



9 Day Namibian Wildlife, Dunes and Canyons



HIGHLIGHTS

Etosha National Park
Skeleton Coast
Swakopmund
Sossusvlei
Kolmanskop
Diaz Point
Fish River Canyon
Quiver Tree Forest & Giants Playground

ITINERARY

9 Days Namibia

Information is subject to change. Travel times and accommodation can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

DAY 1 WINDHOEK – HALALI, ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Collection time: Approx. 07h15 from any accommodation within the City of Windhoek.

After the departure from Windhoek, we stop briefly at Otjiwarongo to collect some last minute supplies before continuing on to Etosha with a light lunch pack whilst "on the move". We enjoy an afternoon game drive in the park visiting waterholes looking for predators as well as zebra, giraffe, elephant, rhino and many different species of antelope arriving at our lodge just before sunset to settle into our rooms, with en-suite bathroom and tea/coffee facilities.



A visit to the floodlit waterhole is highly recommended while dinner is prepared by our guide over an open fire.

Accommodation: Twin share room – ensuite bathroom
Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2 ETOSHA VILLAGE

We start our first game drive at sunrise to catch the predators while they are still active, visiting many waterholes. Our second game drive mid-morning takes us to the impressive Etosha Pan “great white place” where we can get out of the vehicle and experience this 4500 sq km “saline desert” before continuing our game drive to look for the Big 4. After lunch we begin our final game drive across the park towards Okaukuejo calling into some well-known waterholes and leave the park prior to sunset. Our lodge tonight offers comfortable rooms with a modern atmosphere, located just outside the park gate.

Accommodation: Twin share room – ensuite bathroom
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 3 SWAKOPMUND

Enjoy an early morning breakfast and departure from our lodge is at 07h30. The route today takes us into the dramatic and beautiful scenery of Damaraland. We have the chance to meet the wonderful Himba & Damara ladies who sell their handmade arts and crafts to support their rural families. A light roadside lunch is served en-route in the shadow of Namibia's tallest mountain, the Brandberg, and we can interact with some of the colourful local characters who live in this harsh environment. On the drive down the Skeleton Coast we explore the remains of a small shipwreck and learn about the fascinating lichens before arriving in Swakopmund mid-afternoon. Our accommodation is located 200 metres from the beach and a short walk to our restaurant of choice for our evening meal (own expense).

Accommodation: Twin share room – ensuite bathroom
Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 4 SIESRIEM

Today we leave Swakopmund at 11h30 so we have the time to enjoy an optional activity. For the adrenaline junkies this could be flying down a sand dune head first at 60km/h on a sandboard, exploring the dune field on a quad biking tour or discover the “old city” of Swakopmund on a fat bike (e-bike option available). Whatever we choose, we depart Swakopmund no later than 11h30 and drive through the Namib Desert via the Kuiseb Pass, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn, stopping briefly in Solitaire and arriving at our camp late afternoon. We set up our tents, and enjoy the sunset over the Namib Desert while listening to the barking geckos. There is a pool and bar available, dinner is prepared by our guide. An early night is recommended.

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 SESRIEM

A pre-dawn departure from camp this morning means we can enjoy the dunes at first light. We drive down an ancient river bed, surrounded by towering dunes and our first stop is at the famous Dune 45 where we have the chance to climb to the top to enjoy the sunrise. On descent we replenish our energy and enjoy breakfast before continuing on into the Sossusvlei area. We explore this unique area on foot, heading into Dead Vlei with its large expanse of bleached cracked clay and skeletal camel thorn trees, contrasting with a backdrop of huge dunes with their ever-changing colours.



We have the opportunity to climb the dune at Sossusvlei before we return to Sesriem for lunch and a swim or siesta during the heat of the day. Mid-afternoon we visit the Sesriem Canyon before your guide drops you at Elim's Dune for a short and educational sunset walk back to camp through the desert. Dinner tonight is prepared by our guide.

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 NAMIB DESERT

We pack up camp and enjoy breakfast before heading south through some of the most spectacular desert landscapes in Southern Namibia. Our destination today is the small outpost of Klein Aus, nestled in the Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park. We arrive early in the afternoon and set up camp. For the active there is a short optional unguided hiking trail. Permits and a map are available at reception. We enjoy a beautiful sunset and dinner prepared by our guide over an open-fire.

