



## TASTE OF NAMIBIA SAFARI

Always wanted to visit Namibia's iconic desert and Etosha National Park on a shoestring budget? Here is a safari that has been created to offer a taste of Namibia at a very affordable price. This is an interactive camping safari which combines two short trips to Namibia's best known highlights; Etosha National Park and the mesmerising Namib Desert. Begin by exploring Etosha, one of Africa's top game reserves, with an informative safari guide. The park is home to mammals big and small,

colourful birds, fascinating reptiles and the vast Etosha salt pan. Then venture into the oldest desert in the world, the Namib Desert, to experience and photograph the spectacular apricot-coloured sand dunes, ancient mineral pans and breathtaking vistas.



### Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Begin your journey to Namibia with a scheduled overnight flight from London to Windhoek, via Johannesburg, with *South African Airways*.

Includes dinner on the flight.



### Day 2 - Windhoek

After landing and checking through customs at Windhoek Airport, you are met and transferred to a lovely guesthouse in one of the city's leafy suburbs. The afternoon is free to recuperate from your flight and explore the city centre or relax by the guesthouse swimming pool. Dinner is on your own account this evening so you have the flexibility to dine out or order in at the guesthouse. There are plenty of good restaurants in Windhoek offering a variety of fare at reasonable prices. If you'd prefer a quiet evening in, ask the guesthouse staff for a Dial-a-Meal menu and order your dinner from a range of delivery options.

Includes breakfast on the flight.

### Day 3 - Etosha National Park

After breakfast, you will be collected between 08.00 and 08.30 and taken to the safari base to meet your group and guide. You then set off north, passing through the towns of Otjiwarongo and Outjo before arriving at Okaukuejo, your campsite within Etosha. There is often time this afternoon for your first game drive in the park, visiting a few of the waterholes in the immediate area and keeping your eyes peeled for exciting wildlife sightings. Although you must return to the restcamp by sunset, there is still the chance to enjoy further animal encounters by spending time at Okaukuejo's floodlit waterhole during the evening.

Windhoek to Southern Etosha: approx. 5 hours (420km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 4 - Etosha National Park

Begin by having breakfast and breaking camp early to head out whilst the morning is still relatively cool, when animals are at their most active. Today you'll game drive slowly eastwards through the park, stopping at waterholes, game sightings and vantage points offering spectacular views over the silvery expanse of Etosha Pan. Etosha is one of Africa's largest premier safari reserves, home to large populations of wildlife including strong numbers of elephant and many species of plains game. There's also a healthy lion population and leopard, cheetah and spotted hyena are relatively common.

During the drive you'll stop at Halali, Etosha's middle camp, for a picnic lunch, to make use of the refreshing pool and to see what wildlife has come to drink at the waterhole. You arrive to the eastern side of Etosha National Park in the afternoon and set up camp for another evening under canvas below a star filled Namibian sky.

Safari drives.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 5 - Windhoek

The long but interesting drive back to Windhoek today takes you south through a number of rural towns, from the scenic Otavi Mountains to the central highlands of Namibia. Break the journey in Okahandja where local artisans have come from all over Namibia to sell their crafts at one of the country's largest craft markets. You arrive back at your guesthouse in Windhoek by late afternoon. Your evening is free, although often the group will make plans to meet up for dinner.

Eastern Etosha to Windhoek: approx. 6 hours (520km)

Includes breakfast and lunch.

### Day 6 – Namib-Naukluft Park



Begin with breakfast at the guesthouse before you are collected between 08.00 and 08.30 to be transferred to the safari base. Here you will once again join your group and guide for the Namib Desert section of your safari. As the Taste of Namibia Safari is made up of two short trips, your travel companions and guide may differ between the Etosha National Park and Namib Desert portions of your journey. Start your journey south by traversing the Khomas Hochland highlands, then descend onto the desert plains through a scenic pass over the great escarpment. It's one of the country's more spectacular drives, with fabulous vistas at every turn. After a pause for refreshments in the tiny outpost of Solitaire, it's a relatively short drive to your camp at the base of the Namib-Naukluft Mountains on the edge of the desert.

