# Köcherbaum / Quiver Tree Trail





## **Quiver Tree Trail**

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- mountain vistas and an extraordinary collection of plants with a spectacular display of guiver trees set in rugged terrain
- excellent photography opportunities
- a trail following farm tracks and zebra paths, along river beds and into a gorge set in the heart of the Great Western Escarpment of Namibia, just off the Gamsberg Pass
- spotting of wildlife e.g. hartman's mountain zebra, oryx, kudu, chacma baboon, klipspringer, black eagle
- floristic highlights include: shepherd's tree (Boscia albitrunca), resurrection bush (Myrothamnus flabellifolius), quiver tree (Aloidendron dichotomum), mountain milk bush (Euphorbia avasmontana), cissus (Cyphostemma bainesii), bushman candle (Monsonia mossamedense)

Distance: 5 km

Duration: 2.5 hrs walking only (add 2 hrs exploring, resting ... )

Elevation gain/loss: 265 m

Best timing: Any time

### Please ensure you take the following essentials:

- Hat
- Good hiking shoes/boots easy walking but rocky terrain
- Long-sleeved shirt for sun protection and sun lotion
- Water: 2-3 litres (can be very hot going uphill at midday)

| 1 | Shepherd's tree, a protected and prominent tree in Namibia<br>(origin of name: provides the only shade offered to herdsmen<br>in arid landscapes). Continue on farm track.<br>NB: If walking from the Pass: 700 m to this point (not included<br>in elevation profile or timing indicator).                                  |
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| 2 | Turn left in the valley where a track joins from the right. Make<br>your way down the slope along zebra paths towards the river<br>bed. Look out for the resurrection bush on opposite mountain<br>slope (small, brown bush clumps dotted all over the slope –<br>seemingly dead – yet burst into leaf with the first rain). |
| 3 | Enter river bed and follow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4 | Another river bed joins in from the left, keep right and follow all the way into the gorge at no 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5 | Old cattle post with kraal (animal enclosure) and windmill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6 | Gorge with rock pools – interesting rock formations eroded by water - ideal for a dip in the rainy season.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7 | Quiver tree circuit – follow zebra paths whilst taking time to explore this scenic area set about with the sculpturally magnificent tree aloe – the quiver tree, and a variety of other                                                                                                                                      |

8 Join the old farm track and follow it all the way back to no 1.

### **ENJOY YOUR HIKE !**

#### Please:

- $\circ$   $\,$  Do not litter and leave no toilet or tissue paper in the veld
- $\circ$  Do not smoke bush fires kill

interesting plants.

- $\circ~$  Respect all wildlife and be aware of snakes
- $\circ$   $\$  Leave only footprints and take only photographs