

EXPLORING NAMIBIA

Namibia

**THIS IS
AFRICA**

TRAVEL WITH
EXPERIENCE

13 day group tour (deluxe accommodation)

Showcasing the vast lands, fascinating cultures and unique landscapes and wildlife of Namibia, this comprehensive tour is a real delight. You will meet the hospitable San bushman, explore the world's second largest canyon; Fish River Canyon, stand where the dunes meet the coast at Lüderitz and Swakopmund, tread the sands of Sossusvlei and spot the wildlife of Etosha. This tour is full of unique experiences found only in this amazing country. Don't miss it!





Cost includes:

- transport in a minibus with a maximum of 6 passengers
- services of a registered English-speaking driver-guide
- 12 nights' deluxe accommodation
- 12 x breakfasts, 12 x lunches, 10 x dinners
- selected beverages as per itinerary
- entrance fees to: Fish River Canyon, Namib Naukluft National Park, Twyfelfontein, Petrified Forest, Living Museum of the Damara, Etosha National Park
- portages
- still mineral water on board vehicle
- tourism levy & government taxes
- 24 hours medical evacuation insurance

Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- meals and drinks not listed
- dining rooms tips
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- optional 4WD safaris & excursions

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

FI - fully inclusive of meals and selected beverages

Windhoek to Windhoek

Accommodation: deluxe

Departs: selected Saturdays

Group size: maximum of 6

Product code: EXNASP

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Namibia, Kalahari Desert - Intu Afrika Collection or similar

Day 2: Namibia, Fish River Canyon - Canyon Lodge or similar

Day 3: Namibia, Lüderitz - Luderitz Nest Hotel or similar

Day 4: Namibia, Lüderitz - Luderitz Nest or similar

Day 5: Namibia, Sossusvlei - Sossusvlei Lodge or similar

Day 6: Namibia, Sossusvlei - Sossusvlei Lodge or similar

Day 7: Namibia, Swakopmund - Strand Hotel or similar

Day 8: Namibia, Swakopmund - Strand Hotel or similar

Day 9: Namibia, Damaraland - Twyfelfontein Country Lodge or similar

Day 10: Namibia, Etosha National Park - Etosha Oberland or similar

Day 11: Namibia, Etosha National Park - Onguma Collection or similar

Day 12: Namibia, Etosha National Park - Onguma Collection or similar

Day 13: Namibia, Windhoek - ends

This tour is also available using standard accommodation. Please ask for details.

Exploring Namibia - deluxe

Day 1: Kalahari Desert - 260 km of road travel

Leaving Windhoek, we travel into the largest sand mass on Earth; the Kalahari Desert. The Kalahari is a vast semi-desert of wind-blown sand held by a sparse mantle of thorn scrub. Lacking permanent surface water, the Kalahari is a challenging place to live except for those who have adapted to not only survive, but flourish here over centuries. The San bushmen refer to it as the 'Soul of the World', an emotive description. Its deep-red dunes and endless grass plains are interspersed with acacia trees and shrubs, making it a surprising home to a large amount of specially adapted wildlife. This afternoon we experience the red dunes, animals and plants of this desert environment on a nature drive. **Intu Africa Collection (LD).**

Intu Africa Collection

The magic of central Namibia is experienced on the 10,000 hectare Intu Afrika Kalahari Game Reserve which is just 250 kilometres south of Windhoek. Three luxurious lodges: the Zebra Kalahari Lodge, the Camelthorn Kalahari Lodge and the Suricate Tented Lodge, offer travellers breath-taking views and incredible fauna and flora to discover. The Intu Afrika Lodges form the gateway to the treasures of the south making this the ideal stop over for travellers going to, or coming from Namibia's southern regions. Each lodge has its own character, advantages and feel. All three lodges have the same amenities, such as a swimming pool, indoor and outdoor dining and activities available, ranging from game drives to bushman walks and sunset quad biking. Your specific lodge will be allocated dependent upon availability at time of stay.

Day 2: Fish River Canyon - 440 km of road travel

We visit the unique Garas quiver tree forest where you are welcomed by quirky human-made sculptures of scrap metal which set a contrast to this serene, timeless space, the Quiver trees and aloes nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders. We continue to our lodge, situated in close vicinity to the Fish River Canyon. Here we can explore the area on foot. Or take an optional guided nature drive in the late afternoon which will feature the Quiver trees, rugged landscape and impressive sweeping rock formations at sunset.

