Namib Desert Expedition – Participant Agreement & Terms of Participation

Sonnenkind Pte. Ltd. · “Signature” and “The Crossing” · Last updated: 1 November 2026

1. Contract Formation and Scope

1.1 By submitting the booking form and confirming participation, the Participant enters into a legally binding agreement with Sonnenkind Pte. Ltd. (“Organizer”) for the expedition format booked (“Namib Desert Expedition – Signature” or “Namib Desert Expedition – The Crossing”; each an “Expedition”).

1.2 This agreement comprises these Terms & Conditions (including Schedules 1 to 3), the Indemnity, Waiver & Assumption of Risk provisions below, and the booking confirmation, which together form the entire agreement between the Participant and the Organizer. The scope of services is set out in Schedule 2 (Signature) or Schedule 3 (The Crossing) and in the booking confirmation.

1.3 The Expedition is offered exclusively to women aged 18 years or older.

2. Nature of the Expedition

2.1 The Participant acknowledges that the Expedition is not a standard holiday, retreat, or package tour. It is a physically demanding, remote desert expedition combined with elements of personal challenge, reflection, and coaching-style interaction. The Participant voluntarily accepts that, owing to the circumstances, the experience may in part be physically strenuous, logistically unpredictable, and emotionally challenging.

2.2 The Participant crosses the Namib Desert on foot (approximately 120 km) in a team of up to twelve Participants. Team Leaders are experienced individuals who have previously completed the crossing. Signature is personally led by Sonja Piontek. In The Crossing, teams are led by Team Leaders (Alumni Desert Sisters), with Sonja Piontek as overall expedition leader.

3. Investment & Payment

3.1 The price and deposit for each Expedition are set out in Schedule 1. All payments are to be made in euros.

3.2 The deposit is due on the terms set out in Schedule 1 (Signature: by bank transfer within five (5) working days of the booking confirmation; The Crossing: immediately upon booking, by credit card). The remaining balance is due in full no later than 6 January 2027 (Signature) or 31 January 2027 (The Crossing) and payable by bank transfer. The Participant bears any bank or transfer charges.

3.3 If the Participant fails to pay any amount when due and does not remedy this within seven (7) days after a written reminder, the Organizer may cancel the Participant’s place. In this case, Section 4 applies as if the Participant had cancelled on the date of the Organizer’s cancellation.

4. Binding Commitment & Cancellation

4.1 By confirming the booking, the Participant enters into a binding commitment to participate in the Expedition, acknowledging the limited availability and the significant planning and logistical arrangements required.

4.2 A cancellation by the Participant must be made in writing (email suffices) and takes effect upon receipt. The following cancellation fees apply (see the overview in Schedule 1):

(a) Signature: for cancellations made on or before 6 January 2027, the deposit shall be retained; for cancellations made between 7 January 2027 and 6 February 2027, 75% of the total Expedition price shall be payable; for cancellations made from 7 February 2027 onwards, the full Expedition price shall be payable.

(b) The Crossing: for cancellations made on or before 31 January 2027, the deposit shall be retained; for cancellations made between 1 February 2027 and 31 March 2027, 75% of the total Expedition price shall be payable; for cancellations made from 1 April 2027 onwards, the full Expedition price shall be payable.

4.3 The cancellation fees set out in Section 4.2 apply regardless of the reason for cancellation, including illness, injury, or other unforeseen circumstances preventing participation. This does not affect any mandatory statutory rights of the Participant under the laws of the Participant’s country of residence.

4.4 The Participant is advised to obtain travel insurance covering cancellation, including for medical reasons (see also Section 5.7). Except as provided in Section 9, the Organizer shall not be responsible for any losses arising from a Participant's inability to attend the Expedition.

5. Acceptance of Risk, Indemnity & Liability

This Section 5 contains the Indemnity, Waiver & Assumption of Risk provisions. All exclusions and limitations of liability in this agreement are subject to Section 5.8 (Non-Excludable Liability).

5.1 Acceptance of Risk. The Participant confirms that they are in sufficient physical and mental condition to take part in the Expedition and that they will disclose any relevant medical conditions, injuries, allergies, or medications that may affect their participation. The Participant acknowledges that they remain solely responsible for assessing their fitness to participate and for seeking independent medical advice where appropriate.

