



NAMIBIA WILDERNESS SAFARI

This comfortable safari adventure to Namibia has it all: game viewing in Etosha National Park, searching out desert-adapted wildlife in a private Damaraland reserve, ancient bushman rock art at a *UNESCO* World Heritage Site, towering sand dunes, and a catamaran cruise amongst marine life in the Atlantic. Taking the road less travelled through a few of Namibia's private reserves, escorted by some of the country's most informative and engaging guides, you will experience

remote wilderness areas seldom seen by others. Your evenings will be divided between starlit nights under canvas in comfortable semi-permanent camps, and rooms in some of Namibia's good quality hotels and guesthouses.



Day 1 - Flight to Namibia

Take a scheduled overnight flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg in South Africa, and on to Windhoek with *South African Airways*.

Includes dinner on the flight.

Day 2 – Windhoek

On arrival to Windhoek in Namibia, you are met and driven to a comfortable guesthouse in one of the city's leafy suburbs: the perfect place to relax after your flight and before your wilderness safari. We have not included dinner this evening; there are many good restaurants to choose from in the city or, alternatively, you can order in at the guesthouse – just ask your hosts for details and recommendations.

Includes breakfast.

Days 3 & 4 – Namib-Naukluft Park



On the first day of your actual safari, you are met at your guesthouse after breakfast and taken to meet the group and guide. It's a fairly long drive today but the stunning scenery as you drive through the Khomas Hochland highlands, over the escarpment and down on to the gravel plains should capture your attention throughout.

Your destination is the Kulala Adventurer Camp situated on the private Kulala Wilderness Reserve. The semi-permanent camp is set up exclusively for your safari group, under large, shady camelthorn trees and in a picturesque area of the desert. Accommodation here is in canvas dome-tents, each with an en suite 'bush' bathroom complete with flush toilet and bucket shower.



A drive deep into the Namib Desert's spectacular Great Dune Field the following morning makes your early wake-up call worthwhile. Travelling through the reserve's private gate and following the path of the ephemeral Tsauchab River, you'll reach Sossusvlei, where the river's course is finally swallowed into a great

mass of apricot dunes. Arriving here while the morning light is soft shows you one of Namibia's most photogenic landscapes; a sea of dunes with some towering up to 300m high. Those with the energy to climb a dune are rewarded with a stunning view from the top. In the afternoon, with your guide, you look more closely at the private Kulala Reserve's unique fauna and flora. Desert-adapted antelope such as springbok and gemsbok can be seen on the reserve, along with the puckish ostrich. Smaller creatures like the bat-eared fox, the black-backed jackal and the Cape fox can also be spotted if you're lucky. Dine under a canopy of stars each evening accompanied by a chorus of barking geckos.

An early-morning balloon flight and horse riding are activities that can also be arranged here. These are at an additional cost and may replace the scheduled group activities depending on availability and timing.

Windhoek to Kulala: approx. 5.5 hours (340km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 5 – Swakopmund

Drive along the edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park as you head north and then west towards the coast. You'll cross endless flat gravel plains and journey through the craggy Kuiseb canyon before your first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean.

Your accommodation tonight is at the Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund's best traditional hotel. It is ideally situated in the centre of the town and within walking distance of the shops, cafes, crystal gallery and beach. There will be a little time to relax or explore before the group gets together for dinner at one of many good restaurants. Swakopmund is particularly renowned for its delicious seafood and for its tender asparagus (grown in the Swakop River bed and available between about September to May).

Kulala to Swakopmund: approx. 5.5 hours (370km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 6 - Swakopmund

After breakfast, you drive south along the coast to the town of Walvis Bay. Spend the morning on a catamaran cruise to see the Atlantic Ocean's rich marine life up close. Weather permitting, this is a memorable way to explore the bay and desert coastline taking in the platforms where oysters are cultivated (with a chance to taste these sought after delicacies) and the lighthouse at Pelican Point. Throughout the cruise there's a chance to see the rare and endemic Heaviside dolphins and the more common dusky and Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Cape fur seals are gregarious, often adding an element of fun, and the birdlife includes pelicans and flamingoes. More unusually massive sunfish and leatherback turtles are sometimes spotted whilst sightings of southern right and humpback whales between August and October are a real treat.

Your afternoon is free to explore the Swakopmund's curio markets and other attractions. Dinner is at your own expense tonight; ask your guide to recommend their favourite local restaurant.

Includes breakfast and lunch.

