

Client Case Study

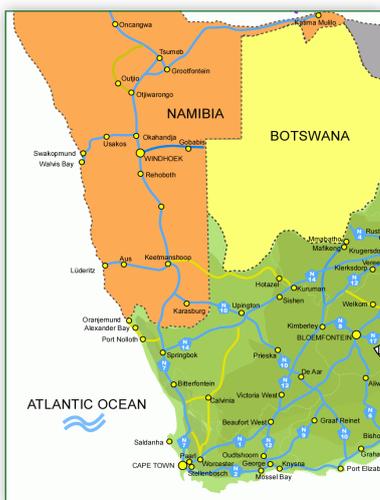
Nº 14

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Fiona Gale Overseas Expedition - Namibia

"I wouldn't hesitate to go on a trip like this again at a moment's notice!"

Fiona Gale
Only Connect Communication



Synopsis

Following an Overseas Learning Experience, Fiona built new business connections and gained confidence and insight from spending time with other business leaders. The time away from her business also allowed her to reflect on her own behaviours and re-energise, ready to step back into the business with more focus when she returned.

Background and Context

- Fiona was a business leader working in London and enjoyed the challenge of meeting and working alongside a variety of other business owners and entrepreneurs. As an experienced traveller she was excited by the opportunity of an adventure, which would offer personal learning opportunities through taking her out of her comfort zone and immersing her in a different culture.
- After meeting and working with Ken Hames, Fiona was keen to accompany him on an Overseas Learning Experience. She felt that a remote and facilitated expedition with other business leaders would provide an opportunity to see another country in a deeper and more personally fulfilling way and would challenge her to explore her own limits.

The Farscape Learning Experience

Fiona participated in a Farscape Overseas Learning Experience in Namibia led by Farscape's Operations Director, Ken Hames, along with a group of fellow business leaders from other companies.

- The group was made up of other people at a similar level in business, all of whom had undertaken learning and development training before. This meant that Fiona had the opportunity to interact with peers who had a similar business understanding and was able to share challenges, ideas and knowledge as well as reinforcing leadership skills.
- The trip saw the group experience a diverse range of challenges in the African wilderness, including physically challenging tasks such as trekking in the desert, learning survival skills and sourcing fresh water.
- The group were able to get close to some of Namibia's wild animals in their native habitat and learn how to track rhino, elephant and lion.
- The delegates had the opportunity to re-energise and review their behaviours and motivate themselves through reflection and discussion, away from the workplace and in an environment where decisions had real and immediate consequences.
- The group had the time and space to openly discuss their various workplace challenges and to share knowledge about the issues they faced in the workplace, all facilitated by an experienced business coach.

"An experience like this is a great opportunity to get down and dirty and completely immerse yourself in whichever country you're in. You really taste the full flavour of the culture in this way. It was a powerful cultural learning experience, which I hope to be able to go on again."

Fiona Gale
Only Connect Communication

- The group met with and interacted with the Himba tribe who are native to Namibia. This interface was intended to give the group the opportunity to learn about the Himba way of life and compare this to their own experience and culture. In particular, with the assistance of a translator, they spent time talking about leadership in the Himba culture and how performance and contribution are monitored.

Outcomes and Results

- The shared experience with other business leaders whilst on the trip served to consolidate Fiona's self-belief and confidence, both as a leader and as a part of a team.
- Fiona has since felt increased conviction in her own opinions and her ability to lead. She has now moved onto a new role and has recognised her ability to achieve things she didn't previously believe she would achieve.
- Fiona particularly enjoyed the adventurous elements of the trip and returned feeling that she had had a profound cultural learning experience. She returned to the UK with memories that she has described as 'incredible' and having learned valuable lessons regarding her approach to work.



Fiona took part in a carefully designed learning journey in the Kunene region of northern Namibia



It was an opportunity to spend time in a rugged, dynamic and truly wild environment



Along with her fellow delegates she embarked on a physically and emotionally challenging journey



It was an opportunity for her to re-energise and review her behaviours



And to learn about different approaches to leadership



Positive impact can already be seen with increased conviction in her own opinions and her ability to lead