

NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS
NAMIBIA

TOUR CODE: NSC012

8 DAY – DELTA & VICTORIA FALLS SAFARI

SAFARI TYPE: Scheduled Tour – Camping – Guided Safari
DURATION: 8 Days / 7 Nights
DEPARTURE DAYS: Fridays (see departure dates below)
DEPARTURE LOCATION: Windhoek – Namibia
TOUR ENDS: Livingstone – Zambia
COUNTRIES VISITED: Namibia – Botswana - Zambia

Please note that this trip finishes in Vic Falls but you can return to Windhoek with your guide.

ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:

Windhoek – Ghanzi, Kalahari - Okavango Delta - Caprivi Strip – Kasane - Livingstone

This trip gives you the opportunity to visit the pristine waterways of the Okavango Delta, experience some culture in the Caprivi Strip and the unforgettable afternoon boat cruise through the Chobe National Park - all this before arriving in Livingstone and seeing one of the world's natural wonders, Victoria Falls.

There are no minimum numbers and no single supplements. The price is virtually fully inclusive and the style is limited participation, assisted camping.

Suggested Safari Combination Options:

This itinerary can be linked to the (NSC015) 10 day Namibian Explorer Safari, (NSC007) 7 day Northern Adventure Safari or (NSC008) 7 day Southern Swing Safari. Additionally you can combine with (NSC002) 3 day itineraries Etosha or (NSC003) 3 day Sossusvlei Link in order to carry you to some or all of the very best highlights that Namibia has to offer.

ITINERARY:

Day 1

Windhoek – Ghanzi, Kalahari, Botswana

We will collect you from your accommodation in Windhoek on the morning of departure. Pick up time will be between 07:30 & 08:00.

A long drive today, making use of the Trans Kalahari Highway, a relatively new road that provides an invaluable communication link between Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. The road takes us first to the small town of Gobabis, one of the main livestock farming centres of Namibia, and then on to the border with Botswana.

After completing the immigration formalities we continue, through rural Botswana to the town of Ghanzi, located in the centre of cattle farming Botswana. Ghanzi is located almost in the middle of the Kalahari Desert and was almost unknown before the Trans Kalahari Highway.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 2

Ghanzi – Okavango Delta

An early start and a quick stop in Ghanzi to collect any last minute supplies before continuing west, traversing the linear dunes of the Kalahari and passing through small towns along the way.

A change in vegetation heralds our arrival on the very western edge of one of the natural wonders of the world, the Okavango Delta. Here we turn north for some way before again pointing our wheels west as we enter the Delta proper. We see our first glimpse of the crystal waters through the lush vegetation and we make our camp on the banks of a pristine African lagoon.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

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Day 3

Okavango Delta

We are in the territory of the River People, so this morning we leave our vehicle behind and travel in a more appropriate fashion, first by motor-boat and then by traditional mokoro (dugout canoe), deep into the Delta.

Mokoro's will be our main form of transport for the next two days. These amazing traditional craft are perfectly designed for the narrow waterways of the Okavango and allow us to travel further into the Delta than if we were using more modern forms of transport. Mokoro's carry three people, two seated passengers and one driver. The driver stands in the rear of the canoe, (a real feat of balance), and uses a long wooden pole to propel and steer the mokoro through the twisting channels. It really is the only way to travel.

Back to camp in the late afternoon for another night by the Okavango waters.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 4

Okavango Delta – Caprivi, Namibia

Back on the road today, destination Namibia. Passport formalities completed we go directly into the Mahango Game Reserve, a small but excellent park right on the edge of the Okavango River. We game drive our way through Mahango and have the chance to spot rarely seen Namibian species such as roan the majestic sable antelope.

Our camp for tonight is just outside the Game Reserve, and we are again beside the Okavango, but this time the main river, on its journey from the Angolan highlands, through the pan handle to waters end, the delta.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 5

Caprivi, Namibia

The Caprivi Strip is a long narrow stretch of territory running along the Botswana's northern border. It is a landscape of broadleaf forest with many small communities dotted along our route. The locals in this area are the Kavango people and we make a cultural visit to a local community. The people here have taken the initiative to establish a traditional "kraal" which will be opened for us and we will give a guided tour.

We have the chance to gain a significant insight into the local customs and culture, including demonstrations of traditional medicine and superstition.

From here it is only a short drive to our camp for the night, also operated as a community project, and located on the banks of the Kwando River in a beautiful setting. There is a craft market nearby where you can shop for truly Namibian souvenirs.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 6

Caprivi Strip – Kasane, Botswana

We finish our long transit of the Caprivi region this morning when we arrive in Namibia's easternmost town, Katima Mulilo. A short break here before crossing back across the border into Botswana. The road takes us directly into the world famous Chobe National Park. Chobe has the world's largest population of African Elephants and the chances of seeing some big game are very good as we transit through the park to the small town of Kasane. We make camp in the grounds of a local lodge, right on the banks for the Chobe River.

Time to relax in the afternoon before joining a river boat cruise, back into the park. From the boat we will have the chance to see a huge amount of wild game, both on the river banks and in the waters swirling around us.

Crocodiles and hippos abound in the forbidding Chobe River and on the land side there is often a kaleidoscope of different antelope and species such as elephant, buffalo and even the Big Cats come to the river banks for their sundowners drink. The Chobe River provides a very broad habitat for bird life and it is possible to see many beautiful species of our feathered friends.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

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Day 7

Kasane – Livingstone, Zambia

Another border crossing today, we drive out of Kasane to Kazangula ferry depot and complete our Botswana exit formalities. We cross the Chobe on the local ferry boat, enter Zambia and from here it is a short drive to the town of Livingstone. Named after the famous British missionary and explorer Dr. David Livingstone, the town is a bustling African centre. We make our camp on the banks of the Zambezi River and have time to explore the town and to visit the mighty Victoria Falls.

