



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ORANGE RIVER

GENERAL QUERIES:

What type of boat do we use?

We use 2-man inflatable “croc” rafts or 2-man fiberglass Mohawk-style canoes. The Mohawk canoes are available on pre-scheduled canoe trips or can be requested for private trips. However, we have found that there are more advantages to using the inflatable croc rafts.

What are the benefits from using crocs vs. canoes?

- **Safer:** Crocs are less likely to capsize or break upon hitting rocks compared to canoes.
- **Self-bailing:** There's no need to bail water after each rapid, as the crocs have a built-in self-bailer that allows water to flow out.
- **More comfortable:** Crocs provide a more relaxing experience than canoes.
- **Child-friendly:** Made of plastic, they eliminate the risk of cuts from sharp fiberglass edges.
- **Increased capacity:** You can load more gear onto crocs and securely tie camping equipment to the sides with safety ropes.
- **Easier to steer:** They offer better manoeuvrability in fast-flowing water, helping to avoid obstacles.
- **Convenient entry and exit:** Getting in and out of crocs is easier than canoes, which is a significant advantage for swimming in the hot summer months!

When is the best time for fishing on the Orange River?

Essentially, any month with an "ER" in it. 😊 The best months are September and October and when the water level is lower and stable for an extended period.

What is the weather like?

From November to the end of March, temperatures can soar above 40°C. It's essential to bring a good hat, a sarong, and plenty of sunscreen, as well as sufficient drinking water. In April, May, September, and October, the weather should be a bit cooler, but you should still be prepared for sun exposure.

Does it ever rain?

While it's not common, it can rain occasionally, with the summer months (January to March) being the most likely period for rainfall.

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

The river is dam-controlled, ensuring it flows year-round. However, since it depends on the summer rainfall areas in South Africa for its water supply, it typically reaches its highest levels in March and April. Fishing between September and October offers the advantage of lower water levels, which can help you land some big catches.

What grade is the river?

The river is graded 1 and 2, which means the rapids are not too big or intimidating. It's suitable for the whole family.

Will there be a guide to paddle with me?

The guides on your trip will have a lot of equipment to carry, so they won't be able to accommodate an extra person on their boat. If you would like someone to paddle you down the river, please let us know when you make your booking so we can arrange it.

Do I need to have paddling experience?

No, you don't need any paddling experience. Your guides will provide a complete briefing on how to paddle.

How many guides will be on my trip?

A minimum of two guides per trip.

What is the minimum and maximum age limits for rafting?

We do not recommend bringing children younger than 5 years old. There is no maximum age limit, but you should be relatively fit to participate in this trip.

Can I fly to Noordoewer?

There is a small private airstrip where a chartered plane can land. Immigration must be processed at Alexander Bay.

Can I fly to Springbok?

There are occasional flights to Springbok, primarily for chartered planes. However, it's still about a 1.5-hour drive to our camp, and vehicle rentals are not readily available in Springbok.

Can I fly to Upington?

Yes, but it's still a substantial 5-hour drive to our camp.

What is the driving time from Cape Town?

Approximately 7 hours of self-driving.

What is the driving time from Johannesburg?

Approximately 12 hours of self-driving.

Where is the Bundi Base Camp?

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

When does the Noordoewer border close?

They are open 24 hours a day. The contact number for the border is 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. SARS Traveller Declaration: <https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/> (to be done online within 24 hours before crossing the South African border in both directions (entering and leaving South Africa). Once submitted, keep the confirmation available on your mobile phone or as a printed copy, as it may be requested by Customs officials.
3. If you are from a country where obtaining a visa is necessary, obtain one. Please always verify with the Namibia High Commission at +27 (012) 481 9100 or visit <https://visitnamibia.com.na/visa-information/> as the list of countries is subject to change at any time. Online applications are available at <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na>.
4. Vehicle documents and Country sticker for vehicle
5. 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>
6. Certificate of yellow fever vaccination in case of travel from an affected area. (Not RSA)
7. Arrival AND Departure border forms. downloadable from the following URL (<https://bundi.co.za/orange-river-cross-border-information/>) or obtained at the border.
8. 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.

Violsdrift 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.
- Letter of authority from the registered owner if the vehicle is not owned by the driver.
- 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
- Cross-border road tolls are paid at the border as a means of funding road upkeep.
- Motor Insurance Certificate – this you will obtain at the Border. It will be valid for 30 days.
- Travelers from non-SACU member countries must apply for a Temporary Import Permit. Not applicable to RSA citizens.

What vaccinations are compulsory?

Yellow fever (if traveling from an affected area)

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

Our camp has all the details of arriving clients, so you can simply check in with the camp managers and enjoy the surroundings.

Where do I leave my passport & car keys?

You can lock your passport and all valuables in your vehicle. You may also hand in your vehicle keys to the camp managers for safekeeping during your trip. Please note that you'll need to carry a certified copy of your passport with you while on the river.

Is there Wi-Fi at the Bundi Base Camp?

No, there is no Wifi available at the camp.

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

Yes. Please note that there are no payphones available at the camp.

Will my car be safe? And is there shade?

