

10 Day Namibian Explorer

This safari has a guaranteed departure every **Friday** of the year, with a minimum of 2 people. There is no single supplement, and the price is virtually fully inclusive of everything you will need whilst travelling with us. The style is limited participation, assisted camping and there are two accommodated nights included on the itinerary. Collection time is between 08:00 & 08:30 from anywhere within the Windhoek city limits.

Safari overview

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals	Approximate km
Day 1	Windhoek – Okonjima/Africat	Camping	Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 2	Okonjima/Africat – Etosha National Park	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 3	Etosha National Park	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	Game drive
Day 4	Etosha National Park – Kavita Lion Lodge	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 5	Kavita Lion Lodge – Damaraland	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 6	Damaraland – Swakopmund	Guest House	Breakfast & Lunch	420 km
Day 7	Swakopmund	Guest House	Breakfast	-
Day 8	Swakopmund – Namib Desert	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Day 9	Namib Desert	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	120 km
Day 10	Namib Desert - Windhoek	-	Breakfast & Lunch	450 km



10 Day Namibian Explorer

Day 1 **Windhoek – Okonjima/Africat (300 km) (LD) (camping)**

You will be collected between 08:00 & 08:30.

We travel north, stopping at small towns along the way including Okahandja, where we have time to visit Namibia's largest wood carving market. The market is operated on a local co-operative basis and is one of the best places to shop for truly Namibian souvenirs.

Continuing north, passing through farmland, we aim to arrive at Okonjima during the middle afternoon, giving us time to set up our camp and to relax in the shade for a while before heading out on to the property to take part in the afternoon's activities.

Okonjima is the home of the Africat Foundation, a specialist conservation concern that centres its operations on the African Big Cats, particularly cheetah. This afternoon you will be taken on a tour during which you will view some of the cheetah that are part of the Africat rehabilitation programme.

Most of the animals currently 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 re-introduce them into the wild.

After our educational tour we will return to camp and prepare for dinner under the African stars.

Day 2 **Okonjima - Namutoni / East Etosha region (300 km) (BLD) (camping)**

Starting early and continuing north, we pass through some small towns making short stops for fresh supplies and fuel.

Continuing on to East Etosha's Namutoni camp we again aim to arrive in time for lunch, affording us leisure time before heading into the park during the cool of the late afternoon for our first game drive.

Day 3 **East Etosha region – Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park (BLD) (camping)**

A full day's game driving. We again leave early to enjoy the cool morning air as 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 not normally seen on the Namutoni side of the park.

We stop at Halali for a rest and a leisurely lunch. There is 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 Okaukuejo.

Okaukuejo is famous for its waterhole, which has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa". Situated on the doorstep of our campsite, black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope are usually seen.

Day 4 **Okaukuejo – Kavita Lion Lodge, Kamanjab (300km) (BLD) (camping)**

Leaving Etosha we begin our journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Kamanjab and 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 will work 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 will be the first unit of its kind in Namibia.

We overnight - camping under the stars.



10 Day Namibian Explorer

Day 5 **Kavita Lion Lodge – Twyfelfontein (300 km) (BLD) (camping)**

After an early morning start we visit a Himba Village - the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia. These tribes-people have migrated here, lifestyle and customs intact, and are following their traditional way-of-life in their village on a farm, the exact location of the site varies as the Himba occasionally roam to a new location. We will learn about marriage customs, traditional food and the mysteries of the "Holy Fire" religion.

Today we head into one of the most beautiful desert regions in Namibia, Damaraland. We drive south to the capital of this region, the small town of Khorixas, and then take a detour to the west to visit the ancient Bushman rock engravings at Twyfelfontein. At this location we will have a local guide to conduct us on a short guided tour before we set up camp for the night.

Day 6 **Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast (420 km) (BL) (chalet)**

From here we head deeper into the desert and pass Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m).

Back on the road for more beautiful Damaraland scenery. We make a stop in the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here, rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc can be found at bargain prices.

