



NAMIBIA FAMILY CAMPING ADVENTURE

This Namibia Family Camping Adventure is ideal for families with children aged 5 and over who are looking for a reasonably priced camping adventure designed specifically for the whole family to enjoy. The safari is run on request with a minimum of 4 passengers, so pick your travel dates if you are a family of 4 or more or join an existing safari if your group is less than 4 people. You'll take in Namibia's top highlights including the awesome sand dunes of Sossusvlei, a variety of exciting coastal activities in Swakopmund, an enlightening and engaging Himba village visit, and be entertained by wildlife

antics in Etosha National Park and at Okonjima's *AfriCat Foundation*. A pillow, torch and sense of adventure are all you'll need to bring; all other camping equipment is provided. Other than putting up and taking down your easy to erect dome tent, your local guide and camp assistant will take care of all the logistics so you can fully unwind.



Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Depart London on a scheduled *South African Airways* flight, overnight to Johannesburg and then on to Windhoek.

Includes dinner on the flight.



Day 2 - Windhoek

Land at Windhoek International Airport where you will be welcomed and transferred to your accommodation, a comfortable guesthouse in one of the quiet central suburbs. Spend the afternoon relaxing or wander into town to explore. Windhoek's Craft Centre is a great spot for a delicious afternoon tea and to browse through interesting craft stalls. Dinner this evening is at your own expense as there are plenty of good restaurants to choose from, or you may prefer to order in at the guesthouse. You will find the friendly staff are happy to help with dinner and taxi arrangements as required, and the Namibia safari team are easily contactable should you have any queries before setting off on your adventure tomorrow.

Includes breakfast on the flight.

Day 3 – Namib-Naukluft Park

You will be collected from the guesthouse, usually between 08.00 and 08.30, ready to begin your journey. Once you have met your guide and travel companions you set off across the Eros Mountains and along scenic roads, heading south-west towards the flat gravel plains of the Namib Desert. Keep a sharp eye out for desert-adapted wildlife and gigantic Sociable weaver nests along the way. You will stop for a picnic lunch en-route and for a tea break at the tiny outpost of Solitaire. You aim to arrive at your camp on the edge of the desert during the afternoon, leaving time for a refreshing dip in the pool before enjoying sunset over the Naukluft Mountains.



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

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 4 - Namib-Naukluft Park

This morning's predawn start is soon rewarded with a dramatic light play whilst the sun rises over towering sand dunes as you drive deep into the desert. The Namib Desert is home to some of the world's tallest dunes, colossal mountains of sand that rise above the Tsauchab River valley. Walk up the ridge of one of these dunes for spectacular views and an exhilarating run down the slope before a picnic breakfast is served. You then continue into Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei, exploring the area

on foot to marvel at the variety of creatures and plants that your guide seeks out. Reenergise with lunch at Sesriem before wandering through the cool, winding depths of Sesriem Canyon and then return to camp in the afternoon.

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

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 – Swakopmund

Set off after breakfast on a scenic journey, heading north-west to reach the Atlantic Ocean. You cross the vast desert plains of the Namib, traversing the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb passes. Arrive at the port town of Walvis Bay where you stop beside the pretty lagoon to enjoy a picnic lunch. Feeding flamingos, pelicans and other water birds are often seen here. It's then a short drive along a dramatic coastal road to Swakopmund where you stay in guesthouse accommodation close to the centre of town. Your afternoon is free to relax, wash off the desert dust and explore. There are many interesting shops and craft centres here as well as a museum, crystal gallery and aquarium. Stroll along the attractive waterfront and choose from several excellent (and great-value) seafood restaurants, some also serve pizzas and burgers, for your evening meal.

Namib Desert Camp to Swakopmund: approx. 5.5 hours (300km)

Includes breakfast and lunch.



Day 6 - Swakopmund

With Swakopmund as your playground, you've a wide choice of things to do today. This small seaside town is a major centre for fun activities; from dune-boarding, quad-biking, sky-diving and dolphin cruises to scenic flights over the desert. Your guide will explain these and many other options to you in advance and help you make bookings (costs are paid locally and activities undertaken at your own risk). Alternatively, spend your time exploring the quaint colonial style buildings, visit the reptile park, museum and curio shops, and relax in one of the many cafes. A dip in the Atlantic is best described as invigorating and there is a pleasant beach that's sheltered for swimming by the waterfront mole. Lunch and dinner aren't included today so they can be flexible to fit around your activities, although you may arrange to meet up with your guide and group.

Includes breakfast.

Day 7 - Brandberg



Leaving early and heading north along the Skeleton Coast, you'll first pause to visit Cape Cross Seal Reserve. Here a large colony of Cape fur seals sprawls out over the rocks and frolics about in the ocean. Raised walkways allow you to walk within feet of these gregarious creatures. From here you turn inland, crossing more desert plains as you drive to the remote town of Uis. There used to be a thriving community here, supported by a large tin mine; but the mine closed in the early 1990's leading Uis into a sleepy decline. Semi-precious crystals such as amethyst and tourmaline are mined by local prospectors from the surrounding granite and sold at bargain

prices. It's then a relatively short drive to your campsite at the base of Brandberg, which at 2,573 metres is Namibia's highest mountain and a national monument.

