ETA at Eros Airport 15h15.
- Winter: Estimated time of departure from Wolwedans between 10h45 – 13h00. ETA at Eros Airport 14h15.

The Air Taxi rate is based on a “seat-in” rate. This flight will do drop off’s and pick-ups en-route. It does not serve the Eros – Wolwedans – Eros route exclusively but includes other destinations along the route.

If you want to book this package, please contact our travel desk at [traveldesk@wolwedans.com](mailto:traveldesk@wolwedans.com)

**Special Notes on Tok Tokkie Trails (not operated by NamibRand Safaris)**

1. Group size is limited to two to eight guests. Larger groups are possible on request.
2. Lunch will be served at Wolwedans (12h00) before your transfer to Tok Tokkie (which takes about one hour).
3. During your hike there are no facilities to charge batteries, so be sure to have sufficient batteries available.
4. Your guide is English speaking.
5. Your luggage will be transported to the overnight camps. You only carry the personal items you need during the day.
6. Tok Tokkie Trails is an outdoor experience. You sleep out in the open underneath the stars on stretcher beds in a bedroll. All meals are 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.
7. Bathroom facilities comprise a long-drop toilet, bucket shower and a hand basin at the overnight camps.
8. Fresh water for drinking (from a borehole) is available at the lunch spot and overnight camps.
9. If you have any special dietary requirements, please inform us well in advance
10. 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.
11. In 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 rescue service nearby.

12. 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 humor. Tok Tokkie Trails offers you unforgettable experiences. In order to fully enjoy it, you must love nature and being outdoors with few creature comforts.
- Camera equipment and binoculars – there are lots of opportunities to take great photographs!
- 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 daypack for your personal things.

### **Clothing Needed**

- Light and comfortable clothing, jacket and pullover for cool evenings, rain protection
- warm clothes in the winter months, 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 characterized by high temperature changes and rare rainfall. It can and does get very cold at night (June to August down to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). During the day temperatures may rise up to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  (but it can also be cool). These temperature differences can be challenging for the body. 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. It seldom rains during the other months, but winter rain can occur – to be well prepared, rain gear might be advisable. The summer months can be very hot with temperatures over  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , making it essential to pack the suitable clothes. In the winter months, we strongly advise to pack warm clothes - beanies, a scarf and gloves might be very welcome at times!! Rest assured though 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 normally does not exceed 10 km a day; the pace is set to suit the group. Your 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 whilst we do our utmost to conduct the tour as described in the program; we cannot vouch for it, however. Unfavourable 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

### **Annual Closure**

Please note that the Tok Tokkie Trails are closed annually between 1 November - end February.