Days 7, 8 & 9 – Damaraland



As you drive north and east from Swakopmund to Damaraland you travel partly using the back roads and along scenic routes. Break for lunch at the *Ugab Save the Rhino Trust* Camp, west of Brandberg Mountain. There's time to learn a little about what this conservation group are trying to achieve and the very important work that they do. *Save the Rhino Trust* has been involved with rhino conservation in Damaraland since the early eighties and has been singly responsible for the survival and growth of these endangered species here. Today this area boasts the largest concentration of black rhino outside of a national park anywhere in the world.

After lunch you continue on to your destination, a private reserve in Damaraland which encompasses an area of spectacular scenic beauty. This is an ancient glacial landscape where rugged mountains change hue as the sun travels across the sky, bare granite domes spring up from the gravel plains like sentinels and hidden natural springs all come together to create variable and photogenic scenery. Based from a private semi-permanent camp, you and your expert guide will explore amongst hills and through dry river beds. You'll visit a valley of ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein, now a *UNESCO* World Heritage Site, and discover fascinating rock formations sculpted over the millennia. Your guide will point out and describe the desert-adapted flora and fauna you come across – much of it unique to this area. Damaraland is renowned for its sightings of desert-adapted elephants but giraffe, Hartmann's mountain zebra, kudu and even cheetah have also been seen here. There is a high density of rhino in this area too and if the opportunity arises to track these magnificent creatures in a responsible and safe way for both viewers and the rhino, then your guide will offer this option to you.



Each day you'll venture out by vehicle, on foot or perhaps, even by mountain bike. Each night you'll dine under the stars before retiring to your comfortable stretcher bed in an en suite dome-tent.

Swakopmund to Damaraland: approx. 8 hours (320km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 10 & 11 – Etosha National Park

Leaving the desert landscape of Damaraland behind, you head east towards Etosha National Park, one of Africa's top wildlife areas. On the southern boundary of Etosha lies the private Ongava Game Reserve. This 300km² reserve is home to large concentrations of wildlife including white and black rhino, lion and cheetah. During your first afternoon and evening the focus is on this private wilderness reserve with time to enjoy a spot-lit night drive and/or walking safari – the latter is an activity not allowed in the national park.



The following day you'll take a full day game drive into the 22,000km² Etosha National Park. Traveling slowly, you'll stop often to discuss and photograph any animals you spot along the way. You'll visit the waterholes along the southern perimeter for the enormous Etosha salt pan seeking out animals such as elephants, lion and gemsbok. A lunchtime picnic stop at Halali Camp in Etosha allows you to stretch your legs, relax in the shade and visit the camp's waterhole to see what might have come for a drink.

Each night you'll return to stay in comfortable en-suite chalets at Andersson's Camp, an eco-friendly camp constructed on the site of an old farmstead. Even after sunset; game viewing doesn't end as the camp floodlights its own waterhole at night. As well as the antelope that drink here, it is possible to see some of the more elusive nocturnal animals such as genets, honey badgers and even leopard.

Damaraland to Ongava: approx. 5 hours (330km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 12 – Windhoek

Driving back to Windhoek, you pass through the small towns of Otjiwarongo and Okahandja before arriving at your guesthouse in the early afternoon where your Namibia safari guide bids you farewell. Spend the afternoon at your leisure, with lunch and dinner at your own expense today so you can choose between some of the city's good cafes and restaurants or ordering in at the guesthouse for your evening meal.

Ongava to Windhoek: approx. 5 hours (420km)
Includes breakfast.

Day 13 – Flight to London

A free morning in Windhoek allows you time to buy Namibia souvenirs in memory of your wilderness safari. You will be collected from your guesthouse and driven to the airport in time to depart on your scheduled flight, via Johannesburg, to London.

Includes breakfast. Dinner is on the flight.

Day 14 - Arrive in London

SAFARI INFORMATION

This Namibia lodge and camping safari gives you the best of both worlds, combining wilderness camping in stunning remote locations with nights in fixed accommodation establishments. You'll spend unforgettable evenings around the campfire in your comfortable semi-permanent camp, and enjoy convivial nights in excellent tented safari camps and lovely lodges. Explore the highlights of the Namib Desert, coastal attractions in Swakopmund, remarkable scenery in Damaraland and exciting game viewing in Etosha National Park; all in the company of a personable and knowledgeable safari guide.

Guide

The Namibia Wilderness Safari is led by an experienced and fully trained professional guide. They will have a vast knowledge of the country's history and culture, be a passionate naturalist and often a photography enthusiast too.

Accommodation & semi-permanent camps

The accommodation during this guided Namibia safari will be a combination of small guesthouses, safari lodges and permanent luxury tented camps. Almost all are sited to make the most of each area's attractions and spectacular views.

