



## NAMIBIA ODYSSEY

This accommodated safari explores Namibia's main highlights in comfort. You'll stay in en-suite rooms at a mixture of welcoming lodges, guest farms and guesthouses. Explore the spectacular dunescapes of the Namib and travel across the desert to the coastal town of Swakopmund, where you may like to add in a scenic flight or a boat trip. Drive along some of the desolate Skeleton Coast before seeking out Twyfelfontein's ancient gallery of rock engravings in the mountainous region of Damaraland. After a feast of game viewing in Etosha National Park, you'll get the chance to view some of the predators up close at Okonjima, home of the *AfriCat Foundation*.

### Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Scheduled overnight flight from London to Johannesburg and then on to Windhoek with *South African Airways*.

Includes dinner on the flight.

### Day 2 - Windhoek

After checking through customs at Windhoek International Airport you will be met and transferred to a lovely guesthouse in one of the capital city's quiet, leafy suburbs. The afternoon is spent at your leisure to recuperate from your flight by relaxing by the swimming pool or wander into town to explore. There are many good restaurants to choose from for your evening meal; please speak to your hosts at the guesthouse for assistance with a reservation and taxi service. The Namibia safari team is easily contactable should you have any queries before your trip begins.



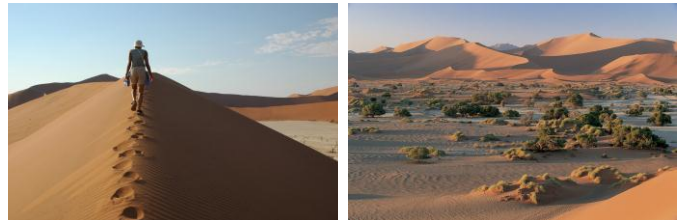
Includes breakfast on the flight.

### Day 3 - Namib-Naukluft Park

There's time for breakfast at your guesthouse before you are collected between 09.00 and 09.30 to meet your safari guide and group. Depart from Windhoek and head south-west over the scenic Eros Mountains and Khomas Hochland Highlands. It is a varied and interesting route, along which the environment, flora and fauna change considerably. You stop for a picnic lunch along the way and then descend down a stunning mountain pass and on to the Namib Desert's flat, coastal plain. There's another pause at the little desert hamlet of Solitaire for fuel and refreshments, shortly before reaching your comfortable guest farm on the edge of the desert, where you spend two nights.

Windhoek to Namib Desert: approx. 5 hours (315km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 4 - Namib-Naukluft Park

Rise before dawn for a morning drive to Sossusvlei, home to some of the world's tallest sand dunes and captivating landscapes. As the sun rises, the desert colours constantly change and deepen. The shifting, contrasting patterns of light and shadow on the dunes provide great photographic opportunities and, for those energetic enough to climb one, the view from the crest is breathtaking. Spend the morning exploring Dead Vlei and Sossusvlei on foot with your guide, who points out some of the interesting flora and fauna and the remarkable ways they have adapted to survive here. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camelthorn trees and the chance to see a gemsbok or springbok are just some of the wonderful discoveries. After lunch in the desert, visit a deep canyon with dramatic rock formations at Sesriem; then return to your guest farm, perhaps to relax by the pool and enjoy sunset before dinner.

Lodge to Sossusvlei and back: approx. 3.5 hours (240km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 5 - Swakopmund

After breakfast you drive through the gravel plains of the Namib Desert, wending your way up and down the striking Gaub and Kuiseb passes, to reach the coastal town of Walvis Bay. Stop for a picnic lunch beside the marine lagoon, which is usually dotted with flamingos, pelicans and other water birds. From here a short drive north up the coast brings you to the pleasant historic German town of Swakopmund where you settle into your guesthouse accommodation. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the town's excellent shops and craft market or wander along the attractive waterfront. Your guide organises dinner for you at one of the town's many excellent restaurants; the seafood is particularly good!



Namib Desert to Swakopmund: approx. 5.5 hours (300km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 6 - Swakopmund

With Swakopmund as your base today, you have a wide choice of things to do. Your guide will explain your options to you beforehand and make the necessary bookings and arrangements. Swakopmund is a major centre for active pursuits and adrenaline activities: for example dune-boarding, quad-biking, tandem sky-diving and fishing. You could also join a morning boat cruise or take a scenic light-aircraft flight over the Namib Desert and the bleak Skeleton Coast with its eerie shipwrecks. Any additional activities are at your own expense, payable locally and are undertaken at your own risk. Your guide and vehicle are also available to take you into the nearby desert to explore the Moon Landscape and see the famous *Welwitschia* plant. One of the rarest flora species in the world, this unique plant is actually a tree that has adapted to the harsh desert climate over thousands of years. Alternatively, you can just relax and explore Swakopmund town with its art galleries, markets, colonial architecture, museums, shops and aquarium. To keep your time flexible, lunch and dinner are at your own expense today; although often the group and guide will meet up to eat together.

Includes breakfast.

