

## NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS NAMIBIA

TOUR CODE: NC0803

### 8 DAY – NAMIBIA ON A SHOESTRING

**SAFARI TYPE:** Scheduled Tour – Camping – Guided Safari  
**DUARTION:** 8 Days / 7 Nights  
**DEPARTURE DAYS:** Saturdays (weekly)  
**DEPARTURE LOCATION:** Windhoek – Namibia  
**TOUR ENDS:** Windhoek – Namibia  
**NOTE:** Local Payment Applicable

#### **ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:**

Windhoek – Otjiwarongo – Onguma – Etosha National Park – Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund – Namib Naukluft Desert Park – Sossusvlei - Sesriem – Windhoek

The style of safari is full participation so we will ask for assistance with some washing up, packing of the vehicle and putting your own tent up and down. 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.



#### **NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS**

P.O. BOX 136 Windhoek, NAMIBIA

Tel: + 264 (0)61 222 964 Fax: + 264 (0)61 222 975

Email: [Info@NewAfricanFrontiers.com](mailto:Info@NewAfricanFrontiers.com) Website: [www.NewAfricanFrontiers.com](http://www.NewAfricanFrontiers.com)

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### **Day 01, Saturday**

#### **Windhoek – Onguma Game Reserve (530 km) (LD) (camping)**

You will be collected between 08:00 & 08:30.

We travel north, stopping at small towns along the way including Okahandja, where we have time to visit Namibia's largest wood carving market. The market is operated on a local co-operative basis and is one of the best places to shop for truly Namibian souvenirs.

We continue north to the town of Otjiwarongo which provides a convenient stop over on route to the north of the country. As, with most towns in central Namibia the name Otjiwarongo originates from the Herero language, which translated means "place of the fat cattle" or "beautiful place". Given the central role that cattle play in the Herero culture, both meanings are appropriate. The town was officially founded in 1906 upon the arrival of the narrow gauge railway linking the important mining centre of Tsumeb and the coastal town of Swakopmund.

The next stop will be at Tsumeb, from 1905 the town of Tsumeb was closely linked with the mining industry, but mining operations have since been scaled down considerably. The colourful jacarandas, flamboyant trees and bougainvillea that line Tsumeb streets have earned it the name of Namibia's garden town.

Our destination today is a private Game Reserve situated outside Etosha National Park, on the Namutoni side; we aim to arrive in mid afternoon, affording us time to set up camp.

Situated on the eastern side of Etosha, bordering Fischers Pan the Reserve has more than 20,000 hectares of protected land and wildlife. The Reserve boasts over thirty different animal species consisting of plain game including kudu, giraffe, eland, oryx, hartebeest, zebra, impala and many more roam freely as well as predators such as lion, cheetah and leopard being common residents of the area.

### **Day 02, Sunday**

#### **Onguma - Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park. (game drive) (BLD) (camping)**

A full day's game driving. We leave Onguma as soon as the National Park entrance gates open to enjoy the cool morning air as we game drive our way through Etosha to Halali camp, situated in the middle of the park. Along the way we visit several waterholes and are afforded splendid views of the massive Etosha Pan. The game viewing is usually excellent and we have the chance to tick off a few new species that are not normally seen on the Namutoni side of the park.

We stop at Halali for a rest and a leisurely lunch. There is time to visit the Halali waterhole and to make use of the swimming pool and bar facilities before continuing on our way and game driving down to Okaukuejo.

We overnight camping style at Okaukuejo Resort situated inside the National Park. In the evening, there is a floodlit waterhole for you to enjoy viewing more wildlife at your leisure.

### **Day 03, Monday**

#### **Etosha – Twyfelfontein. (350km) (BLD) (camping)**

Leaving the Etosha area we begin our journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Outjo.

Today we head into one of the most beautiful desert regions in Namibia, Damaraland. We drive south to the capital of this region, the small town of Khorixas, and then take a detour to the west to overnight on the banks of a dry riverbed near the ancient Bushman rock engravings at Twyfelfontein.

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Visit the organ pipes and burnt mountain. Optional extra: making use of a local guide guests can conduct a short guided tour to Twyfelfontein (meaning doubtful fountain) is a massive, open-air art gallery of great interest to international rock art connoisseurs. Regarded as one of the richest collections in Africa, this treasure house left by stone-age artists is the first site in Namibia to be given recognition by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

### **Day 04, Tuesday**

#### **Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast (410 km) (BL) (camping)**

From here we head deeper into the desert and pass Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m).

We make a stop in the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here, rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc can be found at bargain prices.

From here we turn directly west and cross the "gravel plains" on our way to the Atlantic Ocean and the Skeleton Coast. Our final destination is Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast into Namibia's premier seaside town.

