

NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS NAMIBIA

Day 1, Friday

Windhoek – Okonjima/Africat (300 km) (LD) (camping)

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

Continuing north, passing through farmland, we aim to arrive at Okonjima during the middle afternoon, giving us time to set up our camp and to relax in the shade for a while before heading out on to the property to take part in the afternoon's activities. Okonjima is the home of the Africat Foundation, a specialist conservation concern that centres its operations on the African Big Cats, particularly cheetah. This afternoon you will be taken on a tour during which you will view some of the cheetah that are part of the Africat rehabilitation programme. Most of the animals currently living at Okonjima have been rescued from various desperate situations, being orphaned or caught in a trap and the aim of the rehabilitation process is to re-introduce them into the wild.

After our educational tour we will return to camp and prepare for dinner under the African stars.

Day 2, Saturday

Okonjima - Namutoni / East Etosha region (300 km) (BLD) (camping)

Starting early and continuing north, we pass through some small towns making short stops for fresh supplies and fuel.

Continuing on to East Etosha's Namutoni camp we again aim to arrive in time for lunch, affording us leisure time before heading into the park during the cool of the late afternoon for our first game drive.

Day 3, Sunday

East Etosha region – Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park (BLD) (camping)

A full day's game driving. We again leave early 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.

Okaukuejo is famous for its waterhole, which has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa". Situated on the doorstep of our campsite, black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope are usually seen.

Day 4, Monday

Okaukuejo – Kavita Lion Lodge, Kamanjab (300km) (BLD) (camping)

Leaving Etosha we begin our journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Kamanjab and on to Kavita Lion Lodge and Africat North. A local Otjiwarongo business has chosen to fund a project at AfriCat North - the Communal Carnivore Conservation Project. This team will work with farming communities as well as those surrounding the Etosha National Park, assisting in carnivore management (mainly lion) and advising communal and

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commercial farmers on how best to protect livestock. This will be the first unit of its kind in Namibia. We overnight by camping under the stars.

Day 5, Tuesday

Kavita Lion Lodge – Twyfelfontein (300 km) (BLD) (camping)

After an early morning start we visit a Himba Village - the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia. These tribes-people have migrated here, lifestyle and customs intact, and are following their traditional way-of-life in their village on a farm, the exact location of the site varies as the Himba occasionally roam to a new location. We will learn about marriage customs, traditional food and the mysteries of the "Holy Fire" religion. 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 visit the ancient Bushman rock engravings at Twyfelfontein. At this location we will have a local guide to conduct us on a short guided tour before we set up camp for the night.

Day 6, Wednesday

Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast (420 km) (BL) (chalet)

From here we head deeper into the desert and pass Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m). Continue on the road for more beautiful Damaraland scenery. 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. Meeting the ocean at Henties Bay, we first head north along the coast to visit the seal colony at Cape Cross. At certain times of the year there can be as many as 100,000 congregating Cape Fur seals. The next 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 7, Thursday

Swakopmund (B) (chalet)

Today is a free day. The idea is to allow time for everybody to do their own thing. 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 microlight 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

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excursions in Swakopmund are subject to availability and are made at the clients' own risk and expense).

Lunch and dinner today is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account

Day 8, Friday

Swakopmund – Agama / Sesriem (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.

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.

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 9, Saturday

Agama / Sesriem – Sossusvlei – Agama / Sesriem (camping) (BLD)

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 as the day wears on we return to Sesriem for lunch to escape the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon we will take a short excursion to the Sesriem Canyon.

Day 10, Sunday

Agama / Sesriem - Windhoek (450 km) (BL)

After breakfast we begin our journey over the mountains and along scenic roads, back to Windhoek. We stop at Solitaire to stretch our legs then proceed back to Windhoek via the Khomas Hochland Mountain range back to civilization. We are due back into the city around 16:00 and you will be dropped off at your accommodation on our return.

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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 – Okonjima/Africat | Camping | Lunch & Dinner | 300 km |
| Saturday | Okonjima/Africat – Etosha National Park | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | 300 km |
| Sunday | Etosha National Park | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | Game drive |
| Monday | Etosha National Park – Kavita Lion Lodge | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | 300 km |
| Tuesday | Kavita Lion Lodge – Damaraland | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | 300 km |
| Wednesday | Damaraland – Swakopmund | Guest House | Breakfast & Lunch | 420 km |
| Thursday | Swakopmund | Guest House | Breakfast | - |
| Friday | Swakopmund – Namib Desert | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | 300 km |
| Saturday | Namib Desert | Camping | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | 120 km |
| Sunday | Namib Desert – Windhoek | - | Breakfast & Lunch | 450 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

Included:

- * All transport
- * All the meal a day (unless differently specified)
- * Tap drinking water
- * Tea & coffee in camp
- * All camping equipment
- * Park entrance fees
- * Camping fees
- * Professional guide
- * Camp Assistant (unless differently specified)
- * Pick up and drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

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Excluded:

- * Sleeping bag
- * Alcoholic beverages
- * Soft drinks and bottled water
- * Personal travel insurance

Useful items to bring with you

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

The tents are canvas dome type, which are easy to assemble. Your mattress is approximately 5 cm thick with its own mattress cover and each client has a camp chair with 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\$: 110.00 for this trip. When selecting 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 by your guide on an open fire. Salads and fresh vegetables will be served daily where readily available. Fresh fruit will also be supplied when possible. We cater for vegetarians, but please notify us prior to departure.

We recommend seeking professional medical advice to enable you to make informed decisions on personal malaria protection. Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls are malarial areas.

All tap water in Namibia has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. Some of the camps close to the rivers may have specific drinking water taps so please check with your guide. We supply tap drinking water, but bottled mineral water is available for you to buy at shops and rest camps.

Electrical plugs are 220 V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek or at our offices. 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. We suggest bringing ZAR on this trip as it will be the easiest currency to work with in all countries.

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

It is customary in Namibia to tip 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.

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