

BEST OF NAMIBIA

South Africa, Namibia

**THIS IS
AFRICA**

TRAVEL WITH
EXPERIENCE

13 day group tour
(basic accommodation)

Starting in Cape Town, this accommodated group tour visits the scenic wonders of the Cederberg, Sossusvlei, Damaraland and Fish River Canyon - the world's second largest canyon. From here discover the seaside resort of Swakopmund and the wildlife-rich Etosha National Park. Accommodation is in twin rooms with en-suites at campsites and guesthouses.



Dune 45



Cost includes:

- transport in a custom-built overland truck with a maximum of 20 passengers
- services of a registered English-speaking driver and guide
- 12 nights basic accommodation
- 12 x breakfasts, 13 x lunches, 12 x dinners
- entrance fees to national parks
- visits Cederberg, Gariep River, Quiver Tree Forest, Giants Playground, Fish River Canyon, Sossusvlei dunes, Deadvlei, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Spitzkoppe, Damaraland and San cave drawings, Himba tribe educational centre, game drives within Etosha National Park in tour vehicle
- still mineral water on board vehicle

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

Cape Town to Windhoek

Accommodation: basic

Departs: selected Thursdays and Sundays

Group size: maximum of 20

Product code: NOMNAM

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: South Africa, Cederberg - Marcuskraal or similar

Day 2: Namibia, Felix Unite Cabanas or Bundi or similar

Day 3: Namibia, Ais Ais Springs - Ais Ais Resort or similar

Day 4: Namibia, Fish River Canyon - Schutzenhaus G'house or similar

Day 5: Namibia, Namib Naukluft Adventure Camp or Boesman Camp

Day 6: Namibia, Namib Naukluft Adventure Camp or Boesman Camp

Day 7: Namibia, Stay@Swakop Guesthouse or similar

Day 8: Namibia, Stay@Swakop Guesthouse or similar

Day 9: Namibia, Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar

Day 10: Namibia, Melissa's Guesthouse or similar

Day 11: Namibia, Halali Resort or similar

Day 12: Namibia, Okaukuejo Resort or similar

Day 13: Namibia, Windhoek - ends

Pre-tour accommodation in Cape Town and post-tour accommodation in Windhoek can be arranged prior to departure on request.

Best of Namibia - basic

Day 1: South Africa – Cederberg region

On departing Cape Town we stop for a final view of the majestic Table Mountain from across Table Bay. We then head north to the Cederberg. The Cederberg region not only boasts giant sandstone boulders that have been sculpted by wind and rain into bizarre and artistic shapes, but it is also the home of the south Africa's famous Rooibos bush tea. Indigenous to the mountain slopes of the Cederberg, this herbal beverage has earned an international reputation as a healthy and refreshing alternative to regular tea. A dinner at our overnight stop offers an opportunity for us to get acquainted while enjoying some South African hospitality over a traditional dinner. **Mar-cuskraal – room with en-suite (LD).**

Day 2: Namibia - Gariep (Orange) River

We make our way into more arid landscapes. Namaqualand presents us with our first experience of the desert vistas that will accompany us in the days ahead. We continue our journey north and after a short stop for supplies in Springbok, we travel to our camp on the banks of the Orange River. On entering Namibia we stay on the Gariep River, the natural land border between South Africa and Namibia. Namibia's southern border river flows quietly and peacefully and the river valley is hardly affected by tourism. The riverbed is sandy, the water clean and clear. There is free time for swimming and relaxing. **Felix Unite Cabanas or Bundi – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 3: Ais Ais Springs

While the Orange River was named after the Dutch Royal House, in recent times it has been referred to by its original name of Gariep, which simply means "river" in the indigenous Khoekhoe language. Beginning its journey in the mountains of Lesotho, the Orange River is the longest river in South Africa and offers a unique contrast to the desert landscapes along its banks. The best way to experience the river is by getting out on the water and this morning we have the opportunity to join an optional canoe trip on the river (own expense). After lunch we depart the Orange River and head inland to our overnight stop. At Ais Ais, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the mineral and sulphur-rich hot springs. **Ais Ais Resort – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 4: Fish River Canyon, Quiver Tree Forest, Giants Playground

We rise early this morning and drive to the rim of the Fish River Canyon. We will have time to watch the morning's sunrays filter through the canyon. After stretching our legs with a gentle walk along the rim of the canyon, we turn west and head for Keetmanshoop. Our afternoon will be spent meandering through the Quiver Tree Forest and The Giants Playground – named for the way in which the massive dolerite boulders have been placed on each other - creating rock formations and a series of mazes. **Schutzenhaus Guesthouse - room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 5: Namib Naukluft National Park

Every overland journey has some long travelling days and today is one of those as we venture deeper into the Namib Desert. Our destination is the dune fields that cover the western reaches of the desert. Long dusty roads and sparsely populated farmlands offer us an insight into the vastness of rural Namibia. From the grasslands in the east, to the red dunes of the west, the slowly changing landscapes represent the many faces of this desert country. Tonight we stay on the doorstep of the dune fields. **Namib Naukluft Soft Adventure Camp or Boesman Camp - room with en-suite (BLD).**