The Swakopmund section of the trip is designed to allow people to relax either with the group, or on their own. Only breakfast is provided, this is to allow you to plan your time here with as much flexibility as possible and not to be tied to group meal times. It also gives you the chance to sample some of the excellent local cafes and restaurants. The seafood in Swakopmund is superb. Your guide will offer to organise a group meal in a local restaurant for this evening. Participation is recommended but by no means required.

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account.

### **Day 05, Wednesday**

#### **Swakopmund (camping)**

Today is a free day. The idea is to allow time for everybody to do their own activity, even if that is just relaxing! Swakopmund is a very pleasant seaside town with lots of shops, a good stretch of beach (although the Atlantic here is quite cold) and an open-air curio market. There is also a very good museum and the Namibian National Marine Aquarium is located in Swakopmund.

Alternatively, there are various optional activities that can be arranged. These include aeroplane and micro light flights over the desert, scenic drives, fishing trips (both from the beach or in a boat), four-wheel motorcycle (quad bike) trips into the desert and over the sand dunes around Swakopmund, sand boarding trips (also in the dunes), skydiving, surfing, bird-watching and many other activities are available.

Your tour guide will discuss all the possible options with you before you reach Swakopmund and will offer to make bookings in advance of your arrival. (N.B. All extra activities and excursions in Swakopmund are subject to availability and are made at the clients' own risk and expense).

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account

### **Day 06, Thursday**

#### **Swakopmund – Namib Desert area (300 km) (BLD) (camping)**

We first make a stop at Walvis Bay, situated about 40 km south of Swakopmund. South of the town there is a large marine lagoon which is home to a vast array of marine bird-life, in particular flamingos.

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We will make a short visit to the lagoon to see the birds and a short visit to Walvis Bay to collect any last minute supplies before once again heading out into the desert.

The second part of our journey today takes us across more of the seemingly endless Namib gravel plains. Then the landscape suddenly changes and we are into the mountain desert.

We traverse both the Kuiseb and Gaub passes, driving both times to the river beds at the bottom of the canyons and then climbing the long steep road to the top and the spectacular panoramas the mountains give us. Again the scenery changes as we make our way down to the dune fields.

We cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain begins to give way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib and from here it is only a short distance to our next stop, the tiny town of Solitaire. Optional extra: visit the 'N/a'an ku se and Shiloh Jolie-Pitt Foundation', 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.

We aim to arrive at our camp during the late afternoon and watch the colours glow and change on distant mountains to the east.

### **Day 07, Friday**

#### **Namib Desert – Sesriem / Sossusvlei – Namib Desert (220 km) (BLD) (camping)**

A pre dawn start is essential this morning as we want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert. After passing through Sesriem, the gateway to the dunes and driving into the heart of the dune field, we reach Sossusvlei itself by walking the last 5 km through the dunes.

In the cool of the morning, with soft sunlight just beginning to play over the dunes creating a sharp light and shadow contrast across the whole desert, the walk is like nothing else. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or maybe an ostrich make the photo opportunities perfect.

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting Dune 45 and Sesriem canyon before heading back to our campsite for overnight.

### **Day 08, Saturday**

#### **Sesriem area - Windhoek (320 km) (BL)**

After breakfast we begin our journey over the mountains and along scenic roads, back to Windhoek. We will travel over the Naukluft Mountains and also the Khomas Hochland range, through beautiful Remhoogte Pass on our way back to civilization.

We are due back into the city around 15:00 and you will be dropped off at your accommodation on our return.

### **IMPORTANT**

#### **Local Payment:**

**N\$1,500.00**

On this trip it's compulsory to contribute to the local payment. The payment is an on-ground payment to cover entrance fees and all camp meals. Your payment will be collected when you before the trip depart (cash).

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**Safari overview**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Destinations</b>	<b>Meals</b>	<b>Approximate km</b>
Saturday	Windhoek – Onguma Reserve / border of Etosha – Namutoni side	Lunch & Dinner	530 km
Sunday	Okaukuejo Resort	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	Game drive
Monday	Damaraland - Twyfelfontein	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Tuesday	Swakopmund	Breakfast & Lunch	410 km
Wednesday	Swakopmund	Breakfast	-
Thursday	Swakopmund – Namib Desert	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	310 km
Friday	Namib Desert	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	220 km
Saturday	Namib Desert - Windhoek	Breakfast & Lunch	320 km

**Additional Information**

Maximum group size is 14 people, with a minimum of 4 participants. Transport for up to 6 people will be in a minibus and for 7 people and more in a Toyota bus / truck.

**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. 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 -

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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.

### **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.