



Adventure

A Slice of Africa



International opportunities are open to every girl at Westfield

'Slice of Africa 2019' was going to be an experience like no other and everyone was excited at the prospect of nearly three weeks travelling around South Africa, Namibia and Botswana fulfilling the Round Square ideals of internationalism, leadership, adventure, service and environmentalism.

On arriving in Cape Town we were met by Dave Carr from St. Cyprians girls school in Cape Town – a Round Square school we have worked with for over twenty years - and our group leader, Grant Blewitt. We immediately drove over 500 kms to the Namibian border where we spent a considerable length of time getting through customs in the middle of nowhere before arriving at Bundi base camp on the Namibian side of the Orange River. After a restful night in our cabins and breakfast we climbed into what was going to be our home for the next four days – a two-man kayak! We paddled down the Orange River in the



Building Relationships

Service Adventure Teamwork Environmental Explorers Internationalism Creative



Namibian winter, stopping off for lunch by the side of the river, swimming and sleeping under the stars (*just sleeping bags – no tents!*) in full view of the Southern Cross and the milky way, spotting the shooting stars and looking up in awe. The 'walk of shame' (matches, shovel and loo roll) was an unforgettable experience – digging your own loo then burning the paper afterwards! The relaxing journey downstream was made more interesting with rapids, lessons

in geology (*thanks, Dave!*) and wildlife. The 'nappy run' was great fun as we re-arranged our life jackets in the form of a nappy and floated freely through the rapids without our kayaks. It was a real wrench to leave the river, the night-time games and our 'reflection' time. Courage, tenacity, a sense of responsibility and teamwork skills were very much to the fore. The group bonded really well and thanks to our guides we learnt so much. The day after leaving the river we

drove to a school in a nearby township where we were given a tour of the classrooms by the Headmistress and played games with the young children at break time. The school was in a very poor area but the children were so keen to learn and were appreciative of the things we brought as gifts. In turn we learnt to appreciate diversity, the importance of communication skills and self-awareness. Westfield girls played a great game of volleyball and soccer against a really strong all-boys team. Losing 3-0 was no disgrace!

Back on the road we visited the hot springs at Ai Ais where we met up with Bundi owner 'tall' Paul and celebrated shabbat with a large group of pupils from the Jewish High School in Cape Town. We then travelled up to the dunes at Sousseveld in central Namibia where we learnt about the forces that formed this amazing landscape. We learnt about the commitment to sustainability in these fragile eco-systems.



“Unforgettable, life changing, just fantastic!”

Emily, Lower Five

After a series of punishing journeys on untarmacked roads, which saw the destruction of our windscreen and several tyres, we arrived in the Kalahari on the South Africa - Botswana border. We saw lions, giraffe, ostrich and springbok and all kinds of amazing wildlife. We learned new skills in cooking (yes, Katie – a great

spag bol!) and photography. Leadership skills were clearly required at various stages of the visit - who was going to cook, clean up, erect the tents and navigate our journey? The drive back through central Western Cape to Cape Town was amazing and we visited the Paarl monument. Once back in Cape Town, we settled back into

civilisation and proper beds! A shot of retail therapy at the V&A docks and several fast food experiences later we were ready to climb Table Mountain in the mist and to learn how to surf in Muizenburg! The visit came to a grand finale when, on the last night, Dave's brother took us out in the bay on his huge catamaran before a

final dinner at the Cape Town Yacht Club. This was such a memorable trip that we could go on to write many more pages. We would thoroughly recommend the Slice of Africa visit to all Westfield girls. It was an awesome experience and one which will last long in all our memories.

Katie and Emily, Lower Five

...international experience

What we encountered:

Kilometres driven: 4,000

Temperature range: 0°C - 30°C

Conditions : Arid desert, bush



Africa

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