

NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS NAMIBIA

TOUR CODE: NC0702

7 DAY – SOUTHERN SWING SAFARI

SAFARI TYPE: Scheduled Tour – Camping – Guided Safari
DUARTION: 7 Days / 6 Nights
DEPARTURE DAYS: Fridays (weekly)
DEPARTURE LOCATION: Windhoek – Namibia
TOUR ENDS: Windhoek – Namibia

ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:

Windhoek – Namib Naukluft Desert Park – Sossusvlei – Sesriem – Lüderitz – Fish River Canyon – Keetmanshoop – Quiver tree forest – Kalahari Desert - Windhoek

ITINERARY:

The South is nothing short of a magical experience. Here you will experience the true heart of Namibia and see unique landscapes that will colour the rest of your life.

The safari has a guaranteed departure every Friday of the year subject to passenger numbers. There is no single supplement, and the price is virtually fully inclusive of everything you will need whilst travelling with us. The style is limited participation, assisted camping. Collection time is between 07:30 and 08:00 from anywhere within the Windhoek city limits.

This safari can also be combined:

- With our 7 day Northern Adventure itinerary to make an unforgettable 14 Day Namibian Experience.
- To make a comprehensive 10 day adventure, combine this with our 3 day Etosha Link.
- Two of the world's natural wonders, the Okavango Delta and the mighty Victoria Falls can also be included by combining this trip with our 10 day Delta and Falls Safari.



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Day 1, Friday Windhoek – Sesriem area (350 km) (LD) (camping)

You will be collected at your Windhoek accommodation between 07:30 & 08:00. Travel out over the Eros Mountains and along scenic roads on our way south-west to the desert. You will also pass over part of the Naukluft Mountains, which are of particular interest for the ancient geological history of this part of the country. Heading down from Namibia's central plateau by way of the beautiful Remhoogte Pass, you will reach open plains and the tiny settlement of Solitaire. Stop here at the 'N/a'an ku se Namib Conservation Centre', a 500 hectare Conservation Centre which hosts an educational centre and wildlife tracking within the purpose built enclosures and receive information on the carnivore surveillance in the greater Namib area.

You will cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain gives way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib. Our aim is to arrive at the camp during the late afternoon and watch the colours glow and change on distant mountains to the east.

Day 2, Saturday Sesriem area – Sesriem area (camping) (BLD)

A pre-dawn start is essential this morning as you might want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert. After passing through Sesriem, the gateway to the dunes, you will head into the heart of the dune field, reaching Sossusvlei on foot, trekking the last 5 km through the dunes.

Landscape photo opportunities abound in the cool of the morning, with dawn's soft light first illuminating the dunes from crest down the back slope, then blazing orange everywhere, creating a powerful contrasting vista across the whole desert. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or ostrich makes it essential to remember your camera!

Spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting dune 45. As the day wears on you'll return to Sesriem for lunch, escaping the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon you will take a short excursion to the Sesriem Canyon.

Day 3, Sunday Sesriem area – Lüderitz (480km) (BL) (Guest house)

Turning south you will travel through the Namib Rand Nature Reserve down to Betta and on to the village of Helmeringhausen. Traversing this sparse, yet beautiful landscape, the terrain begins to change from the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib; you will cross some open grass savannah and farmlands. The scenery is harsh, but forever changing. The process of erosion in these areas is well advanced and you pass time rounded "koppies" arid terrain and outcrops of tortured rock.

From Aus continue on to the coastal town of Lüderitz where its colonial-style buildings cling to the rocks overlooking the bay, on some days a deep iridescent blue, on others grey and stormy, the crisp fresh climate, fishing boats bobbing up and down on the Atlantic horizon, penguins and seals diving beneath the waves, give the town a curious other-worldly allure. Aim to arrive at our guest house during the late afternoon. Dinner will be at clients own expense tonight.

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Day 4, Monday

Lüderitz – Kolmanskop – Fish River Canyon (420km) (BLD) (camping)

You'll arrive at Kolmanskop, a desert ghost town about 20 km out of Lüderitz. It was built in the 1920's during the diamond rush and was abandoned when bigger and better diamonds were found further along the coast. The area is still abandoned and the desert has encroached over the entire town, giving an eerie feeling and real meaning to the word "ghost".

Travel to Aus through the "forbidden Zone" so named because in years gone by, the alluvial diamonds found in Namibia were simply scattered across the desert. On route keep a sharp look out for the unique Namib wild horses. These horses are the only feral horses in Namibia and have, very unusually, become adapted to an existence with very limited water. Where they originated is unclear. Many believe they are the descendants of the horses used by the German cavalry during the First World War. Another theory is that they originally came from a stud farm that used to be run by a German Barron, (von Wolff), in the very early colonial days.

