



NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA SAFARI

This memorable safari begins in Namibia's capital city of Windhoek, travels south to the spectacular Namib Desert, across to the coastal town of Swakopmund, inland to Spitzkoppe, visits a Himba village and seeks out wildlife in Etosha National Park. You then head north-east through the lush Caprivi Strip, dip into Botswana's Delta Panhandle and continue east to reach Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls (note that a few departures run in reverse, from Victoria Falls to Windhoek). The safari combines captivating wildlife encounters, cultural diversity, adventurous camping and remarkable scenery. You'll discover why Namibia is aptly described as 'a land of contrasts' as you journey through desert landscapes into verdant

waterways. These converge in the far north-east of Namibia and Botswana to join the mighty Zambezi River where this safari concludes by one of the world's seven natural wonders, Victoria Falls. You'll stay in a serviced mobile camp usually at established campsites, with the exception of hotel or guesthouse accommodation in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Victoria Falls.

Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Depart London Heathrow on a scheduled overnight flight to Johannesburg and then on to Windhoek with *South African Airways* to begin your Namibia & Botswana Safari.

Includes dinner on the flight.



Day 2 – Windhoek

Arrive into Namibia where you are met and transferred to your comfortable hotel or guesthouse accommodation in Windhoek. The afternoon is free to relax after the flight and lounge by the swimming pool or stroll around the city centre. Namibia's capital city has a vibrant mix of African and colonial influences, evident in its range of shops, craft markets, street stalls, architecture and cuisine.



Your Namibia safari guide will meet with you at your accommodation in the early evening to go through the safari details and assist with any queries or requests you may have. Lunch and dinner today are not included in the safari price, allowing you the freedom to choose from Windhoek's various cafes and restaurants or to dine at the hotel.

Includes breakfast on the flight.

Days 3 & 4 - Namib Desert/Namib-Naukluft Park

This camping safari adventure begins in the south of Namibia, driving across the Central Highlands before descending into the heart of the Namib Desert. Here you'll spend two nights in your mobile safari camp whilst you explore this remarkable area. Immerse yourself in the breathtaking desert landscapes as you discover the massive orange sand dunes and stark clay pans of Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. As you wander through the dunes, your guide will reveal a surprising range of flora and fauna that has adapted to survive in this arid environment. You'll also venture into the cool depths of Sesriem Canyon, carved by the ephemeral Tsauchab River as it winds its way to Sossusvlei.



Conclude each day by the campfire, beneath a star filled sky punctuated by the sounds of barking geckos and howling jackals.

Windhoek to Namib Desert: approx. 5.5 hours (330km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 5 – Swakopmund

Traverse the northern reaches of the Namib-Naukluft Park today on the long road to the Atlantic Ocean. Mountain ranges, sweeping desert savanna and impressive canyons lead to vast gravel plains. Coastal dunes signify your arrival to the port town of Walvis Bay and then it's a short drive up the coast to Swakopmund. Spend your afternoon at leisure mooching around this quaint colonial town. There are plenty of historic buildings, shops, galleries and a craft market to browse around, as well as a museum, reptile park and pleasant waterfront. Chat to your guide about the various activity

options such as coastal scenic flights, quad-biking or sky diving if appeals. They can also recommend a selection of restaurants for lunch and dinner, neither of which are included today so that your time is free to spend as you wish.

You'll stay overnight at a comfortable guesthouse in town.

Namib Desert to Swakopmund: approx. 5.5 hours (345km)
Includes breakfast.



Day 6 – Spitzkoppe

It's a relatively short drive inland to your next destination, the majestic granite monolith of Spitzkoppe. Described as the Matterhorn of Namibia, this striking inselberg rises about 700m above the surrounding plains. You're mobile safari camp is sheltered amongst the giant boulders, many of which resemble building blocks perched on top of each other in bizarre formations. Explore the area on one of the various walking trails before watching the sunset light up the rocks with a warm orange glow. On a dark, clear night the lack of any light pollution reveals an incredible blanket of stars; or an unforgettable moonrise during the full moon.

