

Nam Hike Walvis to Henties



Detailed Programme

Silent Steps is happy to announce a 66km Namibian Coastal slack-packing route between Walvis Bay and Henties Bay, stretching over 4 days of hiking.

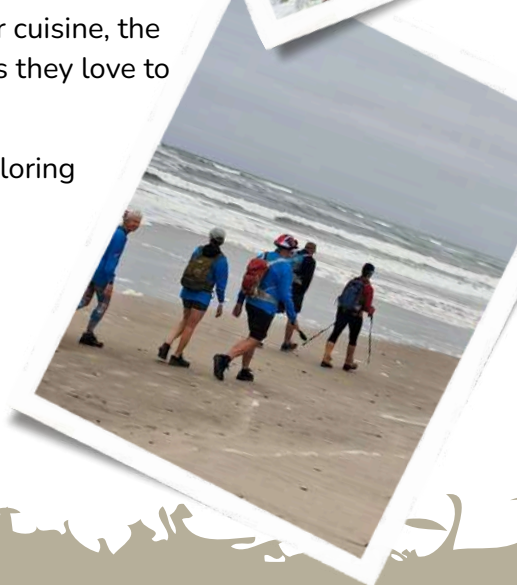
This hike traverses a unique blend of coastal terrain- including sandy dunes, rocky shores, and scenic beaches. The trail is moderately challenging, with some uneven terrain and potential wind. The hike takes place along Namibia's stunning Skeleton Coast (although not part of the Skeleton Coast National Park up North), known for its rugged beauty, vast expanses of sand and dramatic coastline.

The area is rich in wildlife, including seals, dolphins, and various bird species including flamingos and osprey.

Although there are service providers offering coastal hikes in the Namib Desert south of Walvis Bay, none offer the kind of luxury and opulence Silent Steps has on offer in terms of accommodation, especially in Henties Bay at letsiemeer, gourmet meals served in scenic locations, a transfer service exclusively for the hikers, as well as a local guide providing insight into the area's geology and wildlife en route.

Namibia is not only one of the most arid countries in the world, but also one of the most friendly, accommodating and caring countries when it comes to its 2.6 million inhabitants. During this trip we will endeavor to introduce you to some of the locals, their cuisine, the Namib Desert (Dune 7, quad biking or camel riding), and of course the places they love to visit in Swakopmund and Henties Bay.

Stick with us, we will take you hiking in places we have been thinking of exploring for the past 7 years!



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Route:

- The total distance hiked over 4 days will be 66 km.
- The route follows the coastline, and the terrain will be flat with sections of soft sand, no matter what the tide.
- From Mile 8 you will encounter sections of coil stone from time to time, but it will not be unbearable and there will always be an alternative “route” a few meters away from the ocean.
- The camber will differ from section to section and depends on the previous spring tide. That is the West Coast of Africa for you!
- The distance hiked per day will range from 16km to 19km maximum.

What is excluded:

- Any cool drinks or alcoholic beverages
- Your own snacks en route
- Lunches (en route while you are walking)
- Silent Steps promotional items

You must bring:

- A small back pack (25 or 35 litre)
- Your own lunch for the duration of the hike
- Your own snacks
- Camera
- Hiking Clothes
- A rain jacket (four seasons in one day)
- Hiking shoes (no boots needed)
- Sunscreen
- Sunhat
- Small first-aid kit



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Nam Hike

Walvis to Henties

Day 1:

We meet at Jetty Self Catering in Swakopmund. Hikers flying in to Walvis Bay will be collected at the airport and transferred to Swakopmund at no extra cost. Please book a flight arriving between 14h00-16h00- if at all possible. Swakopmund is not far from the airport, but we would prefer to do one transfer- if possible.

We check in at our accommodation in Swakopmund, and get together for a meet and greet. After the meet and greet we will walk to Altstadt Restaurant and Beer Garden for a true Namibian meal featuring German cuisine.

Day 2:

Early departure (we provide breakfast packs) to Dolfynstrand, from where we commence our hike. Dolfynstrand is a popular destination in Namibia, founded in the 1970's. There are only a few hundred full-time residents but this number increases drastically during the December holiday season.

Today you will hike a distance of 18.5km, with the cold Atlantic Ocean on your left and the warm majestic Namib dunes on your right. Depending on the pace, we arrive early afternoon at Tiger Reef Beach Bar for a cold beer and something warm to eat.

Day 3:

Hikers are issued with breakfast packs and we have an early departure to Mile 8, on the outskirts of Swakopmund. After 8 km of hiking, we walk past the very popular Mile 14. Here hikers are welcome to have a coffee, a slice of homemade bread or even a cold beer!

