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## **Mule Trails Namibia Canyon Klipspringer Trail 2015**

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 – we have monthly scheduled departures

**Duration** 3 nights and 2 days hiking

**Total distance** approx. 30 km

<b>Stages</b>	10 to 14 km / 6 to 8 hours walking per day (incl. breaks)
<b>Start</b>	Cañon Mule Station in Gondwana Cañon Park, approx. 650 km from Windhoek by road
<b>End</b>	Cañon Mule Station (without spending the night)
<b>Languages</b>	English; possibly German
<b>Rate 2015</b>	N\$ 5,000.00 per person

## Tour details

### Day 1 - Arrival and Introduction

Participants arrive at the Cañon Mule Station in Gondwana Cañon Park at the Fish River Canyon by their own arrangement between 14h00 and 15h00. The Cañon Mule Station is well signposted on the C12. Please ensure you receive a map for directions to the Cañon Mule Station. Kindly note that the road leading from the C12 in the direction of the Cañon Mule Station may only be 22km, but will take you a good 45 minutes to reach the Cañon Mule Station. Here there is secure parking for vehicles. You will meet your guide and asked to repack your luggage in canvassed mule bags. The remainder of your luggage can be left in your vehicle. Once, you have repacked you will then be driven out to the overnight camp, where you will begin your trail from. Sit back and enjoy the panoramic view while you sip on a sundowner drink. In the evening we discuss everything there is to know about the tour.

#### *Camp Battle snake :*

*Perched on a rocky outcrop, is a wooden hut overlooking splendid views over the Fish River Canyon and beyond. Your eyes will feast on the glorious views. The wooden hut, with its terrace leading up to the edge of the canyon is surrounded by tent. Learn the intriguing reason behind the name of this camp.*

*Facilities include communal showers and toilets.*

### Day 2 - Mule Trekking (approx. 12 km)

After breakfast we load our gear, your guide will tell you about the Mules and the breeding of them and thereafter you will set off on your trail. Enjoy a walk on the rim of the Canyon and over a plateau. We follow the rim of the Canyon and then decent directly into 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. Water depending - you are more than welcome to take a refreshing dip! Finish your day off with a refreshing swim across the river to the camp, reached after a day's walk along the Fish River stepping over boulders, time-patterned rocks and walking through soft river sand etched with Cape clawless otter tracks. Enjoy a hot steaming shower and get ready for a well deserved hot meal. (incl. breakfast, lunch and dinner).

#### *Koelkrans Camp;*

*Nestled next to a cliff face, is a cabin as a dining area and below nestled together are overnight cabins. Opposite the camp is an overgrown swamp area covered in reeds and offers sweet background music of chirping bird life.*

*Facilities include communal shower and toilets.*

### **Day 3 - Mule Trekking (approx. 14 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 and ascent further up towards the rim of the canyon. En route pay attention to the different rock formations caused by oxidation wind erosion. In the afternoon, we arrive at Horse Shoe Camp.

#### *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. Tents are set up and facilities include which include toilets and showers with breathtaking views of the Canyon. Cooking facilities are also available in the cabin, while the outside fireplace is ideal for a barbeque.*

### **Day 4 - Transfer to Cañon Mule Station**

At dawn we take a short walk of 1.5 km to a waterless waterfall. We return back to camp for breakfast. After breakfast we pile into the open vehicle which takes us to the final destination of our roundtrip. As we pull up at Cañon Outpost Station our tour has come to its end (incl. breakfast).

#### Services included:

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

#### Services not included:

- Light rucksack (day pack  $\pm$  25 litres)
- Sleeping bag (-5 °C)
- Personal insurance
- Tips
- Souvenirs/presents
- It is not possible to ride the mules

### **What to bring**

- A smile and appreciation for mother Nature
- Daypack for carrying 6 to 8 kg
- Sufficient water bottles to carry at least 2 litres of water
- Comfortable walking shoes/boots, covering the ankle for support and possibly worn in well
- Sunglasses and a shatter proof case
- A small hand towel to dry off your feet after river crossings. You will be supplied with a small towel for showers
- A pair of sandals or river shoes to wear at the camps and across rivers, if desired.
- Sleeping bag (down or synthetic) for up to 0 degrees. A light mattress will be supplied
- Miner's or head lamp with spare batteries
- Binoculars
- Your personal medicines

- Plasters for blisters
- Plastic bags to protect cameras over river crossings
- A sun hat
- Sun protection cream
- As weather can change from day to day, a warm fleece/sweater and windbreaker are recommended.
- Beanie
- Swimming costume

### **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 apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Note:**

For Hikers who wants to stay in the Canyon for one more day we recommend the Fish Eagle Trail. Please contact us for further information.