Our camp is monitored by security cameras, and there are staff present 24 hours a day. However, parking is at your own risk. We do provide some shade, but it may not be available for every vehicle.

Are there power points at the Bundi base camp campsites?

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

Can I drink the river water?

While the river water is clean, we do not recommend drinking it. We suggest bringing at least two 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. Our facility accommodates basic dietary requirements only, including vegetarian and certain Halaal products. Owing to the remote location, Kosher, gluten-free, and other specialised diets cannot be catered for. A discount is offered to those guests with specialised dietary needs who wish to obtain their own replacement products. We will supply you with our detailed menu for you to gauge what replacement products you will need to bring.

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

Unfortunately, we don't have space in our fridges to store your drinks.

How do I keep my drinks cold?

The colder your drinks are upon arrival, the longer they will stay cold. We recommend freezing some of your drinks before you arrive at camp and then placing them in a cooler box. If you have mostly fizzy drinks, consider freezing a few small bottles of water to put in the cooler; you can drink the water as it thaws.

Is there ice available?

Ice is a valuable resource on the river. You can purchase non-consumable 5-liter blocks of ice at our bar upon arrival (credit card payments only) to keep your drinks cold in your cooler. We will also provide non-consumable ice on the morning you head out onto the river and during resupply to keep your cooler chilled. Additionally, consumable ice is available at the camp bar. If you'd like consumable ice delivered to the resupply point, please arrange this with the bar. All ice sales are cashless and accepted by credit card only. Please note that 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 offers consumable ice, basic beers, liquor, and soft drinks. Please note that the bar operates on a cashless, credit card-only basis. Alternatively, if one of our vehicles is heading to Aussenkehr, we can purchase cool drinks and snacks (no alcoholic beverages) from Spar for you. You will need to provide cash for these purchases. We will buy whatever the store has available and return your change along with a receipt from Spar. You can also pre-order drinks and consumable ice from the bar for delivery during resupply.

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

Namibia's national currency is the Namibian Dollar (NAD). It was previously linked to the South African Rand at a one-to-one exchange rate; however, you will no longer be able to use ZAR for purchases in Namibia.

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

On the evening of your arrival, after dinner (served around 7 PM), we will hold a packing briefing to explain how to pack your personal items and luggage into your barrel (60-liter capacity), as well as what liquid refreshments you can bring on the river (no glass allowed). There will be time for questions afterward, and then we'll wrap up for the evening.

The next morning, after breakfast, we will conduct a safety talk, covering how to paddle, what to do if you capsize, and how to stay safe in the rapids. After that, you'll be ready to 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 includes a portable toilet, which will be set up for use each night. We use a paddle to signal whether the toilet is in use or available, and we'll explain how this works upon your arrival.

Where do we sleep?

As part of the fishing package, you'll be booked into one of our en-suite chalets for the first and last night of your stay at our camp (subject to availability). While on the river, you'll camp under the open sky on the riverbanks, with all necessary camping gear provided by us. Please note that, 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?

On your first night at base camp or upon your return from the trip, you can take a shower in the en-suite chalets. While on the river, you're welcome to bathe in the river using only biodegradable soap.

Who carries all my gear?

You will be responsible for carrying all your own gear in your boat. On the evening of your arrival, your guides will give you a packing briefing to explain what, how, and where to pack.

However, if you choose to upgrade to the Hassle-Free package, a guide will transport your camping gear for you. They will also handle pitching and un-pitching your tent each day. You'll just need to clear out your personal belongings before the tent is taken down in the morning.

How do I keep it waterproof?

We will provide you with a 60-litre barrel, which is waterproof when properly sealed. Upon arrival, your guides will give you the barrel and explain how to securely close it and fasten it to your boat.

Can I get cell phone reception on river?

No

What happens in the case of an accident?

All our lead guides are trained in first aid and carry a first aid kit with them. In the event of an emergency, the guide will need to reach a phone to call for assistance, as is standard in any wilderness adventure.

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

Each boat is equipped with a cool box that holds approximately 52 cans (48 liters), providing ample space for cold drinks and beer for the duration of your trip. The exact dimensions are 290mm (w) x 520mm (l) x 280mm (h). Please remember to leave room for ice to keep your drinks cold.

If needed, additional drinks can be delivered to you at resupply points during your trip. This service is available only for 4- and 5-day rafting trips—please inquire at the camp for more details.

How many hours a day will we paddle?

The timing will depend on your group and the distance to the next prime fishing spot. Please note that paddling times may vary based on water levels and cannot be guaranteed.

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

The timing for lunch depends on the group and water levels. Your guide will decide when to stop, but generally, lunch is served between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM. There are too many variables to give an exact time, such as the size of the group, the time everyone gets up in the morning, and whether the group prefers to float or paddle at a faster pace.

Will we travel into Richtersveld National Park?

No, you will exit before the Sjambok rapid.

Will I see any wildlife?

You'll encounter plenty of birdlife and may even spot Vervet monkeys or baboons. In the mountains, there are mountain zebras, small bucks, and leopards, although sightings of these animals are rare.

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

We will collect you from the take-out point and transport you back to our base camp by bus.

Prepare for your Taste of Adventure....