

The Trail Hopper

Brandberg / Königstein Summit Ascent - 5 day (from/to Windhoek)

The description “Ayers Rock of Namibia” for the Brandberg might be exaggerated, nonetheless is the Königstein Summit (2573m) of the Brandberg Mountain the highest peak in Namibia. Although the hike is possible all year round, we recommend only the cooler winter months of April to September for the ascent.

Itinerary

[meals: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner]

Day 01:

We pick you up at about 10h00 from your accommodation in Windhoek and continue via Okahandja and Omaruru. We reach Uis in the afternoon from where it takes us another hour to Hungarob Gorge, the starting point of our 3-day hike to Königstein.

Overnight in the gorge (700m above sea level) [LD]

Day 02:

About 6-8 hours ascend to the “Wasserfallfläche” (1950m above sea level), our base for the Königstein ascent tomorrow. After 500m / 2, 5 hours we take a short rest before continuing for another 300m / 1, 5 hours up the mountain. We choose a shady spot to have our well deserved lunch. In the afternoon the terrain gets even steeper and we will have to surmount some big boulders and granite rock plates. The overwhelming view makes all the effort worthwhile. The Numas Mountain (2518m) is the third-highest mountain within the Brandberg massif.

Walking time: 6 - 8 hrs

Overnight under a thousand stars in a sandy riverbed [BLD] ↑1.300m ↓100m

Day 03:

Today the peak is visible for the first time. After a fairly short ascend of about 600m we reach the top of the 2.573 m high Königstein (German for King's Stone). For this relatively easy stage you only have to carry your water bottle and camera. The view from the “Top of Namibia” is incredible. On our way back to base camp we will have a closer look into “Snake Rock Cave” a famous san rock art site.



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Walking time: 4 - 5 hrs

Overnight under a thousand stars in a sandy riverbed [BLD] ↑↓600m, Königstein Summit 2.573m

Day 04:

After 6-7 hours descending walk we return to our starting point and continue by car to Uis.

Walking time: 6 - 7 hrs

Overnight at "White Lady Guesthouse" or similar [BLD] ↓1.300m

Day 05:

After a hearty breakfast we return to Windhoek

[B]

MIN. / MAX PER GROUP:

- 4-7 pax

MIN. AGE:

- 12 years

INCLUSIVE IN THE PACKAGE:

- One English speaking experienced nature guide/driver per group
- Free door-to-door courtesy transport in Windhoek City area only
- All transfers Windhoek - start/endpoint of hikes - Windhoek
- Program as stated above (incl. one night guest house accommodation - double room basis, single room on request)
- All meals as stated above; during the hike (B= cereals, coffee/tea, L= bread, cheese, salami, D= light cooked meal by our guide incl. coffee/tea, All crockery and cutlery)
- Hiking permits

NOT INCLUSIVE:

- sleeping bags, light iso mattress and back packs (recommended 55 litre plus), 1.5 ltr water bottle,
- Personal insurance (important: medical evacuation)
- Tips

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- Alcoholic drinks and beverages

CLIMATE:

The seasons in Namibia are reversed compared to those in Europe. During the European winter months we have summer in Namibia and vice versa. Winter and summer in Namibia differ from what we are used to in Europe, though. The winter in Namibia is the cooler dry season which is characterised by high temperature changes and hardly any rainfall. It can get very cold at night in the desert (June to August down to -5°C). During the day temperatures may rise up to 25°C. The Namibian summer (January to end of March) is the rainy season and it seldom rains during the other months. November and December are very hot with temperatures over 30°C, so it is essential to pack the suitable clothes. Rest assured that you will not encounter a grey sky that will linger for weeks! So bring some Sandals, walking shoes, light cotton clothes (Shorts and shirts), a jacket or fleece pullover and long trousers. We have seen everything: from beanies and gloves to bikinis!!

CHARACTER OF AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRAILS:

The trails are not difficult, but challenging. Fitness and good condition is essential as the trails entail 7 to 8 hours walking and you have to carry your luggage every day, including food and water (all together approx. 12 - 15 kg per person). As some of the routes lead through rough terrain and over large boulders it requires well balanced and secure walking. Please be aware of high temperature fluctuations, which can reach a high of 35°C during the day whilst sometimes plummeting down to -5°C at night, which can cause additional stress to your heart and circulation. We recommend you to prepare yourself for the trail with some fitness training.

RECOMMENDATION:

We urgently recommend that comprehensive insurance cover be taken out before embarking on the tour to

- make provision for cancellation and curtailment
- medical expenses, emergency evacuation, repatriation
- loss or damage of personal baggage

Safaris Unlimited will not be held responsible for any costs arising from any of the above events. Restriction of liability also applies if clients were unaware of this policy.



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FORCE MAJEURE:

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

Scheduled departures 2009 for Brandberg Summit (or on request):

- 15.04.-19.04.09
- 20.05.-24.05.09
- 17.06.-21.06.09
- 15.07.-19.07.09
- 19.08.-23.08.09

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