



### **CANYON KLIPSPRINGER TRAIL**

#### **A self-guided hike along the Northern Fish River Canyon**

The Canyon Klipspringer Trail offers hikers an incredible opportunity to experience the beauty of the Fish River Canyon. Adventurous and physically fit hiking enthusiasts can expect a unique and exciting hike in the northern part of the Canyon. Luggage and equipment are conveyed between the overnight camps, so participants only need to pack water and snacks for the day's hike – and their cameras. Each overnight camp also offers cooking and bathroom facilities.

The Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the world, 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 characterised by meandering gorges that are up to 300m deep, twisting and turning through ancient layers of rock. The flora includes unique plants like the quiver tree, euphorbia and tamarisk; and game such as mountain zebra, klipspringer, kudu, springbok and ostrich abounds in the area. With a little luck, water birds, like the African fish eagle, can also be spotted.

**Highlights:** Diverse canyon scenery, including high plateaus with 360-degree panoramic views, together with gorges and springs; swimming in natural pools; the fascinating plants and animals of the Nama Karoo Desert.

#### **General Information**

- Dates are available on request at the Gondwana Travel Centre. However the trail only runs from 15 April to 15 September.
- Participants: minimum of 4 / maximum of 12 people, ages between 12 and 65 years (Please refer to the age limit as a recommendation, the determining factor is the participant's physical fitness.)
- Duration: 4 nights/3 days; total distance  $\pm$ 32km
- Check in & check out: Klipspringer Base Camp at Gondwana Canyon Park, 650km from Windhoek
- The first night will be spent at the Klipspringer Base Camp, where hikers will receive their personally numbered trunk (with lock and key, deposit required). Each morning the trunks will be collected from the overnight camp between 8:00 and 9:00 am. Hikers need to ensure that all trunks are ready for collection at the set time.
- Maps will be supplied at the Gondwana Travel Centre when booking the Trail.

## **Tour Details:**

### Day 1 – Arrival and Introduction at Klipspringer Base camp

Hikers are expected to check in at the Klipspringer Base Camp between 14:00 and 15:00.

Please ensure that you receive a map at the Gondwana Head Offices, detailing the route to the base camp. (Kindly note that the road between the C12 and the Klipspringer Base Camp is only 22km, but will take at least 45 minutes to navigate)

Hikers will each receive a trunk to pack their private belongings in, which will be transported daily from camp to camp.

The evening will conclude with a braai (included in package) at the Base Camp.

### Day 2 – Start of trail to Camp Battlesnake (±14km)

Hikers will be dropped off at the start of the trail by vehicle. The trail is well marked and can be followed easily. Day 2 offers the longest stretch of the trail and hikers are reminded to pace themselves. Hikers will begin by following a small tributary of the Löwen River, the main artery flowing into the Fish River Canyon. At the end of the day they will ascend to the rim of the Canyon to the first camp.

The first day of hiking will take hikers to Camp Battlesnake where they will spend the night.

### Day 3 – Battlesnake to Koelkrans (± 12km)

The trail will lead hikers along the rim of the canyon, descending into the Canyon at midday to hike along the Fish River.

The hikers will be spending the night at the Koelkrans Camp, a camp nestled close against a rocky cliff face next to the Fish River. A small cabin built along the ridge serves as a dining/kitchen area and the overnight cabins are set below. Bathroom facilities are available.

### Day 4 – Koelkrans to Horseshoe Camp (±8km)

Once the hikers set out, the trail will lead them downstream, along the riverbank. At one point hikers will be required to cross the river by boulder-hopping when the water-level is low, but this may require wading when water-levels are higher. From here the trail crosses a plateau that leads through a rugged valley and across stony plains, bordered by rock walls. Once the river has been crossed, a zebra trail will lead hikers to the rim of the Canyon. The trail will lead hikers to the Horseshoe Camp, where they will spend the final night. Bathroom facilities are available.

### Day 5: Departure – Horseshoe Camp to Klipspringer Base camp

For the remainder of the morning, hikers are welcome to take their time hiking back to the Klipspringer Base Camp, where they can prepare for departure.

### **Water**

Hikers are responsible for their own drinking water and/or purifying tablets, as not all water along the trail is suitable for drinking.

### **Camp amenities**

Every overnight camp will offer hikers cabins with beds including mattresses (canvas-covered). All camps offer bathroom and kitchen facilities, as well as fire pits.