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 KOLMANSKOP

After an early breakfast we make our way from Klein Aus to the ghost town, of Kolmanskop, situated 15km outside of Luderitz. During a diamond boom in 1910 Kolmanskop quickly became one of the richest towns in Africa boasting the southern hemisphere's first X-ray machine, a bowling alley and luxury housing. As the diamond boom came to an end and the town's inhabitants abandoned the area Kolmanskop became a ghost town. After our tour we continue our adventure to the small town of Luderitz, situated on the rocky shores of the Atlantic Ocean and well known for its unique and colourful colonial-style buildings. We stop at Diaz Point, the famous site of the Original Diaz Cross and enjoy a picnic lunch. On return to Aus, we keep our eyes peeled for the wild horses of the Namib Desert that roam between Luderitz and Klein Aus. While the details of how these horses came to live in the desert are still a mystery, the mere fact that they have survived in the harshest of conditions is impressive, and any sighting of them is one to celebrate. We arrive back at camp late afternoon and can relax before enjoying another incredible sunset over the Aus Mountains. Dinner tonight is prepared by our guide.

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 FISH RIVER CANYON - QUIVER TREE FOREST

We enjoy another early start this morning as we pack up camp and head east. Our first official stop is at the well-known Hell's Bend viewpoint of the Fish River Canyon. Here we have the opportunity to overlook the second largest canyon in the world. The Fish River Canyon was formed millions of years ago by water erosion and the collapse of the valley due to movements in the earth's crust. After lunch we continue our adventure heading to our last destination; The Quiver Tree Forest. It is located just north-east of Keetmanshoop and here approximately 250 quiver trees can be found. The forest grew spontaneously and the oldest trees are estimated to be around 200-300 years old. The Quiver tree (Kokerboom in Afrikaans) is also Namibia's national tree, and the forest was declared a national monument in 1995. The last night on our adventure is spent camping under the stars with meals prepared by our guide. This is an excellent location for photographing the stars should you be an avid photographer (permits are available for night photography of the quiver trees at additional cost).

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



DAY 9 WINDHOEK

After a tasty cooked breakfast, we start the day with a chance to really explore the Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground, a geological phenomenon of dolerite rocks that appear to have been stacked by giants. From here we begin our journey back to Windhoek passing Brukkaros Mountain, an extinct volcano which is 650m above the surrounding area. We pass through the small towns of Mariental and Rehoboth before arriving at the backpackers in Windhoek late afternoon. There is a shuttle option for those staying elsewhere within the city limits. No flights recommended on this day.

Accommodation: Twin share tents – shared ablutions
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

TOUR INFORMATION

PARTICIPANTS

Maximum group size is 12 people, with a minimum of 1 participant.

TOUR STYLE

The style of safari is semi-participation, on camping days you will be asked to assist in pitching and striking down your own tent. There will be a camp assistant to complete all the other campsite chores. Your tour guide will do all the shopping, cooking and day-to-day organization of the safari. As these safaris are run on a semi-participation basis, we do just ask that you wash your own plate, cutlery and mugs/cups after meals. If you wish to assist the guide with meal preparation then it is entirely up to you. Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English.

ACCOMMODATION

5 nights camping + 3 nights' accommodation in twin share rooms with en-suite bathrooms

This safari is undertaken on a twin share basis. Should you be travelling alone and are willing to share with another traveller of the same gender (that is also willing to share) then you will not be required to pay single supplement (accommodated safaris). However, if you do not want to share a room, then the single supplement will apply. Sleeping bags are NOT required on Accommodated Safaris.



INCLUDED

Transport in a custom-built safari vehicle with pop up roof (no air-conditioning)

Services of a professional English speaking guide & camp assistant

5 nights camping + 3 nights' accommodation in twin share rooms with en-suite bathrooms

Camping equipment (excluding sleeping bag which can be hired)

Meals as above (B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner)

Tap water



National Park entry fees

Pick up and drop off within Windhoek city limits

*Activities including:

- Game drives in Etosha National Park
- Guided excursion to Sossusvlei including 4x4 shuttle
- Guided tour at Kolmanskop
- Visit to Diaz Point
- Visit to Fish River Canyon viewpoint
- Visit to Quiver Tree Forest & Giants Playground

EXCLUDED

Sleeping bag – can be rented

Pillow

Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks & bottled water

Personal travel insurance - compulsory

USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING WITH YOU

Camera, spare camera battery, charger for items such as cell phone (handy), Ipod and camera batteries, binoculars, torch, toiletries & personal medication e.g. asthmatics and diabetics. As part of modern day travelling most people carry their own personal music, this is important as we do not supply radios in our vehicles for music as one person's personal taste could be grating for the next participant.