### Day 7 - Brandberg

From Swakopmund you head northward along the Skeleton Coast to Cape Cross Seal Reserve, a breeding site for thousands of Cape fur seals. You can usually get very close to these gregarious creatures without disturbing them as they sunbathe on the rocks and frolic in the waves. Then, heading inland, you cross a forbidding stretch of amazingly flat and empty desert before reaching the remote town of Uis. There used to be a busy, thriving community here, based around a large tin mine; but this closed in the early 90's and it's now a quiet, sleepy spot. Local prospectors trying to eek an income sell semi-precious stones here at bargain prices. Continue north to reach the Brandberg massif, Namibia's highest mountain at 2,573m. As the afternoon cools you will take a relatively easy, 90-minute walk to see Brandberg's world-famous 'White Lady' rock painting. Attributed to nomadic Bushmen who left a gallery of about 45,000 paintings in sites and shelters all over the mountain, the 'White Lady' is believed by some to be more than 20,000 years old. Spend the night in chalet accommodation at the base of the Brandberg.

Swakopmund to Brandberg: approx. 4.5 hours (315km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### Day 8 – Southern Damaraland

After breakfast you drive for two to three hours to reach the ancient sandstone valley of Twyfelfontein, where an amazing collection of rock engravings known as petroglyphs has been created by talented Bushmen artisans. This open-air art gallery has now been classed a World Heritage Site by *UNESCO*. From here you travel deeper through Damaraland's dramatic scenery to your accommodation at a very

comfortable lodge with views over the surrounding landscape. In the afternoon there is usually time to join an optional guided activity (at extra cost) into the surrounding area before sunset, or relax at the lodge as appeals.

Brandberg to Damaraland: approx. 5 hours (350km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 9 – Northern Damaraland

Today's drive takes you north-east through a mix of communal land and farmland, via the rural town of Kamanjab, to the northern reaches of Damaraland. Your accommodation for the night is situated on the western boundary of Etosha National Park. It's a relatively lush region of Mopane woodland that supports a wide variety of flora and fauna. Spend your afternoon on an optional guided activity (at extra cost) or relaxing by the pool and re-charging your energy.

Southern Damaraland to northern Damaraland: approx. 3 hours (200km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 10 - Etosha National Park

Today you cross the restricted side of western Etosha National Park, game-driving your way to your accommodation within Etosha's southern region. Western Etosha has traditionally been set aside for game research and relocation, although this less frequented section of the park is now beginning to open up. You will have the chance to see some wildlife species that aren't seen in other parts of the park, such as Hartmann's mountain zebra which prefer the rocky terrain. You arrive to your restcamp in the afternoon where you have time to relax and take a refreshing dip in the pool. A short walk from your room, the restcamp waterhole is a great place to enjoy further wildlife sightings. The waterhole is floodlit at night, allowing you to watch game coming into drink and interacting well into the evening.



Northern Damaraland to Etosha: approx. 4 hours (200km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 11 - Etosha National Park

You set out on an early game drive to catch the morning action upon the surrounding plains and at nearby waterholes. In addition to the wildlife viewing, Etosha Pan is an amazing sight: an enormous shallow depression coated with silvery-white clay. It was probably once the centre of an enormous super-lake, though now it is dry and fills only in exceptionally wet rainy seasons. A string of waterholes around its southern perimeter attract great concentrations of wildlife, especially in the dry season; your game drives will focus on these. During the heat of the day you can find a cool spot to relax by the restcamp pool and enjoy a leisurely lunch. You emerge again for another drive in the late afternoon before returning to your accommodation in time for a cool drink as the sun sets.



Safari drives.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 12 - Etosha National Park

Another full day of exciting game viewing as you drive across to the eastern side of Etosha National Park, traversing different terrains from open savannah to woodland. Etosha is home to 114 different mammal species and over 340 species of birds, including most of Africa's big-game animals (such as lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, giraffe and rhino) and a myriad of fascinating smaller ones. Stop part way for lunch and then continue your game drive, pausing at waterholes and any promising game sightings along the way, until you reach your accommodation on the eastern boundary of Etosha.



Safari drives.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### **Day 13 – Okonjima**

There may be time for a brief morning game drive before you travel south through the towns of Tsumeb and Otjiwarongo on your way to Okonjima, situated at the base of the Omboroko Mountains in Namibia's central highlands. Okonjima is home of the *AfriCat Foundation*, a nonprofit organisation that works to rescue and rehabilitate Namibia's predators – especially the large cats. Located within Okonjima's private reserve, your lodge accommodation is in lovely en-suite rooms surrounded by attractive gardens and bush. Arriving in the mid-afternoon, you have time to enjoy your setting before a delicious dinner.

Eastern Etosha to Okonjima: approx. 4.5 hours (360km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



### **Day 14 - Windhoek**

This morning you will be treated to a guided tour of the reserve to learn a little about the *AfriCat Foundation's* work and to meet some of the predators that are part of this special programme. After brunch you hit the road again and journey back to Windhoek. There may be time to stop at the craft market in Okahandja: a great place to buy curios and carvings. Arriving in the city during the late afternoon, you are dropped at your guesthouse. Dinner is at your own expense, though your group and guide may arrange to meet for a farewell meal together.

