

Fish River Canyon



With a length of 650 kilometres the Fish River is the longest river in Namibia. Its source lies in the eastern Naukluft Mountains, South-west of Ai-Ais and it flows into the Orange River.

The Fish River canyon, situated along the lower reaches of the Fish River, is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia. With a depth of up to 550 metres, the Fish River Canyon is the largest canyon in Africa. The enormous gorge meanders along a distance of approx. 160 kilometres through the fissured Koubis massif all the way down to Ai-Ais. The canyon starts near Seeheim; is 161 kilometres long and about 27 kilometres wide; and ends at Ai-Ais.

The Fish River Canyon probably formed about 500 million years ago during the pluvial times - a rainy climatic epoch - many millions of years ago. However, the gorge was not only created by water erosion, but also through the collapse of the valley bottom due to movements in the earth's crust.

The Fish River Canyon has become a popular hiking destination. However, hikers require good physical health and can only be undertaken during the cooler winter months (between May and September). A permit from Namibia Wildlife Resorts in Windhoek must be obtained. The total distance of the hike is 86 km in length and takes the average hiker about 5 days to complete.

Fish River Hiking Trail



The 86 km long hiking trail through the Fish River Canyon takes 5 days and can only be undertaken by physically fit hikers. One has to register long ahead of time in Windhoek and produce a medical certificate. Only group hikes with a minimum of 3 participants are permitted.

The hike through the Canyon can only be done in winter (between 15th of April & 15th of September). In summer temperatures in the canyon are extreme, and even in winter the day temperatures can reach 40 C degrees. Hikers are advised of all associated risks, before the hike commences.



The descent starts at Hiker's View about 3 km north of the Main Viewpoint and takes 1 hour. There is only one "emergency exit" near "Palm Springs", usually reached on day 3. But it is extremely steep, and once one made it to the top, one is literally standing in the desert.

Night 0 = most tent at Hobas Camp Site, about 10km from the main viewpoints

Night 1 = Palm Springs sulphur pools

Night 2 = Three Sisters

Night 3 = Von Trotha's grave

Night 4 = Ai-Ais

ACCOMODATION

Hobas Restcamp

The entrance to the Fish River Canyon Park lies in Hobas.

The camp has a small store and a campground. From here it is 10 km to the main viewpoint.

Entry Fees

Adults: N\$ 80

Children (6 - 16): free

Vehicles (max 10 seats): N\$ 10

Accommodation at Hobas

Camping (max 8 persons): N\$ 100-850

Reservations:

NWR Namibia Wildlife Resorts

Tel ++264-(0)61 285 7200

Fax ++264-(0)61 224 900

eMail reservations@nwr.com.na

Ai-/Ais / Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

The Fish River Canyon Park in Namibia and the Richtersveld National Park in South Africa are about to be joined to a transfrontier national park. In 2003, the South African and the Namibian governments, signed an agreement accordingly.