

Environmental Education Study Tour – 12 Days

Day 1 Departure from London

Fly from London to Windhoek, Namibia.

Day 2 Windhoek

Arrive at Windhoek where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your Africa Hotel, accommodation is in twin rooms on a sharing basis. This afternoon we can organise a visit to a museum or local market.

Day 3 Windhoek – Namib Rand Nature Reserve – NaDEET Centre

We travel south into the oldest desert on earth, formed by the effect of the cold Benguela Current. Due to early morning fog, this arid desert becomes a life supporting structure for all its living organisms. We will explore unique petrified dunes on a nature drive and travel to the highest dunes on earth, experiencing this soulful, awe-inspiring place. At Sossusvlei we clamber the magnificent dunes to admire this desert from above. We will also visit Sesriem Canyon, gorged out by the might of the Tsauchab River.

Our accommodation for the next four nights as at The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust centre.

Days 4-6 The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust Centre

We have three days for hands-on, experiential, outdoor learning in a desert environment. Learners participate in many activities such as solar cooking, recycling paper and learning about the plants and animals in the desert first-hand.

We study a variety of programmes that teach about sustainable living, biodiversity and the balance between humans and the environment in the magical setting of the Namib Desert. The programmes are tailored to specific age and interest groups.

Day 7 Fish River Canyon

This morning we drive to Fish River Canyon. Here the second largest canyon on earth divides one of Namibia's most pristine landscapes into seeming eternity. The Fish River is, at 650 kilometres, the longest river in Namibia and is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia. We observe the fragile desert ecosystem and the plant life that thrives there.

Day 8 Fish River Canyon – Keetmanshoop

To day we visit the daunting Fish River Canyon and enjoy the panoramic view into one of Namibia's most superior wilderness areas. It developed predominantly during the pluvial times - a rainy climatic epoch - many millions of years ago. With a depth of up to 550 metres, the Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world, before the Grand Canyon in America. The enormous gorge meanders along a distance of approx. 160 kilometres.

We continue to our accommodation at Keetmanshoop, which consists of around 20,000 inhabitants and is situated near 2 quiver tree forests and the Naute Dam and is an important center of the karakul sheep farming community.

DAY 9 Fish River Canyon – Quiver Tree Forest - Kalahari

This morning we drive to the spectacular Kokerboom or Quiver Tree Forest. The quiver tree is indigenous to the hot and dry southern part of Namibia. The plants are succulents and can reach a height of up to 9 metres in height. They have adapted to the extreme environmental conditions by storing water in their trunks. The wood is very light and spongy inside and because the trunk and branches can be easily hollowed out, they were used as quivers by the bushmen (San people) who formerly inhabited this area.

We continue into the Kalahari Desert. Green acacias and swaying grass contrast starkly against the red sand of the Kalahari Dunes. Camelthorn Trees provide shade for a multitude of desert-adapted animals and serve as a sharp silhouette against the setting sun on our afternoon nature drive.

DAY 10 Kalahari – Rehoboth - Windhoek

Look out for a variety of antelope, smaller mammals, insects and reptiles that inhabit this desert as you explore this specialized ecosystem.

An area of around 8 400 ha referred to as the Acacia Forest and well known for its large camel-thorn trees (some are estimated to be 2 000 years old) lies within the historical town boundaries of Rehoboth. Leaving here we drive north to the capital of Namibia, Windhoek, for our last night in Africa.

DAY 11 Windhoek, Fly to the UK

Today is free for last-minute shopping or further sightseeing. Leave for the airport late in the afternoon.

DAY 12 Arrive UK

Arrive back at London this morning.

The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust Centre (NaDEET)

The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust is a non-profit, Namibian trust established in 2003 aimed at empowering and educating students and teachers for a sustainable future. It is located 100 km south of Sesriem/Soussusvlei on the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

The main focus is conducting environmental education programmes at NaDEET Centre. Built in a dune valley, NaDEET Centre is a model and experience in sustainable living, as activities and living needs are joined to create a truly *environmental education programme*.

NaDEET believes environmental education must not only increase awareness and knowledge but also establish eco-friendly attitudes and skills through participation.

Objectives are: to provide environmental education for students and teachers, by

- addressing relevant environmental issues through hands-on, experimental learning.
- providing the opportunity of experiencing their county's namesake - the Namib Desert - first hand, thus creating a sense of respect and responsibility for their natural environment.

Environmental Education at NaDEET Centre

Three to five day hands-on, experiential, environmental education programmes for Namibian and International youth, grades three to twelve. Learners participate in many activities such as solar cooking, recycling paper and learning about the plants and animals in the desert first-hand.

Participants are engaged in hands-on, outdoor learning in a desert environment. By using an innovative design, alternative technology (solar cookers, bucket showers) and living techniques, the Centre is both a model and experience in sustainable living.

We offer a variety of programmes that teach about sustainable living, biodiversity and the balance between humans and the environment in the magical setting of the Namib Desert. The programmes are tailored to specific age and interest groups (foreign groups very welcome).

At **NaDEET** Centre, the participants are divided into several living teams, who manage their basic living activities. Teamwork and cooperation make sustainable living successful. In addition to the activities outlined above, these teams focus on learning about and using energy and water wisely.

Water: Learners investigate this natural resource through water cycle experiments, an audit and 24-hour water counts. Each team shares one ablution facility with a 140 litre water tank and together they decide how much water to use for various activities e.g. showering and brushing teeth.

Energy: Learners explore alternative energy sources for electricity and cooking. A solar powered system is used for lights, refrigerator and freezer. A battery monitor is used to check the Centre's electricity consumption. All meals are prepared using parabolic solar cookers, solar ovens, hay boxes and fuel efficient stoves using recycled paper fire bricks. Living teams gain experience in solar cooking by being responsible in turn for the preparation of groups' meals. Participants also help to manage the groups' waste by practising the 3 Rs. (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)