

Ultimate Namibia Namibia



10 day small group safari
(deluxe-plus accommodation)

From the inland salt pans of Etosha, to the voluminous ocean of the Skeleton coast, this trip includes a plethora of experiences. Climb dunes which are hundreds of metres high, game view at a flood-lit water-hole and view thousands of seals by kayak or motor boat. Offering the perfect combination of scenic wonders, cultural experiences and location-driven accommodation, this trip really is 'Ultimate Namibia'.





Cost includes:

- transport in a luxury air-conditioned 4WD safari vehicle with a maximum of 7 passengers
- services of a registered and experienced naturalist English-speaking safari guide
- 9 nights' accommodation
- 9 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 9 dinners
- all park fees and government taxes
- walking tour at Sossusvlei dunes and Sesriem Canyon, option of either catamaran cruise or sea kayak with seals and dolphins at Walvis Bay, track for desert-adapted elephants in ephemeral river systems, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Twyfelfontein. guided game drives within Etosha National Park in tour vehicle, afternoon game drive in Onguma Private Game Reserve and at Etosha Mountain Lodge, visit the AfriCat Foundation
- mineral water on board the safari vehicle.

Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- airport transfers
- international airport taxes if applicable
- drinks, dining rooms tips, portorage
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- optional meals and excursions as sold by the tour operator

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

Windhoek to Windhoek

Accommodation: deluxe plus

Departs: selected Tuesdays (February to December)

Itinerary overview:

- Day 1: Namibia, Sossusvlei - Dead Valley Lodge
- Day 2: Namibia, Sossusvlei - Dead Valley Lodge
- Day 3: Namibia, Swakopmund - The Delight
- Day 4: Namibia, Swakopmund - The Delight
- Day 5: Namibia, Damaraland - Camp Kipwe
- Day 6: Namibia, Damaraland - Camp Kipwe
- Day 7: Namibia, Etosha - Etosha Mountain Lodge
- Day 8: Namibia, Etosha - Onguma Treetop Camp
- Day 9: Namibia, Etosha - Onguma Treetop Camp
- Day 10: Namibia, Windhoek

Optional extension

Opt to extend your safari for an additional night or two at Okonjima staying at their delightful Luxury Bush Camp. This affords you the opportunity to get a more in-depth insight into the work being done by the AfriCat Foundation, as well as the opportunity to see more cheetah, leopard and other big cats in the wild. After your extended stay you are transferred by road from Okonjima to Windhoek. (Please ask our team for pricing and details as an extension must be pre-booked at the time of confirmation of your tour.)

Please note there are a few long days with early starts on this tour, which enable you to visit these fascinating regions in this period of time.

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Day 1: Sossusvlei

This morning your tour guide will collect you from your hotel. You then depart Windhoek in your safari vehicle with your private guide and drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, stopping for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way.

You arrive at Dead Valley Lodge in the mid afternoon, where you stay for two nights, whilst you explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune. However, if you prefer, you can just relax and soak in the scenic and tranquil surroundings and relax at the lodge. Dinner is under an incredible starlit sky this evening. Sossusvlei is famous for its night sky, as it's remoteness makes it one of the darkest places on earth. **Dead Valley Lodge (LD).**

Dead Valley Lodge

Opened in July 2019, Dead Valley Lodge is situated inside the Namib Naukluft Park, in-between the park gate at Sesriem and Elim Dune, next to the road leading to the world-famous Sossusvlei Dunes and "Deadvlei". The lodge offers 20 free standing, climate-controlled luxury tented chalets, each with adjoining bathroom and a panoramic view of the Namib Desert with towering red sand dunes, rugged mountain ranges and arid desert savannahs. The lodge restaurant serves delicious Namibian style meals, and guests can also relax in the picturesque bar by the swimming pool while looking out over the local desert scenery towards Elim Dune.

