

## 12 Day Namibia Ideal

This safari has a fully accommodated itinerary using a selection of bungalows, guest-houses and lodges throughout Namibia. Departure dates are stated below and we will depart with a minimum of 2 people. Collection time is between 09:00 & 09:30 from anywhere within the Windhoek city limits.

This safari can also be combined:

- With two of the world's natural wonders, the Okavango Delta and the mighty Victoria Falls by combining this trip with our 10 day camping, Delta and Falls Safari.

### Safari overview

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals	Approximate km
Day 1	Windhoek – Namib Desert	Lodge	Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Day 2	Namib Desert	Lodge	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	120 km
Day 3	Namib Desert – Swakopmund	Guest House	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 4	Swakopmund	Guest House	Breakfast	-
Day 5	Swakopmund – Twyfelfontein	Lodge	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Day 6	Twyfelfontein – Damaraland	Lodge	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Day 7	Damaraland – Kavita Lion Lodge	Lodge	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Day 8	Kavita – Etosha	Resort	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	200 km
Day 9	Etosha	Resort	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	Game drive
Day 10	Etosha	Resort	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	Game drive
Day 11	Etosha – Okonjima/Africat	Lodge	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	400 km
Day 12	Okonjima/Africat - Windhoek	-	Breakfast & Lunch	300 km



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### **Day 1** **Windhoek – Namib Desert (350 km) (lodge) (LD)**

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You will be collected from your accommodation between 09:00 & 09:30.

We leave Windhoek and straight away join the small desert roads that connect the whole of rural Namibia. Windhoek is in a mountain valley and we have to climb out, first over the Eros Mountains and then the Khomas Hochland Range.

The mountain passes are spectacular, taking us past several desert homesteads and occasional wild game viewings along the way. As we come through the mountains we drop down from the central plateau by way of the impressive Remhoogte Pass and emerge to find grassy desert savannah.

We stop at Solitaire, Namibia's second smallest town, for afternoon tea before driving on to our accommodation.

### **Day 2** **Namib Desert – Sesriem – Sossusvlei – Namib Desert (120 km) (lodge) (BLD)**

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A pre dawn start is essential this morning as we want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert. We drive the short distance to Sesriem, the entrance to the Namib Naukluft National Park and gateway to the world's highest dunes.

From here we drive another 60 km to Sossusvlei itself, transferring to special desert vehicles for the last 5 km through the dunes. The drive is like nothing else, in the cool of the morning, with soft sunlight just beginning to play over the dunes creating a sharp light and shadow contrast across the whole desert. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camelthorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or maybe an ostrich make the photo opportunities perfect.

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting "dune 45", and as the day wears on we return to Sesriem for lunch and to escape the heat of the afternoon.

We return to our lodge to relax before dinner.

### **Day 3** **Namib Desert – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast (300 km) (hotel) (BLD)**

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Starting early we head north-west to the seaside town of Swakopmund located on the Skeleton Coast.

At Solitaire we stop at the 'N/a'an ku se and Shiloh Jolie-Pitt Foundation', a 500 hectare Conservation Centre which hosts an educational centre and wildlife tracking within the purpose built enclosures and receive information on the carnivore surveillance in the greater Namib area.

We cross the Tropic of Capricorn and traverse both the Gaub and the Kuiseb pass, driving down to the dry river bed at the bottom of the canyon before climbing up the other side, watching the spectacular desert landscape unfold before us.

From the mountains we cross the desolate "Namib gravel plains" before reaching the coastal sand dunes at the port town of Walvis Bay where we stop to see the flamingos and other bird life in the Walvis Bay lagoon before continuing the short drive into neighbouring Swakopmund.



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### Day 4 Swakopmund (hotel) (B)

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Today is a free day. The idea is to allow time for everybody to do their own thing. Swakopmund is a very pleasant seaside town with lots of shops and cafes, a good stretch of beach (although the Atlantic here is quite cold) and an open-air curio market. There is also a very good museum and the Namibian National Marine Aquarium is located in Swakopmund.