The Participant further acknowledges that the Expedition takes place in a remote and physically demanding environment, involving prolonged exertion, extreme weather conditions, and limited access to comprehensive medical facilities. While the Organizer provides the support of a qualified medical doctor during the Expedition, any medical assistance available is limited to basic or emergency care within the constraints of the environment and does not constitute comprehensive medical treatment or a substitute for professional medical services outside the Expedition setting.

Subject to Section 5.8, the Participant accepts all risks associated with participation, including but not limited to physical injury, illness, environmental exposure, and the inherent unpredictability of remote expedition conditions, and agrees that participation is undertaken at their own risk.

5.2 Psychological & Coaching Disclaimer. The Participant acknowledges that the Expedition may include elements of deep personal reflection and emotionally challenging experiences. Any coaching elements, guidance, or conversations provided during the Expedition are not to be understood as therapy, medical advice, or psychological treatment. Subject to Section 5.8, the Organizer assumes no responsibility for any emotional or psychological outcomes arising from participation.

5.3 No Outcome Guarantee. The Participant acknowledges that no guarantees are made regarding any personal, emotional, physical, or professional outcomes resulting from participation in the Expedition. This includes, without limitation, personal transformation, emotional breakthroughs, physical performance, or business or life results.

5.4 Indemnity & Liability Waiver. Subject to Section 5.8 and to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Participant agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Sonnenkind Pte. Ltd., Sonja Piontek, Desert Magic Tours, and their respective directors, officers, employees, contractors, partners, and representatives (together, the "Released Parties") from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs, or expenses arising out of or in connection with participation in the Expedition.

Each Released Party may enforce this Section 5.4 under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 2001 of Singapore. The parties may amend or terminate this agreement without the consent of any Released Party.

5.5 Third-Party Providers. The Participant acknowledges that certain services provided as part of the Expedition may be delivered by independent third-party providers, including but not limited to transport operators, accommodation providers, local guides, and Desert Magic Tours as local partner. Such providers act independently and are not employees or agents of the Organizer. Subject to Section 5.8, the Organizer shall not be liable for any acts, omissions, or defaults of such third-party providers.

5.6 Emergency & Rescue Limitation. The Participant acknowledges that, while the Organizer provides the support of a qualified medical doctor during the Expedition, the Expedition takes place in a remote environment where emergency response capabilities are inherently limited. Any medical assistance available is restricted to basic or emergency care within the constraints of the environment and does not constitute comprehensive medical treatment or hospital-level care. The Participant further acknowledges that emergency response and evacuation may be delayed, limited, or, in certain circumstances, unavailable, and that evacuation may be complex or impossible.

The expedition doctor, the Team Leader and the expedition leader may, in their reasonable discretion, require a Participant to rest, stop, or leave the Expedition for medical or safety reasons. Any costs associated with emergency response, evacuation, or further medical treatment shall be borne solely by the Participant, subject to Section 5.8.

5.7 Insurance. The Participant is required to obtain and maintain comprehensive travel health insurance covering emergency medical treatment, evacuation, and repatriation, and to provide proof of insurance upon request. The Participant further acknowledges that cancellation insurance, including coverage for medical reasons, is strongly recommended but remains their sole responsibility. Failure to maintain adequate insurance coverage may result in exclusion from participation without refund.

5.8 Non-Excludable Liability. Nothing in this agreement excludes or limits the liability of the Organizer or any Released Party for:

(a) death or personal injury caused by negligence;

(b) fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation;

(c) gross negligence or wilful misconduct; or

(d) any other liability which cannot lawfully be excluded or limited, including liability under mandatory consumer protection laws applicable to the Participant.

5.9 Health Information. The Participant will complete the health questionnaire provided by the Organizer before the Expedition. The Participant explicitly consents to the Organizer collecting and using the health information provided for the purpose of assessing suitability for participation and enabling safe medical support, and to sharing it with the expedition doctor and medical team and, where necessary in an emergency, with other relevant service providers. Personal data is processed in accordance with the Organizer's Privacy Policy and applicable data protection laws, including the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 of Singapore and, where applicable, the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

5.10 Expedition-Specific Risks. In addition to the risks described above, the Participant acknowledges that the Expedition involves multi-day walking over long distances in desert terrain, heat, dehydration, exposure to the elements, and travel in 4x4 vehicles over dunes.

