



## SOUTHERN NAMIBIA DESERT ADVENTURE

Enjoy the spectacular landscapes, fascinating history and varied attractions of southern Namibia during this interactive camping safari. All camping equipment is provided and your guide and camp assistant are on hand to show you how easy it is to set up your canvas dome tent. There are many memorable highlights including watching sunrise over the world's tallest dunes, peering into the depths of one of the world's largest canyons, admiring a forest of quiver trees, and learning about the enthralling history of the remote seaside town of Lüderitz. From occasional sightings of desert-adapted wildlife, including the world's only wild

desert horses, to insights of a bygone era at the eerie diamond ghost town of Kolmanskop; this safari adventure offers the best of Namibia's south.

### Day 1 - Windhoek

On arrival in Windhoek, you are met at the airport and transferred to a comfortable guesthouse in one of the capital's central suburbs. Take some time to recuperate this afternoon, relaxing by the pool or taking a leisurely wander to explore around the city centre. Dinner is at your own expense and there are plenty of good restaurants to choose from, or alternatively you may prefer to order in at the guesthouse. Just ask the helpful staff at reception who will assist you with options.

No meals included.

### Day 2 – Kalahari

You will be collected from your guesthouse between 07.30 and 08.00, after an early breakfast. Transferring to the safari base, you'll meet your guide, camp assistant and fellow travellers before setting off. Begin by driving south through the small town of Rehoboth, and on to Kalkrand where you leave the main road and head into the narrow piece of Kalahari Desert that protrudes from Botswana into eastern Namibia. This relatively dry, yet picturesque, landscape is characterised by ancient dunes of red coloured sand, running parallel and covered in waving grasses. The sand dunes are separated by valleys known as 'streets' and tonight's campsite is set in one of these.

In the afternoon there's time to enjoy a nature drive amongst the red Kalahari sand dunes. Making the most of the cooler evening air you'll explore the unique topography and vegetation typical of the area, perhaps spotting some of the wildlife that lives here such as the delightful meerkat or the stately oryx.

Windhoek to Kalahari: approx. 3.5 hours (270km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Day 3 – Fish River Canyon

Return to the main north-south road at the town of Mariental and continue travelling south. After driving for some time this morning you'll reach the largest town in southern Namibia, Keetmanshoop. Founded in 1860, the town retains remnants of its original German architecture which you might see as you pause here to stock up on supplies and fill up with fuel.

A detour of a little more than half an hour's drive to the west, you'll pay a visit to Mesosaurus Fossil site. This is thought to be one of the best examples proving the dividing of the continents. The same fossilised species located in the same type of rock formations found here can also be found in South America. Another highlight is a nearby quiver tree forest. In fact the striking and bizarre looking quiver trees aren't trees at all, but a type of aloe. The common name arose from the Bushmen's traditional use of the hollow branches to store their arrows and tools. These aloes are one of the world's rarest flora species and although single quiver trees can be found dotted throughout southern Namibia, it is extremely unusual to find a forest of them. Return to the main road and continue to the Fish River Canyon and your campsite for the night.

Kalahari to Fish River Canyon: approx. 6 hours (400km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

#### **Day 4 – Luderitz**

After packing up camp, you'll drive to the Canyon's best viewpoint. Wandering along the rim gives you the opportunity to photograph stunning vistas of this incredible chasm and the Fish River far below. Carved out by erosion over millions of years, this is arguably the world's second-largest canyon of its kind, after Arizona's Grand Canyon.

Leave Fish River behind, but not the dramatic landscapes of the south. The rest of your drive today takes you to the coastal town of Luderitz. This historic German town is full of character; with only one desert road in and colourful buildings built on sand or clinging to rocks, overlooking the bay.

You'll stay in guesthouse accommodation, and for dinner you'll eat out – perhaps sampling some of the great seafood on offer.

Fish River Canyon to Luderitz: approx. 5 hours (430km)  
Includes breakfast and lunch.

#### **Day 5 –Aus**

For those who wish to do so, there is time to join an optional boat trip (at additional expense). Cruise around Luderitz Bay, and if the weather permits you'll head out to Halifax Island to see the Jackass Penguins.

