



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ORANGE RIVER

GENERAL QUERIES:

What type of boat do we use?

We use 2-man inflatable “croc” rafts. In the past we used 2-man fibreglass Mohawk-style canoes, however we found that there are more advantages to using croc inflatable rafts.

What are the benefits from using crocs vs. canoes?

- Safer because they do not capsize or break as easily as canoes when hitting a rock.
- No need to bail water out after each rapid as the crocs have a self-bailer built in through which the water flows out.
- More comfortable than the canoes to relax on.
- Plastic and more child-friendly – no more wounds from sharp fibreglass pieces.
- One can load more onto the crocs and tie camping equipment on the sides with safety ropes.
- Easier to steer, therefore safer in faster flowing water to avoid rocks.
- One can get in and out of crocs more easily than canoes - an important factor for swimming during the hot summer months!

When is the best time for fishing?

From the beginning of September to the end of October is the best fishing period. You can however catch fish any other time of the year. These 3 months is just the best time to fish.

What is the weather like?

From November to the end of March it can be very hot. (Over 40°C). A good hat, sarong and sunblock are imperative, as well as plenty of drinking water. April, May, Sept, and Oct should be a little cooler, however, still be prepared for the sun. June, July and August, temperatures are usually in the 20's during the day, with cooler temperatures from dawn to dusk. You will need to take precautions against the sun; however, you will need warm clothes for the evenings. It can be colder during the day, so take a light windbreaker.

Does it ever rain?

It is not common, but it does sometimes rain. Most likely period for rain would be in the summer months (January to March).

What time of year will the river be at its highest?

The river is dam-controlled, so it flows throughout the year. However, as it relies on the RSA summer rainfall areas for its water, it should be at its highest in March/April.

What grade is the river?

The river is grade 1 and 2. This means nothing too big and scary. It is suitable for the entire family.

Will there be a guide to paddle with me or my child?

The guides allocated to your trip will have a lot of equipment to carry so they cannot fit an extra person in their boat. Should you feel you need someone to paddle you down please inform us when you book so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Do I need to have paddling experience?

No you don't need any paddling experience. Your guides will give you a full briefing on how to paddle.

How many guides will be on my trip?

We generally allocate 1 guide to every 10 guests.

What is the minimum and maximum age limits for rafting?

We do not advise taking children younger than 5 years of age.

There is no maximum age limit, though obviously you must be relatively fit to do this trip.

Can I fly to Noordoewer?

There is a small private air strip, where a chartered plane can land. Immigration has to be done at Alexander Bay.

Can I fly to Springbok?

There are flights to Springbok at times; however, it is mostly for chartered planes. It is still a 1.5 hours' drive to our camp. Vehicle hire is not easily accessible in Springbok.

Can I fly to Upington?

Yes, however it is still a good 5 hours' drive to our camp.

What is the driving time from Cape Town?

+/- 7 hours self-drive.

What is the driving time from Johannesburg?

+/- 12 hours self-drive.

Where is the Bundi Base Camp?

Approximately 10km from the Namibia border at Noordoewer – on the Namibian side.

When does the Noordoewer border close?

They are open 24hrs a day – vehicle pay for motor cars, bakkies and minibuses are R371.00 (subject to change).

Contact number for the border: 00264-63-297122

What documents do I require to enter Namibia?

1. Valid Passport. It must be valid for 6 months from the exit date with at least 2 blank pages.
2. Visa if you are from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, China, Slovakia, or Slovenia. This list can be updated at any time – please always check with the Namibia High Commission +27 (012) 481 9100 or visit <https://www.visahq.co.uk/namibia/> and select your country of origin.
3. Vehicle documents and Country sticker for vehicle
4. All minors to have Unabridged birth certificates as well as Passports when travelling with both parents. If traveling with only one parent or guardian, they will also require an Affidavit from the absent parent/legal guardian. The affidavit is to be signed and stamped by a commissioner of Oaths. For more information, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2RdIKL7>
5. Please check with the border for any special health requirements or regulations. It is the customers own responsibility to be updated on these types of requirements.