Swakopmund to Spitzkoppe: approx. 2 hours (140km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 7 – Himba Community

Journey along rural roads through more amazing desert scenery as you head north into Damaraland. Here you will visit a Himba community where you have the opportunity to gain an insight into their semi-nomadic way of life. The Himba are one of Namibia's last traditional tribes who continue to practice the beliefs and customs of their ancestors. It's a heartwarming experience to meet and swap stories with members of the community, aided by the translation of a local guide.

You'll then return to your mobile safari camp for an overnight stay.

Spitzkoppe to Damaraland: approx. 5 hours (320km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



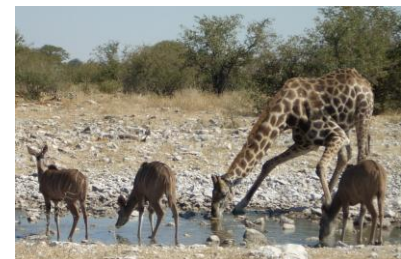
Days 8, 9 & 10 – Etosha National Park



Head north-west through freehold farmland as you journey to Etosha National Park. Spend your time here exploring the southern and eastern parts of the Park on exciting game drives with your guide. Your mobile camp is set up within established campsites, some with a floodlit waterhole where game viewing can continue into the evening. You usually camp two nights on the southern side of Etosha before taking a full day game drive across to the eastern side for a night. The days in between generally involve an early morning and late afternoon game drive, stopping off at numerous waterholes and interesting game sightings along

the way. You will also see the vast and desolate Etosha Pan that dominates the centre of this famous wildlife reserve.

Since the Park was proclaimed in 1907, a wide variety of wildlife has thrived in Etosha, congregating around natural and manmade waterholes in the dry season and reveling when the rains bring plenty of water and grazing in the wet season. Etosha National Park covers 22,270km² of semi-desert terrain, typified by expansive open savannah and wooded thickets of acacia, mopane and terminalia. These habitats are home to zebra, giraffe, various species of antelope, black and white rhino, lion, warthog, cheetah, elephant, leopard, spotted hyena, endemic black-faced impala and much more. A total of 114 mammal species and over 300 bird species can be found in Etosha.



Damaraland to Southern Etosha: approx. 3.5 hours (280km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 11 – Kavango Region

Depart early this morning from the eastern side of Etosha and continue north-east on your Namibia safari to enter the Kavango region. See the dramatic change as you cross through the veterinary fence that separates commercial farmland from communal land in the north. This north-eastern region of Namibia is blessed with much higher rainfall and

perennial rivers, creating a relatively lush environment for the local Kavango people and their treasured cattle. You'll pass many villages and crop fields, giving you a glimpse into their pastoralist way of life, as you approach your campsite on the banks of the Kavango River. The Kavango people are also skilled woodcarvers, selling their wares at roadside craft stalls. Spend your evening relaxing by the river, often to a chorus of nearby hippos.

Eastern Etosha to Kavango Region: approx. 7 hours (630km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 12 – Okavango Delta Panhandle



Follow the Trans-Caprivi Highway heading east to Divundu and then detour south to cross the Mohembo Border into Botswana. Your destination is a secluded island within the labyrinth of waterways that flow off the main Okavango River as it makes its way south towards the Okavango Delta. To reach the island you take a popular form of local transport, the mokoro (dugout canoe). This is a wonderful and tranquil way to explore the Okavango Delta Panhandle, meandering through lily dotted channels and lagoons. There's plenty of birdlife to see in this area as well as the occasional hippo, crocodile, otter and if you are exceptionally lucky you may even

glimpse a shy sitatunga amongst the reeds.

The sounds of the Delta will lull you to sleep in your mobile camp on this island paradise.

Please note that due to limited space on the mokoro, you can only take a small overnight bag with you to the island camp. Camping gear will also be more basic tonight, with a tent and mattress but no camp bed or chairs. There are also no showering facilities on the island.

