

ULTIMATE NAMIBIA SAFARI



Itinerary Overview

Explore Namibia's varied landscapes and discover its uniquely diverse desert-adapted wildlife in this remarkable ten-day safari adventure. Whether it's your first adventure in Africa or your fifth, Namibia is a true adventurer's paradise. From the comfort of your specially-designed safari vehicle, track desert lion, elephant, rhino, and giraffe across the Namib sand sea with your expert naturalist guide keeping an eye out for *Welwitschia mirabilis* – Namibia's fascinating desert plant that can live over 2,000 years. You'll ponder how so much flora and fauna can thrive amid such a harsh landscape. Discover a different ecosystem as you paddle your sea kayak, yards away from seals, sea lions, and whales off the Skeleton Coast. Wonder at big game gathering at water holes and moving across the Etosha salt pan on the western edge of the Kalahari Desert in Etosha National Park. Relax under the stars knowing that your visit is supporting conservation efforts to protect those very species.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	SOSSUSVLEI	Sossus Dune Lodge	LD	Sesriem Canyon, Namib Desert
2	SOSSUSVLEI	Sossus Dune Lodge	BLD	Excursion to Namib Naukluft National Park
3	SOSSUSVLEI TO SWAKOPMUND	The Delight or similar	BLD	Scenic drive to Swakopmund; optional activities
4	SWAKOPMUND	The Delight or similar	BLD	Kayaking or motor boat ride in Walvis Bay
5	SWAKOPMUND TO DAMARALAND	Camp Kipwe	BLD	Safari through Damaraland, geological sites
6	DAMARALAND	Camp Kipwe	BLD	4x4 excursion along Huab River valley, desert elephants
7	SOUTHERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK	Andersson's Camp or Safarihoek Lodge	BLD	Jeep safari and game viewing, Himba people
8	EASTERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK	Onguma Tree Top Camp	BLD	Jeep safari and game viewing
9	ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK/ ONGUMA	Onguma Tree Top Camp	BLD	Morning and evening safaris in Onguma Game Reserve
10	ONGUMA TO WINDHOEK		BLD	Okonjima Day Visitor Center, return to Windhoek for departure; optional extension at Okonjima

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: WINDHOEK TO SOSSUSVLEI DUNES

This morning you will 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 for a picnic lunch. Explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert like Sesriem Canyon. Having evolved through centuries of erosion by the Tsauchab River, this canyon exposes the varying layers of sedimentation deposited over the millennia. The cool shaded depths of the canyon allow pools of water to gather during the rainy season which remain for much of the year. These pools were a vital source of water for early settlers who drew water for their livestock by knotting six (ses) lengths of rawhide thongs (riems) together, hence the canyon and surrounding area became known as Sesriem. Overnight at **Sossus Dune Lodge**. [LD] *Drive time: Arrival at Windhoek International Airport – transfer to Windhoek – 45 mins*



DAY 2: SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT

Set off before sunrise to the Namib Naukluft National Park to capture the dunes while the light is soft and shadows accentuate the towering shapes and curves. The most frequently visited section of the park has become known as Sossusvlei, famous for its towering apricot-colored sand dunes in the Tsauchab River valley. The stark white clay pan contrasts against the orange sands and forms the endpoint of the ephemeral Tsauchab River. Sand-locked pans to the west show where the river previously flowed before dunes shifted its endpoint 60,000 years ago to where it currently gathers at Sossusvlei. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world, and you will learn about the formation of Namib Desert and its many

fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs. Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and the surrounding dune fields enjoy a relaxed picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree. Overnight at **Sossus Dune Lodge**. [BLD] *Drive time: Driving from Windhoek to Sossus Dune lodge, including the afternoon visit to Sesriem canyon – 140 KM / 85 miles, 5 -6 hours*

DAY 3: SOSSUSVLEI TO SWAKOPMUND

Today venture northwest through awesome and ever-changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. Your drive gives way to waves at Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air. Swakopmund is a small, German-influenced coastal resort nestled between the desert and the sea. It boasts a charming combination of Bavarian colonial architecture blended with modern hotels, shops, restaurants, museums, craft centers, galleries, and cafés. Explore the town, wandering along the waterfront on foot, before dinner at a popular local restaurant which specializes in fresh seafood. Overnight at **The Delight or similar**. [BLD]



Note: Optional activities today include a sunrise balloon flight over the Namib Naukluft National Park, and a scenic light aircraft flight over Sossusvlei along the Diamond Coast. These excursions must be booked in advance; please inquire for pricing.



DAY 4: SWAKOPMUND

After a scenic drive to Pelican Point lighthouse head out on the water for a kayak safari. 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. You also have the choice to explore by motor boat, if you prefer. Return to Swakopmund for an afternoon at leisure at your guesthouse or out in town.