Windhoek to Namib Desert Camp: approx. 5.5 hours (315km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 7 – Namib-Naukluft Park

Rising well before dawn, you drive deep into the desert to catch the early morning light which best highlights the rich colours and remarkable shapes of the sand dunes. Spend the morning exploring on foot with your guide, and marvel at the scenery and the desert creatures that survive here. The energetic amongst you may like to climb to the crest of one of these 300 metre high dunes, catching spectacular views of the Great Dune Sea from the top. As a group you'll visit ancient mineral pans such as Dead Vlei, where the skeletal branches of dead camelthorn trees and intricate patterns on the dried clay floor make fascinating photo subjects. Later in the afternoon you'll visit Sesriem Canyon, where amazing shapes have been sculpted into the surrounding rock by the force of the ephemeral Tsauchab River.

Desert Camp to Sossusvlei to Desert Camp: approx. 3.5 hours (240km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 8 – Windhoek

Driving back to Windhoek, you'll pass through more stunning scenery as the road climbs up and over the escarpment and on to the central highlands. You arrive back at your guesthouse at around 16.00. You are free to relax this evening, although the group may arrange to meet up for a farewell dinner to end this superb camping safari adventure in Namibia.

Desert Camp to Windhoek: approx. 5.5 hours (315km)

Includes breakfast and lunch.

### Day 9 – Flight to London

After a little free time to explore Windhoek and purchase any last minute souvenirs, you will be collected from your guesthouse and transferred to the airport in time to check in for your scheduled flight home.

Includes breakfast and dinner is provided on the flight.

### Day 10 – Arrive in London



## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

This Taste of Namibia camping safari combines Namibia's top highlights, Etosha National Park and the Namib Desert, into an action packed holiday at a very reasonable price. Camping is not only cost effective, but a great way to maximise your time outdoors in a country that is usually sunny and dry. Namibia is an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts, who will be enthralled by wonderful game-viewing opportunities in Etosha and spectacular scenery in the Namib Desert. Your nights in the wilderness will be spent in easy to erect dome tents and in Windhoek you will be accommodated at a comfortable guesthouse. All the necessary camping gear is provided – all you need to bring is your personal items, a travel pillow, towel and a torch.

### **Combined camping adventure**

This Namibia camping safari is a combination of two 3-day safaris: the first focuses on wildlife viewing within Etosha National Park; and the second visits the Namib Desert's key attractions such as Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. Each 3-day safari may be led by a different guide and may be joined by different travellers.

### **Guide**

During this camping safari to Namibia you will be led by a professional guide, who also acts as your driver and helps around camp. All the guides speak good English and almost all are Namibians. With them, you'll be able to learn a lot about the country and what you encounter - including much about the flora, fauna and local cultures. They will be able to identify all of the animals, many of the birds, and some of the plants that you see. However, don't expect them to be expert ornithologists or botanists, using Latin names for every species.

### **Camp assistant**

Another key member on this partly interactive camping safari is your camp assistant. It's their job to do most of the camp chores - so whilst you will help to put up and take down your tent (it's very easy!), you need not worry about cooking or washing up. This leaves you and your guide more time to relax and chat about Namibia and your safari experiences.

### **Camping equipment**

Good-quality camping equipment is transported in the safari vehicle or in a custom-built trailer. Tents supplied are two-person igloo-style tents, about 2x2 metre, which are easy to assemble. Your guide and camp assistant will be on hand to help and show you how.

Each traveller has his/her own camp chair with backrest and a mattress that is about 5cm thick, covered in fabric and very comfortable. You are welcome to bring your own sleeping bag (3 to 4 season range is recommended), or a sleeping bag will be provided at no extra cost. Day time temperatures can be hot whilst evenings, especially in winter (June to August), can fall below freezing. We recommend that you bring a small pillow or inflatable travel cushion with you as pillows are not provided on this camping safari. You will also need to bring your own towel.

### **Vehicles**

For groups of up to about four people, this camping safari sometimes uses a minibus or 4WD double-cab with a purpose built trailer. More often, you will be transported in a *Toyota Dyna* 'truck' which has been modified specifically for this type of trip. The Dyna vehicles are fitted with air-cushioned suspension, comfortable, individual bucket seats and a pop-top roof. All the vehicles have seatbelts and most are equipped with plug points used to charge batteries (suitable for low watt charging only). The camping sites also usually have a plug point available. Namibia uses the same 15 amp, three large round pin plug configuration as South Africa. It is useful to purchase one of these in advance so you can convert your chargers and appliances during your time in Namibia.