### **Cooking facilities**

Cooking facilities – in the form of fire/braai grids or gas stoves will be available at each of the overnight camps. Crockery and cutlery will also be available at each camp. However each hiker/group is responsible for their own cooking wares (i.e. pots and pans), these will be available for hire at the Klipspringer Base Camp.

### **Fire wood**

A set supply of firewood will be made available at each overnight camp to heat the shower water (“donkey” burner). However, if more wood is required, hikers are welcome to order additional wood before departure, at the Base Camp. This will then be dropped off at the camps with the delivery of the trunks.

### **Safety precautions**

Each overnight camp has a radio on hand, which can be used to contact the Base Camp in case of an emergency. Furthermore, each hiker will receive a pencil flare, to be used to announce their location in the event of a night-time evacuation. Hikers will be required to pay a deposit for the flares, which will be paid out once the flares are returned at the base camp. Deposits for used flares, in the case of emergencies, will not be forfeited.

### **Special Requirements**

Before final booking confirmation is provided, each hiker will be required to sign an **indemnity form** stating that they are aware of the possible safety/injury risks of partaking in the trail and waive all rights to hold the Gondwana Collection responsible.

Also, each hiker is required to present a **medical certificate** stating that they are physically fit and capable of completing the hike.

We strongly recommend that comprehensive insurance cover is taken out before embarking on the trail to make provision for cancellation, curtailment, medical expenses, emergency evacuation, repatriation as well as loss or damage to personal baggage and loss of foreign currency.

### **Force majeure**

We do our utmost to conduct the trail as described in the programme. However, unforeseeable circumstances such as unfavourable weather conditions, the Fish River coming down in flood or unexpected issues may oblige us to change the course of the hike or even cancel the Klipspringer Trail. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

The Gondwana Collection cannot be held responsible for any costs for medical evacuation or other medical costs incurred.

**Included in the price:**

- Schedule, as described above
- Serviced overnight camps, with a water supply, self-catering facilities and a set amount of firewood
- Communal bathrooms with flushable toilets and hot showers (water is heated by a 'donkey' burner)
- Equipped kitchen facilities with crockery and cutlery, cabins with mattresses (canvas-covered)
- A radio to contact the Base Camp, in the case of an emergency
- A pencil flare, to announce location in the case of evacuation at night
- A trunk, to be used to pack belongings and supplies
- Each trunk will contain a bed sheet, available for the hiker to use
- Daily collection and delivery of trunks

**Not included:**

- Light rucksack (daypack ±25 litres)
- Cooking appliances. Each hiker/group is responsible for their own pots and pans; however these are available for hire at the Klipspringer Base Camp.
- Sleeping bag (0°C), pillows or additional bedding.
- Personal Insurance
- Purifying tablets/water supply
- Guides

**The following products are available on request (for an additional fee):**

- Braai/barbeque packs, at N\$150.00 per person. These can be pre-ordered per night, at the Gondwana offices or while at the Klipspringer Base Camp.
- Beverages, also available per pre-order or while at the Base Camp. Daily deliveries will be made to each camp, where drinks will be stored in cool boxes.
- Additional fire wood is available.

**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:	90%

**Basic Packing list:**

- A smile and appreciation for Mother Nature.
- Own food supplies, including snacks to enjoy along the trail
- Daypack, to carry 6 to 8kg
- Sufficient water bottles to carry at least 2 litres of water
- Comfortable walking shoes/boots ( We recommend that the shoes be worn-in and provide ankle support)
- Sunglasses and shatterproof case (optional)
- Small hand towel to dry your feet at river crossings
- Pair of sandals/river shoes to wear at the camp and while crossing rivers
- Sleeping bag (down/synthetic), light mattresses are supplied
- Pillow
- Head torch and spare batteries
- Binoculars (optional)
- Personal medication
- Basic medical kit (including plasters for blisters and any personal medication)
- Protective cover for your camera and other personal belongings during river crossings
- Sun hat
- Sun screen
- Warm fleece/sweater and windbreaker is recommended as weather is unpredictable.
- Beanie
- Bathing suit/swimming costume
- Card/board games

A Curio Shop is available at the Klipspringer Base Camp.

**Rates:** N\$2000.00 per person (applicable from 15 April – 15 September 2017)

**Check availability:** Contact the Gondwana Travel Centre to check availability for dates.

**Gondwana Collection Namibia**

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