Day 2: Namib Desert

This morning we rise early for a magical excursion with your guide in the Namib Naukluft National Park. We set off before sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft and shadows accentuate the towering shapes and curves.

This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world and your guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and its myriad of fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs. The most frequently visited section of the massive 50,000 km² Namib Naukluft National Park has become known as Sossusvlei. Famous for its towering apricot coloured sand dunes, which can be reached by following the Tsauchab River valley, Sossusvlei itself is actually a clay pan set amidst these star shaped dunes which stand up to 300 metres above the surrounding plains. These dunes rank among the tallest dunes on earth. The deathly-white clay pan contrasts against the orange sands and forms the endpoint of the ephemeral Tsauchab River, within the interior of the Great Sand Sea.

Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and surrounding dunes you can enjoy a relaxed picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree. You then return to the lodge in the early afternoon in time for a late lunch, with the option to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards if you haven't already done so the day before. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. This is usually welcomed after an exhilarating morning in the dunes. **Dead Valley Lodge (BLD).**





Day 3: Swakopmund

This morning you can join an optional sunrise balloon flight or scenic light aircraft flight over the Namib Naukluft National Park (additional cost applies), before you depart for Swakopmund. *Pre-booking of a balloon flight or scenic flight is required prior to arrival in order to schedule other timings for the day.*

The fascinating drive today takes you northwest through awesome and ever changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will meet the coast at the port town of Walvis Bay and then continue north to Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air for your next two nights. There will be time this afternoon to explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot, before heading off for dinner at a popular restaurant which specializes in fresh seafood.

Swakopmund resembles a small, German coastal resort nestled between the desert and the sea. It boasts a charming combination of German colonial architecture blended with modern hotels, shops, restaurants, museums, craft centres, galleries and cafés. Swakopmund had its beginnings as a landing station in 1892 when the German Imperial Navy erected beacons on the site. Settlers followed and made attempts to create a harbour town by constructing a concrete Mole and then an iron jetty - which attempts were ultimately unsuccessful. The advent of World War one halted developments, and the town sank into decline until half a century later when infrastructure improved and an asphalt road opened between Windhoek and Swakopmund. This made reaching the previously isolated town quicker and easier and it prospered once again to become Namibia's premier resort town. Although the sea is normally cold for swimming there are pleasant beaches and the cooler climate is refreshing after time spent in the desert. **The Delight (a selection of deluxe guesthouse-style hotels are used) (BLD).**

The Delight

Amongst the town's captivating contrasts and old traditions, The Delight is a fresh breeze in the desert. Conveniently located within short walking distance of the centre of town, this modern, uplifting and inviting hotel is the ideal base for your Swakopmund stay. Every effort is made to surprise and delight guests with thoughtful touches and locally inspired craft. Each en-suite room is designed with comfort in mind and is equipped with air-conditioning, tea/coffee station, fridge, TV, complimentary WiFi and safe. This deluxe guesthouse style hotel is quickly becoming one of Swakop's most popular properties with good reason. It's friendly staff and location ensure its place as one of the towns best deluxe hotels.

Day 4: Swakopmund

After an early breakfast your guide will drive you along the scenic coastal road south to Walvis Bay for a memorable kayaking adventure within the outer lagoon. After meeting your kayaking guide, you will be taken on a short scenic drive to Pelican Point to see its lighthouse and windswept beauty, stopping briefly at the salt works to view the variety of birdlife on your way to the launch point. The kayaking is an ideal way of seeing Cape fur seals, Heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. If you are lucky, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. During the course of the day the guide will stop and inform you about the environment and light refreshments will be served on the beach before heading back to Walvis Bay.

