

NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS & CAPTIVATING ZAMBEZI

14 Days

Windhoek to Kasane

LIVE THIS!

Discover the main highlights in Namibia, from the awe-inspiring seas of sand of the Namib desert, the cultures and awesome landscapes of Damaraland and the variety and amounts of wildlife. This tour showcases the major highlights of the country. This safari is ideal as an introduction or as a once only visit. Discover the diverse African culture amongst abundant wildlife and thick riverine forests. Compare the wildlife in relatively dryer Etosha to the different game in the Zambezi. This safari is Africa at its most pure.

Classification	Classic										
Pax	2 – 20 guests										
Vehicle	Minibus or Coach										
Languages	Bilingual English / German										
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
Included	Meals: All meals as specified in the itinerary Classic: 8 Breakfasts Superior: 8 Breakfasts; 8 Dinners Entrance Fees: Namib Naukluft National Park; Twyfelfontein; Petrified Forest; Living Museum of the Damara; Etosha National Park Portages Still Mineral Water on Bus Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance										
Excluded	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities										
Optional Extras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner supplement for Classic Tour (<i>Day 1-2 & 5-8</i>), On the Classic Tour version dinner is not included in Swakopmund - Activity package (Classic version): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Namib Desert nature drive - Catamaran/marine cruise - Etosha open safari vehicle game drive - Additional Excursions / Activities on request 										
Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement)											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<u>7</u> , 14, 21, 28	5	<u>9</u> , 23	<u>13</u> , 27	<u>13</u> , 27	<u>10</u> , 24	<u>8</u> , 22	<u>5</u> , 19	<u>3</u> , 17, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	4, <u>11</u> , 18, 25	2, <u>9</u> , 16, 23, 30

- Same day flight departures out of Windhoek International are only possible after 19h00
- Arrival flights on day of tour departure to be no later than 09h00

More Than Just A Journey....

We have a sense of Africa rooted deep in our own lives and experiences and our purpose is to share this with our guests. Namibia has abundant wildlife in our National Parks as well as large tracts of land which lie unfenced for wildlife to traverse freely. With its diverse cultures Namibia is a melting pot of sights, sounds, aromas, tastes and emotions, just waiting to be experienced!

The vast size of Namibia is predominantly connected and accessible through gravel roads, which make traveling a fascinating yet time consuming aspect of your journey. This tour is operated on a very comprehensive fleet of vehicles that are specially designed and custom built to mechanically suit these demanding road conditions, both in their

configuration as well as their sturdy construction. This adds to the durability and reliability of our fleet, but also to the comfort while on safari. Our vehicles are fitted with airflow-cooling systems, sliding windows and/or pop-up roof and an audio/microphone system enhancing guests' safari enjoyment.

A safari often stands or falls with the guide and we appreciate that a good guide can make a great safari excellent. Our guides, mostly Namibian citizens, are hand-picked for their passion with a profound respect, interest and understanding for the country and its people. To offer you our guest the typical Namibian flair and experience we encourage flexibility and their personal involvement in showcasing Namibia's tradition during safaris.

Day 1 / Wednesday

NAMIB DESERT

Departing Windhoek, we travel to our lodge in the Namib Desert. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei, where some of the highest sand dunes on Earth stand towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the pool, or taking part in optional activities offered at our lodge.

The Elegant Desert Lodge

Day 2 / Thursday

SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT

The morning demands an early start. The first rays of sunrise paint the mountains of sand into a variety of apricot, red and orange, contrasted against a crisp blue skyline, enrapturing our senses, and providing an opportunity to capture this awesome landscape on film. You will be mesmerized by the surreal **Deadvlei**, surrounded by the highest dunes and **Sossusvlei**, where the mostly dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst majestic dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath. Thereafter we visit the **Sesriem Canyon**, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert.

The Elegant Desert Lodge - Breakfast

Day 3 / Friday

SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast we travel via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Moon Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. In 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 the African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breathtaking picture when they appear in groups. Having arrived in **Swakopmund**, the rest of the day is spent at leisure. With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a very 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 time, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. It is colorful, it is vibrant, but most of all, it is fun.

Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel - Breakfast

Day 4 / Saturday

SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the "playground of Namibia", it 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 whilst enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many café's. 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. Take time to get the feel of this quaint town with its historic buildings, museums, shopping arcades and beach bar that has transformed into its own personality by the vibrant use of color and the bohemian lifestyle.

Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel – Breakfast

Day 5 / Sunday

DAMARALAND

Heading further north, we travel via the **Brandberg**, Namibia's highest mountain (2.579m), into the Damaraland, one of the least populated and geologically diverse areas in Africa. This harsh, rocky environment is home to the rare desert elephant, the black rhino and free-roaming antelope species. We visit to **Twyfelfontein**, a heritage site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2500 pictures some 6000 years ago! After a visit to a nearby **Living Museum of the Damara** we proceed on to the **Petrified Forest** - a geological phenomenon depicting the creation and evolution of some of the oldest landmasses on Earth. Here we also visit the **Welwitschia mirabilis** plant – the oldest living desert plant on Earth.

