



Canyon Klipspringer Trail

The alternative for those who do not have a lot of time on their hands. The experience of hiking in the canyon scenery is condensed into 2 hiking days.

Imagine exploring the Fish River Canyon from as close as can be, hiking with just a daypack in almost pristine nature, dreaming at the campfire and falling asleep under a dazzling night sky... Adventurously-minded and physically fit hiking enthusiasts who join a Trekking Tour by Mule Trails Namibia can expect a unique and exciting experience in the wilderness area around the northern part of the Fish River Canyon. Since luggage and equipment are carried by mules, participants only need to pack water and snacks for the day's hike - and their cameras. A qualified guide explains geology, flora and fauna, a mule driver takes care of the pack animals and a supply team is in charge of the camps. Meals are cooked on an open fire. Shower and toilet facilities offer something out of the ordinary: a view into the great open wilds.

The Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon on earth, runs through the transition zone of two desert systems, the Nama Karoo and the Succulent Karoo (the most diverse desert on earth). The landscape is characterized by meandering gorges up to 500 m deep, which twist and turn through ancient layers of rock. The flora includes unique plants like the quiver tree, candelabra euphorbia or tamarisk; game such as mountain zebra, kudu, duiker, springbok, klipspringer - which provided the name for this trail - and ostrich abounds in the area. Even waterbirds can be spotted with a little luck, like the Hammerkop or the African fish eagle.

Highlights Diverse canyon scenery, gorges, springs, swimming and fishing in natural pools, the fascinating plant and animal world of the Nama Karoo Desert, three nights in the open under the starry sky or in a tent

Participants Minimum 2 / maximum 14 people,
children from 12 years old

Time 15 April to 15 September; other dates on request

Dates on request

Duration 4 days / 3 nights

Total distance approx. 34 km

Stages 10 to 18 km / 6 to 8 hours walking per day (incl. breaks)

Start Cañon Mule Station in Gondwana Cañon Park,
approx. 650 km from Windhoek by road
transfer from/to Windhoek on request)

End Cañon Mule Station (without spending the night)

Languages English; possibly German



Tour details

Day 1 - Arrival and Introduction

Participants arrive at Cañon Mule Station in Gondwana Cañon Park at the Fish River Canyon by their own arrangement. After we have discussed everything there is to know about the tour and acquainted ourselves with the equipment, we are taken to the Horse Shoe Camp (incl. dinner).

Horse Shoe Camp:

A cabin perched on the northern rim of the Fish River Canyon welcomes hikers and campers after the day's adventure. A peek from the cabin's windows provides an unparalleled view of the natural horse-shoe form of the northern Canyon. Hikers pitch their tents outside the cabin and use the facilities inside, which include a toilet and shower with breathtaking views of the Canyon. Cooking facilities are also available in the cabin, while the outside fireplace is ideal for a barbeque.

Optional on request - Tour with transfer from and to Windhoek: guests are picked up at their accommodation in Windhoek

Day 2 – Mule Trekking (approx. 16 km)

We enjoy our first breakfast out in the open. Then we continue downstream along the Fish River. Patches of river pebbles alternate with slabs of rock and sand dunes. Dramatic chapters of Earth's history can be gleaned from the massive layers of rock. At lunchtime we stop for a picnic in a shaded little spot. Occasionally we come across deep pools of water in which we take a refreshing dip or fish for Fish River carp. In the afternoon we arrive at Echo Pools Camp next to the Fish River. Sipping sundowners we watch in awe as the rock reflects the light of the setting sun in a blaze of colours (incl. breakfast, lunch and dinner).

Echo Pool Camp:

Echo Pool Camp is named after the echo reverberating from the arched rock faces. The camp is right next to the Fish River.

Day 3 – Mule Trekking (approx. 18 km)

After an early breakfast we set off at dawn and follow the Fish River further downstream. Then we walk on zebra paths, leading us up to a plateau, through rugged valleys and across stony and sandy plains. Every now and then we stop to marvel at the vast canyon scenery. At midday we have a picnic in the shade. Finally we reach the gorge of the seasonal Gaap River. Bend by bend it turns greener and greener: Several fountains provide trees and shrubs with water throughout the year. In the early evening we arrive at Cañon Outpost, situated in an oasis-like paradise (incl. breakfast, lunch and dinner).

Cañon Outpost:

The Cañon Outpost is hidden in the Gaap Canyon of the Holoog River, a tributary of the Fish River. It is an old farmhouse next to gushing springs, and one of the most secluded hideouts in Namibia. The Cañon Outpost offers 3 bedrooms, a self-catering kitchen as well as outside cooking facilities. A huge lawn leads to the riverbed where ten tents complete with beds are perched in an Acacia stand out of view of the main house. Facilities include communal showers, toilets and solar power.

Day 4 – Transfer to Cañon Mule Station

After breakfast we pile into the open vehicle which takes us to the final destination of our roundtrip. As we pull up at Cañon Mule Station our tour has come to its end (incl. breakfast).



Rate (from April to September 2011):

N\$ 6,935.00 per person (4 days, 3 nights)

Transfer from/to Windhoek on request

Services included:

- Schedule as described above
- Full board (breakfast, light lunch, dinner) as described above
- During the tour: an experienced guide, mule driver and supply team
- Mules to carry the luggage and equipment
- Equipment in the camps (tent, mattress, table, chairs, crockery, cutlery, shower, toilet, etc.)

Services not included:

- Beverages (other than water, coffee & tea), drinking bottle (about 2 litres)
- Light rucksack (day pack ± 25 litre)
- Sleeping bag (-5 °C)
- Personal insurance
- Tips
- Souvenirs/presents
- It is not possible to ride the mules

Optional on request:

- Transfer from/to Windhoek:
- Vehicle with English speaking driver
- Door-to-door transport within Windhoek
- All transfers (Windhoek – Fish River Canyon - Windhoek)

Cancellation fees:

- 4 weeks before arrival: 10%
- 3 - 4 weeks before arrival: 20%
- 2 - 3 weeks before arrival: 30%
- 1 - 2 weeks before arrival: 50%
- 1 week - 3 days before arrival: 75%
- 1 - 3 days before arrival: 100%

Special requirements

- Participants have to be physically fit and sure-footed, and cannot be afraid of heights
- We urgently recommend that comprehensive insurance cover be taken out before embarking on the tour to make provision for cancellation, curtailment, medical expenses, emergency evacuation, repatriation as well as loss or damage of personal baggage and loss of foreign currency.

Force majeure

It goes without saying that we do our utmost to conduct the tour as described in the programme; we cannot vouch for it, however. Unfavourable weather conditions, the Fish River in flood, organizational problems, unforeseen events or other factors may force us to change the course of the tour. We apologise for any inconvenience.