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You then have the opportunity to explore the waterfront area of Walvis Bay further before returning to Swakopmund for an afternoon at leisure at your guesthouse or out in town. Activities such as camel rides, quad biking on the nearby sand dunes, scenic flights, sandboarding and more can all be booked at an additional cost. Swakopmund also has a range of craft and local art shops, as well as a craft market located near to the waterfront. **The Delight (a selection of deluxe guesthouse style hotels are used) (BLD).**

Day 5: Damaraland

Continuing on your safari today, the road takes us north-east into the wonderful and diverse region of Damaraland. You pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, which peaks at 2,573 metres above sea level, and take time to view game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way. Damaraland is typified by displays of colour, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation.

The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. It is the variety and remoteness of the area, as well as the scenic splendour which makes this region a true wilderness.

If time allows this afternoon your guide will take you to visit the nearby attractions and geological sites of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (If not visited this afternoon, you will visit tomorrow morning). **Camp Kipwe (BLD).**

Camp Kipwe

Camp Kipwe lies in the heart of Damaraland, just a short drive from the local attractions in the area. The Camp is nestled amongst an outcrop of giant granite boulders, a stone's throw away from the ephemeral Aba Huab riverbed where desert adapted elephants often traverse. Each comfortable thatched bungalow is simple but tastefully furnished with en-suite open-air bathroom. In the centre of the camp lies a large alfresco dining area, bar, lounge and reception with an inviting fireplace nearby to relax beside in the evenings. A refreshing swimming pool and sunset lookout with lovely views also complement the camp.

Day 6: Damaraland

After an early breakfast you are treated to an exciting 4WD excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab River valleys to explore this remarkable region and search for game, including the elusive desert adapted elephants if they are in the area. Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. As the elephants are mostly active in the mornings you will normally have the best chance to see them then before returning to camp for lunch. However, if all the safari participants agree, you also have the option to take a picnic lunch and stop to enjoy that in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed, ideally while watching a herd of elephant browsing nearby.

Your guide will arrange to fit in a visit to Twyfelfontein and other nearby attractions at a suitable time if you haven't already done so the previous day. On return to camp there should be time to take a walk into the local area with your guide if desired, or simply relax and enjoy some well-deserved leisure time. **Camp Kipwe (BLD).**



Onguma Tree Top Camp



Day 7: Etosha

Today after a very early breakfast you set off on your journey to the Etosha National Park, travelling via the scenic Grootberg Pass. This is an incredibly scenic route, with table top mountains, red crusted soil and mountain passes. **Etosha Mountain Lodge (BLD).**

Etosha Mountain Lodge

Etosha Mountain Lodge is situated in the Kamanjab Region, bordering the south-western boundary of the Etosha National Park. Etosha Mountain Lodge consists out of one suite with and six luxury chalets, built with privacy in mind and with breathtaking views. The main complex, also with wonderful view includes a reception area, lounge, dining room, bar, swimming pool with teak deck and wine cellar (grotto) where you can taste the best wines. A number of game species can be found here including black Rhino and white Rhino, Giraffe, Eland, Mountain Zebra, Kudu, Oryx, Cheetah, Leopard, Springbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Warthog, Duiker, Black-faced Impala and sable antelope.

Day 8: Etosha East

Today is dedicated to a full day of game viewing within the central section of Etosha National Park from your private safari vehicle. We make our way from the southern Andersson's Gate to Halali, where you may stop for lunch, and then on across via selected waterholes such as Goas, which are normally particularly good for game viewing, to Namutoni Camp in the east.

Etosha National Park covers 22,270 km², of which approximately 5,000 km² is made up of saline depressions or 'pans'. The largest of these pans, the Etosha Pan, can be classified as a saline desert in its own right. Game-viewing centres around the numerous springs and waterholes where several different species can often be seen at one time. The park boasts some 114 mammals and over 340 bird species. Wildlife that one might see includes elephant, lion, giraffe, blue wildebeest, eland, kudu, oryx, zebra, rhino, cheetah, leopard, hyena, honey badger and warthog, as well as the endemic black faced impala. Etosha is famous for its wildlife; specifically the unusual sight of seeing several species living in close proximity to each other due to the lack of water on the pans. This makes for exciting game viewing.