6. Founder Clause

6.1 The Participant acknowledges that the Expedition is designed and typically led by Sonja Piontek. In the event that Sonja Piontek is unable to lead the Expedition due to illness, force majeure, or other unforeseen circumstances, the Organizer reserves the right to appoint a suitably qualified substitute expedition leader or facilitator.

6.2 The Organizer may likewise change Team Leaders and the composition of teams where reasonably necessary.

6.3 The Participant accepts that such a substitution or change shall not constitute a material change to the Expedition and shall not entitle the Participant to cancel her participation or to claim any refund or compensation. This does not affect any mandatory statutory rights of the Participant under the laws of the Participant's country of residence.

7. Compliance

7.1 The Participant agrees to follow all instructions provided by the Organizer and the expedition team at all times, particularly in relation to safety, health, environmental protection, and group integrity. The Participant acknowledges that participation in a remote expedition environment requires a high level of personal responsibility, awareness, and cooperation. The Participant further agrees to act in a respectful and considerate manner towards other participants, the expedition team, local communities, wildlife, and the natural environment.

7.2 The Organizer reserves the right to exclude any Participant from the Expedition, without refund, if her behaviour is deemed to endanger herself or others, disrupt the group dynamic, or fail to comply with instructions or agreed standards of conduct, subject to Section 5.8 and mandatory statutory rights.

7.3 The Participant is solely responsible for holding a valid passport, all required visas, vaccinations, and other documents necessary to enter and travel in Namibia, and for complying with applicable local laws and regulations.

8. Expedition Adjustments

8.1 The Participant acknowledges that the nature of the Expedition requires a high degree of flexibility and that itineraries, routes, accommodations, schedules, and activities may be adjusted as reasonably necessary in response to weather conditions, safety considerations, or operational requirements.

8.2 Adjustments that do not fundamentally alter the character of the Expedition shall not constitute a material change. This does not affect any mandatory statutory rights of the Participant under the laws of the Participant's country of residence.

9. Force Majeure and Cancellation by the Organizer

9.1 The Participant acknowledges that the Organizer shall not be liable for any failure, delay, disruption, or cancellation of the Expedition resulting from extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, political instability, governmental actions or restrictions, pandemics, transport disruptions, and strikes.

9.2 The Organizer may cancel or postpone the Expedition:

(a) for safety reasons (other than in the circumstances described in Section 9.1); or

(b) in the circumstances described in Section 9.1.

The Organizer will inform the Participant without undue delay.

9.3 If the Organizer cancels the Expedition under Section 9.2(a), the Participant will receive a full refund of all amounts paid. If the Organizer cancels or postpones the Expedition under Section 9.2(b), the Organizer will offer the Participant a new date where reasonably possible; otherwise any refund shall be limited to amounts recoverable after deduction of costs already incurred and any non-recoverable third-party expenses, which the Organizer will substantiate on request.

9.4 Except as provided in this Section 9 and Section 5.8, the Organizer shall not be held liable for any resulting losses or expenses incurred by the Participant.

10. Media & Public Communication

10.1 The Participant acknowledges that photographs, video recordings, and other media may be created during the Expedition and agrees that such material may be used by the Organizer for promotional, marketing, editorial, and commercial purposes across all media channels without geographic or time limitation and without compensation. The Participant may object in writing to the use of specific material or revoke this consent for future uses at any time, without affecting uses made before the revocation, by contacting the Organizer in writing.

10.2 The Participant further agrees that any personal content, media contributions, or public communications relating to the Expedition must be accurate and respectful, must not be defamatory, must not harm the integrity of the Organizer, the Expedition, or other participants, and must not disclose personal information or experiences shared by other participants without their consent.

10.3 The Participant agrees that a separate and more detailed Media, PR & Communications Agreement will be presented for signature prior to or during the Expedition, forming an integral part of the overall agreement.

11. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

11.1 This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Singapore.

11.2 Subject to Section 11.3, the Participant agrees that any disputes arising out of or in connection with this agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Singapore.

