

Namibia Community Challenge 5 – 14 July 2012

The Namibia Community Challenge is an epic journey through one of Africa's most beautiful countries. It is a unique opportunity to experience firsthand Homeless International's overseas work, combined with an awe-inspiring trek through Namibia's desert lands.

During the first half of the trip we will visit a local community in Namibia supported by Homeless International's partner organisation. After meeting community members and visiting a local settlement, we will spend around three days working on a community building project, supporting local people.

Spending time with the community will be an emotional but rewarding journey as we learn how they are working together to overcome challenges to housing, water and sanitation. Experiencing Namibia's true culture, you will meet new people and make a difference to the lives of local people who are working together to improve their communities.

The challenge continues with a three-day desert trek, taking in the sights of the Ugab River and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain. From its parched desert with some of the highest sand dunes in the world, to the fascinating geology and dramatic landscapes of the Brandberg, this trek takes us through a land of extremes. Namibia is home to the largest free roaming population of black rhinos in the world, the desert elephant and numerous other species. Whilst trekking we hope to see how these inhabitants live, for a truly unforgettable experience.

Day 1: London – Windhoek

We depart London for Windhoek.

Day 2: Arrive Windhoek

We arrive in Windhoek where we are met by our guides and transfer by road to our hotel in Omaruru. Here we have lunch and time to relax after our long journey and

then in the afternoon we meet the team that will be with us over the next week. We have a full briefing on the challenge and this evening we have a welcome dinner to mark the start of an incredible week.



Day 3–5: Homeless International community project

For the first three days of our challenge we transfer each day to the community project, which is supported by Homeless International through its Namibian partner, the Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG). After meeting staff from NHAG and members of the community, we will begin work on our project. The nature of the work we will be doing will depend on what stage of development the community is at when we arrive, but it is likely to include tasks such as helping to make bricks to build houses.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that we will finish the project during our stay. You will be fully briefed about the project each day, covering safety aspects and any special techniques to be used. No previous experience or skills are required to take part in the project and you will not be expected to do anything that you don't feel physically able or comfortable to do. A packed lunch will be provided at the project.



Each evening we transfer to our campbase in Omaruru for supper and a night under African skies. Evenings will be spent around the campfire relaxing and eating a hearty meal. We will finish working on the project at lunchtime on day 5 and have the rest of the day to relax, reflect on our achievements and spend time with the community.

Day 6-9: Trekking from Ugab River

Over the next three days, we will experience the beautiful desert landscapes and sights of Namibia as we embark on our trekking adventure.

Day 6

From the banks of the Ugab River, we trek with our local Damara guides into the Brandberg Nature Reserve, where we are greeted by the awesome sight of Namibia's tallest mountain. Our route takes us into the Tsibab gorge on the northern side of the massif where we trek to see the famous "White Lady" Bushman painting and then we continue through the ravine to view more spectacular rock paintings before returning to camp for our evening meal.



Day 7

We start with a transfer to Brandberg north and walk to the West Mines. This is a great trek and we hope to spot game species en-route, including giraffe, mountain zebras and the great desert elephant. We arrive into the wilderness camp this afternoon for a well-earned rest and a chance to enjoy a dramatic sunset across the desert in the cool evening air.

Day 8

For our last trekking day, it's another early start with a transfer to the coast for the start of an amazing day. Our trek will take us to Cape Cross with its huge Cape fur seal colony. We then make our way along the beautiful coastline and turn east for the Spitzkop and the Erong Mountains. This is a perfect setting for the last night and as the sun goes down on this breathtaking challenge, we celebrate our achievements with a fantastic celebration meal under the stars.



Day 10: Windhoek to London

Today we transfer back to Windhoek for our flight to London. If there is time we will make our way into the centre of Windhoek for free time.

Day 11: Arrive London

This itinerary is complex and subject to change