The views of the waterfall from the Zambian bank are fantastic; there are many small paths and lookout points to explore.

This afternoon your guide will help you organise the many optional activities available in Livingstone. These include white water rafting, Bungi jumping, other excursions on the river and scenic flights to mention but a few.

Dinner tonight will be in a local restaurant at the client's own expense.

NB: All extra activities are subject to availability and are done at the clients own risk and expense.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 8

Livingstone

After breakfast the safari is finished. Your guide will be able to offer advice on other travel plans you have in this region. We pack up our campsite.

For clients transferring back to Windhoek tomorrow this is a free day for you to explore the area or to take part in optional activities. Lunch and dinner are not included in the price of the trip. Your guide will arrange a time to collect you for the return journey in the morning.

OPTIONAL RETURN TO WINDHOEK

Day 9

Livingstone – Rundu, Namibia

An early start and a long drive. We are in transit only and will not be stopping to take in the sights along the way. We will traverse the Caprivi Strip and will spend the night near the small town of Rundu in northern Namibia.

We camp in the grounds of a lodge on the banks for the Okavango River, looking into Angola on the far river bank.

Dinner tonight will be in the restaurant at the lodge and is included in the price.

Accommodation: Overnight camping

Day 10

Rundu – Windhoek

Another early start and another long drive. We head south through Kavango Province, down through the towns of Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo and Okahandja before reaching our final destination, Windhoek.

There will be stops at some of the local woodcarving stalls as well as the market at Okahandja before arriving in the city. You will be dropped off at your accommodation.

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2008/9 DEPARTURE DATES:

2008											2009		
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
08	14	04	02	06	04	01	05	03	07	05	09	06	06
22	28	18	16	20	11	08	12	10	21	19	23	20	20
					18	15	19	17					
					25	22	26	24					
						29							

TOUR NOTES:

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals
1	Ghanzi, Botswana	Camping	L, D
2	Okavango Delta, Botswana	Camping	B, L, D
3	Okavango Delta, Botswana	Camping	B, L, D
4	Mahango Reserve, Namibia	Camping	B, L, D
5	Caprivi, Namibia	Camping	B, L, D
6	Kasane, Botswana	Camping	B, L, D
7	Livingstone, Zambia	Camping	B, L
8	Depart or Livingstone, Zambia	Camping	B
9	Rundu, Namibia	Camping	B, L, D
10	Windhoek, Namibia	Camping	B, L

Maximum group size is 16 people, with no minimum number. Transport for up to 8 people will be in a minibus and for 9 people and more in a Toyota bus / truck.

The style of safari is limited participation, you will be asked to assist put up and take down your own tent, and however 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. Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English.

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NAMIBIA

Includes:

1. All transport
2. Three meals a day (unless differently specified)
3. Tap drinking water
4. Tea & coffee in camp
5. All camping equipment
6. Park entrance fees
7. Camping fees
8. Professional guide
9. Camp Assistant
10. Pick up & drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

Excludes:

1. Sleeping bag (can be hired)
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Soft drinks
4. Personal travel insurance

Useful items to bring with you:

1. Two litre water bottle
2. Torch
3. Towel
4. Sun hat

The tents are dome type, which are easy to assemble and your mattresses are approximately 5 cm thick with your own mattress cover, and everyone has a camp chair with a backrest.

Clients are limited to one soft, barrel type bag per person with maximum weight of 15kg, one medium sized hand luggage bag, one medium sized camera bag and a sleeping bag.

We suggest a sleeping bag range of "3 – 4 season". Sleeping bags can be hired by prior arrangement for the trip. When packing your clothing please be aware that Namibian summer temperatures (December - March) can reach 45°C, and winter temperatures (June - September) can be as low as -5°C. The rainy season is between December and April.

All evening meals on camping safaris, (unless stipulated), are cooked on an open fire by your guide. Salads and fresh vegetables will be served where possible, but please note in some areas this is not necessarily every day. Fresh fruit will also be supplied when possible. Vegetarians can be catered for but please notify us prior to safari departure.

Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection.

All tap water in Namibia has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. We supply tap drinking water but bottled mineral water is easily available at shops and rest camps should you prefer to drink this.

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

It is customary to tip in Namibia, usually, around 10% at restaurants. Your guide and assistant can be tipped at your own discretion but we ask that the guide be tipped separately from your assistant.

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GENERAL NOTES:

PASSPORTS must be carried with you at all times whilst on safari and in the vehicle. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your safari finishes/you leaving the country. You may not be allowed into Namibia if your passport does not have the required 6 months; we cannot accept any responsibility or refund on a safari in this scenario.

CURRENCY – The Namibian Dollar (N\$) is tied permanently 1-1 to the South African Rand (SAR). SAR notes and coins are legal tender in Namibia. Credit cards are widely accepted at ATM's. Traveller's cheques can be changed only in major towns but it is advisable to carry a limited amount of cash with you.

PERSONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE is not included but is compulsory when travelling on any safari. Travel insurance is for your own protection and we consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel. Please consult your travel agent prior to leaving home or contact us.

VISA REQUIREMENTS – Visas are your own responsibility; persons arriving without the relevant visa for their safari will not be refunded in this scenario.