Fish River Canyon, situated along the lower reaches of the Fish River, is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia. With a width of 27 km and depth of up to 550 metres, Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world. **Canyon Lodge (FI).**

Canyon Lodge

Nestled between rounded granite boulders, Canyon Lodge's quaint century-old farmhouse reception and gardens welcome you into this landscaped enclave. Soft colours of apricot merge with the pale green of euphorbias as a prelude to the atmosphere of the lodge and its surrounds. Thirty stone, en-suite chalets with private terraces surround a central communal area including a restaurant, bar and pool. Offering character and charm, the lodge's down-to-earth homeliness is perfect for the rugged Fish River Canyon surrounds, and a short 20 kilometre drive to the edge of the canyon makes its location well suited for watching sunrises and sunsets.

Day 3: Lüderitz - 420 km of road travel

Our morning starts on the edge of the Fish River Canyon, where we gaze into this magnificent geological phenomenon. The Fish River is the longest interior river found in Namibia, but its current flow is just a drop compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. We continue our journey past the Naute dam, where we stop briefly at the Naute Kristall Cellar and Distillery to taste some of the unique liquor available, or simply enjoy a delicious cup of coffee (own expense).





Our journey takes us to the ocean and the coastal town of Lüderitz. En route we stop at Garub, a viewpoint for the wild horses of the Namib Desert. **Lüderitz Nest Hotel – superior room (FI).**

Lüderitz Nest Hotel

Located directly on Lüderitz Bay with its own private tidal beach and walk-on jetty, Nest Hotel is an award winning and popular hotel. All 70 spacious, en-suite rooms and three luxurious suites have direct sea views. All rooms have en suite bathrooms and either a terrace or balcony and seating. The new Crayfish Bar and Lounge is without doubt the premier social venue in Lüderitz with spectacular views of the bay, the peninsula, the massive coastal desert dunes to the north and the iconic Felsenkirche. The hotel's facilities include a swimming pool, bar and landscaped grounds leading down to the sea. This modern hotel has such a great location that you do not even need to leave the grounds to enjoy Lüderitz.

Day 4: Lüderitz - 50 km of road travel

Our morning starts with a visit to Kolmanskop ghost town. Kolmanskop is a deserted diamond mining centre in the Sperrgebiet National Park. Once an opulent and decadent town, the abandoned buildings act as a monument to the diamond boom. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting reminder of the thriving past, offering visitor's unique photo opportunities as much of the town is covered by sand. Nearby we visit Diaz Point and view the cliff which overlooks the harsh Atlantic Ocean where Portuguese explorers discovered this desolate coast. Returning to Lüderitz we explore this unique historic town. **Lüderitz Nest Hotel – superior room (FI).**

Day 5: Sossusvlei - 440 km of road travel

After an early breakfast we travel across vast open plains north to the Tiras Mountain range and our lodge in the Namib Desert, located close to Sesriem, the gateway to Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon. Famous as home to some of the highest dunes on Earth, this region is like no other in Southern Africa. The afternoon can be spent relaxing or joining optional activities offered at the lodge (own expense). **Sossusvlei Lodge (FI).**

Sossusvlei Lodge

Located close to the famous pan of Sossusvlei, the scorched black trees of Dead Vlei and the remarkable depths of the Sesriem Canyon, Sossusvlei Lodge is situated at the entrance gate to the Namib Naukluft Park. The lodge offers a range of accommodation with units featuring a patio to enjoy views over the desert landscapes. Lodge facilities include a swimming pool with pool bar, sundowner deck, beer garden and an al fresco terrace. Meals are taken with views of the floodlit waterhole, which attracts animals 24 hours a day. The Sossusvlei Lodge Adventure Centre provides a range of activities, including guided excursions to Deadvlei and Sossusvlei, Elim dune walks, sundowner trips, quad buggy nature drives, hot air ballooning, scenic flights and much more to explore the area's natural beauty.

Day 6: Sossusvlei - 170 km of road travel

The parched Namib Desert has endless orange dunes blown into sharp ridges by the sand-shifting wind at Sossusvlei, forming a gateway into the Namib Desert. Entering the Namib Naukluft National Park at sunrise, the first rays of sunlight paint the mountains of sand into a variety of apricot, red and orange, contrasted against a crisp blue skyline. The surreal Deadvlei surrounded by some of the highest dunes on Earth and Sossusvlei, where the dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst dunes, are captivating. We will walk to Sossusvlei, explore Sesriem Canyon and from the comfort of our lodge outside the national park, watch dramatic sunsets over the world's highest sand dunes. **Sossusvlei Lodge (FI).**

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Day 7: Swakopmund - 350 km of road travel

Travel via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. Reaching the coastal harbour town of Walvis Bay, we visit the shallow lagoon, one of the most important wetland areas on the African continent and a RAMSAR World Heritage Site. Over 80% of Africa's lesser flamingos breed in this lagoon. Continuing along the scenic road between the dune belt and the Atlantic Ocean we reach Swakopmund, where the rest of the day is spent at leisure.

