

HIGHLIGHTS OF NAMIBIA

Namibia

**THIS IS
AFRICA**

TRAVEL WITH
EXPERIENCE

9 day group tour
(standard accommodation)

This tour visits the highlights of Namibia. View the fascinating dunes of Sossusvlei, enjoy the palm-lined streets, seaside promenades and café culture of Swakopmund, Damaraland, home to the desert elephant and black rhino. See bushman paintings at Twyfelfontein, a UNESCO heritage site. Finish on a high with three nights in Etosha, Namibia's premier game park, viewing its unique wildlife.





Cost includes:

- transport in a minibus or coach with a maximum of 16 passengers
- services of a registered English-speaking driver-guide
- 8 nights' standard accommodation
- breakfast daily
- entrance fees to: Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon, 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

Windhoek to Windhoek

Accommodation: standard

Departs: selected Wednesdays

Group size: maximum of 16

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Namibia, Sossusvlei - The Elegant Desert Lodge or similar

Day 2: Namibia, Sossusvlei - The Elegant Desert Lodge or similar

Day 3: Namibia, Swakopmund - Plaza Hotel or similar

Day 4: Namibia, Swakopmund - Plaza Hotel or similar

Day 5: Namibia, Damaraland - Damara Mopane Lodge or similar

Day 6: Namibia, Etosha - Etosha Safari Camp or similar

Day 7: Namibia, Etosha - Mokuti Etosha Lodge or similar

Day 8: Namibia, Etosha - Mokuti Etosha Lodge or similar

Day 9: Namibia, Windhoek - ends

Please note: there are a few long days of driving with early starts on this tour. This is necessary to enable you to visit these fascinating regions of Namibia in the allocated period of time. Driving hours and general timings may vary from the original itinerary due to the nature of travel in Africa and local conditions.

This tour is also available using deluxe accommodation category. Please ask for a separate itinerary.

Highlights of Namibia

Day 1: Sossusvlei

This morning we depart Windhoek, to travel to our lodge in the red sands of the Namib Desert. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei, where some of the highest dunes on earth stand towering over the white desert plains. The parched Namib Desert has endless orange dunes blown into sharp ridges by the sand-shifting wind and at Sossusvlei. These form a gateway into the Namib Desert. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the pool or taking part in optional activities offered by the lodge. **The Elegant Desert Lodge.**

The Elegant Desert Lodge

Located close to the dunes of Sossusvlei, Elegant Desert Lodge allows you to indulge in a refreshingly different experience. From the outside it has the typical old lodge look and feel yet inside the thoughtful touches and elegant interior give it a modern and stylish twist. Offering 29 stylish rooms this lodge offer all modern amenities and plenty of active excursions to choose from. Its friendly staff make it a popular choice for both self-drive guests and small group tours.

Day 2: Sossusvlei

Mornings at Sossusvlei demand an early start. 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, providing an opportunity to capture images of this awesome landscape. You will be captivated by the surreal Deadvlei, which is surrounded by some of the highest dunes in the world and Sossusvlei, where the dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst enormous sand dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these majestic dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath or wonder along the floor of the dune corridor.

We then continue to Sesriem Canyon, a life-sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert. **The Elegant Desert Lodge (B).**

Day 3: Swakopmund

After breakfast we continue our journey, approaching the small settlement of Solitaire on the edge of the Namib Naukluft National Park as we drive towards the 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. Africa's lesser flamingos breed in this lagoon and present a shimmering pink picture when they appear in groups. Continuing along the scenic route 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, the German colonial town of 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. Swakopmund is a bohemian mix of German architecture and African rhythms, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings, and desert heat. **Swakopmund Plaza or Beach Hotel (B).**

Swakopmund Plaza

Located in the heart of Swakopmund, this hotel is within a 10-minute walk from the Hohenzollern Haus and Marine Memorial, Swakopmund Museum, and the National Marine Aquarium. Its guesthouse style intimacy ensures a friendly atmosphere. The 66 en suite rooms all have modern amenities and a relaxing decor. The hotel features a restaurant, concierge services and laundry facilities.