Note: Activities such as camel rides, scenic flights, quad-biking in the coastal dunes, tandem or solo sky diving and more can all be booked at an extra cost; please inquire for

pricing. Overnight at **The Delight or similar**. [BLD] *Drive time: Driving from Sossus Dune Lodge – Swakopmund, - 100KM / 60 miles, 6-7 hours*

DAY 5: SWAKOPMUND TO DAMARALAND

Your safari today takes you north and east into the wonderful and diverse region of Damaraland. You'll pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg which peaks at 2,573 m above sea level, and view game amid the vastness of the dramatic scenery along the way. This region is typified by displays of color, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations, and bizarre-looking vegetation. The 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. The variety and loneliness of the area as well as the scenic splendour is astounding.



The afternoon brings you to the geological sites of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Burnt Mountain (a unique hill that seems to catch fire at sunset) and the Organ Pipes (a geological marvel). Return to camp and sleep under a blanket of stars, made clearer by one of the darkest skies in the world. Overnight at **Camp Kipwe**. [BLD]



DAY 6: DAMARALAND

Enjoy an exciting 4x4 excursion along the Huab River valleys, searching for game like the elusive desert-adapted elephants. These remarkable creatures can walk as far as 68km between watering holes, further than any other elephant in the world. Damaraland is home to a wide variety of other desert-adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. A picnic lunch is possible in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed while watching a herd of elephant browse nearby. Overnight at **Camp Kipwe**. [BLD] *Drive time: Driving from Swakopmund – Camp Kipwe – 5- 6 hours, 285 KM / 175 miles*



DAY 7: DAMARALAND TO SOUTHERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Embark on a safari to Etosha National Park via the scenic Grootberg Pass. Along the way your guide will take you to visit a semi-nomadic Himba settlement. They are one of the last truly traditional peoples of Namibia and have not adopted conventional practices. You will learn about some of the customs and traditions of these very proud people, and will be given insight into their beliefs, way of life, and everyday routine. After visiting the Himba you'll head towards tonight's destination, just south of the Etosha National Park's Andersson Gate. You'll enjoy the game viewing under the stars at the camp's own waterhole.

Overnight at **Andersson's Camp or Safarihoek Lodge. [BLD]**

DAY 8: SOUTHERN TO EASTERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today is dedicated to a full day of exciting game viewing within the crown jewel of Namibia, Etosha National Park. Visit exceptional waterholes such as Goas and Namutoni Camp in the east. Etosha National Park's vast expanse contains many saline depressions or 'pans'. The largest, the Etosha Pan, can be classified as a saline desert. It fills with water only when sufficient rain falls to the north in Angola, inducing floods to flow southward along the Cuvelai drainage system. Stories at dinner tonight will be replete with tales of close encounters with wildlife. Overnight at **Onguma Tree Top Camp. [BLD]** *Drive time: Driving from Camp Kipwe – Safarihoek Lodge, including Himba visit - 10 hours, 400 KM / 250 miles.*



DAY 9: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK / ONGUMA GAME RESERVE

Your guide will lead the way on another memorable game drive within the eastern section of Etosha National Park. Lunch at camp and take a rest, before spending your final afternoon on a game drive on the private Onguma Game Reserve. Day's end brings a spectacular sunset overlooking Fischer's Pan. You'll return to camp after sunset with enough time to freshen up and enjoy your final 'safari dinner' overlooking the wildlife visiting the camp's waterhole. Overnight at **Onguma Tree Top Camp. [BLD]** *Drive time: Driving from Safarihoek – Onguma Tree Tops, driving through the park – approx. 9 hours, 186 KM / 115 miles*

DAY 10: ONGUMA GAME RESERVE TO WINDHOEK

You'll leave the bush behind as you head out from Onguma Tree Top 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. On an informative game drive and tour of the center you will learn about the function and vision of the AfriCat Foundation and will also get to meet some of the Foundation's special carnivore ambassadors. After the excursion, arrive back in Windhoek in the late afternoon, just as the sun is setting. Say farewell to your Namibian safari adventure!



Upon your arrival in Windhoek transfer to your accommodation establishment of choice, or to the Windhoek International Airport (transfer to be booked additionally). Departure flights must be no earlier than 9:00pm to allow sufficient time for the AfriCat Foundation visit and the journey back to Windhoek. **[B,L]** *Drive time: Driving from Onguma Tree Tops – Windhoek, via the AfriCat visit – 9 hours, 520 KM / 320 miles*

Note: You have the option to extend your safari for an additional night or two at Okonjima, and their luxury bush camp, or to spend an extra night in Windhoek. Please inquire for pricing.

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- Transportation in a luxury air-conditioned safari vehicle
- All meals as indicated [B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner]
- Services of a registered and experienced naturalist English-speaking safari guide
- Entrance fees and excursions as described in the above itinerary
- Mineral water on board the safari vehicle

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International airfare
- Return airport transfers from Windhoek International Airport – Windhoek – Windhoek International Airport
- Pre-and post-safari accommodations, if desired, in Windhoek
- Any entrance fees and excursions not included in the above itinerary
- Any beverages, with the exception of mineral water on the safari vehicle
- Laundry services
- Tips and gratuities
- Airport departure taxes
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

NOTES:

- If arriving into Windhoek on Day 1, please arrive no later than 8:00am for morning departure to Sossusvlie
- On the final day of the itinerary please arrange your departing flight for no earlier than 9:00pm or we can arrange hotel accommodations for you in Windhoek that evening.
- All guests must obtain comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of their trip.
- Children over the age of 12 are welcome on all scheduled departures. If traveling with children under 12, a private safari vehicle will need to be arranged at additional cost.

