The Fish River Canyon in Namibia.

Part 2 of this series has already taken place in neighboring South Africa. Now it's off to the African continent once again, where you can get to know another spectacular canyon, the Fish River Canyon in Namibia.

The canyon is located in southern Namibia. It is about 160 kilometers long, up to 27 kilometers wide and up to 550 meters deep, washed out by the Fish River, the largest canyon in Africa and is considered the second largest canyon on earth after the Grand Canyon. It essentially runs through the Hunsberg Mountains and begins at Seeheim in the north and ends at Ai-Ais in the south, while the river does not flow into the Oranje, the border river with South Africa, until a few kilometers later. The Fish River Canyon impresses with its unique landscape. Only a few green bushes can be seen along the Fish River Canyon Hiking Trail on the canyon floor and its burnt out landscape. Water in the riverbed is only seen after heavy rains, especially in March and April; this persists in parts of the riverbed until June, after which there are only pools.

Meanwhile, Namibia has become one of the ultimate dream destinations in southern Africa, especially for first-timers to Africa. Easily accessible by jet worldwide, Namibia combines everything you imagine Africa to be: endless space, colorful desert landscapes, "wild Africa" in a natural setting, and of course one of the most spectacular canyons in the world.

Flight Tips:

There is a GPS course that can be obtained.

Weather is user selectable. Live weather is preset.

Use ATC if you like.

The HUD in the interior view can be turned off in the settings.

No. of Legs:	5
Total distance:	352 nm

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LEGS

LEG 1: FYOG - FYPT

Departure: Oranjemund (FYOG)
Destination: Oranjemund Airport (FYPT)
Distance: 47,3 nm

EOBR-Ernest Oppenheimer Bridge

Distance:	3,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	3,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	44,0 nm
True Course:	69°
Magnetic Course:	88°

The journey begins at Oranjemund Airport (FYOG) and as the name suggests, at the mouth of the Oranje River, the border river between Namibia and South Africa. The destination airport has the same name, but is located in South Africa.

The river got its name from the orange dunes at its lower reaches. For the time being, the only bridge crossing the river - also a border checkpoint, is the Ernest Oppenheimer Bridge, named after the founder of the De Beers diamond cartel, who was born in Hesse, Germany, and later emigrated to South Africa. This diamond cartel controlled a good 90% of the world's diamond trade until the late 1960s.

Namibia, whose name is derived from the Namib Desert, is a country full of contrasts. A multitude of peoples and cultures live in this country. The diversity of the population is reflected in the more than 30 languages spoken in the country. Afrikaans and German are predominantly spoken in Namibia, albeit as a second language. Although only about 7% of the total population speaks English as a native language, it is the official language. The most widely spoken native languages are Bantu and Oshivambo.

BAKM-Baken Mine

Distance:	16,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	19,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	27,4 nm
True Course:	58°
Magnetic Course:	77°

Now follow the Oranje River in a northerly direction until you can see the airfield of Baken Mine, South Africa, to the east of the river.

Baken Mine is still in operation today as a diamond mine. The mine is owned and operated by Lower Orange River Diamonds.

The country of Namibia was a German colony from 1885 to 1915, which is why you will find many German-sounding geographical names. It then became a mandate territory of the Union of South Africa and only gained independence in 1990, after a long bloody struggle.

Around 1880, news of fabulous diamond discoveries virtually triggered a "gold rush" in the Imperial German Empire. In Lüderitz Bay (north of the departure airport), the Klippekies, as the diamonds were called, could be picked up in the sand of the beach and in the hinterland in the dunes of the desert. These diamond discoveries were the main cause, only a few years later, to found a German colony. Soon there were armed conflicts between the native peoples and the colonists, in which about 70,000 Herero and Nama - men, women and children - were killed. Precisely because I, as the author of the mission, am German, I do not want to leave it unmentioned at this point. I consider it a campaign of extermination, if not genocide, and I am ashamed of this past.

SEND-Sendelingsdrift

Distance:	18,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	38,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	8,7 nm
True Course:	20°
Magnetic Course:	39°

Follow the river north to the small town of Sendlingsdrift, South Africa. Near the village you can also see the Au Beep Flats Airport, but you will not land there. You are now entering the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park.

The GPS course does not exactly follow the course of the river. But you will get the best impressions if you fly as low as possible and navigate by hand to the next waypoint.

The ferry connection at Sendelingsdrift is a border crossing, a pontoon ferry that only fits one vehicle.

AIRP-Ai Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

Distance:	3,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	42,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	4,9 nm
True Course:	36°
Magnetic Course:	55°

The Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park is a transfrontier national park between Namibia and South Africa that has existed since August 1, 2003. It is composed of the formerly independent protected areas Richtersveld National Park and the Ai-Ais Hot Springs Hunsberge area. This new national park is one of the Peace Parks in Southern Africa, as it connects the regions across two national borders without any barriers.

