

# Safari Africa: 14 Days

## Information Kit

South Africa & Namibia: Ride Africa's deep south and immerse yourself in epic wildlife experiences, safari lodges, wild landscapes and amazing riding.



*"The absolute ride of my life, Africa just gets into your soul!" – Tommy,  
Cairo to Cape Town*



**Join us on a journey of two African nations, a journey of incredible riding, award-winning game lodges, inspirational wildlife encounters, wild remote landscape of the cape lands, stunning deserts, mountains of granite and ranges of sand. This is Africa at its finest.**

# Itinerary

## Joining Day: Cape Town

Your Cape Town airport transfer will take you directly to our joining hotel, ready for an early start tomorrow. Today you will meet your crew for your tour briefing and welcome dinner.

## Day One: Arniston

Departing Cape Town, we take to legendary Chapmans Peak Drive around False Bay. We will have lunch at the whale watching capital of Africa, Hermanus, before continuing onto the sleepy fishing village of Arniston, stunningly located on the edge of the Indian Ocean.

## Day Two: Aquila Game Reserve

We take a ride out to the southernmost point on the African continent, at L'Agulhas where we can see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Turning north we ride the beautiful Zuberger Nature Reserve before arriving at Aquila Private Game Resort and Spa, a lodge that has been awarded the "best African game lodge", in time for our first game drive to hopefully see the Big 5.

## Day Three: Clanwilliam

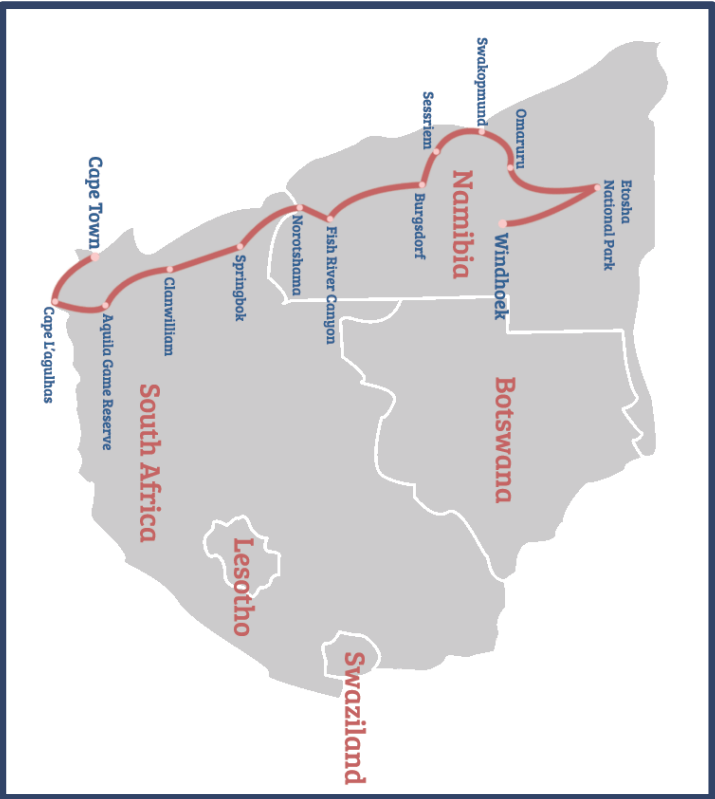
Leaving Aquila we enter a stunning region known as the Cederberg's, a mountain range of red sandstone bluff and beautiful rock formations. It is also home to leopard and the rare Clanwilliam Cedars. We have lunch at the renown Cederberg Oasis before continuing on to the wild west town of Clanwilliam for the night.

## Day Four: Springbok

We ride into the Cederberg's again stopping off at Nieuwoudville home to an amazing motorcycle collection, where as the owner puts it, "the collection just got a little out of hand". We cross into the Namaqualand area in Northern Cape Region, stopping overnight in Springbok known as the "Garden of the Gods" due to its superb spring flowers that carpet the entire region.

## Day Five: Orange River

It's a short ride today as we cross into Namibia. Border formalities completed we ride due north through desert vineyards to our overnight stay at the 4-star Norotshama Resort, beautifully located on the banks of the Orange River. We can enjoy canoeing, fly fishing or a community visit.





### **Day Six: Orange River**

A short ride, distance wise, as we ride a stunning ancient desert landscape of escarpments and distant mountains. We have lunch at Ai Ais Hot springs before continuing onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest canyon in the world, at Fish River Canyon. We spend the night at the wonderful Canyon Roadhouse with an amazing collection of memorabilia from the early days of Namibian transport.

### **Day Seven: Burgsdorf Goatfarm**

Mostly dirt today through more epic desertscapes, stopping enroute at Helmeiringhausen, an oasis in the desert and a great place for lunch. We continue onto the remote 13,000ha Burgsdorf Goat Farm where we can enjoy a superb sunset game drive.