Alternatively, there are various optional activities that can be arranged. These include aeroplane and microlight flights over the desert, scenic drives, fishing trips (both from the beach or in a boat), four-wheel motorcycle (quad bike) trips into the desert and over the sand dunes around Swakopmund, sand boarding trips (also in the dunes), skydiving, surfing, bird-watching and many other activities are available. Your tour guide will discuss all the possible options with you before you reach Swakopmund and will offer to make bookings in advance of your arrival.

In addition to this, if you have decided not to join any of the optional afternoon activities, your guide will take you on an excursion into the Swakopmund River Valley. Travelling through the ancient, long dried up Swakopmund Delta, we first stop at the "Moon Landscape" an unusual example of water erosion in the desert.

From here we continue to the Swakopmund Valley itself to hunt the giant Welwitschia Mirabilis plants. This plant is in fact a species of tree and is one of the rarest fauna species in the world. We will see examples that are reported to be in excess of 1500 years old.

(N.B. All extra activities and excursions in Swakopmund are subject to availability and are made at the clients' own risk and expense).

Dinner tonight is for the client's own account in a local restaurant.

### Day 5 Swakopmund – Twyfelfontein/Damaraland (350 km) (BLD) (lodge)

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We leave early today and head north along the coast, first visiting the seal colony at Cape Cross where it is possible to see thousands of Cape Fur Seals in the water and on the surrounding rocks and beaches.

From here we will turn east, inland and back into the desert, travelling on to the small town of Uis, an old mining town, located more or less in the middle of no-where. Uis is one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones for which Namibia is famous. Rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc can be found at bargain prices.

From Uis we pass Namibia's highest peak, the Brandberg Mountain (2573 m) and continue into Damaraland, the old name given to the region south of Kaokoland and north of the main road to Swakopmund. Our destination is Twyfelfontein.

Overnight at a Lodge in the area.

### Day 6 Twyfelfontein - Damaraland Desert (350 km) (BLD) (lodge)

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Our next main stop will be the ancient site of Twyfelfontein. Here is an impressive collection of rock engravings created by the talented artisans of ancient peoples. Twyfelfontein is one of the most important archaeological sites in southern Africa and we will have a local guide to take us around and introduce us to the petro glyphs.

We continue on, deeper into the beautiful Damaraland region to our accommodation in a stunning desert setting. There is time this afternoon to join an optional activity, game or nature drives are available for those who want to explore the area, but the views across the desert from the lodge are truly awe inspiring for those who would like to relax at the lodge.

### Day 7 Damaraland – Kavita Lion Lodge (200 km) (BLD) (lodge)

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With an easy drive we are pushing further north today into the even more remote areas of Namibia, travelling up as far the western boundaries of Etosha National Park, before continuing on to Kavita Lion Lodge and Africat North.

A local Otjiwarongo business has chosen to fund a project at Africat North - the Communal Carnivore Conservation Project. This team works with farming communities as well as those surrounding the Etosha National Park, assisting in carnivore management (mainly lion) and advising communal and commercial farmers on how best to protect livestock. This is the first unit of its kind in Namibia.

During the afternoon we visit the project and education centre.



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### Day 8 **Kavita Lion Lodge – Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park (200 km) (BLD) (bungalow)**

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Travelling with special permission through the western side of Etosha National Park, we transit through this restricted area that is set aside for research and breeding. We have the chance to see some species not normally seen in the main tourist areas of the park.

As we drive into the Okaukuejo region of Etosha where our main game drive really begins and we travel slowly down to Etosha's main camp, Okaukuejo, where we aim to arrive in time for a late lunch.

There is ample time to relax in the afternoon and then sundowners at Okaukuejo floodlit waterhole, situated on the boundary of the camp and easily reachable on foot from your bungalow, the Okaukuejo waterhole is famous for being one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa". It is perfectly placed for sunset, black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope are often seen.

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### Day 9 **Okaukuejo, Etosha (BLD) (bungalow)**

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We go straight out on an early morning game drive. We visit some of the numerous waterholes in the area hoping to catch some of Etosha's big game out for an early morning drink. The game drives around the Okaukuejo area are some of the best in the park.