FYPT-Oranjemund Airport

Distance:	4,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	47,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	84°
Magnetic Course:	102°

Continuing along the river, which has turned east in the meantime. Landing approach to Oranjemund Airport (FYPT), an earth runway. The Kuams River meets the Oranje River nearby. Have a safe landing here.

LEG 2: FYPT - FY1A

Departure: Oranjemund Airport (FYPT)
Destination: Grande View Lodge (FY1A)
Distance: 57,6 nm

DABI-Dabimumb River

Distance:	3,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	3,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	53,8 nm
True Course:	66°
Magnetic Course:	84°

From here you have a longer distance to the next landing site.

Shortly after the airfield, two more rivers flow into the Oranje River, but they only carry water during the rainy season. The more watery of the two is the river Dabimumb.

CFFO-Confluence of Fish River and Oranje River

Distance:	5,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	9,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	47,9 nm
True Course:	130°
Magnetic Course:	149°

The next waypoint is the confluence of the Fish River and the Orange River. You have now reached the river that formed this canyon. Turn the nose of your plane to the north and follow the Fish River as it meanders through the mountains. Again, navigate best by hand and fly as low as possible.

KONR-Konkiep River

Distance:	8,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	18,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	39,1 nm
True Course:	74°
Magnetic Course:	93°

At the next waypoint, the Konkiep River flows into the Fish River. This river also carries water only in the rainy season, fed by a natural catch basin as rainwater flows down the mountains and collects in the natural basin.

AIHS-Ai Ais Hotsprings

Distance:	11,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	30,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	27,3 nm
True Course:	44°
Magnetic Course:	63°

A few miles further, you'll come to the famous Ai Ais hot springs. These bubble up from the earth at a temperature of 70 °C (158 °F). There are several hotels and sanatoriums here that make their business from these springs.

However, with air temperatures here rarely dropping below 35 °C (95 °F), I would feel more like refreshing myself than taking a hot bath.

GAFR-Gate to Fish River Canyon

Distance:	8,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	39,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	18,6 nm
True Course:	28°
Magnetic Course:	47°

Now that you have seen a lot of the Fish River Canyon, you come to the so-called gate of the canyon.

The Fish River Canyon impresses with its unique landscape. Only a few green bushes can be seen along the Fish River Canyon Hiking Trail, on the canyon bottom and its burnt out landscape. Occasional quiver trees, camelthorn and euphorbia grow along the canyon rim. Hawthorn and wild tamarisk grow in the canyon. Catfish, carp, barbel and perch live in the existing pools. Over 60 species of birds have been observed here and now and then you can see oryxes, mountain zebras, kudus, klipsheep, ground squirrels and springboks. Leopards also live here, but you hardly ever see them.

VIEP-Viewpoints

Distance:	12,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	51,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	6,4 nm
True Course:	8°
Magnetic Course:	26°

After you have almost flown through the canyon, you will reach the deepest parts. Here you will find several viewpoints from which you can look down on the riverbed 550 meters below.

From here, you should gradually start climbing so that you can reach the next landing site at an altitude of just under 3,000 feet.

FY1A-Grande View Lodge

Distance:	6,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	57,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	323°
Magnetic Course:	341°

If you are flying with real weather, plan the landing approach quite carefully, as you must expect gusts and changing wind directions. Have a soft and happy landing here.

The airfield is not a regular commercial airfield served by an airline. There are charter flights over the canyon from here. The runway is crossed by a road that is closed off by barriers when flights are in operation.

LEG 3: FY1A - FYKT

Departure: Grande View Lodge (FY1A)

Destination: Keetmanshoop (FYKT)

Distance: 70,0 nm

CAPN-Canyon Park Namibia

Distance:	10,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	10,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	59,1 nm
True Course:	53°
Magnetic Course:	71°

You are already in the middle of it but here is some more information about Canyon Park Namibia:

The area of the present park suffered, under the in the south of Namibia, not unusual overgrazing by extensive sheep breeding for decades. Due to the over cultivation, with an average annual precipitation of less than 100 mm, the flora was literally devastated. In 1996, a group of motivated Namibians bought the first farms and transformed them into a protected nature reserve. A team of rangers was then trained for the Gondwana Canyon Park. Sheep farming was abandoned and once indigenous wildlife was reintroduced. Sheep fences that ran within the park were torn down to allow wildlife free movement. New watering holes were also created for the wildlife.