With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a popular holiday destination in Namibia. Its pleasant summer climate and long stretched beaches attract anglers and surfers from all over Southern Africa. For the international guest, Swakopmund is a bohemian mix of German architecture and African rhythms, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. **Strand Hotel (BL).**

Strand Hotel

A fairly recent addition to the Swakopmund waterfront, Strand Hotel has swiftly become a popular destination resort for visitors wanting to explore Swakopmund and surrounds. The Strand Hotel offers guests three exciting restaurants, bars and sea-facing terrace,s as well as a lobby lounge, beer garden and beach kiosk. All set on the Mole, Swakopmund's historic promenade with small harbour and beach area, you are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides. Strand Hotel is a social epicentre and destination in itself for all visitors to, and residents of, Swakopmund. The chic décor, spacious communal areas and attentive staff ensure its status as Swakopmund's best hotel is continued year after year.

Day 8: Swakopmund

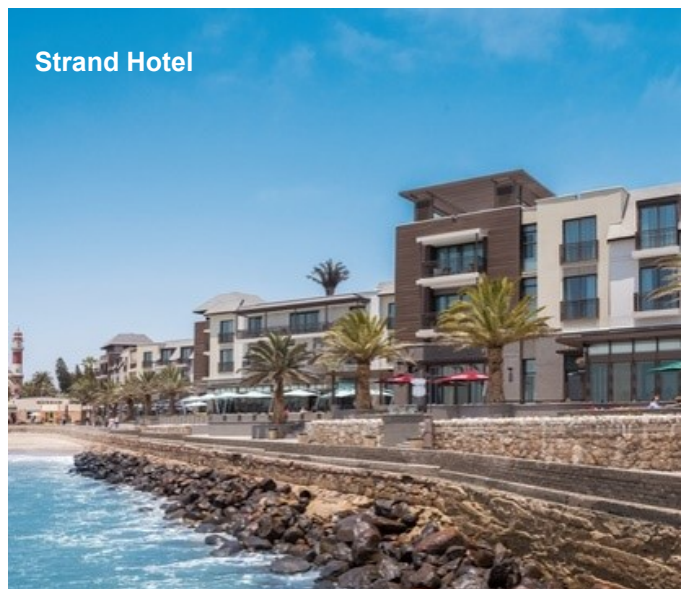
Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the 'playground of Namibia'. The city has numerous activities, ranging from adventure, to exploring the fascinating features of the Namib Desert and the animals and plants that occur and survive here. Embrace the relaxed pace of this idyllic coastal town, while enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many cafés. Alternatively, explore the rugged, sweltering desert on a day tour, or view this awesome environment from the air on a scenic flight. Find your inner child and push adrenaline to its limits with extreme adventures such as skydiving over the desert, or quad biking and sand boarding on the dunes (optional activities at own expense).

Included in today's activities is a marine cruise, where you are likely to meet some of the most curious locals, Cape fur seals. Later take the opportunity to indulge in fresh, local oysters. **Strand Hotel (B).**

Day 9: Damaraland - 480 km of road travel

We head further north, travelling past Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2579 metres), into Damaraland, one of the least populated and most geologically diverse areas in Africa. This harsh, rocky environment is home to the elusive desert elephant, the black rhino and free-roaming antelope species. Accompanied by a local Damara guide, we visit Twyfelfontein, a UNESCO heritage site where bushman communities engraved and painted over 2.500 pictures some 6.000 years ago.

After a visit to the nearby Living Museum of the Damara, we proceed to the Petrified Forest, a geological phenomenon depicting the creation and metamorphosis of wood into stone amongst some of the oldest landmasses on Earth. Here we also see the Welwitschia mirabilis plant, the oldest living desert plant in the world. **Twyfelfontein Country Lodge (FI).**





Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

The popular Twyfelfontein Country lodge comprises of 56 spacious en-suite rooms, all with modern facilities. All rooms have magnificent views of the surrounding plains, or mountains, and it is not unusual to be treated to the sight of desert elephants from your verandah. Natural stone and thatch and chosen paint hues match that of the surrounding rocks and plains, minimising the effect on the environment in this most stunning of landscapes. A nearby waterhole attracts wildlife and a pool, bar and communal areas with comfy lounges offer plenty of places to relax.