Gariep (Orange) River



Fish River Canyon





Day 6: Namib Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei

Today we will rise early for our drive to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. We will enter the park just after sunrise and travel through to the famous Dune 45. A brisk climb up Dune 45 offers us the perfect vantage point to marvel at the changing colours of the desert. Once satisfied we descend this famous dune and enjoy a hearty breakfast before catching a 4WD transfer into Sossusvlei, here we will spend time on foot visiting the pans at Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Tonight we empty the red sand from our shoes and spend the night under the magnificent desert stars, knowing that we have spent a full-day enjoying the wonders of this harsh land. **Namib Naukluft Soft Adventure Camp or Boesman Camp - room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 7: Walvis Bay, Swakopmund

Our final day in the desert comes to an end as we join a local expert for an educational desert excursion. We leave the Namib behind, and after a stop to mark our crossing of the Tropic of Capricorn, we continue to the Atlantic coastline. We stop en-route to view the flamingos at the deep water port town of Walvis Bay, before heading to Swakopmund for a two night stay. Swakopmund is a popular seaside resort with a slightly nostalgic atmosphere, characterized by numerous colonial buildings. Founded by the Germans in 1892 their colonial influence is still evident today. The town has a selection of excellent coffee shops, restaurants and bars, as well as many arts and craft shops selling curios. There are fine beaches to walk along as well as a great museum, aquarium and galleries to visit. **Stay@Swakop Guesthouse – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 8: Swakopmund

Today is free to explore the town. Swakopmund is known as the adventure activity capital of Namibia. We spend today enjoying optional activities, such as quad bike riding on sand dunes and kayaking in the bay. **Stay@Swakop Guesthouse – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 9: Spitzkoppe to Brandberg

Leaving early, we make our way to the massive granite formations of Spitzkoppe which tower 700 metres above the desert plains below. The presence of rock art indicates their significance to the San people who lived here many years ago. Namibia is a land of great contrasts and Damaraland demonstrates this with stark plains, petrified forests and ancient valleys leading to rocky outcrops and the soaring peaks of the Brandberg Massif Mountains. Damaraland is one of the most scenic areas in Namibia, a huge, untamed, ruggedly beautiful region. Here there are prehistoric water courses with open plains and grassland, massive granite koppies and deep gorges. Animals such as elephant, black rhino, giraffe, ostrich and springbok have adapted to survive the harshness of the sun-blistered, almost waterless desert spaces. We will enjoy a walk with a local guide and have the opportunity to view some examples of the San's rock art before setting off for our overnight stop for the evening.

Brandberg White Lady Lodge – room with en-suite (BLD).

Day 10: Brandberg

The Brandberg, or 'Burning Mountains', are regarded as the highest in Namibia and home to the famous White Lady, one of more than 45,000 rock paintings in the area. This morning we will make the ± 2 -hour return hike to visit the painting that is said to be around 2,000 years old. (Please be advised that the hike does traverse rough terrain along the gorge of the normally dry Tsisab River). After our exploration, we continue to the area of Kamanjab. For those who would like to visit an educational centre showcasing the lifestyle of the Himba Tribe, you will have the opportunity to book an optional excursion this afternoon. **Melissa's Guesthouse – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Best of Namibia - basic

Day 11: Etosha National Park

Once a vast lake fed by the Kunene River, the pan that is Etosha National Park dried up thousands of years ago when the river waters chose a new course. Covering 20,000 square kilometres, Etosha is Namibia's premier nature and wildlife reserve offering 'big game'. Enjoy game drives through the western section of the park in our touring vehicle. Around the huge pan we find elephant, herds of antelope and lions all around the waterholes for which the park is famous. Our rest camp is located within the park so that we can rise tomorrow to continue game driving. **Halali Resort – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 12: Etosha National Park

Continue spotting wildlife at the park's waterholes. A day spent at various waterholes in Etosha is a guaranteed highlight of any visit to Namibia. **Okaukuejo Resort – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 13: Windhoek

Namibia's friendly capital, beautifully situated in a valley, combines the architecture of a modern city with numerous buildings in the style of the German colonial era. The charm of the city of Windhoek lies in its harmonious blend of African and European cultures and the friendliness of its people. We visit the cosmopolitan capital for a city tour before our journey comes to an end. **(BL).** *(In order to facilitate flights a late departure flight is required, or an overnight stay in Windhoek).*

Important information:

- 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.
- There is no air-conditioning or toilet onboard the overland truck. Convenience stops are made along the way at regular intervals.
- Bedding is provided, however passengers must bring their own towels.
- Suitcases are unsuitable for overland safaris due to limited space. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive barrel style bags or soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs.
- This tour includes some long days of road travel which are necessary in order to visit all the listed regions.
- 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.
- A single supplement is compulsory for solo travellers on this tour.
- Passengers over 65 years are required to complete a medical form, which is assessed by the tour operator to ascertain suitability of the client to the tour.
- It is the responsibility of the client to have all documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates.

