

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



PRE14

ORANGE RIVER GEOLOGY BY CANOE

Field Trip Leader: Dave Reid



The first day will be a ~600 km highway geology trip from Cape Town to Springbok, along a route that stretches north towards the Namibia border. Several stops are scheduled to examine the geology en route, and will include mainly Pan-African (750 – 500 Ma) metasediments and intrusive granites, as well as Namaquan (1200 – 1000 Ma) metamorphic and igneous rocks. The highway follows the Great Escarpment for much its length, so the terrain is quite rugged and diverse, largely arid to semi-arid, and quite likely to be mantled with spring wild flowers. Springbok is located in the historic Okiep copper district and several worked out mines and mineral deposits will be examined.

The second day will take us further north for ~100 km during which a major terrane boundary between the Namaqua gneisses and the 2 Ga Orange River orogen will be crossed, revealing an ancient subduction related volcano-plutonic complex of batholithic proportions. Namaquan reworking of this terrane produced abundant swarms of anatectic pegmatites, with several rare element types that are actively mined. We will cross the Orange River at the border to Namibia, so participants will need their passports and valid visas. Overnight will be at the Felix Unite Adventures Provenance river resort, and you will enjoy your first opportunity to camp out under the stars.

This outdoor experience will continue for another four nights, during which the excursion will involve paddling some 80 km in 2-person canoes, attended by a team of experienced river guides supplied by Felix Unite Adventures who will prepare all meals en route. Expect camp fires, singalongs and general revelry, punctuated with substantive discussion on many topics. The canoe trip will follow the Orange River canyon as it cuts through the desert mountainlands of the Richtersveld, a combination of a World Heritage Site and Trans-Frontier National Park wilderness region. Spectacular outcrops devoid of vegetation build the high walls of the canyon, as well as create numerous rapids and waterfalls, all of which will be negotiated while examining the varied geology. The geological history spans 2 Ga from early Proterozoic island arcs and active continental margins, through three orogenic belts, including the Pan-African Gariep Belt and its foreland basin (Nama Group). These basement terranes are partly mantled by Palaeozoic – Mesozoic Karoo strata, particularly the glacial Dwyka Formation, with its striated pavements, impressive tillites and laminated shales. Finally, there are Tertiary gravel terraces renowned for their alluvial diamond deposits preserved along the Orange River canyon route.

The final night will be back in the Provenance resort, prior to travelling back to Cape Town the next day

Field Trip Leader: Dave Reid

Start: Cape Town

End: Cape Town

Dates: 7 days, Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th August 2016

ITINERARY

Accommodation in Cape Town prior to trip is for your own account

Day 1: 21 August 2016, Sunday

Early morning transfer from Cape Town to Springbok by coach
Overnight at Okiep County Hotel in a Standard Room, including Breakfast

Day 2: 22 August 2015, Monday

Transfer from Okiep Country Hotel to Provenance Camp (vehicle returns to CT)
Arrive at Provenance Camp with Felix Unite
Dinner is prepared and served by your guides
Leisure time in camp
Overnight Camping at base camp

Day 3: 23 August 2016, Tuesday

Breakfast is prepared and served by your guides
Safety briefing
Depart on river
Lunch is served on the river banks
Arrive at campsite for the night
Dinner is prepared and served by your guides
Camping on River

Day 4: 24 August 2016, Wednesday

Breakfast is prepared and served by your guides
Depart on river
Lunch is served on the river banks
Arrive at campsite for the night
Dinner is prepared and served by your guides
Camping on River

Day 5 : 25 August 2016, Thursday

Breakfast is prepared and served by your guides
Depart on river
Lunch is served on the river banks
Arrive at campsite for the night
Dinner is prepared and served by your guides
Camping on River

Day 6 : 26 August 2016, Friday

Breakfast is prepared and served by your guides
Depart on river – Reach Take Out
Return to Provenance Camp for Lunch and certificate presentation
Overnight Camping
Dinner in Restaurant

Day 7 : 27 August 2016, Saturday

Breakfast in Restaurant
Transfer from Provenance to Cape Town by coach.

Accommodation in Cape Town is for your own account

The above trip includes:

- Transport, as specified above
- 1 night accommodation at the Okiep Country Hotel in a Standard Room, including Breakfast – TWIN share
- 2 night accommodation at Provenance at Camp Site, including Breakfast
- 3 nights camping on the Orange River
- Exclusive Tour for Geoscience – minimum 12 pax required for exclusive tour
- Dinner at Okiep Country Hotel
- Camping Equipment – [Kit will contain a 1 man dome tent + sleeping bag + pillow + air mattress] per person
- All Crockery and Cutlery
- Paddling Equipment
- Guide Team (Felix Unite)
- All Meals from arrival at base camp to last days Dinner back at camp (from 23 – 27 August)
- Dinner in Restaurant on the night of the 27 August 2016
- Breakfast in Restaurant on the morning of the 28 August 2016
- 1 x Geology Field Leader

The above trip excludes:

- Excludes your drinks – Soft and hard – This can be purchased at our shop at the base camp.
- Transfers and accommodation in Cape Town prior and post trip.

When at base camp the guests have use of the following facilities:

Internet Café
Shop
Bar
Pool
Restaurant
Laundry

Minimum Persons 12

Maximum Persons 20

NOTE: All services quoted are subject to availability and hotels can be substituted for one of a similar standard.

Vehicle Size:

12 person range : 1 x 15 seater vehicle or similar

14 – 20+ person range: 1 X 32 seater vehicles or similar

All excursions/sightseeing listed are time and weather permitting on the day of travel are subject to road conditions.

NAMIBIA VISA INFORMATION: <http://www.namibia.org.za/consular.htm>