



EXCLUSIVE NAMIBIA ADVENTURE

This sample itinerary will give you some idea of what is available on an exclusive, private guided safari to Namibia. We have suggested some of the country's more comfortable lodges and guest farms, and proposed an adventurous interlude under canvas at your own comfortable, private mobile camp. Creating your own itinerary allows you to incorporate your chosen highlights as well try something a little different if appeals. The areas visited, activities included, travel dates and safari pace can all be tailor-made to suit your preferences, so talk this over with us and take your time to get it right.



Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Scheduled overnight flight from London to Windhoek with *South African Airways*.

Dinner is included on the flight.

Day 2 - Windhoek

On arrival into Windhoek, your guide will welcome you at the airport and transfer you to a comfortable guesthouse. You may like to take a brief tour of the city along the way. Once you are settled in, your guide will discuss your trip with you and answer any queries you may have. As your flight may land in the afternoon we have not included lunch today, but lunch is available at the guesthouse or at a cafe in town if required. The remainder of the day is free to relax, swim, or wander around the city center as appeals. Dinner this evening is for your own account to give you the flexibility to dine at the guesthouse or choose from one of the city's many good restaurants.

Includes breakfast on the flight.

Day 3 - Namib-Naukluft Park

Your guide collects you after breakfast to head south-west over the Great Escarpment. After a picnic lunch at a scenic spot on the way, you gradually descend over mountain passes and traverse the Namib Desert's flat coastal plain. You reach Sossus Dune Lodge, situated on the edge of the desert, where you will stay for the next two nights. Arriving in the mid-afternoon, you've time to explore the local area and nearby Elim Dune with your guide as appeals, or just relax and enjoy sunset from your balcony.

Windhoek to Sesriem: approx. 5.5 hours (330km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 4 - Namib-Naukluft Park



Start early to catch the dunescapes of the Namib in the rich light of sunrise. Sossus Dune Lodge offers the only accommodation within the Namib-Naukluft National Park boundary, allowing you access into the dunes well before sunrise when all those staying outside the park can only enter at sunrise. The early start is worthwhile (and a must for avid photographers) so you can reach the dunes when the dawn colours and shadows are at their most spectacular; at times it's all so amazing you won't know where to look first! Explore Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei with your guide, and climb some of the highest dunes in the world before enjoying brunch under a shady camelthorn tree.

Return to the lodge for lunch and relax during the heat of the day or enjoy a dip in the refreshing swimming pool. As the afternoon cools, your guide will take you to visit the nearby Sesriem Canyon; a narrow, eroded gorge

about a kilometre in length, dotted with freshwater pools that refill after good rains. Centuries of flooding along the ephemeral Tsauchab River course has carved sinuous curves into the rock, making this a cool discovery on the hottest afternoon. You arrive back to the lodge in time to freshen up for dinner.

Sesriem to Sossusvlei to Sesriem: approx. 2 hours (120km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 - Swakopmund



After breakfast, continue north through the Namib-Naukluft Park, via the striking Gaub and Kuiseb canyons, and head west to meet the coast at Walvis Bay. Check out the lagoon and some of the other coastal spots here, as you'll often find large flocks of cormorants, pelicans, flamingos and other water birds. The pleasant coastal town of Swakopmund is a short drive away along a tarmac road that runs between the beach and the dunes.

Overnight at one of the town's best colonial style hotels and enjoy dinner out with your guide at a waterfront restaurant. Don't miss the fresh seafood - Swakopmund is famous for it!

Namib-Naukluft to Swakopmund: approx. 6 hours (345km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 6 to 9 - Damaraland Mobile Camp

After leaving Swakopmund, head along the desolate Skeleton Coast to drop in on the huge colony of Cape fur seals at Cape Cross, before turning inland to traverse the mountain scenery of Damaraland. Here you camp for four nights, split between two different locations. See the descriptions below for details of these mobile camps. Talk to us, and choose which sites would suit you best: they've all got great scenery and are blissfully remote.

Ugab River Valley

As the Ugab River heads towards the Atlantic, its ephemeral riverbed marks the southern border of the Skeleton Coast National Park. You leave the main road and travel off the beaten track to reach your campsite in the sandy riverbed, between high walls of rock. From here you can take walks in the hills and explore the area with your guide, keeping your eyes open for desert-adapted elephant that frequent the river.

