



SENIOR SAFARIS

EXPERTS IN SENIOR TRAVEL

RICHTERSVELD

Highlights: Richtersveld National Park, Orange River, Port Nolloth

ADVENTURE TOUR

Duration

7 Days

Cost

R31 700 pp sharing • R35 400 pp single

Starts/Ends in

Cape Town

Accommodation

National Park Chalets; Lodge

Vehicle

4x4

BOOKINGS

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Richtersveld 4x4

The hauntingly beautiful Richtersveld National Park lies in the great oxbow bend of the mighty Orange River, in the far north-west corner of South Africa. It is a true mountain desert, with contorted rock formations, complex geology, abandoned diamond diggings, sandy river beaches, rough tracks to nowhere, and arid plains that stretch as far as the eye can see. Surreal silhouettes of Half-Mens and giant aloes stand in stark relief against cobalt skies. Yet, despite its harshness, it is a fragile ecosystem, prone to over-utilisation but permeated with an all-pervading aura of peace, solitude, and tranquillity. Despite its sparse vegetation, the park protects one of the highest concentrations of endemic succulents on earth. We offer an insightful tour of this remote desert jewel using a 4x4 vehicle.

DAY 1 - INTO THE HEART OF NAMAQUALAND

Our safari begins as we leave suburbia and travel northward through the fertile Swartland with its endless rolling wheatfields and distant mountains. We enter the Olifants River Valley at Citrusdal and, bypassing Clanwilliam, head to our lunch stop at Van Rhynsdorp. Our route then takes us across the parched plains of the Knersvlakte, where we pause to look for interesting succulents that thrive on the endless white quartz pebble beds, so unique to the region.



These plants have adapted to conserve moisture and to survive searing heat and freezing winters, which are part of life here. Dramatic rounded granite domes of Namaqualand gradually unfold before us, and our overnight stop is at the comfortable Kamieskroon Hotel.

Stay at Kamieskroon Hotel (1 night)

DAY 2 - THE DIAMOND COAST

We tour central Namaqualand today, marvelling at the mountainous scenery. Later we head for the coast, stopping en route to explore Springbok and then down the picturesque Anenous Pass to Port Nolloth. This harbour town was once the only transshipment point for transporting copper ore to Cape Town. From here we head to the mouth of the Orange River along the coastal diamond mining areas. We follow the course of the river to check into the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park at Sendelingsdrif. Our chalets are on the banks of the Orange River and you can take a stroll to look for birds alongside the river or have a rest at your chalet.

Stay at Sendelingsdrif (1 night)

DAYS 3, 4 & 5 - EXPLORING RICHTERSVELD NATIONAL PARK

Today we begin to explore the remote regions of !Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. The core of the national park on the South African side is a contractual area where nomadic Nama stockmen still herd their stock, following the seasons as they have done for centuries. We travel slowly along the rugged tracks into the park to the Gannakouriep camp. Our chalets are basic but comfortable. Your guide will be doing the catering - such as braais under the stars.

During these days, we will be spent exploring the mountain wilderness of the Richtersveld. Our routes take us up and over the dramatic twists and turns of Helskloof and Akkedis Pass. We pause often to browse and ramble, looking for interesting plants in this treasure trove of endemic vegetation. The desert landscapes are fascinating and varied, with colourful mountains, huge plains, and superb river scenery. With our rugged 4X4 vehicle we negotiate narrow gorges, steep tracks, and stream crossings. We enjoy al fresco catered lunches courtesy of your guide, and soak up the tranquillity of this mountain desert. At times our route takes us down to remote parts of the Orange River, the lifeline that meanders through this often inhospitable terrain. We seek diminutive succulents, which grow out of seemingly solid rock, and examine and discuss the complex geology of the region.

Stay at Gannakouriep or Tatasberg Camps (3 nights)

DAY 6 - REMOTE SETTLEMENTS

We pack up and leave the National Park, heading back for Namaqualand. Our route will take us southward, via dramatic geological formations and a few remote settlements. Large tracts of the area have been proclaimed as a Conservancy, which is run by the Richtersveld community, and although stock farming is the main economic feature, strict carrying capacities and veld management practices have been instituted. The three main settlements are Kuboes, Eksteenfontein, and Lekkersing.

Our stopover tonight is at the Okiep Country Hotel, in the heart of Namaqualand, where we enjoy fine food and wine in comfortable and congenial surroundings.

Stay at Okiep Country Hotel (1 night)

DAY 7 - SOUTHWARD THROUGH NAMAQUALAND

Leaving Okiep, we pack up and head southward through the mountainous areas of central Namaqualand. One does not have to be here during the flower season to appreciate the beauty of this region with its sweeping, distant vistas and spectacular granite domes. In the afternoon we approach busy Cape Town, with memories of Quiver Trees and Half-Mens plants; of multi-coloured mountains and sandy river beds; and remote tracks and trails still fresh in our minds. We bid farewell to our travel companions, and you are safely delivered to your home or hotel.



FOR MORE INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

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All travel reservations are subject to LST Travels (Pty) Ltd Terms and Conditions