HANDY TIPS:

- **Visas/Passports:** Please ensure: 1) that your passport is valid for at least six months after your scheduled departure date from Namibia; 2) that you have a minimum of two consecutive clear pages. If this is not the case, there is a danger of being turned away by the Immigration Service on arrival at the airport.
- **Health:** No vaccinations are mandatory but please consult your doctor for medical advice. Parts of Namibia are considered to be malarial, so we recommend the use of anti-malarial prophylactics (normally Malarone), especially if visiting during the Namibian summer (December to April) – subject to advice from your own doctor.
- **Luggage:** Is normally 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 may apply to you). If required, any extra luggage can be stored at our base when visitors are away on safari.
- **Vehicles:** Vehicles used are normally specialized 4x4 safari vehicle, equipped with air-conditioning and fridges for drinks and snacks. A trailer for luggage is taken if required.
- **Interested in helping protect rhinos?** The Conservation Travel Foundation/Save the Rhino Trust helps protect desert adapted black rhinos from poaching through its Community Rhino Ranger program. You can contribute to help outfit these rangers and possibly bring the equipment to Save the Rhino Trust directly. Ask your program director for details.



Accommodations



SOSSUS DUNE LODGE, SUSSOSVLEI

Sossus Dune Lodge is built in an environmentally sensitive manner in an attractive ‘afro-village’ style. Situated within the Namib Naukluft Park, close to the Sesriem Canyon, and providing sweeping vistas of the dunes to the west, guests benefit from being able to reach Sossusvlei before sunrise, or to stay until after sunset. Accommodation units are interlinked by elevated walkways and consist of 23 well-spaced en suite desert chalets. All units offer magnificent open vistas of the surrounding landscapes.



THE DELIGHT, SWAKOPMUND

The Delight Swakopmund is a fresh breeze in the desert. Colorful interiors and lush gardens set this hotel apart from your other safari accommodations. Dine at their restaurant that features a mix of worldly cuisines or have a drink at their funky bar. All rooms include wifi and en-suite bathrooms. The hotel is a short walk to in-town activities, shops, and restaurants.



CAMP KIPWE, DAMARALAND

Camp Kipwe lies in the heart of Damaraland, ideally located 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 simply but tastefully furnished with en-suite open-air bathroom. In the center 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.



Photo by Dana Allen

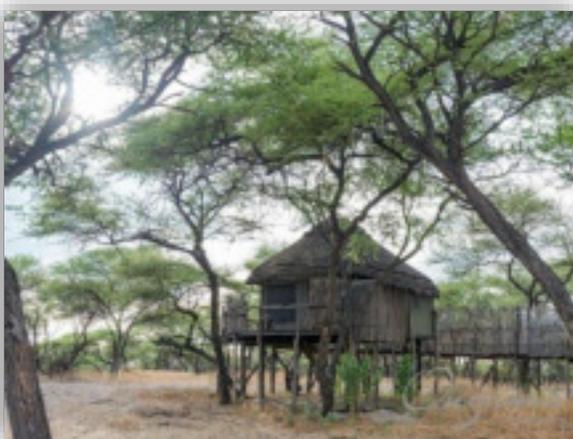
ANDERSSON'S CAMP, ONGAVA GAME RESERVE

Located just 4.5 km from Etosha National Park's Andersson Gate, Andersson's Camp is set against a backdrop of the mountains within the private Ongava Game Reserve. The Reserve is typified by white calcrete soils, rocky outcrops and scrub-covered plains which support a rich variety of game such as giraffe, lion, rhino, and various antelope species. The Camp overlooks a watering hole where guests can enjoy the interaction of wildlife coming and going day and night. This former farmstead has been tastefully rebuilt to modern standards with the design and construction guided primarily by the principles of sustainability. The open-air en-suite bathrooms continue the unique design.



SAFARIHOEK LODGE, SOUTHERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Safarihoek is located on Etosha Heights and is part of a privately-owned game reserve which shares borders with Etosha National Park. It consists of 9 farms that were combined to create a stunning wildlife reserve. With an array of animals which include various species of antelope, predators, birds as well as others, Etosha Heights supports local conservation efforts.



ONGUMA TREE TOP CAMP, ONGUMA

Onguma Tree Top Camp is a unique and beautiful camp, situated on the private Onguma Game Reserve, bordering on the eastern side of Etosha National Park. A small and intimate camp specially designed for travelers who would truly like to experience the bush in all its raw splendor. 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. Guests can

relax in the comfortable lounge or in front of the fire place. The kitchen is open so guests can watch while the chef conjures up wonderful dishes on an open fire. All rooms have an en-suite bathroom as well as a wonderful private outside shower.