Kavango Region to Okavango Delta Panhandle: approx. 3 hours (150km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 13 – Caprivi Region

Backtrack across the Mohembo Border into Namibia and drive into the Caprivi Strip through Bwabwata National Park (formerly Caprivi Game Park). Here you'll camp overnight on the banks of the Kwando River. This afternoon you'll be treated to a game drive within the eastern side of Bwabwata National Park. This previously underdeveloped wildlife area has been undergoing a number of positive changes since it was proclaimed a National Park in 2007. The region is significant in that it supports large populations of both wildlife and people. Spanning approximately 6,100km² of attractive woodlands, waterways and floodplains, a range of game species and birdlife can be seen here. These include elephant, leopard, vervet monkey, kudu, buffalo, baboon, hippo, common impala, red lechwe, reedbuck, and a variety of bee-eaters, raptors, storks, coucals and much more.



Okavango Delta Panhandle to Caprivi Region: approx. 4 hours (330km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 14 – Chobe National Park

Today you journey further east through the Caprivi's bustling administrative capital of Katima Mulilo and across Ngoma Bridge to enter Botswana. Once you cross the border you transit through Chobe National Park to reach the town of Kasane and your campsite by the Chobe River. Kasane provides a convenient base for exploring the adjacent Chobe National Park. This fantastic conservation area is well known for its attractive riverfront setting, stunning sunsets, and diversity of wildlife, including the largest concentration of African elephant on earth.

This afternoon you will be treated to a memorable sunset cruise along the Chobe riverfront or a game drive within the National Park, the alternate activity taking place the following afternoon.

Caprivi Region to Kasane: approx. 4 hours (235km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 15 – Chobe National Park

Enjoy another captivating day of game viewing as you explore more of Chobe National Park. Begin with a morning game drive along the Park's many sandy tracks which weave their way along the riverfront and through the bush. There is much to see in Chobe and your guide will point out a myriad of creatures, large and small. Game and birdlife are prolific here; attracted by the perennial Chobe River and relatively lush vegetation, both the wooded interior and the grassy floodplains. With luck, you may spot giraffe, lion, puku, buffalo, leopard, hippo, crocodile, kudu, red lechwe, zebra, common impala, wild dog, bushbuck and more. The feathered variety include African fish eagle, vultures, African jacana, egrets, storks, herons, geese, francolins, bee-eaters and ox-peckers, to name just a few. Elephant sightings are almost guaranteed; often browsing in the interior or quenching their thirst and frolicking along the riverfront. If you are exceptionally lucky you may even see elephant crossing the river to reach their favourite feeding grounds.

Return to your campsite for lunch and to relax by the pool during the heat of the day. In the afternoon you head out again on a boat cruise or game drive, depending on which activity took place the previous afternoon.

Safari drives/cruise.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 16 – Victoria Falls



From Kasane you depart on the short drive to the Zimbabwe border. Your guide will assist with immigration formalities – note that most visitors need to purchase a Zimbabwe entry visa on arrival which is for your own account, payable in US dollars.

You then continue by road to your accommodation in Victoria Falls town. You will visit the mighty Victoria Falls (your entrance fee is extra, payable direct), the world's largest curtain of water and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and have free time to explore the town at your leisure. You may also like to join one of the extra activities available; such as a sundowner cruise along the Zambezi River or a scenic flight over the Falls. Lunch and dinner are on your own account to fit in as you please.

Kasane to Victoria Falls: approx. 1.5 hours, not including time taken for border formalities (80km)

Includes breakfast.

Day 17 – Flight to London

Begin with a final breakfast with your guide who will then depart for their return journey to Windhoek. Your time is free until you are transferred to Victoria Falls Airport to check-in for your departure flight.