LUGGAGE AND SLEEPING BAG

On scheduled safari departures the luggage limits are 15kg per person and we recommend you carry soft bags to minimize luggage damage. One small day pack for hand luggage and a reasonable amount of camera equipment may be carried in the vehicle with you.

MEALS

To give you an idea of what to expect

Breakfast: 3 varieties of cereal, yoghurt or bananas, toast with a choice of 3 toppings, tea/coffee

Lunch: Cold meats and fresh salads with bread rolls or soup and bread in winter

Dinner: A different dish each night – curries, pasta, braai (BBQ), stir-fries etc.

Emphasis is placed on variety and the use of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables where available but please remember that the variety of food may not be as extensive as you have at home so flexibility by yourself is required. Full dietary requirements must be noted on your Booking Form to enable us to cater for you.

DRINKS

You must purchase all drinks during your safari including mineral water. The water in Namibia is generally safe to drink everywhere, so a 1-2 litre water bottle should be brought by you on safari, it can be refilled on board by your guide who carries up to 10 litres of safe tap water on the vehicle. Your guide will advise where water is not safe to drink or unpleasant tasting. For those with sensitive stomachs or those that prefer to drink bottled water then we recommend that you purchase bottled water in a 5litre container which you can decant into your personal drink bottle. This helps us reduce our impact on the environment. On most days you will be able to purchase your drinks for that day or the following day, please follow the advice from your guide. Only tea/coffee is provided during breakfast and after evening meals.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

Namibia averages 300 days of sunshine each year.

Winter: May to September. Daytime 25°C, Night-time 0°C or below. Whilst the days are shorter and cooler the air is very dry.

Summer: October to April Daytime 35°C+, Night time 15°C. The rainy season is during the summer so you can expect some storms at any time of the day or night during this period. Days are a little longer and can be incredibly hot so protection from the sun is essential.



MONEY

We recommend carrying smaller denominations of some cash. Foreign currency like US\$, Pounds Sterling, Euro or AUD\$ as all are widely accepted at Bureau de Change's in Windhoek & Swakopmund. Visa and Mastercard are also readily accepted in most banks, shops and restaurants in Namibia. Another measure to prevent the spread of germs and infections such as Covid-19, all across the world establishments are now introducing contactless payments on speedpoint machines. To safeguard yourself, make sure with your bank that your card has the functionality to complete a contactless payment. Cash is readily available at ATM machines using credit/debit card and pin number and is the easiest way to obtain money while on your safari as only major towns have Foreign Exchange Depts. There is FX dept upon arrival at International Airport for those arriving by air. Like most countries, Southern Africa is also affected by credit card fraud and we strongly advise that you keep your card within your sight at all times and do not divulge your PIN number to anyone. Also advise your bank of the countries that you will be travelling in so they do not block your card whilst you are on holidays.

NAMIBIA GENERAL

Namibia is a low risk malarial destination, but we recommend seeking professional medical advice, enabling you to make informed decisions on personal malaria protection.

Electrical plugs are 220 V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin the same as South Africa). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek. It is possible to re-charge batteries at some campsites.

The Namibian Dollar (N\$) has a fixed 1-1 exchange rate to the South African Rand (ZAR). ZAR notes and coins are legal tender in Namibia.

Airport transfers and pre-and-post safari accommodation can be arranged on request.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We love to see how much fun you are having whilst on tour with us. However, we are also well aware that criminals can use locations shared on social media images to aid their rhino poaching efforts. We do ask that you disable your GPS/location settings on your phones or cameras and refrain from posting about specific locations when it comes to your amazing rhino sightings. We also include a picture album via FotaFlo. These pictures will be taken by the guide whilst on tour, and after the tour your amazing pictures will be sent to you personally which you can in return share with your friends and family, or simply as a keepsake.

INSURANCE

It is mandatory that you purchase comprehensive personal travel insurance before you embark on your safari. Travel insurance is for your own protection and we consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details:

General Enquiries & Reservations: [info@detourafrica.co.za/](mailto:info@detourafrica.co.za)

Website: www.detourafrica.co.za/

Phone: + 27 21 424 1115

WhatsApp: + 27 64 722 3617

Telegram: @DetourAfrica

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We are member of SATSA (#1802) so you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected.