11.3 If the Participant is a consumer (that is, she is acting for purposes outside her trade, business, or profession), this Section 11 does not affect any mandatory consumer protection rights under the laws of her country of residence, and she may also bring proceedings before the courts of her country of residence where mandatory law so provides.

12. Severability

12.1 If any provision of this agreement is held to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, such provision shall be severed from the remaining terms, which shall continue in full force and effect. The parties shall replace the severed provision with a valid provision that comes closest to its intended commercial purpose.

Schedule 1 – Expedition Formats, Dates, Prices and Cancellation Fees

A. Expedition formats and payment

	Namib Desert Expedition – Signature	Namib Desert Expedition – The Crossing
Dates	6–16 May 2027	22–29 May 2027
Duration	11 days / 10 nights	8 days / 7 nights
Format	Our most exclusive expedition format: one single group of up to 12 Participants, participation following a personal selection interview, personally led by Sonja Piontek, with an extensive pre- and post-programme	Crossing of the Namib Desert (approx. 120 km) in teams of up to 12 Participants led by Alumni Desert Sisters, overall expedition leadership by Sonja Piontek
Scope of services	Schedule 2	Schedule 3
Total price	EUR 18,800	EUR 7,900
Deposit	EUR 8,800, by bank transfer within 5 working days of the booking confirmation	EUR 1,900, immediately upon booking, by credit card
Balance – by bank transfer	EUR 10,000, due no later than 6 January 2027	EUR 6,000, due no later than 31 January 2027

B. Cancellation fees by the Participant (see Section 4.2)

Fee	Signature	The Crossing
Deposit	On or before 6 January 2027: EUR 8,800	On or before 31 January 2027: EUR 1,900
75% of total price	7 January – 6 February 2027: EUR 14,100	1 February – 31 March 2027: EUR 5,925
100% of total price	From 7 February 2027: EUR 18,800	From 1 April 2027: EUR 7,900

Note on prices: The prices and amounts stated in this Schedule 1 are the standard prices. Any discounts, promotional prices, or other special offers are not included in them and apply only as stated in the booking confirmation. If a different total price is agreed in the booking confirmation, the percentages in Section 4.2 are calculated on that agreed total price.

In case of any discrepancy, the provisions of Section 4 prevail over this overview.

Schedule 2 – Scope of Services: Namib Desert Expedition – Signature (6–16 May 2027)

Signature is our original and our most exclusive format: eleven days in Namibia with a hand-picked group of up to twelve women, personally accompanied by Sonja Piontek from the first preparation until long after the return. The Expedition begins on arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek, on 6 May 2027 (by midday at the latest) and ends there on 16 May 2027. Section 8 (Expedition Adjustments) applies to all services listed below.

A. Included in the Expedition price

Selection and preparation

1. Participation by application and personal selection interview only, for one group of up to 12 international women.
2. Personal 1:1 support by Sonja Piontek, from booking until after the return.
3. Extensive live preparation in seven “Namib Uncovered Calls” with Sonja Piontek.
4. “Desert Dialogues”: the twelve selected Participants get to know each other well before travelling, so that they meet in Namibia not as strangers but as friends.
5. Comprehensive preparation materials on gear, logistics, health and mental preparation.
6. Private WhatsApp group of the Participants with Sonja Piontek.
7. WhatsApp group for family and friends, who receive updates from the desert during the Expedition.

In Namibia

8. Shuttle from and to Windhoek airport and all transfers in Namibia, including the drive into the desert and back.
9. Pre-programme “Welcome to Africa”: transfer from the airport to Okapuka Safari Lodge, night in a safari cottage, private game drive (giraffes, rhinos, oryx, zebras), sundowner in the bush, welcome dinner and expedition briefing.
10. The crossing of the Namib Desert on foot (approx. 120 km over five hiking days), personally led by Sonja Piontek, with exclusive access, under a special permit, to an area of the Namib closed to the public.
11. Camps set up exclusively for the group, with a single tent, camp bed and bedding.
12. Luggage transport in the desert; Participants carry only their daypack.
13. The expedition doctor accompanies the group throughout the Expedition, together with a satellite emergency phone, within the limits described in Sections 5.1 and 5.6.
14. Full board throughout the programme, with vegan and gluten-free options.
15. Private dinner with the widow of the former chief of the local Topnaar community, at Diana’s private home on the edge of the desert – a unique and highly exclusive opportunity.
16. 4x4 experience drive through the dunes and along the Atlantic coast to Swakopmund.
17. Celebration dinner at one of Swakopmund’s most popular restaurants and a night at a hotel.
18. Post-programme: two nights at one of the leading safari lodges near Windhoek and a visit to the Penduka women’s initiative in Katutura, meeting the women and their families, handing over the donations brought along and sharing a dinner together. Farewell on 16 May with transfer to the airport.

