



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, dramatic landscapes, 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 – 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.

No meals included.

Days 2 & 3 – 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 in a picturesque area of the desert. Accommodation here is in canvas dome-tents set on platforms under a shade roof, each with an en suite 'bush' bathroom complete with flush toilet and shower with hot/cold running water.

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 pucky 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.



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

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 4 – 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 oldest and 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 5 - Swakopmund

After breakfast, you drive south along the coast to the town of Walvis Bay to board a catamaran for a marine cruise. Weather permitting, this is a memorable way to explore the bay and see the plentiful marine animal and birdlife attracted by the rich waters fed by the Benguela Current. Take in the oyster platforms, Pelican Point Lighthouse and sights such as dolphins, seals, sunfish, leatherback turtles, flamingoes, pelicans and, occasionally, whales. Round the experience off with a private seafood lunch.

After returning to Swakopmund, your afternoon is free to explore the curio markets and other attractions in the picturesque coastal town, with its eclectic mix of European and African culture. Dinner is at your own expense tonight; ask your guide to recommend their favourite local restaurant.

Includes breakfast and lunch.



Days 6 & 7 – Damaraland

As you drive north and east from Swakopmund to Damaraland you travel partly using the back roads and along scenic routes. Your destination is a private reserve in Damaraland that 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 at a private semi-permanent camp, you and your expert guide will explore amongst hills and

through dry river beds. Each day you'll venture out by vehicle and on foot. At each turn your guide will point out and describe the desert-adapted flora and fauna you come across – much of it unique to this area. One excursion might include a visit to a valley of ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein, now a *UNESCO* World Heritage Site, and discovering nearby fascinating rock formations sculpted over the millennia. 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. Each night you'll dine under the stars before retiring to your comfortable bed in an en suite dome-tent.

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

Days 8 & 9 – 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 afternoons and evenings, the focus is likely to be 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.

In the mornings you'll explore 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.

Each night you'll return to stay in spacious en-suite tented rooms at Ongava Tented Camp. 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 10 – Windhoek

Driving back to Windhoek after breakfast, 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.

Note: If you prefer to do so, it is possible to book a late afternoon flight out of Windhoek and depart for home on this day. We include a final night in Windhoek for a more relaxed experience.

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

Includes breakfast.

Day 11 – Flight home

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 flight.

Includes breakfast.

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 hotels. 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 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 stay in comfortable semi-permanent camps, 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 wooden 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. The bathrooms have running water, a shower and flush toilet.

Within each tent are two wooden single-size beds with mattress and linen, duvet and pillow, as well as towels and basic bathroom supplies (soap, shower gel and shampoo). The tent is lit by a 12v reading light – we strongly recommended 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 7 passengers: 6 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 in Windhoek and Swakopmund and at Ongava Tented Camp by Etosha, but not at the more remote private semi-permanent camps in the Namib-Naukluft and Damaraland. 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: 15 amp plugs with three large round pins and using 240V sockets - 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.

Costs

The safari includes 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 1, dinner in Swakopmund on Day 5, lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 10 and lunch on Day 11.

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, coffee and a selection from the bar 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.

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 Ongava Tented 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 most nationalities 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.