

BUNDI

A TASTE OF ADVENTURE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ORANGE RIVER

GENERAL QUERIES:

What type of boat do we use?

We use 2-man inflatable “crocs”. 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 you hit 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 fiberglass pieces
- One can load more onto the crocs and also tie camping equipment on the sides onto the 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!

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 from 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 winter months (June to August).

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 we cannot guarantee they can fit an extra person in their boat. Should you feel you definitely 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 have to 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 charter 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 or +/- 8 hours with Bundi. Please feel free to enquire about our transport options.

What is the driving time from Johannesburg?

+/- 12 hours self-drive. Bundi does not offer transport from Johannesburg.

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 is R295.00 (subject to change).

Contact number for the border: 00264-63-297122

What documents do I require to enter Namibia?

1. Valid Passport. It has to be valid for 6 months from the date of entry with at least 1 blank page.
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
3. Vehicle documents
4. ZA sticker
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. Affidavit to be signed and stamped by a commissioner of Oaths. For more info please go to: <https://bit.ly/2RdIKL7>

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 have to have proof of ownership of the vehicle owner or Rental Company; your driving license as well as the contract documents. The Chassis, engine number, trailer number, and license details will be checked by the police at the border posts. Your vehicle license papers have to be accompanied with a letter from the bank giving you authorization to take the vehicle across the border, including dates. Both the bank letter and license papers should be signed by a Commissioner of Oaths.

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 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 at the bar area 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 reception at the border and in our base-camp. 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 not have shade for everybody's car.

Are there power points at the Bundi base camp camp-sites?

Yes, we have power points at most of the camp-sites.

Can I drink the river water?

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

Is there ice available?

We supply you with ice (non-consumable) to keep the contents of your cooler cold. At the resupply we will supply more ice. We do have consumable ice available at the camp. If you wish to have consumable ice delivered at the resupply point, please buy it at the bar and arrange for it with the camp manager.

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 also 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 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?

Yes, you will need: Plate / mug / knife / fork / spoon

Should I take a tent?

During the summer most people do not take a tent. There is however room for a small 2 man tent in your boats. During the winter it is recommended you take a tent, as the early mornings can be quite chilly.

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?

You sleep in the open, under the stars whilst on river and at camp unless you bring along your own tent. Due to the wilderness nature of the trip there are no permanent structures at any of the campsites along the river. However when in camp there is an option to stay in en-suite chalets at an additional fee, please feel free to enquire.

Can I have a shower?

You can have a shower on the first night at our base camp, and when you return to the camp on the last day. Whilst on river, you are able to bathe (using bio-degradable soap) every evening.

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.

How do I keep it waterproof?

We will provide you with a 60 litre barrel to share between 2 people. These barrels are waterproof as long as they are closed properly. The guides will give you your barrels on arrival and explain to you how to close them & secure them 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 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 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 between 12 midday and 2pm. There are so many variants, such as 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?

Yes you do. The scenery is fantastic throughout the entire trip.

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 take out point in a bus, and transport you back to our base.