We leave the park at sunset and take a short drive to the delightful Onguma Tree Top Camp. There is time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole where game comes and goes throughout the day and night. **Onguma Tree Top Camp (BLD).**

Onguma Tree Top Camp

Tree Top is a unique and beautiful camp, situated on the private Onguma Game Reserve, bordering on the eastern side of Etosha National Park. It is a small and intimate camp, especially designed for those travellers who would like to truly experience the bush in all its raw splendour. This camp is built on wooden stilts amongst the tree tops with full views over one of the most beautiful watering holes on the reserve. The camp consists of four thatched wooden chalets and a main complex, making the camp ideal for a small group looking for a private getaway. The main complex is completely open towards the front where the waterhole is situated, but there is also the option of letting down canvas sides if the weather is inclement. The Boma area steps off from the lounge deck, where guests can relax while watching the animals and birds that frequent the hole throughout the day. The thatched rooms are designed in such a way that the canvas sides can be opened to expose breath-taking view and animals at any time. All rooms have an en-suite bathroom as well as a wonderful private outside shower, and a private deck in front where guests can relax and enjoy exactly the same views as from the main area's deck.

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Day 9: Etosha East

Your morning is dedicated to a memorable game drive within the eastern section of Etosha National Park with your guide. You return to camp for lunch and an early afternoon rest. Spend your final afternoon on a game drive on the private Onguma Game Reserve, culminating in a sundowner drink overlooking Fischer's Pan. Return after sunset with enough time to freshen up and enjoy your final 'safari dinner' overlooking the camp's floodlit water-hole. **Onguma Tree Top Camp (BLD).**

Day 10: Windhoek - via the AfriCat Foundation

Our early departure will take you south from Onguma Tree Top via Tsumeb, Otavi and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima's AfriCat Day Centre, a wonderful highlight with which to conclude your safari.

Okonjima is home to the AfriCat Foundation, a wildlife sanctuary which focuses on the research and rehabilitation of Africa's big cats, especially injured or captured leopard and cheetah. Arrive in time for lunch before embarking on an exciting and informative game drive and tour of the centre. You learn about the function and vision of the AfriCat Foundation and meet some of the foundation's special carnivore ambassadors. Your journey continues further south to arrive back in Windhoek in the late afternoon, just as the sun is setting. Upon your arrival in Windhoek you will be transferred to your hotel. *Due to the late arrival we would suggest you book a night in Windhoek as post tour accommodation. Flights should not be booked to depart any earlier than 9:00pm* **(BL).** Ends.

Optional extension

For an additional cost you have the option to extend your safari for an additional night or two at Okonjima, staying at their delightful Luxury Bush Camp. This affords you the opportunity to get a more in-depth insight into the work being done by the AfriCat Foundation as well as the opportunity to see more of the cheetah, leopard and other big cats in the wild. After your extended stay you are transferred by road from Okonjima to Windhoek. Please ask our team for pricing and details as this must be pre-booked at the time of confirmation of your tour.

Tour information:

Luggage: Is restricted to 20 kg (not including photographic equipment) per person in a soft, hold all type bag. Weight is generally less important than volume as everything is carried with you on safari. If adding extensions that involve light aircraft transfers the luggage limit may be reduced further to 12 kg in soft bags (please enquire if this applies to you). If required, any extra luggage can be stored at the tour base in Windhoek whilst you are on tour.

Vehicles: Vehicles used are normally a specialized 4WD safari vehicle, equipped with air-conditioning and fridges for drinks and snacks. A trailer for luggage is taken if required.

Eligibility: There is no maximum age limit, but tour participants must be able to satisfy minimum health and mobility requirements, which means they do not take up a disproportionate amount of the guide's attention, or seriously inconvenience the others on the safari. Participants must be able to get themselves in and out of the safari vehicle without assistance and be able to get between their rooms / tents and the dining / reception areas at each lodge / camp unassisted.





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.
- 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.