Please speak to us if you are interested in spending additional nights in Victoria Falls to allow more time to see the sights and partake in extra activities such as white water rafting.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

Day 18 - Arrive in London

SAFARI INFORMATION

The Namibia & Botswana Safari encompasses varied landscapes, both desert and wetlands; excellent game parks including Etosha, Bwabwata and Chobe; and gives you an insight into Namibia's fascinating cultures – offering you a range of magical sights and experiences. You will stay most nights in a comfortable mobile camp at established campsites with shared facilities. Other than your own towel, toiletries and torch; all the necessary camping equipment is provided. This safari visits three African countries, beginning in Namibia's capital of Windhoek, entering the north of Botswana and concluding in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (some departures begin in Victoria Falls and end in Windhoek).

Guide

Throughout this Namibia & Botswana Safari you will be led by a professional safari guide who will enlighten you about the geology, flora, fauna and history of each area that you visit. The guides are selected for their personable nature, communication skills, and passion for safaris. They have national qualifications as well as ongoing in-house training and

are able to identify all the animals, a number of birds and some of the plants that you will see during your journey. Their local knowledge provides an invaluable insight and they can often speak a number of local languages, bridging the gap between cultures.

Camp crew

A friendly and skilled camp crew also accompanies this safari, the group size determining the number of crew. They are in charge of running the mobile camp, taking care of all camp tasks and creating tasty, wholesome meals over the campfire each evening. This leaves you and your guide time to enjoy each day's activities and to spend relaxed evenings chatting around the campfire.

Camping style

The camping style on this Namibia & Botswana Safari is functional and comfortable. You will be provided with good quality camping gear, including canvas dome tents that sleep up to two people. Each tent is 2.5 by 2.5 metres and 1.85 metres high with a built in ground sheet, sewn in mosquito netting on the zip up 'windows', and a zip up door. Within the tent you will have one camp stretcher-bed per person with foam mattress, sleeping bag and a small pillow. The sleeping bags and pillow and mattress covers are laundered before each trip. You are of course welcome to bring your own sleeping bag and/or pillow should you prefer. Do ensure you bring your own towel as this is not included. A safari folding chair is provided for each guest in the communal seating area, as is all the necessary tableware - usually Melamine plates, glassware, and stainless steel cutlery.

Note that this safari includes one night of more basic camping on an island in the Okavango Delta Panhandle, where you are provided with a tent and mattress but no camp bed or chair, and no shower facilities. You will also be limited to a small overnight bag for this night.

Vehicles

The safari vehicle typically used during the Namibia & Botswana Safari is a custom-made *Mitsubishi* complete with seatbelts, sliding windows and a pop-top roof. The vehicles usually have a battery inverter and a plug socket, designed for two-prong European plugs, where essential items such as camera batteries can be charged. For those with a suitable adaptor, there is also a 24V cigarette lighter socket to charge batteries. You will need to bring any necessary adaptors for charging your equipment as these are not provided. Most places you will visit have the same generic wall socket as found in South Africa – with 3 large round pins. Suitable adaptors can be purchased at most overseas retailers and are generally marked for use in South Africa. Many of the campsites you stay at during this safari have power points at the sites or at the bar/reception area.

Namibia camping sites

You will generally stay in established campsites during the Namibia & Botswana Safari. Communal facilities at these sites often have ladies and gent's ablution blocks with cold and hot running water. There may also be a kiosk or bar to buy refreshments and some will also have a swimming pool. Lighting varies so it is vital that you bring your own reliable torch with you to make your way around camp and use in your tent after dark (we would recommend the convenience of a head torch).

Language

You will be led by an English speaking guide throughout the Namibia & Botswana Safari.

Costs

The following is included in the Namibia & Botswana Safari: scheduled international flights from London to Windhoek and Victoria Falls to London, via Johannesburg, with *South African Airways*; airport transfers; transport in a specially designed safari vehicle; the services of a professional safari guide and camp crew; accommodation in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Victoria Falls as noted; camping in a serviced mobile camp largely in established campsites with camping equipment provided; campsite fees; relevant National Park and other entrance fees (not including Victoria Falls entry fee); and most meals, as specified in the itinerary.

Meals

Almost all meals are included in this scheduled camping safari. Meals that aren't included and will be for your own account are lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2, lunch and dinner in Swakopmund on Day 5, lunch and dinner in Victoria Falls on Day 16 and lunch on Day 17.