Day 10: Etosha National Park - 200 km of road travel

Once a vast lake, fed by the Kunene River, the pan that is Etosha National Park dried up thousands of years ago when the waterways of the river chose a new course. Covering 20,000 square kilometres, Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve offering big game viewing. We take game drives in our own vehicle around the huge pan to find elephant, herds of antelope and lion around the waterholes. Here you stay at a lodge on the outskirts of the national park. **Etosha Oberland Outpost (FI).**

Etosha Oberland Outpost

The Etosha Oberland Outpost, at the southern entrance of Etosha National Park, combines luxury with privacy. Nestled in a wild garden is the main house with two restaurants, two pools, a bar and cosy lounge with hearth. There are extensive views of the wide grassy plains and the water hole with a variety of wildlife to view while enjoying a sundowner drink on the restaurant terrace, or while relaxing on the viewing deck. The spacious rooms are lovingly integrated into nature with unique views of the savannah from each room's terrace. The tasteful design and stylish decor make for an unforgettable stay at this popular eco-lodge.

Day 11: Etosha National Park - 300 km of road travel

The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the Etosha National Park, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. The park is home to four of the 'Big Five' - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. Proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist, the park offers game viewing primarily focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole.

The waterholes are ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, more than 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx and eland, as well as some of the endangered species, such as black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. An extensive network of roads link the over 30 waterholes allowing visitors the opportunity of a comprehensive game viewing safari throughout the park as each different area will provide various encounters. We traverse the southern section of the park today, stopping at waterholes for game viewing, before arriving at the eastern gate for our overnight stay at Onguma Game Reserve. **Onguma Collection (specific lodge to be advised) (FI).**

Onguma Collection

Located within the 36,000-hectare Onguma Game Reserve adjacent to Etosha Pans, the Onguma Lodge Collection offers five styles of accommodation in five distinctively different lodges. From the 11 bush suites of The Fort, to the treetop chalets of Onguma Tree Camp, the luxury of both bush and tented camp, to the four freestanding heritage bungalows of Etosha Aoba, each safari lodge has its own unique personality. Each property assures guests a high level of service, accommodation that blends with the environment and an atmosphere of traditional safari, where guests arrive as strangers, but leave as friends.

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Day 12: Etosha National Park - 200 km of road travel

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in our touring vehicle in Etosha National Park, or optionally you can book a 4WD open-sided game drive with the lodge (own expense). The Etosha Pan dominates the park. This salt pan desert, which is nearly completely enclosed by the park and is lined by numerous watering holes, is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km in places. During Etosha's notorious dry spells the pan is a deathly place, lying parched and cracked under the molten African sun. It is claimed that game viewing is best during the dry periods as animals will then congregate closer to water. But even in the rainy season, the park remains an abundant wildlife haven. You then have the pleasure of experiencing the rebirth of life as the young foals, cubs and chicks are seen frolicking with their parents, and the sprouting new green shrubs and grasses create a pleasing green oasis. In the afternoon we travel back to our lodge, where we enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Onguma Collection (lodge to be advised) (FI).

Day 13: Windhoek - 540 km of road travel

We return to Namibia's friendly capital. The charm of the city of Windhoek lies in its harmonious blend of African and European cultures and the friendliness of its people. On arrival you are transferred to a city hotel. An airport transfer can be pre-booked at an additional cost (flights should not be booked to depart prior to 7:00 pm). **(BL).**

Important information:

- English-only departure dates are available. On certain departure dates the tour is offered on a bi-lingual basis, whereby the tour guide will speak in both German and English to passengers and explain all sights in both languages. Please discuss departure dates at the time of booking if required.
- The accommodation specified in the itinerary is a guide only and is subject to availability. Alternatives will be of a similar standard wherever possible.
- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator. On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability, or if local conditions restrict accessibility.
- The tour operator has the right to use an alternative or replacement vehicle if necessary
- Prices for flights, airport taxes, park fees and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- Children younger than 12 are unable to join seat-in-vehicle safaris, however we would be pleased to book a private safari for families with young children.
- The distances quoted in the itinerary are an estimate only and are subject to local road conditions and photo stops. Due to the nature of travel in Namibia and the sheer size of the country, some days on the road are lengthy.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.