Mowani Foothills

Here your private campsite is dwarfed by the huge granite boulders that surround it. This is superb scenery and great walking country overlooking the ephemeral Aba-Huab River. It's the perfect location for easy access to Twyfelfontein's vast gallery of rock art (now a *UNESCO* World Heritage Site) and southern Damaraland's many other attractions. Your guide also knows off-road tracks around the Aba-Huab River, where you can search for signs of desert-adapted elephant and other game.

Palmwag Concession

We can arrange for you to have your own private mobile camp at a remote location in the Palmwag Concession. This 4,500 km² private reserve has a number of freshwater springs that support strong populations of game, including desert-adapted elephant, the rare Hartmann's mountain zebra, giraffe, oryx, springbok and kudu. Predators such as lion, cheetah, leopard, brown and spotted hyena are occasionally seen here too. The speciality of the area is its growing population of rare black rhino, the largest concentration in the world outside a national park. The rhino here are monitored and protected by the *Save the Rhino Trust* and you may be lucky enough to see one during your drive.

Swakopmund to Ugab, including Cape Cross: approx. 4.5 hours (320km)

Swakopmund to Mowani, including Cape Cross: approx. 6 hours (415km)

Mowani to Palmwag: approx. 3 hours (150km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 10 – Western Etosha



It's another day of great scenery as you drive to the western side of Etosha National Park, Namibia's primary game reserve. The higher concentration of wildlife here makes game viewing the focus of your days. The western side of Etosha is restricted exclusively to those staying at Dolomite Camp or on safari with a registered Namibian tour operator and guide. You enter at Etosha's western Galton Gate and proceed on to Dolomite Camp where you will stay overnight. The Camp lies amongst dolomite rock formations, with walkways linking the thatched en-suite rooms to an inviting restaurant and bar area. Each room and balcony offers sweeping views across the surrounding savannah.

Mowani to Western Etosha: approx. 4.5 hours (300 km)

Palmwag to Western Etosha: approx. 4.5 hours (240km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 11 & 12 – South-western Etosha National Park

After breakfast you set off in an easterly direction through Etosha for another superb day of game driving, arriving at Okaukuejo Resort in the afternoon. Here you will stay two nights, using the resort as your base to go out on game drives at your leisure. After dinner and drinks each evening, don't forget to check out the floodlit waterhole here; it gets regular wildlife visits including elephant, black rhino and lion.



Safari drives

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 13 & 14 - Okonjima

Option of an early morning game drive around waterholes near Okaukuejo before you exit Etosha at Andersson Gate and travel through the farming towns of Outjo and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima. This is home to the *AfriCat Foundation*, which was created to help conserve Namibia's cheetah and other big cats. Your Namibia safari guide will ensure you are comfortably settled in before continuing on to Windhoek. Okonjima's guides will take you on all the activities here, such as visits to the cheetah welfare project, leopard tracking by vehicle, cheetah and spotted hyena tracking on foot, game drives, an educational Bushman walking trail and visits to a night hide.



South-western Etosha to Okonjima: approx. 3.5 hours (250km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 15 - Windhoek

There's time to enjoy a last activity and a delicious brunch at Okonjima before you are collected for the return transfer to Windhoek. Back in Windhoek, you can relax, explore the city center and do any last-minute shopping at the craft center and street stalls. Overnight in your guesthouse accommodation.

Okonjima to Windhoek: approx. 3 hours (215km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 16 - Flight to London

After some free time in Windhoek, you are collected from your guesthouse and driven to the airport in time to depart on your scheduled flight to London.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

Day 17 - Arrive in London

SAFARI INFORMATION

The Exclusive Namibia Adventure is a sample itinerary to give you some idea of what is available on an exclusive private guided safari to Namibia. Private-guided safaris have no scheduled departures. You choose the day you start, how long your trip is and where you visit. The sample itinerary provided is ideal for those wanting a private guided safari that combines luxury with a little adventurous camping (fully serviced of course). A balance of wonderful lodges, welcoming guesthouses and wilderness camping creates a unique and well-rounded Namibian safari experience. There is a wide variety of attractions to choose from in Namibia, from the wonders of the Namib Desert to the archeological and geological treasures of Damaraland, and from captivating wildlife sightings in Etosha to tracking predators at Okonjima. The days will be geared to your pace and interests; the advantage of having your own safari vehicle and guide is that you can call the shots. Your informative guide enhances your journey of discovery with their extensive knowledge of each of the camps and areas you visit, whilst becoming a firm friend. You will conclude your safari enthralled, enlightened, relaxed and conjuring up your next visit to this remarkable country.