### **Days Eight & Nine: Sesriem**

We ascend to 1500mts for a while before arriving at our accommodation just after lunch at Sesriem. We are on the edge of the incomparable Namib – Nakluft Park, a park that features in every brochure ever printed about Namibia! Sunset here is breathtaking and the night skies endless. Day nine will see an early start, off the bikes, that will see us arrive at the legendary dunes of the Namib as they glow an ethereal red at sunrise. We can have breakfast at Dune 45 then travel on to the celebrated Deadvlei, an utterly stunning sight of dark Camel thorn trees set against a brilliant white pan with a backdrop of towering red dunes, it's unbelievable, and one of the highlights of Namibia.

### **Day Ten: Swakopmund**

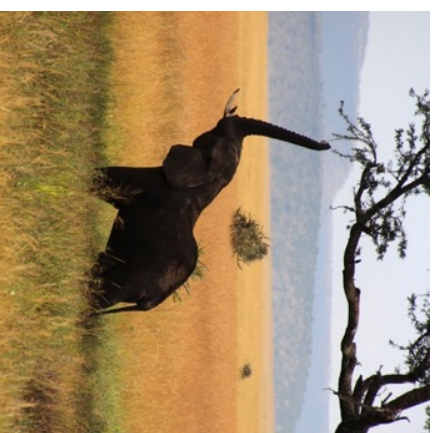
We cross the Tropic of Capricorn today onto our way to Swakopmund, a city sandwiched between the Atlantic coast and the dunes of the Namib Desert. "Swak", as it is known, is situated on the Skelton Coast and is Namibia's premier seaside resort town.

### **Day Eleven: Omaruru**

We hug the Skelton Coast passing the famous ship wreck of the Zeila before stopping off to view up to 10,000 seals at the Cape Cross Seal Reserve. We turn east and enter the world's oldest desert before stopping off at Uis for lunch as a wonderful small café. Continuing on we reach the incredible Omaruru Game Lodge late afternoon. Watching as rhino, giraffe, zebra, eland, gnus etc gather around the waterhole in front of the lodge terrace every evening is a rare experience.







### **Days Twelve & Thirteen: Etosha National Park**

We ride north before arriving at the 20,000 sq km Etosha National Park, with a pan so large it can be seen from space. We arrive in the afternoon in time to do the first of 2 games drives into the national park, the quintessential African experience, a safari. We have a day off the bikes as we do an early morning safari with a very good chance of seeing numerous animals, including elephants, lions, cheetahs and so on. We retire to the luxury safari lodge for lunch and have the afternoon to relax around the pool, enjoy the bar or do yet another game drive!

### **Day Fourteen: Windhoek**

Our final day will see us ride south to the Namibian capital of Windhoek, a modern city with a plethora of shopping options. We enjoy our final dinner together and celebrate what has been an incredible journey of wildlife encounters, remote riding and cultural experiences.

### **Departure day: Windhoek**

Spend some time in Windhoek or fly home, the choice is yours.

**Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors.**

# Ride Details

## Ride Grade: 4

Grade 4 doesn't mean we are climbing cliff faces and forwarding raging torrents, it means we spend considerable time on dirt roads as opposed to paved roads, these tracks are used by 2-wheel drive cars and semi-trailers, so NOT extreme.

**55%** of this ride is on paved roads. The pavement is generally in very good condition. Some sections, particularly the back roads of South Africa can be narrow, have rough shoulders and slow-moving farm traffic. Wild animals must be expected, even in the Namib Desert which has large populations of Kudu and Oryx.

**45%** of this ride will be on dirt. The dirt generally consists of gravel tracks that are very wide and smooth. Some tracks can be corrugated and have gravel heaps in the centre. Some sections in Namibia can be sandy, generally for no more than 100m at a time. All tracks are used by trucks and buses so not extreme.

## Distances

The biggest riding day is 530 km / 330 mi with the shortest being 170 km / 106 mi. Most riding days we average around 250 – 300 km / 160 – 190 mi. There are numerous rest days in our itinerary, where the bike is available for more riding if desired (subject to any maintenance requirements). The total distance is approximately 3500 km / 2200 mi.

## Bikes

We operate the all new BMW F750, 850 & R1250 GS bikes and are the first operators who have these bikes in Africa. All bikes have crash protection and a topbox can be hired for a small fee.

## Experience required

Some off-road riding experience is preferred for this tour, mainly due to the fact that we do cover significant distance off road, rather than anything being too technical or difficult. Co-riders can travel in the support vehicle at any time, if any dirt becomes too challenging. Although not a requirement, Compass Expeditions does recommend an off road training course that gives riders, of all levels, the tools to tackle off road riding. Contact us for more information on training events and recommended schools.

All riders **must** have a valid motorcycle license.