What stays with you

19. Membership of the alumni circle “Namib Inner Circle”.
20. The opportunity to lead a team as a Team Leader on future Expeditions (subject to suitability and agreement).
21. Expedition T-shirt and hoodie.
22. Professional expedition photos and the opportunity to be featured in media articles about the Expedition (see Section 10).

B. Not included

1. International flights to and from Windhoek.
2. Travel health insurance (mandatory, see Section 5.7), cancellation insurance, visas and other travel documents (see Section 7.3).

3. Personal expedition gear as set out in the gear list.
4. Personal expenses such as additional drinks, souvenirs, donations and tips.
5. Any service not listed in Part A.

Schedule 3 – Scope of Services: Namib Desert Expedition – The Crossing (22–29 May 2027)

The Crossing is the desert in its purest form: eight days, five hiking days, around 120 km on foot from the edge of the desert to the Atlantic, in an exclusive team of up to twelve international women and under the same special permit as Signature. The Expedition begins with the pick-up on 22 May 2027 and ends with the drop-off in Windhoek on 29 May 2027, or in Swakopmund for Participants who continue their travel from there. Section 8 (Expedition Adjustments) applies to all services listed below.

A. Included in the Expedition price

Preparation

1. Comprehensive preparation from January 2027 by email and video: gear, navigation, logistics, medical and mental preparation.
2. WhatsApp group for family and friends, who receive updates from the desert during the Expedition.

Arriving in the desert (22 May)

3. Pick-up in Windhoek or in Swakopmund and drive through Namibia's landscapes to the edge of the desert.
4. Arrival at the first camp, welcome dinner and expedition briefing: Participants meet their team, their Alumni Desert Sister as Team Leader, the entire support team and the medical expedition team.

The crossing (23–27 May)

5. The crossing of the Namib Desert on foot (approx. 120 km over five hiking days) in a team of up to 12 international women, led by Alumni Desert Sisters who have completed the crossing themselves, with Sonja Piontek on site as overall expedition leader, and with exclusive access, under a special permit, to an area of the Namib closed to the public.
6. Expedition camps set up each evening, with shared tents.
7. Luggage transport in the desert; Participants carry only their daypack.
8. Breakfast and dinner in camp, and two staffed pit stops each hiking day with drinks, snacks and lunch; vegetarian and vegan options.
9. Medical support by the expedition doctor and her team throughout the Expedition, together with a satellite emergency phone, within the limits described in Sections 5.1 and 5.6.

Reaching the Atlantic and farewell (28–29 May)

10. 4x4 experience drive through the dunes and along the coast to Swakopmund, with drop-off at the hotel.
11. One night at a hotel in Swakopmund in a shared room, with farewell dinner on 28 May and breakfast on 29 May.
12. Shuttle from Swakopmund to Windhoek on 29 May. Participants who continue their travel from Swakopmund simply stay there.

B. Not included

1. International flights and any travel to and from Windhoek or Swakopmund outside the transfers listed in Part A.
2. Accommodation and transfers before 22 May and after 29 May 2027. On request, the Organizer recommends hotels and arranges an airport pick-up at the Participant's own cost.
3. Travel health insurance (mandatory, see Section 5.7), cancellation insurance, visas and other travel documents (see Section 7.3).
4. Personal expedition gear, including sleeping bag and sleeping mat, as set out in the gear list.
5. Personal 1:1 support, live preparation calls and the pre- and post-programme services of Signature.
6. Expedition T-shirt, hoodie and professional expedition photos; these can be purchased separately.
7. Lunch on 28 May and personal expenses such as additional drinks, souvenirs and tips.
8. Any service not listed in Part A.