You'll then visit Kolmanskop, once a wealthy diamond boomtown established in the 1920's. Since it was deserted in the 1950's, Kolmanskop has become a ghost town, battered by the desert elements and encroaching sands. For lunch you are free to sample Lüderitz's cafes and seafood, and look around the interesting colonial architecture before an afternoon drive to explore the peninsula and historic Diaz Point. Driving back inland, you camp at Aus, a stunning spot on the edge of the escarpment with panoramic views of Sperrgebiet National Park. There is usually a stop to see the wild horses that inhabit the arid Namib Desert along with desert-adapted game such as oryx and ostrich.

Lüderitz to Aus: approx. 1 hours (125km)  
Includes breakfast and dinner.

#### **Day 6 – Namib-Naukluft Park**

Today you head north along the edge of the southern Namib Desert through some of Namibia's most spectacular scenery, with fabulous vistas at every turn. You aim to arrive at your campsite on the edge of the desert during the late afternoon, in time to set up camp and then relax and enjoy sundowners whilst watching the sunset colours glow and fade on the Naukluft Mountains.

Aus to Namib Desert Camp: approx. 5.5 hours (350km)  
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

#### **Day 7 – Namib-Naukluft Park**

Rising well before dawn, you drive to the Sesriem gate to enter the Namib-Naukluft National Park at sunrise and continue deep into the desert to reach Sossusvlei. This area is home to some of the world's highest sand dunes and the scenery is truly incredible. The shifting, contrasting patterns of early morning light and shadow on these dunes are always enthralling. Whilst it is still cool, you stop for breakfast and an invigorating climb to the crest of one of these magnificent apricot coloured dunes. As you explore this area further on foot, your guide will show you the surprising variety of flora and fauna that has adapted to survive this arid environment. You return to Sesriem for lunch, after which a short drive takes you to Sesriem

Canyon where the force of the ephemeral Tsauchab River has formed a deep, narrow gorge into the surrounding rock. You then return to your campsite in the afternoon for some well-deserved leisure time.

Desert Camp to Sossusvlei to Desert Camp: approx. 2.5 hours (120km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### **Day 8 – Windhoek**

Driving back to Windhoek, you'll pass through more stunning scenery as the road climbs up and over the escarpment and on to the central highlands. You arrive back at your guesthouse at around 16.00. You are free to relax this evening, although the group often arrange to meet up for a farewell dinner to end this superb camping adventure in Namibia.

Desert Camp to Windhoek: approx. 5.5 hours (350km)

Includes breakfast and lunch.

### **Day 9 – Flight home**

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

Includes breakfast.

## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

This Southern Namibia Desert Adventure is the ideal camping safari for adventurous travellers who wish to see the key highlights of Namibia's vast and dramatic south. Packed with incredible landscapes, an intriguing history, unique desert-adapted flora and fauna, geological marvels and diverse experiences; you will come away with many unforgettable moments and an appreciation of the soul enriching wilderness. The camping provides a comfortable balance of very good facilities in fantastic remote settings. You will set up and sleep in easy to erect dome tents, whilst all other camping chores are taken care of by a camp assistant. Nights under canvas beneath a star-filled Namibian sky are part of the magic.

### **Guide**

You will be led by a qualified guide who acts as your safari co-ordinator, companion, source of local knowledge, driver and chef. Most guides are Namibian born or raised, with a good general knowledge of the country's wildlife, geography, culture and attractions; combined with personal experiences they are keen to share. The guides are trained in house to cover the breadth of Namibia so they can inform you on a wide variety of subjects; however they are not specialists in any particular field. They are personable and enjoy getting to know travellers from all over the globe.

### **Camp assistant**

You will also be joined by a camp assistant throughout this southern Namibia camping safari. The camp assistant will carry out most of the camp jobs such as doing the washing up and helping the guide with the cooking and packing. You only need to set up and pack down your tents (this is easy once you are shown how) but you are welcome to get involved with other day to day camp chores should you be keen to partake in the full camping experience.