We cover several different terrains this morning, from wooded areas to open savannah and in the rainy season, wetland. Back to Okaukuejo in the late morning and after lunch there is time once again to relax during the heat of the day. The pool area here is great, shaded by palm trees and close to the waterhole.

We take a shorter game drive in the late afternoon, often driving out to one of the waterholes popular with game and waiting for the animals to come to us.

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### Day 10 **Okaukuejo camp – Namutoni Etosha (BLD) (bungalow)**

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A full day's game driving and we leave early to enjoy the cool morning air. We game drive our way through Etosha to Halali camp, situated in the middle of the park. Along the way we visit several waterholes and are afforded splendid views of the massive Etosha Pan. The game viewing is usually excellent and we have the chance to tick off a few new species that are usually only seen on the eastern side of the park.

We stop at Halali for a rest and a leisurely lunch and there is also time to visit the Halali waterhole and to make use of the swimming pool and bar facilities before continuing on our way and game driving down to Namutoni. A short stop here to check the camp waterhole for game and then we leave the park, checking into a lodge located on the eastern boundary of Etosha.

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### Day 11 **Etosha – Okonjima, Home of the AfriCat Foundation (400 km) (BLD) (lodge)**

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Time for one more morning game drive before we leave Etosha, but it's not the end of our game viewing. We will aim to arrive at Okonjima during the middle of the afternoon, giving us time to check into our rooms and to relax in the shade or plunge into the pool.

Okonjima is the home of the AfriCat Foundation, a specialist conservation concern that centres its operations around; the African Big Cats, particularly cheetah.

Dinner tonight will be in the restaurant at the lodge.

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### Day 12 **Okonjima - Windhoek (300km) (BL)**

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This morning you will be taken on a tour to meet some of the cheetah or leopard that are part of the AfriCat rehabilitation programme.

Most of the animals living at Okonjima have been rescued from various desperate situations, being orphaned or caught in a trap and the aim of the rehabilitation process is to attempt re-introduction into the wild.

After our educational tour we will return to the lodge and prepare our return journey to Windhoek.

We are due back into the city around 15:00 and you will be dropped off at your accommodation on our return.



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### Additional Information

It is strongly recommended that you purchase comprehensive personal travel insurance before you embark on your safari. Travel insurance is for your own protection and we consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel.

Maximum group size is 12 people and will be conducted in a Toyota minibus or our larger Toyota Dyna with pop-top. Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English

Clients are limited to one soft, barrel type bag per person with maximum weight of 15kg, one medium sized hand luggage bag, and one medium sized camera bag.

#### Safaris include:

1. All transport
2. Three meals a day (unless differently specified)
3. Tap drinking water
4. Park entrance fees
5. Pop Top vehicle
6. Professional guide
7. Pick up & drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

#### Safaris exclude:

1. Alcoholic beverages
2. Soft drinks
3. Personal travel insurance

#### Useful items to bring with you:

1. Two litre water bottle
2. Torch
3. Towel
4. Sun hat

When packing your clothing please be aware that Namibian summer temperatures (December - March) can reach 45°C, and winter temperatures (June - September) can be as low as -5°C. The rainy season is between December and April.

Vegetarians can be catered for but please notify us prior to safari departure.

Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection.

All tap water in Namibia has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. We supply tap drinking water but bottled mineral water is easily available for you to buy at shops and rest camps should you prefer to drink this.

Electrical plugs are 220 V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin, the same as in South Africa). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek, or at our offices. It is possible to re-charge batteries at most of the lodges.

The Namibian Dollar (N\$) is tied permanently 1-1 to the South African Rand (SAR). SAR, notes and coins are legal tender in Namibia.

Airport transfers and pre-and-post safari accommodation can be arranged on request

It is customary to tip in Namibia, usually, around 10% at restaurants. Porters, at hotels, around N\$ 5.00. Your guide can be tipped at your own discretion for good service, and as a guideline we recommend between N\$30 – N\$40.00 per person per day.