Another 9 km awaits you to the most interesting little town of Wlotzkasbaken. The latter is a mostly German holiday settlement on Namibia's Atlantic coast, situated approximately halfway between Swakopmund and Henties Bay. Founded as an angling spot in the 1930's, Wlotzkasbaken developed into a settlement of unusual design and administration, as you will see once you get there.

We do a 36 km transfer from Wlotzkasbaken to Henties Bay, where we have ample time to settle in for a three-night stay at the lovely letsiemeer, right on the beach! Tonight, we make use of their wonderful braai area, eat and watch the sunset over the ocean. letsiemeer must be the most beautiful and well-equipped self-catering accommodation on the whole of this coastline.



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Day 4:

As the days move on, so does the tide. Today we get to depart a bit later than the previous days, and we make our way by bus to the Zeila shipwreck, which ran aground off Henties Bay on the 25th of August 2008.

The fishing trawler had been sold as scrap metal and was under tow from Walvis Bay when it broke free and was wrecked. Today we hike 15km and our route takes us past Jakkalsputz, where you will find nothing but a mostly vacant campsite, the sun and the sea, and maybe a few fishermen. Jakkalsputz used to be miles away from Henties Bay, but with recent developments along the coastline, the first Henties Bay houses are now only about 3km from Jakkalsputz.

The last 3km offer a harder surface a few meters away from the beach. Tonight, we have a night out in Henties, go for a lovely supper at Fishy Corner and visit the notorious Sara Se Gat in De Duine Hotel for a game of pool or a quick Jägermeister, before we go to bed.

Day 5:

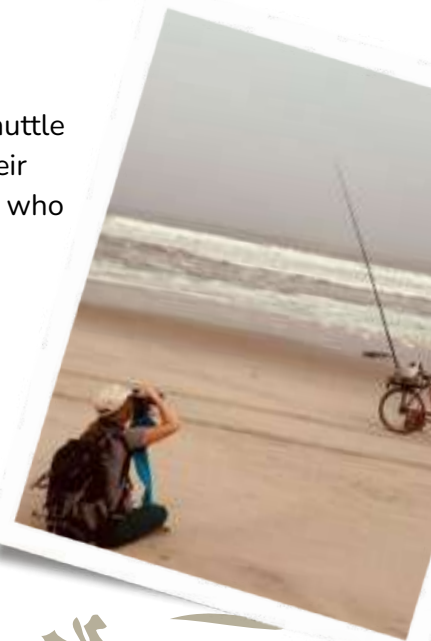
Today is our last day of hiking. We enjoy a healthy breakfast at letsiemeer, from where we do a short transfer by bus to the Omaruru River. From here we hike direction east, up into the dry riverbed of the Omaruru river for about 16km. At a spot known as Pasella by the locals, we finish our hike under a Wild Fig tree, where we meet the Silent Steps team and conclude our hike with a lovely surprise fitting of this most amazing hike!

Day 6:

Today we enjoy breakfast together between 08h00 and 09h00. The Silent Steps shuttle will take you back to Swakopmund and Walvis Bay respectively. Hikers who left their vehicles at Jetty Self Catering in Swakopmund, will be dropped off there and hikers who are flying out, will be dropped off at Walvis Bay Airport around 09h30. As a South African you need to be at the airport two hours before departure time.

Cost:

- R13 400 per person sharing.
- R15 400 per person for a single supplement (if a guest prefers not to share a room with another hiker)
- We kindly require a 30% non-refundable deposit to secure your spot on the hike.



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Silent Steps Wilderness Walk

Summary:

This hike is much more than a hike- it is a Namibian experience for South Africans and Namibians alike! The experience can be summarized as a hassle-free, luxury, six-day experience, where all you have to do is to hike, and the rest is organised and supplied by us.

Starting Point:

We will meet group members flying in at Walvis Bay International Airport and hikers driving up, at Jetty Self-Catering in Swakopmund- where we will have our meet and greet. We will allow time for last minute shopping at the mall.

Ending Point:

The group will be transferred from Henties Bay to Walvis Bay International Airport (hikers flying out) or Jetty Self-Catering, where hikers' vehicles will be parked. If you are flying out, the earliest departure must be 13h55, please. As a South African you need to be at the airport two hours before departure time.

Please Note:

- We are acutely aware of our footprint on our environment
- We save water
- We save electricity
- We support local businesses
- We buy local produce when/where we provide meals
- We support the development of local talent and skills
- We leave only our footprints behind



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