From Aus continue to the Fish River Canyon. Heading to the main view point where you can see how impressive this canyon actually is. This is an ideal opportunity for photos and to spend some time experiencing this amazing sight. Viewing from the top you can see the river sparkling in the sunlight far below us, and can barely imagine how many millennia it took for the forces of erosion to carve such a magnificent vista.

Day 5, Tuesday

Fish River Canyon – Mesosaurus Fossil Camp (220km) (BLD) (camping)

Leaving the Fish River Canyon behind us, travel to Keetmanshoop, founded in 1860 by the Rhenish Mission Society, the town retains vestiges of its original German buildings as well as several dating back to the arrival of the first Europeans, who trekked across the Orange River to trade, hunt and explore the land. The first of these expeditions was in 1791.

Visit the Mesosaurus Fossil Site and Quiver tree Dolerite Park situated a short distance out of town. The Fossil Site is probably one of the most convincing examples to prove the drifting of continents. The same genus in the same rock formations is to be found in both southern Africa and South America. The Quivertree on the other hand is a living fossil with some 5000 specimens packed into this area.

Quiver trees are not in fact trees; they are a type of aloe, (*Aloe Dichotoma*), so called because the branches fork "dictomously". These weird looking plants dot the landscape in this part of the world and are locally common; however they are one of the world's rarest flora species.

Day 6, Wednesday

Mesosaurus Fossil Camp – Kalahari Bagatelle Reserve (310km) (BLD) (camping)

Leaving the south, you will begin your journey north-east travelling through the thin strip of Kalahari Desert that protrudes onto the eastern side of Namibia. This area is very dry and is covered by hundreds of ancient longitudinal sand dunes, separated by flat grass covered plains, commonly referred to as roadways. Another characteristic is the striking red color of the dune sand.

Tonight you will camp at Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch. Bagatelle is in association with the Cheetah Conservation Fund are the custodians of cheetahs kept in an enclosure. The facility was built exceeding the requirements laid down by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and under the guidance of the Cheetah Conservation Fund. These captive cheetahs are not able

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to be released into the wild, and have to remain in captivity for the rest of their lives. Their aim is to ensure that this happens in a way that ensures the best quality of life for these speedsters of the African Savanna.

**Day 7, Thursday
Kalahari Bagatelle Reserve – Windhoek (500km) (BL) (Camping)**

Participate in an early morning 'Nature drive' which will enable you not only to view the diversified animal and bird life, but also the unique dune topography and vegetation. Return to Windhoek via Rehoboth, traditional home of the Baster people, aim is to arrive in Windhoek after lunch.

Our tour departures are guaranteed to run with the following minimum numbers:

01 April 2012 – 30 June 2012: 4 passengers
01 July 2012 – 31 October 2012: 2 passengers

Tour Summary

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals	Approximate km
Friday	Windhoek – Sesriem	Camping	Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Saturday	Sesriem – Namib Desert	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	140 km
Sunday	Namib Desert – Luderitz	Guest House	Breakfast & Lunch	480 km
Monday	Luderitz – Fish River Canyon	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	420 km
Tuesday	Fish River Canyon – Quiver Tree/Fossil site	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	220 km
Wednesday	Quiver Tree/Fossil site – Kalahari Desert	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	310 km
Thursday	Kalahari Desert - Windhoek	-	Breakfast & Lunch	500 km

Additional Information:

A maximum group size is 14 people, with a minimum of 2 / 4 participants as indicated. Transport takes for up to 5 people will be in a minibus and for 6 people and more in a specialised vehicle.

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

Includes:

- *All transport
- *Three meals a day (unless differently specified)
- *Tap drinking water
- *Tea and coffee in camp
- *All camping equipment
- *Park entrance fees
- *Camping fees
- *Professional guide

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- *Camp Assistant
- *Pick up and Drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

Excludes:

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- *Sleeping bag (can be hired)
- *Alcoholic beverages
- *Soft drinks
- *Personal travel insurance

Useful items to bring with you:

- * Two litre water bottle
- * Torch
- * Towel
- * Sun hat
- * Camera
- * Pillow

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 a cost of N\$: 70.00 per 7 day 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 you 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, the same as in South Africa). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek or at our offices. It is possible to re-charge batteries at some campsites.

The Namibian Dollar (N\$) is tied permanently 1-1 to the South African Rand (SAR). SAR, notes and coins are legal tender in Namibia.

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

It is customary to tip in Namibia, usually, around 10% at restaurants. Your guide and assistant can be tipped at your own discretion for good service only, 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.