



ULTIMATE NAMIBIA JOURNEY

This comfortable safari itinerary has been designed to take in Namibia's many highlights without rushing. There's no camping on this trip; you'll stay at a mix of comfortable 4* lodges and lovely permanent camps. You'll be guided by a knowledgeable, experienced expert guide with plenty of time to enjoy the stunning scenery of the Namib Desert, Walvis Bay's marine life, Damaraland's scenic vistas and desert-adapted wildlife, more wildlife in Etosha Park and surrounding private reserves, and the conservation work done by the *AfricCat Foundation*.

Day 1 – Windhoek

After arriving in Namibia and clearing customs at Windhoek Airport, you are transferred to a comfortable guesthouse in one of the town's leafy suburbs. Our colleagues in Namibia are easily contactable and happy to discuss your trip, answering any queries you might have. Lunch and dinner are at your own expense today; this allows you to choose from Windhoek's many good restaurants or to eat in at the guesthouse.

No meals included.



Day 2 – Namib-Naukluft Park

After breakfast, your safari guide collects you at around 09.00 for a journey through the Khomas Hochland Highlands, over the escarpment and down towards the dune-fields of the Namib Desert. On route you'll stop to enjoy a picnic lunch at a scenic spot. Your base for the next two nights is Dead Valley Lodge, one of only two properties located within the Namib-Naukluft Park. Accommodation is in spacious climate-controlled tented chalets, each with an en-suite bathroom and sweeping views over the desert or mountains.



Due to its location within the park, guests of Dead Valley Lodge benefit from being able to reach the desert before sunrise or stay after sunset – and therefore catch the best light for photography. The Namib is one of the world's oldest deserts. Here your guide introduces you to the flora and fauna that have specially adapted to their arid surroundings. There's a sprinkling of large animals, from gemsbok and springbok to fleeting ostrich, as well as an abundance of amazing smaller life forms.

Windhoek to Dead Valley Lodge: approx. 6 hours (370km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 3 – Namib-Naukluft Park

Use the whole day to explore in and around Namib-Naukluft National Park with your guide. An early start takes you deeper into the desert for a spectacular sunrise. You make for Sossusvlei, where many of the dunes tower up to 300 metres above the Tsauchab River Valley. There's much to see by walking around here; Namibia's Namib-Naukluft Park is one of the largest conservation areas in the world, so it covers an amazing diversity of desert landscapes. You find not only great dune-fields, but also wind-sculpted rock formations, fossil valleys, arid scrub areas and smooth gravel plains. Visit Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei and climb some of the highest free-standing dunes in the world before enjoying a delicious brunch under a camelthorn tree. Return to Dead Valley Lodge in time for a late lunch. Later in the afternoon you'll visit Sesriem Canyon and explore its cool depths, if you didn't already do this activity the afternoon beforehand. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to relax or take a stroll in the local area.

Dead Valley Lodge to Sossusvlei to Dead Valley Lodge: approx. 2.5 hours (120km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 4 – Swakopmund

After breakfast, you continue on your lodge safari, travelling north and west to reach the Atlantic coast. Much of your journey is through contrasting areas of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Your route to the coast offers a series of spectacular views as you cross the desert plains before descending into the depths of the Gaub and Kuiseb Canyons

and climbing back out again. Around mid-afternoon you arrive at the comfortably and centrally located Delight Hotel, with time to wander around this pleasant coastal town or take a short siesta.

Your guide knows the restaurant choices in Swakopmund well, so this evening takes you to one of his/her favourites; often The Tug Restaurant by the jetty. This is your chance to sample the excellent local seafood that the coast of Namibia is known for.

Notes: You have the option to include a spectacular sunrise balloon flight over the desert before you depart for Swakopmund. The cost for this is roughly GBP £340 / US\$440 per person valid for 2021. This includes approximately a 50-minute balloon flight followed by champagne breakfast in the desert.

As an alternative to the drive from Dead Valley Lodge to Swakopmund, you may opt to take a scenic flight transfer departing at about 10.45 and arriving midday. This would take you over the Namib Desert and along part of the Skeleton Coast (fog permitting); flying over vast dune fields, abandoned mining camps, shipwrecks, Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay salt pans before landing at Swakopmund Airport. You will then be transferred to your guesthouse where your guide will meet you later in the day. There will be an additional cost for this, and the amount will depend on how many passengers are in the plane. Speak to us for a quote.

Dead Valley Lodge to Swakopmund: approx. 6.5 hours (345km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 – Swakopmund

This morning you drive south to Walvis Bay for a memorable kayaking adventure. After meeting your kayaking guide you'll be taken on a short scenic drive past salt works and a myriad of bird life to Pelican Point, on the outer edge of the lagoon. There's a colony of Cape fur seals based around a lighthouse here and you spend your morning kayaking in single or tandem kayaks amongst these gregarious creatures. There's also the possibility of seeing heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. Light refreshments will be served on the beach before you head back to Walvis Bay. If the kayaking doesn't appeal to you, ask us about taking a boat trip to seek out the Atlantic's plentiful marine life instead.