Okonjima to Windhoek: approx. 3 hours (235km)  
Includes breakfast and lunch.

### **Day 15 - Flight to London**

After a leisurely morning to explore Windhoek and to buy any last-minute souvenirs, you are collected from your guesthouse and driven to the airport in time to check-in for your scheduled flight to London.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

### **Day 16 - Arrive in London**

## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

The Namibia Odyssey covers a variety of the country's top highlights; whilst staying in comfortable accommodation and travelling in the company of an enthusiastic and knowledgeable safari guide. You will stay in en-suite rooms at a mixture of well-placed lodges, guest farms and guesthouses. Each day your guide will take you on a journey of discovery, giving you an insight to the wonders that you encounter along the way. Aptly described as a land of contrasts, Namibia boasts a rich tapestry of culture, flora and fauna (many endemic), history, geological sites, staggering landscapes and exciting activities. You will explore the Namib Desert, the central Skeleton Coast, Damaraland, Etosha National Park and visit the *AfriCat Foundation*; plus many more sights in-between.

### **Guide**

You will be led by a professional and personable local guide. As the guide plays a vital role in the safari, they are chosen carefully and trained well. Most of the guides are Namibian born or raised and all speak good English. Your guide will be able to enlighten you about Namibia and much of what you see - identifying all of the animals, most of the birds, and some of the plants that you come across. They have a broad general knowledge that encompasses Namibia as a whole but they aren't experts or naturalists to know the Latin names for everything you see.

### **Accommodation**

Whilst on the Namibia Odyssey you will stay at comfortable guesthouses, guest farms and lodges where there's usually a personal welcome. The accommodation is 3-star and has been chosen for its value for money, comfort and cleanliness rather than for its luxury. Each room or chalet will be furnished with twin beds or a double bed and will have an en-suite bathroom.

## Vehicles

During this Namibia safari you may be transported in a minibus or a 4WD double cab pick-up for smaller groups of up to about four people. However, more often than not, you will be transported in a *Toyota Dyna* 'truck' which has been purpose-built for Namibia safaris; with air-cushioned suspension, individual bucket seats and a pop-top roof.

All the vehicles have seatbelts and many also have a strip of plugs where you are able to charge camera batteries. Most of the accommodation establishments you stay at during the safari will have plug sockets in the rooms. Namibia uses the same plug type as South Africa – a 15 amp with three large round pins. We recommend that you buy an adaptor to take with you on safari, suitable for the converting your electronics and appliances to a Namibian/South African plug socket.

## Single travellers

All the accommodation establishments charge a single supplement for single occupants. If you are a single traveller willing to share a room and if we are able to match you with another guest of the same gender who is also willing to share, then we are able to waive the single supplement. However, if there is no suitable match, the single supplement surcharge will apply.

## Language

The Namibia Odyssey is always guided in English.

## Costs

The Namibia Odyssey includes scheduled overnight international flights with *South African Airways*; transport in a safari vehicle and the services of a professional safari guide; airport transfers; accommodation in guesthouses, guest farms and lodges; park entrance fees and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

## Meals

The Namibia Odyssey includes three meals on most days. The exceptions to this are lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2, lunch and dinner in Swakopmund on Day 6, dinner in Windhoek on Day 14 and lunch in Windhoek on Day 15.

## Drinks

Drinks are not included in this safari and will be for your own accounts. Beverages taken at lodges and guesthouses are generally charged to your room and can be settled on check-out. Drinks at restaurants, cafes and whilst on the road can be bought using cash or credit card. The safari vehicle has a cool box or fridge where you can store your drinks to keep them cool during the journey; your guide will let you know the best places to stock up along the way. Tap drinking water is supplied throughout the safari, or bottled mineral water is widely available at shops should you prefer to purchase this.

## Age of travellers

Children aged 12 and over are welcome to join the Namibia Odyssey. There is no upper age limit.

## Laundry

Most of the accommodation establishments you will stay at offer a laundry service at an additional cost. A laundry price list is often provided in the rooms or you can speak to reception for details. To allow adequate time for this service we recommend getting your laundry done at places where you spend two nights.

## Luggage

Luggage should be limited to around 15kg per person in a soft holdall with no hard sides that can easily be stored in the luggage compartment. In addition, a medium sized day bag and camera bag can be kept with you in the vehicle.

## Visa & passport requirements

It is our current understanding that travellers on British, Canadian, American, Australian and New Zealand passports do not require a visa to visit South Africa or Namibia on safari. A tourist visa is automatically issued by immigration on arrival, for a maximum of 90 days. You may be asked to show proof of your holiday itinerary and your departure flight details. However, such regulations in Africa can change without notice and so it remains **your responsibility** to research and double check the latest requirements before you travel. It is a prerequisite that your passport is valid for at least **six months** from the date you depart Namibia and you need a minimum of **three blank pages** for immigration stamps each time you enter through customs.