Swakopmund to Brandberg: approx. 4.5 hours (315km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 8 - Palmwag

An early rise ensures a cool start for the 90-minute, easy going hike into Brandberg to see the world-famous 'White Lady' rock painting. Attributed to nomadic Bushmen artists, the age and significance of the painting remains controversial but it is believed by some to be more than 20,000 years old and it is well worth a visit.

Climb back into the safari vehicle for a stunning drive through the breathtaking scenery of Damaraland, a region of flat-topped sandstone mountains, vegetated river valleys and open grassland. Your destination is Palmwag. Located on the

banks of a dry river bed, your campsite is set in an oasis of natural springs and waving makalani palm trees. The springs attract a variety of animals, even the occasional solitary bull or herd of desert-adapted elephant. Spend the late afternoon relaxing by the inviting pool or follow the marked trails for a walk before sunset.

Brandberg to Palmwag: approx. 4 hours (250km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 9 – Oase Himba Community

From Palmwag you travel east, traversing the scenic Grootberg Plateau on your way to the small town of Kamanjab. After setting up camp and enjoying lunch, you head out to a nearby Himba community which welcomes the chance to interact with visitors. Similar to east Africa's Maasai, the Himba proudly follow their traditional way of life even in the face of today's fast-changing modern world. Age old customs and beliefs are retained, from their striking dress and adornments to the way they lay out their kraal. The Himba's traditional homeland is Namibia's far north-west; however a few communities such as this one have migrated south, lifestyle and customs intact. A local guide will introduce you to the community and act as translator, giving you a personalised insight into this unique culture. The village women and children take particular interest in visiting families, keen to interact and find out about more about their visitors.



Palmwag to Kamanjab: approx. 2.5 hours (150km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 10 & 11 - Etosha National Park

Pack up camp and depart Kamanjab after breakfast to drive to Outjo where you can stop for a cup of coffee and a treat at the local bakery whilst your guide stocks up on supplies. From here you head north to Etosha National Park and begin your first exciting game drive as you slowly make your way between the park gate and Okaukuejo Camp. Later this afternoon there is time for another game drive in search of wildlife, spending part of the time driving around and part of the time watching the action at some of the more prolific waterholes.



You are up early the following morning to enjoy a full day of enthralling game viewing. Etosha is home to 114 mammal and over 340 bird species; from giant elephants, giraffe and raptors to tiny ground squirrels, steenbok and waxbills. A vast swathe of Etosha National Park consists of the enormous Etosha Pan, a shallow depression of silvery-white salts which fills with water only in exceptionally wet years. Normally it's bone dry, but around it are numerous perennial springs that offer a lifeline for wildlife in this arid environment. You'll become good at spotting game at waterholes and on the open plains; but your knowledgeable guide will be able to search out the more elusive characters and help you understand and appreciate the lesser known species. Spend your evenings by the camps floodlit

waterhole to watch the 'game show' unfold.

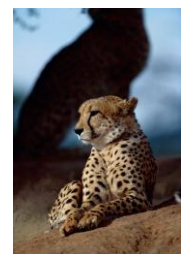
Kamanjab to South-west Etosha: approx. 3 hours (270km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 12 - Okonjima

There is time to enjoy a last game drive as you leave Etosha and head south through the farming towns of Outjo and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima. You aim to arrive at your private campsite in the early afternoon. Okonjima is a private game reserve that is home to the *AfriCat Foundation*, a successful research and rehabilitation centre for Namibia's predators, in particular the big cats. This afternoon you'll gain an understanding about the vital work of *AfriCat* and you may have the chance to visit the clinic and see rescued wildlife, such as cheetah, up close.

South-west Etosha to Okonjima: approx. 4 hours (260km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 13 - Windhoek

After breakfast it's time to pack up camp and return to Windhoek. It may be possible to make a short stop at Okahandja's large wood carvers market before arriving back to the capital city and your guesthouse during the late afternoon. There will be a bit of time to relax at the guesthouse before your guide collects you for dinner at one of the capital's very good restaurants.

Okonjima to Windhoek: approx. 3 hours (235km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 14 - Flight to London

This morning you are taken on a trip to Katutura, Windhoek's large, vibrant township. During the apartheid years this was the original workers township and now makes up one of the city's largest suburbs. Each visit is different, but there is usually the chance to visit a market and sample some of the local food and drink. Later in the afternoon you will be transferred to the airport in time for your homeward flight.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

Day 15 - Arrive in London

SAFARI INFORMATION

Looking for a reasonably priced safari adventure that is specially designed for families with young children, aged 5 and over? This Namibia Family Camping Adventure covers some of the country's top highlights at a relaxed pace with plenty of exciting sights and activities to entertain children and adults alike. The safari is run on request with a minimum of 4 passengers. The itinerary includes many memorable experiences such as exploring Sossusvlei's towering sand dunes, coastal fun in Swakopmund, meeting the local Himba people, game safaris in Etosha National Park and big cats at *AfriCat*. You will camp under star filled skies for all but four nights when you will stay in guesthouse accommodation in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Guide