You usually head back to Swakopmund around midday for an afternoon at leisure, perhaps checking out the town's museums, colonial architecture, curio markets and other attractions. The day ends with dinner in one of the many good restaurants.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 6 - Damaraland

Leaving Swakopmund early, you first travel along part of the infamous Skeleton Coast. Then you turn inland, across one of the Namib Desert's harshest, flattest areas, before gradually climbing into the beautiful mountains of Damaraland. As always whilst on this safari, you stop periodically for your guide to show you points of interest and to explain the changes of landscapes, flora and fauna that occur as the desert gives way to relatively verdant mountains.

You stay in the heart of this region at Camp Kipwe. The camp is made up of comfortable thatched chalets, with private open-air bathrooms, nestled amongst an outcrop of giant granite boulders.

Swakopmund to Twyfelfontein: approx. 6 hours (325km)
Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 7 – Damaraland

After an early breakfast you will be treated to an exciting 4WD nature drive along the ephemeral Aba-Huab River valley. This is a remarkable region and offers some of the most beautiful scenery found in Namibia. At certain times of year the Aba-Huab River valley is a ribbon of vegetation in an otherwise barren landscape. This food source attracts a variety of desert-adapted wildlife including elephant, giraffe and kudu. Whilst you drive and enjoy the magnificent scenery, your guide will be on the lookout for signs of the special desert-adapted game that can be found here. You will return to Camp Kipwe for lunch and time to relax during the heat of the day (or if the entire group agrees, you can enjoy a picnic lunch along the river bed, in the shade of an Ana Tree). Later in the afternoon you may visit some of the interesting sites of

southern Damaraland that you didn't experience the previous day, including the ancient Bushmen rock art at Twyfelfontein and the 'Organ Pipe' rock formations.

Nature drives.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 8 – Southern Etosha

Your route this morning takes you through the regional center of Khorixas and the settlement of Kamanjab as you make your way to a private reserve, bordering one of Africa's premier game areas: Etosha National Park. Your accommodation is located on the fantastic Ongava Reserve, effectively a private game reserve, spanning 30,000 hectares along the south-west border of Etosha National Park. The reserve is home to a wide variety of game including lion, leopard, giraffe, rhino, Hartmann's mountain zebra, gemsbok (oryx), kudu, steenbok and much more. The scenery is attractive with large open plains blending into Mopane tree woodlands and dolomite outcrops. You arrive in time for an afternoon game drive on the Ongava Game Reserve in an open game viewer with an Ongava ranger, on shared basis with other lodge guests.

Twyfelfontein to Southern Etosha Reserve: approx. 4.5 hours (360km)

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 9 & 10 – Etosha National Park

On your first full day here, you will be treated to an exciting morning guided game drive into the Etosha National Park, to see more of the wide variety of game and bird species that are to be found there. There is then time to relax by the refreshing swimming pool before you head out again for an afternoon game drive into Etosha before exiting the park before sunset.

Alternatively, you can opt to spend the whole day out in the park and either take lunch by one of the other rest camps in the area or have a picnic while watching game at a particularly productive waterhole in the area. Once you are back (gates close at sunset), the rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole while enjoying dinner, and afterwards.

Etosha National Park covers 22,270km² and at its centre is a vast salt pan. Along the southern rim of the pan lies a series of springs and waterholes which attract numerous animals, both big and small, so keep your eyes peeled for elephant, giraffe, blue wildebeest, kudu, zebra, rhino, cheetah, warthog, leopard, hyena and lion, as well as the endemic black-faced impala and diminutive Damara dik dik.

On your second day you'll have another morning dedicated to memorable game drives within the southern section of Etosha National Park with your guide. You return to camp for lunch and an early afternoon rest, spending your final afternoon on a game drive in the company of an Ongava Ranger on the private Ongava Game Reserve. You then return after sunset with enough time to freshen up and enjoy your final 'safari dinner' overlooking the camp's floodlit waterhole.

Safari drives.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 11 – AfriCat Foundation & Windhoek

It's an early start today as you head south to Okonjima and the home of the *AfriCat Foundation*, which has long been involved with the conservation of Namibia's big predators, especially its cheetah, but also leopard and spotted hyena. Arrive in time for lunch, after which you'll visit the fascinating day centre where you'll learn more about the conservation and education work of the *AfriCat Foundation*. You will also get to meet some of the Foundation's special carnivore ambassadors.

Later in the afternoon you'll continue your journey on to Windhoek, arriving at your guesthouse in the early evening. Dinner tonight is not included, allowing you to enjoy one of the city's many good restaurants or to relax and dine in at the guesthouse.