Vooldsdrift Border:

Namibian side

Tel: 00264-63-297122

Fax: 00264-63-297021

South African side

Tel: +27(0)27 761 8760

Fax: +27(0)27 761 8931

Nakop Border:

Tel: +264(0)63 280 057

Fax: +264(0)63 280 058

Tel: +27(0)54 571 0008

Fax: +27(0)54 571 0009

What documents are required for my vehicle to cross the border?

If your vehicle documents are not in order, you will not be able to cross the border. You must have the following documents available:

- Valid Passport of driver
- Valid driver's licence
- Certified copy of vehicle registration papers (The Chassis, engine number, trailer number, and license details will be checked by the police.)
- Proof of ownership of the vehicle by owner or Rental Company
- If vehicle is hired, you will need to have the Rental company contract documents with you.
- If the vehicle is still being financed, carry a letter of authority from the bank (must include dates of travel) together with the vehicle papers.
- ZA sticker
- Motor Insurance Certificate – this you will obtain at the Border. It will be valid for 30 days.

What vaccinations are compulsory?

Yellow fever (if coming from an affected area)

How do I enter the campsite, do I need specific documents?

Our camp has all the details of clients arriving. So, you can just arrive, book in with the camp managers and enjoy the surroundings.

Where do I leave my passport & car keys?

You can lock your passport in your vehicle; all valuables are to be stored in your vehicle. Your vehicle keys can be handed in with the camp managers for safe keeping during your trip. Note that you will have to carry a certified copy of your passport with you on the river.

Does a SA cell phone work on the border to phone home?

You will still have Vodacom and MTN reception at the border and in our basecamp. For the other networks there is no signal at base camp and very little at the border. Note that there is no pay phone available at the camp.

Will my car be safe? And is there shade?

There are people at the camp 24 hours, however parking is at own risk. We do have shade, but not necessarily for everyone's car.

Are there power points at the Bundi base camp campsites?

Yes, we have power points at most of the campsites. Please check with the camp managers.

Can I drink the river water?

Although the river water is clean, we do not recommend drinking it. We do recommend that you bring at least 2 liters of water per person per day.

Do you cater for dietary needs?

Any special dietary requirements you may have should be specified clearly on your booking form when booking your rafting trip. We only cater for basic and vegetarian diets. For any other dietary need you are encouraged to bring your own preferred replacement products with. We will supply you with our detailed menu for you to gauge what replacement products you will need to bring. We offer a discount of R200.00 per person with a dietary need we do not cater for.

Do you have space in your fridges at the camp for my drinks?

No, we do not have space in our fridges to keep your drinks cool.

How do I keep my drinks cold?

The colder your drinks are on arrival, the longer your drinks will stay cold. We suggest that you freeze some of your drinks before you arrive at camp. Then place your frozen drinks in the cooler box. If all your drinks are fizzy drinks, then freeze a few small bottles of water to place in your cooler and you can then drink it as it defrosts.

Is there ice available?

Ice is a commodity on the river. You can purchase non-consumable 5lt blocks of ice upon arrival at our bar (cashless credit card only) to place in your cooler to keep your drinks cold. We will provide you with non-consumable ice the morning you go onto the river and on resupply to keep your cooler cold. We also have consumable ice available at the bar in the camp. If you wish to have consumable ice delivered at the resupply point, please arrange for it with the bar. All ice sales are cashless, credit card only based sales. Resupply is not available for half day, 1 day, 2-day and 3-day trips.

Where can I buy alcoholic drinks, cooldrinks and ice?

We have a bar at the camp that stocks consumable ice, basic beers, liquor and cooldrinks. The bar is a cashless, credit card-only bar. Alternatively, if one of our vehicles is going to Aussenkehr we can purchase you cooldrinks and/or snacks (no alcoholic beverages) at Spar. You will need to supply the cash for these purchases. We will purchase what the store has available and return your change with a slip from Spar. You can pre-order drinks and consumable ice from the bar to be delivered at resupply.