### **Camping equipment**

You will be provided with all the camping gear you need during this Southern Namibia Desert Adventure. Camping equipment is transported in the safari vehicle or towed behind in a custom-built trailer. Camp chairs with a backrest are supplied for seating. You'll sleep under canvas in two-man, dome tents that are simple to set up and take down. These tents are secured with a sewn-in ground sheet and netting on the windows and door to keep out any unwelcomed bugs. A 5cm thick mattress and sleeping bag are also supplied, unless you would prefer to bring your own sleeping bag in which case a '3

or 4 season' is advisable. We recommend that you take an inflatable travel cushion or small pillow as pillows are not provided.

### **Vehicles**

Your transport during this Namibia camping safari is likely to be in a Toyota Dyna which seats up to fourteen people. For smaller groups of four people or less you may be transported in a minibus or double-cab (4WD pick up) towing a purpose-built trailer.

All the safari vehicles are fitted with seatbelts. The Toyota Dynas have been custom-made to suit these camping safaris and are fitted with a pop-up roof, bucket seats and air-cushioned suspension. Most vehicles also have a strip of plug points from which you can charge your batteries and (less importantly when on holiday) mobile phones. Plug points are also available at some of the campsites you will stay at. Plug points in Namibia are the same type used in South Africa; 15 amps with three large round pins. It is advisable to travel with your own plug adaptor - so purchase one which converts to the South Africa style plug.

### **Campsites**

The camping sites on this southern Namibia safari generally offer adequate if not first-rate facilities. Most have separate ablution blocks with cold and hot water, flush toilets, a bar or shop to buy drinks, and some even have a swimming pool. The more remote camping sites may not provide lighting and although there will be gas lamps in camp you do need to bring a reliable torch with you for moving around after dark. A head torch is particularly useful to free up your hands.

### **Costs**

The following is included in the camping safari price: transport in a custom-built safari vehicle with trailer if required; transfers as described; accommodation in Windhoek; camping and campsite fees; use of good-quality camping equipment; national park entry fees; and three meals on most days unless otherwise noted.

### **Language**

This Southern Namibia Desert Adventure will be guided in English.

### **Meals**

Three meals a day are included on most days, with the general exception of lunch or dinner when you are in towns. Breakfast is usually a continental buffet selection, picnic lunch a choice of bread, fillings and salad, and dinner is cooked over an open fire. Fresh supplies are offered when available and topped up where possible during the safari.

Meals that won't be included during this camping safari are lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 1, dinner in Luderitz on Day 4, lunch in Luderitz on Day 5, dinner in Windhoek on Day 8 and lunch in Windhoek on Day 9.

### **Drinks**

When in your safari camp, coffee, tea and hot chocolate are included and readily available, as well as tap water for drinking (we suggest you bring your own re-usable water bottle). Any other drinks are at your own expense and your guide will let you know when you can stop to stock up on alcohol and soft drinks during the safari. Bottled mineral water is sold almost everywhere should you prefer not to drink the tap water. There is a cool box or fridge on board the safari vehicle to keep each day's drinks cool.

### **Single travellers**

The single supplement charged covers a single room for your accommodation in Windhoek, and the surcharge set for the airport transfers. Single travellers can usually be accommodated in a single tent during the safari on request, however you might be asked to share with a fellow traveller of the same sex should there be limited packing space in the safari vehicle.

### **Age of travellers**

This safari is available to travellers aged 12 and over. A private guided, tailor-made safari can be arranged on request for families with children aged younger than 12.

### **Laundry**

This camping safari does not include a laundry service. Campsites will have running water to allow you to do your own hand washing and occasionally campsite staff are able to offer a laundry service at extra cost should you be staying two nights to allow time for this to be done. Feel free to speak to your guide for more details.

### **Luggage**

To ensure enough luggage space in the safari vehicle, travellers are asked to come with one soft-sided bag weighing about 15kg (33lbs), plus a medium sized camera bag and day pack.

### **Visa & passport requirements**

We are currently advised that British, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and American travellers are not required to pre-arrange a visa for entry to South Africa or Namibia. Entry visas of up to 90 days are automatically granted on arrival so long as you can show proof of your departure flight if asked.

However, we stress that visa policies can change without prior notice and the **responsibility lies with you** to ensure you have up to date information on visa requirements before you begin your trip.

Please note that South Africa and Namibia immigration regulations stipulate that your passport must be valid for a **minimum of six months** after your departure date and you must have no less than **three clear pages** to accommodate immigration stamps or you may be refused entry.