Note: You have the option to extend your safari for an additional night or two and stay at Okonjima's smart Bush Camp. This allows you to get more of an insight of the work done by the *AfriCat Foundation*, as well as the chance to get close to some of the reserve's big cats. Other activities available from the lodge include nature drives, bird watching, walks and visits to their night hide where honey badgers, porcupines and other small nocturnal animals often appear. The

photographic opportunities at Okonjima are often unbeatable and this is a wonderful highlight to end your Namibia safari on. At the end of your stay, you'll be transferred on to Windhoek for a final night in a guesthouse there.

A one-night extension to your holiday would cost about an additional GBP £640 / US \$830 per person for 2021. Solo travellers incur a single supplement surcharge of about GBP £75 / US \$95. The price includes accommodation, meals and all activities.

A two-night extension to your holiday would cost about an additional GBP £1,090 / US \$1,420 per person for 2021. Solo travellers incur a single supplement surcharge of about GBP £150 / US \$190. The price includes accommodation, meals and all activities.

Southern Etosha to Windhoek: approx. 6 hours (490km)
Includes breakfast and lunch.

Day 12 – Flight home

After a leisurely morning, you will be met at the guesthouse and transferred to Windhoek Airport in time for your departing flight.

Includes breakfast.

SAFARI INFORMATION

The Ultimate Namibia Journey is ideal for travellers looking for a Namibian lodge safari that encompasses the country's top highlights in a comfortable and informative manner. All aspects are taken care of by a personable and knowledgeable guide. You will be accommodated in a range of welcoming lodges, guesthouses and camps selected for their location and comfort.

Guide

You will be led by a professional and experienced guide throughout the Ultimate Namibia Journey. Your guide will be a top local expert in their own right, with a wide understanding of Namibia's culture, wildlife, flora, history and geography. Your guide will enhance your safari experience by sharing Namibia's diversity with you whilst also being a charming companion.

Accommodation

Whilst on the Ultimate Namibia Journey you will stay at small guesthouses, camps and stylish lodges where there's a personal welcome. The accommodation is usually 4*. Each room or chalet will usually be furnished with twin beds or a double bed and will have an en-suite bathroom.

Vehicles

This lodge safari is conducted in a specially modified 4WD safari vehicle, equipped with air-conditioning and fridge for cool drinks. An air-conditioned minibus may be used for the transfers between the airport and your guesthouse in Windhoek.

Driving distances

The itinerary description includes estimated distances and the time spent in the vehicle driving between point A and point B. This does not include the time spent on excursions on route. Note that some of these excursions may include more travel by vehicle. Namibia is a vast country and any driven holiday there includes a significant period in a vehicle. This itinerary is planned with two nights at most locations to both break the journeys, and to give you time to explore the surroundings. On travel days you'll often stop at points of interest on route to break up the journey.

Language

The Ultimate Namibia Journey is led by an English speaking guide.

Costs

The Ultimate Namibia Journey includes transport in an air-conditioned safari vehicle; airport transfers; accommodation in a mixture of guesthouses, camps and lodges; park entrance fees; mineral water whilst travelling in the safari vehicle and usually three meals a day as specified in the itinerary.

Meals

The Ultimate Namibia Journey includes all meals except for lunch and dinner in Windhoek on Day 1, dinner in Windhoek on Day 11 and lunch on Day 12.

Drinks

A complimentary stock of mineral water is always available to you on your safari vehicle. All other drinks will be at additional cost to you, payable locally. Your safari vehicle is equipped with a fridge in which you are welcome to store your drinks.

Single travellers

If you are willing to share a twin room with another traveller of the same gender whilst on this lodge safari to Namibia, we will try to find a suitable match and thus waive part of or the entire single supplement. However, if another guest also willing to share a twin room cannot be found, you will stay in single rooms and the supplement will be charged.

Age of travellers

Children aged over 12 years are welcome on the Ultimate Namibia Journey. Younger children may be permitted on a scheduled departure at the safari operators' discretion (depending on other travellers). Families with young children are welcome to speak to us about a private departure.

Laundry

Most of the lodges whilst on this Ultimate Namibian Journey offer a laundry service at an additional cost. Laundry is generally only possible when spending more than one night at a lodge.

Visa & passport requirements

It is our understanding that most nationalities do not require a visa to visit South Africa or Namibia. However, it is imperative that you have onward travel documents, that your passport is valid for at least **6 months** from your departure date, and that you have at least **3 clear visa pages** in your passport for immigration stamps. If you do not fulfill these requirements you may be refused entry into the country.

Note that these are only guidelines. Immigration regulations in Africa can change with very little notice so it is your responsibility to double check requirements with the embassy or high commission nearest to you.