Can I pay for goods with ZAR(South African Rand) in Namibia?

Namibia's national currency is the Namibian Dollar (NAD). It was linked to the South African Rand on a one-to-one exchange rate, however from 1 April 2024 you will no longer be able to pay for your purchases in Namibia with ZAR.

When is the best time to fish on the Orange River?

Basically, any month that contains an R. ☺ Best months would be September and October and when the water is on a lower stable level for a long time.

TRIP QUERIES:**How will it work from arrival until we start our trip?**

On the arrival evening after dinner (served at about 7pm) we will have a packing speech to explain how to pack your personal items and luggage in your barrel (60-liter capacity) as well as what liquid refreshments you may/can take on the river (no glass allowed). Then there will be time for questions – thereafter we will retire for the evening. The next morning, after breakfast, we will have the safety talk. We will explain how to paddle, what to do if you capsize and how to be safe in the rapids. Thereafter you will begin your adventure on the river.

Must I supply my own Crockery and Cutlery?

No, this is included in your fishing package.

Should I take a tent?

No, this is included in your fishing package.

Where do I go to the toilet?

Each trip takes a portaloos on river with them. This will be set up each night, and we use a paddle to indicate whether it is engaged or not. This will be explained to you upon arrival.

Where do we sleep?

As part of the fishing package you are booked into one of our en-suite chalets for the first and the last night at our camp (if we have availability). When you are on the river, you will sleep in the open on the riverbanks with camping gear supplied by us. Due to the wilderness nature of the trip, there are no permanent structures at any of the campsites along the river.

Can I have a shower?

When you are at the base camp on the first night or when you return from your trip you can have a shower in the en-suite chalets. Whilst on the river you are welcome to bathe, using only bio-degradable soap, in the river.

Who carries all my gear?

You carry all your own gear in your boat with you, on the evening of your arrival you will receive a packing speech from your guides to inform you on how, what, and where to pack.

However, should you upgrade to the **Hassle-Free** package then there will be a guide that will transport your camping gear. He will also pitch your tent and un-pitch it in the morning. You just need to clear out your personal belongings before the tent can be un-pitched.

How do I keep it waterproof?

We will provide you with a 60-litre barrel to share between 2 people. These barrels are waterproof if they are closed properly. The guides will give you your barrels on arrival and explain to you how to close them & secure them onto your boat.

Can I get cell phone reception on river?

No

What happens in the case of an accident?

All our lead guides are qualified in first aid and carry a first aid kit with them.

In the case of an emergency, as with any wilderness adventure, the guide will have to make his way to a phone and call for assistance from there.

How do I carry that amount of cool drink? What about my beers?

Each boat has a cool box with a capacity of approximately 52 cans (48 liters), with which you can carry enough cold drinks and your beers for the duration of your trip. The exact dimensions are: 290mm(w)x 520mm(l)x 280mm(h). Note that you will need to keep space for ice in the coolers to keep your drinks cold. If arranged at camp, then at resupply additional drinks can be brought to you. Please enquire at the camp.

How many hours a day will we paddle?

This really depends on the group. Some people paddle a lot faster than others.

However in general you will paddle for about 6 hours a day. 3 hours in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. NB: Please note that these paddling times may vary dependent on water levels and cannot be guaranteed.

What time will we have lunch/stop in the evening?

Again, this depends very much on the group and water levels. Your guide will decide when to stop. Generally, lunch will be served between 12 midday and 2pm. There are too many variables to give an exact time, such as group size, the time everyone gets up in the morning, if the group wants to float or paddle hard, etc.

Will we travel into the Richtersveld National Park?

No, you will exit before the Sjambok rapid.

Will I see any wildlife?

You will see plenty of birdlife and perhaps Vervet monkeys or baboons. There are mountain Zebra, small buck, and leopards in the mountains; however, it is highly unlikely that you will see them.

How will I get back to my car after the trip?

We will pick you up at the takeout point and transport you back by bus to our base camp.

Prepare for your Taste of Adventure....