Breakfast in the mobile safari camp mostly consists of a light buffet selection of cereal, fruit, yoghurt, bread and spreads. On days you set off particularly early you may start with rusks, bread and spreads, followed by a more substantial

breakfast later. Lunches are generally served picnic style, with bread and an assortment of fillings, and salad or occasionally a hot dish. The main meal of the day is dinner, cooked over the campfire and usually eaten at an outdoor dining table under the stars. Meals are wholesome, using fresh supplies where available, and the dining style is relaxed.

Drinks

Tea, coffee and drinking water from the tap are provided whilst you are staying in the mobile safari camp. All other beverages are for your own account and can be purchased at the start of the trip or en route from shops, campsites/accommodation establishments and restaurants/cafe's. Your guide will advise you of convenient locations to top up on your drinks supply as required. There is a cool box or fridge in the safari vehicle to keep your drinks cool.

Single travellers

Single travellers who are happy to share a twin tent/room with another solo traveller of the same gender must please advise us of this at the time of booking. We will aim to find you a suitable match to share with, but if we are unable to do so you will still be provided with your own tent/room and the single supplement will not be charged. We will only waive the single supplement on the proviso that you informed us, when booking, that you are willing to share. Single travellers who wish to guarantee their own tent/room will be charged the single supplement.

Age of travellers

The minimum age on the Namibia & Botswana Safari is 10 years. Families or groups with children aged younger than 10 are welcome to request a private guided safari quote which can be tailor-made to your requirements.

Luggage

The luggage allowance on this camping safari is a maximum of 12kg per person, plus a small daypack and camera bag. Please ensure your main luggage is packed into soft duffel bags that have no hard sides or ridges so they can easily be packed into the safari vehicle.

Laundry

There is no laundry service offered during the Namibia & Botswana Safari. Some of the established campsites have hand washing facilities or you can ask your guide or camp crew for a bucket and string for a washing line. We recommend that you travel with your own small container of washing powder or purchase some along the way. A laundry service is available at the accommodation establishments at extra cost; however they generally require a full day to ensure your laundry can be finished before check-out so please check this with them first.

Visa & passport requirements

We are happy to offer guidance on visa and passport regulations based on the latest information we have to hand. However, we stress that the **responsibility lies with you** to ensure you meet the immigration and passport requirements for each country at the time you travel. We recommend you double check all details with the relevant high commission/embassy near you well in advance and again just before you travel.

It is imperative that you ensure your passport is **valid for a minimum of 6 months** after your travel and that you have **at least 2 (preferably 3) blank visa pages** remaining to accommodate immigration stamps **each time** you enter a country. Failure to meet these requirements may mean you are refused entry.

We currently understand that American, Canadian, British, Australian and New Zealand passport holders do not need to obtain a tourist visa in advance to enter Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe (see details below), or South Africa. Tourist visas of up to 90 days are issued by immigration upon entry to these countries. Note that immigration officials often require proof of your itinerary and your departure details to verify that you are visiting on holiday. Entry visas are currently free of charge, with the exception of Zimbabwe where the cost varies depending on your nationality (single entry costs around US\$55 for British; US\$75 for Canadian; and US\$30 for USA, NZ and Australian passport holders). If you need a double entry visa for Zimbabwe this is roughly US\$15 extra (note Canadians can only get a single entry on arrival). Ensure you have the exact amount of US Dollars with you, as change is often not available. Multiple entry visas for Zimbabwe are not issued at immigration and must be applied for in advance of travel, from the relevant embassy nearest you.

Health requirements

It has recently been brought to our attention that on arrival in Zimbabwe (or South Africa) you might be asked to produce a Yellow Fever Certificate. Any visitor who has been to a country where Yellow Fever exists (such as Zambia) must present a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate on arrival, or face vaccination at a cost. Please make sure that you have been vaccinated against Yellow Fever and that you travel with all your documentation. Please contact your GP or nearest Travel Clinic for more information.