



ORANGE RIVER RAFT SAFARIS

ORANJE GORGE ON THE BORDER OF THE KALAHARI AND NAMIB DESERTS



EXPEDITION BRIEFING SUMMARY

Dear Paddler: Thanks for booking to join -

ORANGE RIVER GORGE, 5 DAY

Here are the key facts to know and the intended daily schedule. Things may change according to water levels, weather, group membership and the unforeseen – but we've been running this route for 40 years and don't expect any major surprises! On booking we send you the full Trip Briefing (shown here).

PLEASE READ IT ALL AND PASS IT AROUND TO THE OTHERS IN YOUR GROUP.



Be at our base, Sopnat Campsite, Onseepkans, by 5pm on the first night (Saturday). Bring your own dinner (we braai!). The evening is for getting to know others and making arrangements for the trip. Kit is issued, transport arrangements made, indemnities signed. The GPS co-ordinates of our base are given in the Trip Briefing.

DAY 1

After early coffee, drivers shuttle their vehicles to the take-out at Coboop Agricultural Project, some 30km away. Secure parking for the week is @ R150per car.

When drivers return, and after breakfast (catered by us), we leave for the grape farms upriver where we put in. Transport is arranged for you and your kit which you've packed in bins and drybags. You have also received your river gear: buoyancy aids and helmets. The drive is about 45km. At the river our boats are packed and tied down for the raft trip to the first night's camp on the way back to Onseepkans. You'll have the type of boat you choose – either a guided raft or a 2-seater croc. Loaded oarboats carry food & gear.

DAYS 1-5

The route downriver to the Onseepkans border bridge is scenically beautiful between stark desert mountains, with many islands and tricky channels to navigate. This is a good warm-up for what is to come. Memorable Class 2-3 rapids include House Rock, Double Drop and Corner Hole. We intend to spend one night out on this stretch. The sight of the bridge next day marks our first major landmark. *We do not disembark at the camp.* On the last three days we cruise down memorable rapids including Class 3 Split Pea, Scorpion, Screwdriver, Bubble&Squeak and Little Falls. Then we portage all equipment and boats into the Gorge proper. It is an amazing landscape of huge tumbled boulders with water spouting in between. We may make camp both above and below the portage, and will spend effectively two days exploring the gorge and visiting the !Gariep Falls by land and water. On the last day we run Class 4 Big Bunny and Dolly Parton, the two most challenging rapids – for which by now your experience has prepared you! Anyone may choose to walk.

DAY 5

The takeout at Coboop is a further paddle, ending mid afternoon. Your vehicles are there and you may drive back to Sopnat base camp while we pack up and return after you. On the last evening we like to celebrate and hand out awards, so don't miss it. We advise strongly against driving that night as you may be exhausted, with a 1000-yard stare! Camp over and leave on Friday. Some may choose to hire accommodation if available.

THE AREA

Visit Augrabies Falls and sample the wines of the Kakamas cellars on your way through. Much to do and see!