The Namibia Family Camping Adventure is led by a professional and personable guide, who is also your driver and an extra hand around camp. As they play an integral part of your safari, the guides are carefully chosen and trained. They are generally Namibian and speak good English as well as some local languages. With them, you'll gain an insight into Namibia from a local perspective as well as learn about the many sights you encounter. They have a good general knowledge about Namibia's history, geography, flora, fauna and local cultures. Although they aren't experts who can give you scientific names or explanations, they will be able to identify all of the animals, some of the plants and many of the birds that you see.

Camp assistant

Your other vital safari member is the camp assistant. They take care of all the camp chores and logistics, including cooking up hearty meals over the campfire each evening. Other than setting up and taking down your own tent (it's simple once you are shown how) your camp assistant will take care of the rest – although you are of course welcome to get more involved if you wish.

Camping equipment

All the necessary camping equipment is provided, except for your personal torch and pillow (a head torch and an inflatable travel pillow or cushion work well). Some travellers may also like to bring their own sleeping bag in which case a '3 to 4 season range' is recommended. The tents are 2x2 metres for up to two people, igloo-style so you can walk in, and easy to assemble. Families with younger children can set up their tents side by side so that you are all close together.

You will also have your own camp chair with backrest, and a mattress that is about 5cm deep, covered in thick fabric and very comfortable.

Vehicles

For groups of up to about four people, this camping adventure may be run in a minibus or 4WD double cab towing a trailer for the equipment. Alternatively groups of between four and fourteen people are transported in a *Toyota Dyna* 'truck'. The latter has been modified specifically for these camping adventures, with a pop-up roof, air-cushioned suspension and individual bucket seats. All the vehicle types have seat belts and some are equipped with plug points where you can charge camera batteries.

Plug points are also often available at the camping sites. We would recommend that you bring a plug adaptor with you should you need to charge or use any electronics. Namibian plug points are the same as found in South Africa, 15 amps with three large round pins, so you can purchase any adaptor that is designed for a South African plug.

Namibia camping sites

You will stay in a mix of different campsites, all well established with good facilities such as ablution blocks, hot and cold running water and often a swimming pool and a small shop selling drinks and snacks. Some locations are more remote than others and may not have electric lighting so it is vital you bring a good torch with you to use in your tent and when moving around camp after dark.

Language

The Namibia Family Camping Adventure is guided in English.

Costs

The following is included in this camping safari: scheduled international flights from London to Namibia, via Johannesburg, with *South African Airways*; transport in a safari vehicle and the services of a professional safari guide; airport transfers; camping and four nights guesthouse accommodation as described; full camping equipment and campsite fees; entrance fees to all national parks; and three meals a day on most days as noted.

Meals

The Namibia Family Camping Adventure includes three meals on most days out on safari. The exceptions are lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2, dinner in Swakopmund on Day 5, lunch and dinner in Swakopmund on Day 6, and lunch on Day 14 for your final day in Windhoek.

Drinks

Tea, coffee and hot chocolate are available whilst staying in the campsites and are included in the safari price. Drinking water from the tap is also provided throughout the safari. Tap water in Namibia is safe to drink as it has been purified or pumped straight from underground boreholes. All other drinks are extra at your own expense. The safari vehicle has a cool box or a built-in fridge where you can keep these cool. Your guide will let you know which places are convenient to buy drinks during the safari.

Age of travellers

This camping safari to Namibia is designed for families with children aged 5 years and over.

Laundry

You will be able to do your own hand washing at the campsites using the running water provided and please feel free to ask your camp assistant for a bucket if required. It may also be possible to arrange a laundry service with campsite staff at nominal fee payable direct – your guide will be able to liaise with campsite staff to find out the details.

Luggage

There is provision for each person to bring around 15kg of luggage, packed into a soft sided bag that can easily fit in the baggage compartment. A medium sized day bag and camera bag can also be carried with you within the safari vehicle.

Visa & passport requirements

Current visa regulations state that travellers on American, Canadian, British, New Zealand or Australian passports do not need to apply for a tourist visa in advance to enter Namibia. A tourist visa will automatically be issued on arrival into Windhoek; please note, you may be asked to show proof of your holiday itinerary and departure flight details to verify you are

visiting as a tourist. In addition, passports must have a minimum of **three blank pages** to accommodate new immigration stamps for each time you enter a country and your passport must be **valid for at least six months** after you exit (we recommend nine months to be on the safe side).

Whilst we are happy to offer advice on visa and passport requirements we stress that it is **your own responsibility** to double check the latest requirements and to ensure that you fulfil these before you travel. Only you know your current passport status, and that of your family members. The above regulations also apply for entry into South Africa, should you be travelling via there on your way to or from Namibia.