Whilst in the Namib-Naukluft Park and Damaraland you will camp in comfortable semi-permanent camping sites, exclusive to your safari group. These camps aim to provide serviced camping in comfort. They utilise 3m x 3m dome tents, large enough to walk in and each sleeping a maximum of two guests on individual stretcher beds. The tents are erected on slightly raised wooden platforms with a small veranda. They are well ventilated and shaded by a sun cloth. An en-suite open air 'bush' bathroom is entered through a zip door at the back of the tent. These are furnished with a basin, flush toilet and bucket shower with hot and cold running water available from the camp crew.

Within each tent are two stretcher beds with mattress and linen, duvet and pillow, as well as towels and basic bathroom amenities. The tent is lit by a 12v reading light – we strongly recommend you also bring a personal torch for extra lighting and to use around camp. Hurricane lanterns and a campfire light up the main areas. Bush meals are prepared around the campfire and enjoyed at a dining table under the stars, weather permitting, or under canvas. Simple stainless steel tableware adds to the bush dining experience.

Vehicles

The Namibia Wilderness Safari is conducted in a specially extended 4WD safari vehicle with a 12 volt (cigarette lighter) charger connection, seatbelts, seat pockets, wildlife reference books, fridge, pop-top roof for game viewing and 6 sliding windows. The vehicle accommodates up to 8 passengers; 7 seated in three rows in the main cabin and one seated in front beside the guide, next to a roll down window. Guests are asked to rotate seats daily so each gets a different vantage point of the passing scenery and a chance to sit with the safari guide.

In addition to charging camera batteries in the vehicle, electronics can also be charged at the guesthouses, hotels and lodges, but not at the more remote private semi-permanent camps. You will need to bring your own suitable adaptors to use in the safari vehicle (compatible with a 12v cigarette lighter) and at accommodation establishments during the safari. Wall plugs in Namibia are the same as South Africa, with three large round pins - these are relatively easy to source if you request an adaptor suitable for South African plug points.

Language

The Namibia Wilderness Safari is conducted in English. A few of the safari departures will be bilingual, for both English and German speaking guests. Whilst the safari will still be conducted in English, the guide, and perhaps a translator to assist the guide, will converse with guests in both languages thus offering a greater level of experience for guests who might not speak English fluently.

Costs

The safari includes scheduled, overnight international flights via Johannesburg with *South African Airways*; transport in a safari vehicle and the services of an experienced guide; airport transfers; camping in private semi-permanent camps; accommodation in guesthouses, lodges and tented safari camps; park entrance fees and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

Meals

This safari to Namibia includes three meals on most days. The exceptions to this are lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 2, dinner in Swakopmund on Day 6, lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 12 and lunch on Day 13.

Drinks

Whilst travelling in the safari vehicle, still bottled water is available on a complimentary basis. When staying at the exclusive mobile camps in the Kulala and Damaraland reserves, tea and coffee will be available at no additional charge. At all the other lodges, guesthouses and camps the system varies: some offer water, tea and coffee on a complimentary basis, others will charge for this. All other drinks are extra and to be paid for by you.

Single travellers

If you are willing to share a room/tent and we are able to match you with another guest of the same gender who is also willing to share, then we would be happy to waive the single supplement. However, if there is no suitable match, the single supplement surcharge will apply.

Age of travellers

Children from the age of 12 are welcome on the Namibia Wilderness Safari. Due to the wilderness setting of the semi-permanent camps, it is a prerequisite that children aged between 12 and 16 years share a tent with a parent or related adult. For parties with children under 12, a private tailor-made safari can be quoted for on request. Speak to us for details.

Luggage

There is a luggage limit of 20kg (44lbs) per person and a requirement that only soft squashable bags be used. No hard suitcases or bags with rigid frames are accepted as these are difficult to pack in the safari vehicle.

Laundry

A laundry service is available whilst staying at the Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund and at Andersson's Camp near Etosha Park. There will be an additional charge for this which is to be settled directly with the hotel/camp.

Visa & passport requirements

When travelling to Namibia you must ensure that your passport is valid for **at least 6 months** after the conclusion of your trip. You must also have **at least 3 clear** pages for passport stamps.

Our current understanding is that travellers on American, Canadian, British, New Zealand and Australian passports do not require visas for visiting Namibia as a tourist. However, regulations in Africa can change without notice so it is **your responsibility** to contact your nearest embassy or high commission to double check visa requirements. You are also welcome to speak to us for more details and the latest information we have to hand. The same passport and visa requirements are also applicable should you be visiting South Africa en route.