From here we turn directly west and cross the "gravel plains" on our way to the Atlantic Ocean and the Skeleton Coast. Meeting the ocean at Henties Bay, we first head north along the coast to visit the seal colony at Cape Cross. At certain times of the year there can be as many as 100,000 congregating Cape Fur seals. The next destination is Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast into Namibia's premier seaside town.

The Swakopmund section of the trip is designed to allow people to relax either with the group, or on their own. Only breakfast is provided, this is to allow you to plan your time here with as much flexibility as possible and not to be tied to group meal times. It also gives you the chance to sample some of the excellent local cafes and restaurants. The seafood in Swakopmund is superb. Your guide will offer to organise a group meal in a local restaurant for this evening. Participation is recommended but by no means required.

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account.

Day 7 **Swakopmund (B) (chalet)**

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

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account



10 Day Namibian Explorer

Day 8 **Swakopmund – Sesriem area (300 km) (BLD) (camping)**

We first make a stop at Walvis Bay, situated about 40 km south of Swakopmund. South of the town there is a large marine lagoon which is home to a vast array of marine bird-life, in particular flamingos.

We will make a short visit to the lagoon to see the birds and a short visit to Walvis Bay to collect any last minute supplies before once again heading out into the desert.

The second part of our journey today takes us across more of the seemingly endless Namib gravel plains. Then the landscape suddenly changes and we are into the mountain desert.

We traverse both the Kuiseb and Gaub passes, driving both times to the river beds at the bottom of the canyons and then climbing the long steep road to the top and the spectacular panoramas the mountains give us. Again the scenery changes as we make our way down to the dune fields.

We cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain begins to give way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib and from here it is only a short distance to our next stop, the tiny town of Solitaire.

We aim to arrive at our camp during the late afternoon and watch the colours glow and change on distant mountains to the east.

Day 9 **Sesriem area – Sossusvlei – Sesriem area (camping) (BLD)**

A pre dawn start is essential this morning as we want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert. After passing through Sesriem, the gateway to the dunes and driving into the heart of the dune field, we reach Sossusvlei itself by walking the last 5 km through the dunes.

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, the walk is like nothing else. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn 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 to escape the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon we will take a short excursion to the Sesriem Canyon.

Day 10 **Sesriem area - Windhoek (450 km) (BL)**

After breakfast we begin our journey over the mountains and along scenic roads, back to Windhoek. In the Solitaire area we will 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 will travel over the Naukluft Mountains and also the Khomas Hochland range, through beautiful Remhoogte Pass on our way back to civilization.

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

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 14 people, with a minimum of 2 participants. Transport for up to 8 people will be in a minibus and for 9 people and more in a Toyota bus / truck.



10 Day Namibian Explorer

The style of safari is limited participation, you will be asked to assist put up and take down your own tent, however there will be a camp assistant to complete all the other campsite chores. Your tour guide will do all the shopping, cooking and day-to-day organization of the safari. Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English

Safaris include:

1. All transport
2. Three meals a day (unless differently specified)
3. Tap drinking water
4. Tea & coffee in camp
5. All camping equipment
6. Park entrance fees
7. Camping fees
8. Professional guide
9. Camp Assistant
10. Pick up & drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

Safaris exclude:

1. Sleeping bag (can be hired)
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Soft drinks
4. Personal travel insurance

Useful items to bring with you:

1. Two litre water bottle
2. Torch
3. Towel
4. Sun hat
5. Camera
6. Pillow

The tents are dome type, which are easy to assemble and your mattresses are approximately 5 cm thick with your own mattress cover, and everyone has a camp chair with a backrest.

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

We suggest a sleeping bag range of "3 – 4 season". Sleeping bags can be hired by prior arrangement for a cost of N\$: 100.00 per 10 day trip. 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.

All evening meals on camping safaris, (unless stipulated), are cooked on an open fire by your guide. Salads and fresh vegetables will be served where possible, but please note in some areas this is not necessarily every day. Fresh fruit will also be supplied when possible. Vegetarians can be catered for but please notify us prior to safari departure.

Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that you 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 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 some campsites.

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



10 Day Namibian Explorer

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. Your guide and assistant can be tipped at your own discretion but we ask that the guide be tipped separately from your assistant.