Today, Gondwana Canyon Park covers more than 125,000 acres. Visitors to the park can see giraffe, mountain zebra, oryx antelope, kudu, springbok, ostrich, some predators such as leopard and many other endemic wildlife adapted to the harsh climate. The ranger team agrees that significant portions of the original flora have been restored. Restoration efforts have been successful.

Visitors can stay overnight in one of the four lodges of the Gondwana Collection or at a campsite. A percentage of the income from the lodges and the park fee is invested directly in environmental protection, in Gondwana Canyon Park.

SEEH-Seeheim

Distance:	35,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	46,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	23,8 nm
True Course:	9°
Magnetic Course:	27°

Continue flying along the Fish River until you reach the small community of Seeheim.

The place name sounds quite German, and it is. Seeheim was founded in 1896 as a base of the Imperial Schutztruppe and the mountains at Schlangkopf were the theater of war in the Nama War of 1906. Northeast of Seeheim is Fort Naiams, built in 1894 - also by the Schutztruppe; today only a ruin, but classified as a cultural monument.

During the construction of the Lüderitz Railway, the Deutsche Kolonial-Eisenbahn-Bau- und Betriebsgesellschaft reached the village in 1907 and built the Fish River Bridge - the first railroad bridge over the Fish River. A year later Seeheim became a railroad junction when the branch line to Kalkfontein South was opened, which was connected to the railroad network there by the South African side during the First World War.

Seeheim consisted mainly of two hotels at the time of the Diamond Fever in German Southwest Africa, as travelers from Windhoek to Lüderitz had to spend the night here to wait for the connecting train. During the 1940s and 1950s, the village grew into a respectable community with churches and a school, but gradually became deserted thereafter. When the B4 national highway was redesigned in 1974 and no longer ran directly through Seeheim, the village's last business, the Seeheim Hotel, closed.

But the Seeheim Hotel was reopened in 2004. The hoteliers also run a small cabinetmaking business. On June 10, 2018, the hotel was severely damaged by arson, but was rebuilt in the following years.

There is no passenger service on the railroad line to Lüderitz. The line between Aus and Lüderitz was rebuilt between 2001 and 2014. The Shongololo Express passes Seeheim sporadically.

FYKT-Keetmanshoop

Distance:	23,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	70,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	46°
Magnetic Course:	63°

From Seeheim you can either follow the GPS course or the national road B4, which will bring you to Keetmanshoop. The airport where you will now land is located northwest of the city.

The airfield is home to the Namibian Air Force and the Namibian Aviation Training Academy (NATA). It is considered the largest non-scheduled airport in the country and is operated by the state-owned Namibia Airports Company.

The town was named after the German merchant and banker Johann Keetman ("hoop" means "hope" in Afrikaans) and today - together with its suburb Krönlein - has about 19,000 inhabitants.

The origins of the town date back to a settlement by a tribe of Nama, at the end of the 18th century. The actual town of Keetmanshoop was founded only in 1866 as a station of the Rhenish Mission. It was named after the German industrialist Johann Keetman, who provided the mission with the necessary financial means, but never visited the place himself. Thanks to his support, the mission station gradually grew into a German settlement. The missionary Tobias Fenchel had the first school built in 1888. In 1894, a military post was stationed in Keetmanshoop under Lieutenant Bethe. The latter started the construction of a fort for the imperial Schutztruppen in the same year, which was completed in 1898. Later, however, it had to give way to the local police station.

During the 1960s, in accordance with the South African apartheid policy, residential areas were created for the various ethnic groups of the city, which were strictly separated from each other and are still partly characterized in this way today. The residential area Tseiblaagte was named after the local Kaptein Henderik Tseib. Krönlein, on the other hand, bears the name of an early German missionary who was active in the area.

LEG 4: FYKT - FYML

Departure: Keetmanshoop (FYKT)
Destination: Mariental (FYML)
Distance: 135,7 nm

BFIR-Back to Fish River

Distance:	18,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	18,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	117,3 nm
True Course:	272°
Magnetic Course:	289°

After you've had a chance to rest and look around a bit, fly directly west after takeoff until the Fish River comes back into view.

BUKK-Bukkaros Crater

Distance:	39,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	58,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	77,6 nm
True Course:	1°
Magnetic Course:	18°

Now, as you follow the river north again, look for the Bukkaros crater, which will soon be the only mountain to rise on the plain.

The mountain outwardly has all the characteristics of a volcanic crater, but has never been a volcano. It is simply a slightly harder rock than is usually found in the area. This mountain was formed by erosion and tectonic movement. In any case, it is a dominant and much visited natural landmark of the Keetmanshooper Steppe Landscape and is well accessible by hiking trails.

COFL-Confluence of Fish River and Lewer

Distance:	20,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	78,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	57,3 nm
True Course:	350°
Magnetic Course:	6°

Now follow the Fish River again until you reach the confluence of the Lewer River, also known as the Liver River, into the Fish River. A cone mountain that appears before the confluence is striking.