### **Campsites**

Almost all of the campsites used on these safaris to Namibia are established rest camps. The facilities generally include ladies and gents' ablution blocks with hot and cold running water and a small kiosk or shop where you can buy items such as drinks and curios. Many of the camps also have a swimming pool nearby. Some campsites are better lit than others so it is important that you bring a reliable torch and spare batteries with you. The camp's communal area will be lit by gas or electric lamp until everyone settles in for the night, but your torch will come in handy if you need to walk around camp after dark and to use in your tent. Head torches are ideal for those keen on reading after dark.

## Language

This Namibia camping safari is conducted by an English speaking guide.

## Costs

The Taste of Namibia Safari includes transport in a safari vehicle and airport transfers as noted, accommodation in Windhoek and camping in Etosha and the Namib Desert, good-quality camping equipment, campsite fees, national park entrance fees, and three meals on most days as described in the itinerary.

## Meals

All meals are included when out on safari in Etosha and the Namib Desert – buffet style breakfasts, picnic lunches and tasty dinners cooked on the campfire. It is just lunches and dinners in Windhoek that are on your own account so that you have the flexibility to enjoy your choice of the capital city's restaurants and cafes. Meals not included on this Taste of Namibia Safari are lunch and dinner on Day 2 in Windhoek, dinner in Windhoek on Days 5 and 8, and lunch in Windhoek on Day 9.

## Drinks

Whilst in your campsites in Etosha and the Namib Desert, tea, coffee and hot chocolate are included as well as drinking water from the tap. Any other drinks can be bought at your expense. Your guide will let you know where it is convenient to stock up on soft drinks, wines, beers and bottled mineral water. All the safari vehicles have cool boxes and/or fridges in which you can store drinks for the journey.

## Single travellers

This Namibia safari offers a wonderful opportunity for solo travellers to meet like minded adventurers. If you are a solo traveller, we may ask that you share a tent with another single traveller of the same gender. However, if you would prefer your own tent, just ask us to request this for you. Whilst we cannot guarantee your own private tent as it is dependent on other requirements and luggage space in the safari vehicle, we have almost always been able to accommodate this request in the past.

## Age of travellers

The minimum age of travellers on the Taste of Namibia Safari is 12 years. A private guided safari quote can be tailor-made on request for families with younger children.

## Laundry

Laundry services are not included in this camping safari. Please speak to your guide to ask if a laundry facility is available at the campsites (payable direct) or alternatively there will always be running water to wash your laundry by hand.

## Luggage

Please limit your main luggage to about 15kg, packed into a soft sided bag (with no hard sides or ridges) that can easily be manipulated into the vehicle storage space. A medium sized day pack and camera bag can be transported with you within the vehicle.

## Visa & passport requirements

At present Namibia automatically issues British, New Zealand, Australian, American and Canadian passport holders with a tourist visa (of up to 90 days) upon arrival. Proof of your itinerary and departure flight may be verified by immigration officials so please have these documents on hand as you enter Namibia. As visa requirements can change without warning and only you are aware of your circumstances, we stress that it is **your personal responsibility** to ensure that you meet the visa regulations of the countries that you will visit. We recommend that you check your status a few months and then weeks before you travel. We are happy to provide guidance based on the latest information we have to hand and suggest that you also contact the relevant embassy near you.

All travellers to Namibia, regardless of nationality, must ensure their **passports are valid for a minimum of 6 months** after travel (we recommend a validity of nine months to be on the safe side). Your passport must also have **at least 3 blank pages** for each time that you pass through customs (these must be visa pages, not pages for amendments and endorsements which are usually at the back of a passport). Most countries have these stipulations and we have been

advised that both Namibia and South Africa actively enforce these restrictions by refusing entry to those who don't comply. Travellers passing through immigration in multiple countries will need to have enough blank pages for entry and exit stamps at each destination.