Guide

An experienced and personable guide will turn your Namibian safari into a journey of a lifetime. Great importance is placed on the quality of your guide, ensuring they are knowledgeable, capable and companionable. Their local knowledge is invaluable in giving you an insight to Namibia's diverse history, cultures, wildlife, landscapes and attractions. They have a broad understanding of all that you encounter, with their own keen interest in specific areas such as birds, geology or botany. Where possible your specific interests will be matched with those of your guides.

Camp crew

The other integral member of your safari is your camp assistant or crew (one to three camp staff depending on the group size). They will take care of the camp set up, organisation and catering during the camping phase of your safari. They are adept at creating tasty camp meals on an open fire and keeping the drinks cold.

Accommodation

The Exclusive Namibia Adventure combines your selection of personalised guesthouses, hotels and well positioned lodges to give you a variety of accommodation during your safari. Accommodation options are recommended for their location, comfort and style. You will stay in comfortable double or twin en-suite rooms, with the exception of any nights under canvas. As this is a private safari, you are welcome to discuss the accommodation options with us in detail and choose those that suit you best.

A relatively luxurious, fully serviced mobile camp will be set up for your nights under canvas. You stay in 3x3 meter walk in tents with stretcher beds, bedrolls and bedding, pillow, thick mattresses, towels, chairs, wash stands, lamps, torches and insect repellent. You do not do any of the camp work; your only decision will be what to drink before dinner. Mobile camps have their own private field toilets and bucket showers (just ask and water will be heated for your shower).

Vehicles

These exclusive private guided safaris are run in specially modified 4WD Land Cruisers driven by your guide. A trailer will be used to carry luggage if necessary. For smaller groups you will also be accompanied by your camp assistant. Larger groups will travel with the guide in the safari vehicle, leaving the camp crew to travel independently in a separate vehicle with the camp equipment. In either case, each passenger has his or her own bucket seat with good back support. All the vehicles are

equipped with seatbelts, fridge/freezers, VHF radios and long-range fuel tanks. An air-conditioned minibus is sometimes used for transfers in Windhoek, between the airport and your guesthouse.

Language

The Exclusive Namibia Adventure is usually led by an English speaking guide. A German, Italian, French or Spanish speaking guide may be sourced on request with prior notice, although generally at a surcharge.

Costs

The Exclusive Namibia Adventure includes scheduled, overnight international flights with *South African Airways* if required; transport in a custom built safari vehicle; transfers; accommodation in guesthouses, hotels and lodges; mineral water and juice whilst traveling in the safari vehicle and a limited bar service whilst staying in your mobile camp; park entrance fees; and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

Meals

The Exclusive Namibia Adventure includes all meals except for lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2 and lunch on Day 16. Whilst staying in the exclusive mobile camps, three-course meals are prepared over an open fire and eaten in style at a table laid with crockery, cutlery and glassware.

Drinks

A complimentary bar is included when staying in the mobile camps; please advise us of your drinks preferences so we can ensure your favourite drink is catered for. Mineral water and juice is also available when travelling in the safari vehicle. Drinks are not included at the lodges and when dining out at restaurants.

Single travellers

A single supplement will be charged should a single room be required at any of the lodges, hotels or guesthouses. No supplement is charged for a single tent during the mobile camping phase.

Age of travellers

Children of all ages are welcome on the Exclusive Namibia Adventure. The only age restrictions are those applied by some of the lodges so we will help you choose child friendly accommodation for your family safari. Parents must please be aware that proper supervision of children remains the parent's responsibility.

Laundry

A laundry service is available at most lodges for a fee. To allow time, it is best make use of the laundry service at lodges where you are staying two nights or more.

Luggage

Ideally, please travel with soft sided bags rather than hard suitcases so that your luggage can easily fit into the baggage space. Luggage is normally restricted to 20kg per person, not including photographic equipment. However, weight is usually less important than volume as everything is transported with you in the safari vehicle or trailer. If you are returning to Windhoek on conclusion of the trip, it is possible to store any excess luggage at the safari base whilst you are out on safari.

Visa & passport requirements

It is our current understanding that travellers with an American, Canadian, British, New Zealand or Australian passport do not need to apply for a visa in advance to visit South Africa or Namibia. A tourist visa will automatically be granted to you by immigration on arrival. You are required to have an onward flight ticket and your passport must be **valid for a minimum of 6 months** after you depart, with at least **3 clear pages** for immigration stamps. Entry can be refused if travellers do not meet these requirements. Please note that visa requirements can change without warning and **the responsibility is yours** to ensure you double check the regulations with your local high commission or embassy before you travel.