GIBE-Gibeon

Distance:	24,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	103,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	32,7 nm
True Course:	4°
Magnetic Course:	20°

Continue along the river to reach the community of Gibeon, with about 3,000 inhabitants.

The Gibeon meteorite struck here ages ago. Before it hit the earth's surface, it broke into many smaller and larger fragments, which fell in a wide scatter field near Gibeon and formed the largest known meteorite scatter field on earth. The first fragments were found in 1838 and estimated to be 4.6 billion years old. A total of 26 tons of meteorite material were found. Some pieces are on public display in the pedestrian zone of Windhoek, the country's capital (Post Mall).

The Witbooi, who originated from the union of Dutch and Nama women living at the Cape, settled here around 1863 and named the place Kowesin. However, the missionary Jacob Knauer (Rheinische Missionsgesellschaft), who followed the Witbooi, named the new Witbooi tribal seat Gibeon, after a place near Jerusalem that had Old Testament significance.

Later, Gibeon became the starting point of the Nama War, which lasted until 1908 and should actually be called the Orlam War. Gibeon did not come back into the limelight of history until April 1915, when the Imperial German Schutztruppe was trapped here by superior forces of the South African army

during World War I and was only able to break out of the encirclement and flee northward with heavy losses.

FYML-Mariental

Distance:	32,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	135,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	17°
Magnetic Course:	32°

Further and further up the river and soon the airfield Mariental is reached, a private airfield, which is not served by scheduled traffic. Have a happy landing here.

Mariental, historically Marienthal, is a municipality and regional capital of the Hardap Region in Namibia. Mariental was founded on December 24, 1894, and is named after Maria Brandt, the wife of the region's first German settler, Hermann Brandt (1856-1925).

Hermann Brandt, a farmer from Porta Westfalica, came via South Africa in 1894, together with his wife Anna Maria, as the first white settler to the region of today's Mariental, where he acquired the farm Gui-ganabis from the Capetein of Orlam, Hendrik Witbooi. Gui-ganabis was renamed Mariental by Hermann Brandt after his wife's first name.

In the late 1890s, 15 German soldiers were stationed at Mariental Farm and a police station was established shortly thereafter. Because of the railroad connection, the population continued to increase and the first businesses and ventures sprang up locally.

Between 1903 and 1907, during the uprisings of the Herero and Nama, in the area of today's Mariental, there were repeated battles between the German Schutztruppe and the rebels.

Shortly after the laying of the foundation stone for a church, in 1920, the settlement was officially elevated to the status of Mariental village by the South African authorities. In 1946 it was elevated to the status of a town.

LEG 5: FYML - FYHM

Departure: Mariental (FYML)

Destination: Maltahoehe 5 Kal Landing Site (FYHM)

Distance: 41,8 nm

HARD-Hardap Dam

Distance:	7,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	7,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	34,6 nm
True Course:	331°
Magnetic Course:	345°

Shortly after the start you will be able to see a reservoir in northwestern direction, which is dammed up by the Hardap Dam.

Through the construction of the 860 meter long and almost 40 meter high dam, the Fish River is dammed to a length of 30 kilometers and now covers an area of 28.7 square kilometers as a lake. It was completed in 1962 and is the second largest dam in Namibia. The lake supplies fresh water to the surrounding farms and Mariental. The dam is of great importance for agriculture. It has created an irrigation area where fruit and vegetable cultivation is possible on a larger scale. In addition, the Hardap Dam is the center of the Hardap Recreation Area - a recreational area and tourist attraction.

Triggered by years of drought, the Hardap reservoir, at the beginning of February 2020, reached the lowest water level in its history, with a filling volume of only six percent. There is no end in sight to the dry period.

FISH-Fish

Distance:	7,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	14,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	27,6 nm
True Course:	303°
Magnetic Course:	317°

Fly over the full length of the reservoir, heading northwest, to get back to the Fish River, which flows into the reservoir there. On some maps it is called "Vis" from here on.

C21-C21

Distance:	19,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	33,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	8,5 nm
True Course:	310°
Magnetic Course:	324°

Follow the river again until route C21 crosses it.

FYHM-Maltahoehe 5 Kal Landing Site

Distance:	8,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	41,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	31°
Magnetic Course:	45°

Leave the river, turn right and now follow the road that will lead you to your final landing site, Maltahoehe 5 Kal Landing Site. The runway is right next to the road. Have a safe landing here to end this journey.

You made it and landed safely. Congratulations!

If you enjoyed this trip, please leave some stars in the download section of the marketplace.

Good luck in your future endeavors. Koschi.