Damara Mopane Lodge or similar Camp in the Damaraland - Breakfast

Day 6 / Monday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

After a tranquil breakfast, we travel towards the **Etosha National Park**, famous for its vast amount of wildlife and unique landscape. Once we have reached our camp located just outside of the National Park, we head onto our first safari into the National Park. Together with our guide we explore the various waterholes located close to Okaukuejo and the Andersson gate.

Classic: Etosha Safari Camp - Breakfast

Day 7 / Tuesday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

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 4 of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. The Park 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 largely focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, in excess of 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, 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 the visitor an opportunity to do a real game viewing safari over the stretch of the park as each different area will provide different encounters.

Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Day 8 / Wednesday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in the Etosha National Park. We may encounter animal species we have not seen the previous day and look forward to any new surprises at the different waterholes visited. 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 spells 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.

Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Day 9 / Thursday

KAVANGO REGION

After breakfast we travel north-east towards Namibia's lush **Kavango region**. En route we stop at **Hoba Meteorite**, the world's largest known meteorite. We continue to the Kavango River close to Rundu, known for its rich selection of hand-made wooden crafts. With its magnificent woodlands and perennial rivers, the Kavango region contrasts sharply with the rest of Namibia. Large swathes of tall woodland, riverine forests, floodplains and reed-lined channels dominate the area. This is also the area where you will see many of the traditional huts and homesteads still popular in use today. At our lodge we can enjoy a sundowner cruise on the Okavango River (*optional*).

Kaisosi River Lodge – Breakfast

Day 10 / Friday

BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we follow the route of the Okavango River into the **Zambezi Region**. Lush, green, riverine – that is what the Zambezi region looks like. This juxtaposition is what makes Namibia the “Land of Contrasts”. The area is typified by perennial rivers and large forests of trees. Whereas most of Namibia is arid, this area is lush, the soil rich and the wildlife plentiful. It is a lively hotbed where one can see subsistence and cattle farming and the well-known traditional wood carvings. We arrive at our lodge close to the Mahangu National Park where the following two nights are spent along the lush vegetation of the Okavango River. Our rooms award us with uninhibited view onto the Buffalo Park across the river. Optionally we can visit the Popa Falls, a series of small rapids in paradisiacal environment, or enjoy a late afternoon boat cruise on the river.

Shametu River Lodge – Breakfast

Day 11 / Saturday

BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast we travel into the Mahangu National Park. Being Namibia’s smallest but best populated Game Park, the visit will be rewarding in terms of wildlife and bird watching. The Mahango Game Park has a high number of elephants, as well as fair numbers of antelopes which are scarce or not seen in other parts of Namibia. These include the roan and sable antelope, tsessebe and the red lechwe. The park is also home to a number of sitatunga. The Mahango Game Park is an excellent destination for bird watching with over 400 species to be spotted.

Shametu River Lodge – Breakfast

Day 12 / Sunday

CHOBE FLOODPLAINS

We travel via the town of Katima Mulilo towards the end of the Zambezi strip. En route we visit a traditional village to learn more about the Caprivi people’s culture. Our lodge for the following nights is situated along the banks of the **Chobe River**, shortly before it enters Botswana. Having enjoyed an optional Sundowner drink on a river beach setting we return to the lodge for dinner.

Chobe River Camp – Breakfast

Day 13 / Monday

CHOBE FLOODPLAINS

Today we enjoy a **guided canoeing excursion** to experience the rich diversity of bird and wildlife of the **Chobe River** followed by a short walk to a light lunch spot. We then return to the lodge either by boat (*depending on the water level*) or guided walk experiencing the open African plains scattered with wildlife. The remainder of the day is at leisure enjoying the open space.

Chobe River Camp - Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14 / Tuesday

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, we cross the border into Botswana and travel to Kasane where you are able to extend your holiday at a lodge bordering the Chobe National Park or continue with a transfer to Victoria Falls.

Breakfast

TOUR SUMMARY:

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	The Elegant Desert Lodge		Travel into the Namib Desert	430
2	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	260
3	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	300
4	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	At leisure, book any activities with your consultant / guide	
5	Damara Mopane Lodge or similar Camp in the Damaraland	Breakfast	Excursion to Twyfelfontein and Petrified Forest. Visit a Living Museum of the Damara	520
6	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Afternoon Etosha game drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	190
7	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	200
8	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with your guide	300
9	Kaisosi River Lodge	Breakfast	Visit Hoba Meteorite, optional boat cruise	450
10	Shametu River Lodge	Breakfast	Optional visit to Popa Falls or afternoon boat cruise	220
11	Shametu River Lodge	Breakfast	Game drive in Mahango National Park, weather permitting	100
12	Chobe River Camp	Breakfast	Visit a traditional village, Travel to the Chobe flood Plains	360
13	Chobe River Camp	Breakfast, Lunch	Canoeing on the Chobe River with light lunch stop and walk or boat cruise back to the lodge	
14	End of tour in Kasane	Breakfast	Travel through the Chobe National Park to Kasane, Optional extensions to Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park	80