## Weather

This is the dry season and the best time for wildlife viewing with little to no chance of rain, the skies are clear and mostly sunny. In Namibia the mornings can be a little cool. Temperatures can vary from 5° C / 41° F, overnight to 30° C / 86° F during the day, especially in Namibia



**Ride Grade 4 Distance Sealed / Dirt**

## Highlights

- Southern tip of Africa
- Aquila Private game reserve
- Dinner under Cape Town's Table Mountain
- Accommodation in superb Safari Lodges
- Riding the Karoo
- The stunning Namib – Naukluft National Park & Sunrise over Dune 45
- Skeleton Coast
- Wonderful Burgsdorf Goat Farm
- Renown Etosha National Park
- Omaruru private game reserve
- Riding Africa!!





## Meals

Most types of western foods are available in Cape Town. Seafood is a speciality on the coast and meat features high on the menu in the interior, Kudu and Oryx steak are a popular menu choice. The meals at some of the safari resorts resemble a banquet of an impossible variety. South Africans and to a lesser extent, Namibians, are famous for their Braais (BBQ), as is Potjies, a stew of meat and vegies. Vegetarians won't miss out and people usually put on weight on this ride.

Breakfasts: **15**

Lunches: **12**

Dinners: **12**

## Accommodation

Our hotels are generally 4 stars and are chosen for their location, cleanliness, suitability for motorcycle group and ambience. On occasions we stay at award winning private game lodges and superb safari lodges. Our accommodations are absolutely superb and features in peoples highlights of their African experience.

Accommodation: **15 nights**

## Tour Inclusions

- Airport Transfers
- Motorcycle rental as per your selection.
  - Fuel
  - Tolls
- Support vehicle with passenger carrying ability
- Services of a Compass Expeditions ride leader and support vehicle driver
  - Pre-departure material and route maps
  - Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
  - Compass Expeditions polo shift
- Entrances to all national parks mentioned in the itinerary
  - Etosha National Park game drive
  - Aquilla Game Drive
  - Burgsdorf game drive

# Your Responsibilities

## Riding equipment

You will need to bring the following riding gear:

**Riding jacket and pants:** we will experience both hot & cold weather on this 14-day ride can, some rain could be experienced therefore a multi-layer jacket / pants is essential. The jacket / pants ideally need to have internal removable liners and have Kevlar crash protection and a waterproof pocket for your documents and small camera. Ideally your jacket / pants should be 100% waterproof or carry a set of waterproofs.

**Helmet:** Your helmet should be full faced and of a good quality. Ensure you have a spare visor or replace before departing if scratched. Motocross style helmets are unsuitable for long distance rides, on what may be sometimes dusty surfaces, as you will experience considerable dust ingress. Internal drop down tinted visors are great, but not so if you need prescription sunglasses.

**Boots:** Ideally, motocross style boots would be best, but bulky and impractical to carry. When choosing a boot, it is essential to choose a boot that offers the most rigid ankle protection possible; ankle injuries are the most common injuries we experience. Pack a set of walking boots in your top-box for those off bike excursions.

**Gloves:** we recommend the use of both summer & winter gloves as the weather can be cold in the mornings

**Additional items:** Silk neck warmer, great for keeping the wind out. Earplugs, great for keeping the noise out.

## Travel insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance to tour with us. It just makes sense! Your insurance must cover you for any incident you may have whilst riding a motorcycle 700 cc and over. We have negotiated a 10% discount with various insurance providers around the world, who WILL offer coverage for you, for the activity of riding a motorcycle 750cc and over in foreign lands. For more information return to the "tour page" and click on the "insurance" tab.

## Passport & Visas

Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months AFTER completion of your ride. Your passport should have at least one full page available for entry exit stamps. "Most western nationalities do NOT require any visas, however, at time of writing, NZ citizens do need a South African visa. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure they have any visas that "may" be required. We have an account with the visa agency Visalink / CIBT for these or any other visas you might require for any onward travel.

Australia: <https://visalink.com.au/compassexp>  
Canada: <http://www.cibtvisas.ca/compass>  
USA: <http://www.cibtvisas.com/compassexp>  
France: <http://www.cibtvisas.fr/compassexp>  
UK: <http://cibtvisas.co.uk/compassexp>



## Vaccinations

A Yellow Fever may be required for travel to Africa and you may well be asked for when returning to your home country. We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor and/or check out the World Health Organization website at [www.who.int/country](http://www.who.int/country) and have a look at their excellent International Travel and Health book, available online. In Australia visit the Australian Medical Centre website at [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) or phone 1300 65 88 44. For our U.S clients visit [www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/) and for our U.K clients go to [www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/](http://www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/) for travel health recommendations in general go to [www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com) now part of red travel.



## You've made a booking, what happens next?

Once a booking has been made, you will receive an automated booking confirmation. Soon after, you will receive a "welcome" email, and then receive our comprehensive pre departure booklet in the post. This booklet will prepare you for your adventure and has more details on what to bring and what to expect. We email a "tour dossier" 90 days before departure; this dossier is full of information, including historical and country information. The more you read, the more you will get out of your ride.





Thanks for spending your time reading this information kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not riding with us then just riding and enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

If you have further questions, please contact us.

## Compass Expeditions

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