Day 4: Swakopmund

Today is a day at leisure to choose your favourite excursions (own expense) from a long list of active adventure, relax on the beach or take a stroll around town. Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the "playground of Namibia", it has numerous activities ranging from, adventures such as scenic flights, 4WD dune tours and sand-boarding, to exploring the fascinating features of the Namib Desert and the animals and plants that occur and survive here, on locally guided tours. Those wishing a slower paced day may want to embrace the relaxed pace of this idyllic coastal town while enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many café's. There is something for everyone today, with your guide advising on the range of activities available. **Swakopmund Plaza or Beach Hotel (B).**

Day 5: Damaraland

Our scenic route takes us further north, travelling past the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2.579m), 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, where we can meet some of the peoples of this vast land, we drive 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 can also see the unique Welwitschia Mirabilis plant, which is the oldest living desert plant on earth. **Damara Mopane Lodge or similar (B).**

Damara Mopane Lodge

Opened in November 2010 Damara Mopane is an excellent base for excursions into scenic Damaraland. The main building and chalets have been designed similar to that of an African village and are built in a wattle and daub style and set under the shade of mopane trees. The reception, restaurant and chalets are all connected by a labyrinth of paths leading to the swimming pool, which is situated alongside large, ancient mopane trees with a viewing deck overlooking the camp and plains beyond. Accommodation is in 60 double chalets with air-conditioning and mosquito nets and a private veranda.

Day 6: Etosha National Park

After a relaxed breakfast, we travel towards the Etosha National Park, famous for its vast amount of wildlife. Once we reach our camp, located just outside of Etosha, we head out on our first safari into the national park. We explore the various waterholes located close to Okaukuejo and the Anderson gate in our touring vehicle with our guide. Exiting at sunset we spend a night on the eastern fringe of the park. **Etosha Safari Camp (B).**

Etosha Safari Camp

Perched on a small hill near the Ondundozonanandanana mountain range are 50 uniquely designed en-suite safari bungalows offering a warm and creative African ambience. Each bungalow is decorated with artistically painted floors and metal and ceramic furniture created by local Namibian craftsmen. Guests can enjoy the inviting veranda which stretches across the length of each bungalow, while relaxing in the midst of dense Mopane and Commiphora vegetation with abundant birdlife. The location of this property only 10 km from Etosha National Park's Anderson Gate makes it the perfect for those wishing to remain in the park at its peak for wildlife viewing.

Highlights of Namibia

Day 7: Etosha National Park

The day is devoted 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. Etosha was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist. Despite the size of the Etosha National Park, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to visitors.

Game viewing in the park is primarily focussed on waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole. These make 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, and antelopes such as kudu, oryx, 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 water holes allowing visitors the opportunity of a comprehensive game viewing safari throughout the park as each different area will provide various encounters. **Mokuti Etosha Lodge (B).**

Mokuti Etosha Lodge

As the closest lodge to Etosha National Park, Mokuti is only a few minutes' drive from the eastern Von Lindequist Gate, near the historical Namutoni Fort. The lodge is located on its own private 4000 hectare nature reserve, which shares a common border with the national park. Charming thatched buildings are scattered throughout the lodge gardens and the two swimming pools nestled among the vast indigenous gardens, give credence to the name "Mokuti", which in Ovambo means "In the forest". The rooms are spread out through the surrounding forest and gardens. This sprawling resort style lodge has 90 rooms and suites, all recently refurbished and air conditioned. The rooms are equipped with satellite TV, a mini-fridge, safe, free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities and en-suite bathrooms with showers. Facilities include a bar, poolside bar and restaurant, fire pit, tennis courts and gym and an extensive souvenir shop.

Day 8: Etosha National Park

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive, in your touring vehicle, in the Etosha National Park, or optionally you can book an open game drive park drive (own expense) through the concierge desk at your lodge.

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. Our time today is mainly spent at waterholes which play a dominant role in wildlife viewing within the park. **Mokuti Etosha Lodge (B).**

Day 9: Windhoek

After breakfast, we return to the country's centre and its capital; Windhoek. Time permitting, we may stop at the famous wood carvers market in Okahandja or the craft market in the main street of Windhoek to purchase some last few souvenirs. Windhoek is a cosmopolitan melting pot of European architecture with African culture, with a variety of excellent restaurants to choose from. In the late afternoon you will be dropped off at your accommodation. (Departure flights from Windhoek should not be booked to depart any earlier than 7:00pm) **(B).**



**Important information**

This tour is hosted by your guide as a bi-lingual tour. This means that the guide will speak in both German and English to passengers and explain all sights in both languages. English only departures are also available. Please discuss departure dates with your consultant if this is your preference.

The accommodation specified above and 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.

Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.