

**NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS
NAMIBIA**

TOUR CODE: NC2001

20 DAY – SOSSUSVLEI, NAMIBIA NORTH & VIC FALLS COMBINATION SAFARI

SAFARI TYPE: Scheduled Tour – Camping – Guided Safari
DUARTION: 20 Days / 19 Nights
DEPARTURE DAYS: Tuesdays (set departure dates, see below)
DEPARTURE LOCATION: Windhoek – Namibia
TOUR ENDS: Livingstone - Zambia
COUNTRIES VISITED: NAMIBIA – BOTSWANA - ZAMBIA

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

ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:

Windhoek - Namib Naukluft Park - Sesriem – Sossusvlei – Windhoek – Okonjima - Etosha National Park - Oase Himba Village, Kamanjab - Brandberg Mountain – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast - Windhoek – Ghanzi, Kalahari, Botswana – Okavango Delta Pan Handle - Caprivi Strip – Kasane, Botswana – Livingstone, Zambia

This safari has a guaranteed departure on Tuesdays, with a minimum of 2 people. 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 and there are three accommodated nights included in the itinerary, in Windhoek (day 3 and day 10) and one in Swakopmund, (day 9).

Collection time, from anywhere within the Windhoek city limits, is between 08:00 & 08:30 for the first section of the safari, (to the Namib Desert), between 08:30 & 09:00 for the second section, (to Okonjima), and between 07:30 & 08:00 for the final section, (to the Botswana).

It is possible to make this into a 21 day trip and transfer back to Windhoek with your guide after the end of the 20 day section of the safari.



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ITINERARY:

Day 1, Tuesday

Windhoek – Sesriem area (350 km) (LD) (camping)

You will be collected at your Windhoek accommodation between 08:00 & 08:30 by your guide. We travel out over the Eros Mountains and along scenic roads on our way south-west to the desert. We 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, we reach open plains and the tiny settlement of Solitaire.

We cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain gives way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib. 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 2, Wednesday

Sesriem area – Sossusvlei – Sesriem area (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, we 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!

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting dune 45. As the day wears on we return to Sesriem for lunch, escaping 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 3, Thursday

Sesriem area - Windhoek (450 km) (BL)

After breakfast we begin our journey back to Windhoek following a different route, ascending the massive Gamsberg Pass in the Khomas Hochland Mountain Range on our way back to civilization. In the Solitaire area we will stop at 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 are due back in Windhoek at 16:00 and you will be dropped off at your accommodation on our return.

Day 4, Friday

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

You will be collected between 08:30 & 09:00. We will 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.

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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 be able to meet, close-up-and-personal, some of the cheetah that are going through 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 rehabilitation process is to attempt to re-introduce them into the wild.

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

Day 5, Saturday

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

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

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

Day 6, Sunday

Namutoni – 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, Etosha's main rest camp and resort where we will check in and set up camp. Originally the site of a German fort built in 1901, Okaukuejo now houses the Etosha Ecological Institute, founded in 1974; the round watchtower is a remnant of the fort.

After your evening meal there are still more chances to see Etosha's big game at a floodlit waterhole, situated on the boundary of our camp and easily reachable within a minute or two on foot.

The waterhole has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa" and the ideal venue to witness peculiar animal politics. Black rhino, Africa's tallest elephants, lion and numerous species of antelope are regular visitors during the cool, dry season.

Day 7, Monday

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

Leaving Etosha we begin our journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Kamanjab for a short stop before continuing 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 works with farming communities and those

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surrounding the Etosha National Park, assisting in carnivore management (mainly lion) and advising communal and commercial farmers on how best to protect livestock. This is the first unit of its kind in Namibia.

During the afternoon we visit the project and education centre.

Day 8, 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 tour before we set up camp for the night.

Day 9, 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) and 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 as many as 100,000 Cape Fur seals congregate.

The next destination is Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast into Namibia's premier seaside town. We aim to arrive in the late afternoon giving us time to explore the town on foot before sunset.

Tonight we take the chance to sample one of the excellent 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 is for the client's own account.

Day 10, Thursday

Swakopmund - Windhoek (BL) (350 km)

The drive back to Windhoek today will take about 4 and a half hour. We will only depart after lunch, giving us time to spend the morning relaxing in Swakopmund. It has many superb 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

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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 client's own risk and expense).

After lunch we will transfer back to the capital city where you will be dropped off at your accommodation in Windhoek.

Day 11, Friday

Windhoek – San Village/Kalahari (260 km) (BLD) (camping)

You will be collected between 07:30 & 08:00. We drive to our wilderness bush camp, which is based on a local farm in the Kalahari, near Buitepos Border, via the eastern village of Witvlei. On arrival we first meet our host family before going to our camp site, meet our guides and pitch the tents. You are welcome to enjoy a relaxing afternoon, wait for the sun to set and enjoy a fire cooked dinner and the tranquillity of an evening in a remote wilderness environment.

Day 12, Saturday

San Village - Ghanzi, Kalahari, Botswana (245 km) (BLD) (camping)

We start the day with a morning bush walk where we learn more about the Bushman hunting techniques such as tracking and stalking. The women and men will teach us about many edible plants, where to look for them and how they are used, e.g. contraceptives and healing. Go on a walk through the veld with a small clan of Bushmen local guides/family as they show you how they gather food, start fire with sticks, wind direction and get water from underground roots. The game tends to concentrate on the farm and our chances of spotting different species or spoors are enhanced by the sharp eyes of the Bushmen local guides.

After lunch we leave, making use of the Trans Kalahari Highway, a relatively new road that provides an invaluable communication link between Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.

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.

Day 13, Sunday

Ghanzi – Okavango Delta (450 km) (BLD) (camping)

Today will demand 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.

Day 14, Monday

Okavango Delta (BLD) (camping)

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.

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Mokoro's will be our main form of transport. 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.

Day 15, Tuesday Okavango Delta – Caprivi, Namibia (350 km) (BLD) (camping)

Drive 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 antelope the majestic sable antelope.

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

Day 16, Wednesday Caprivi, Namibia – Chobe National Park, Kasane, Botswana (500km) (BLD) (camping)

We continue our drive along The Caprivi Strip, Namibia. This strip of land is a long narrow stretch of territory running along Botswana's northern border. It is a landscape of broadleaf forest with many small communities dotted along our route.

We near the end of our long transit of the Caprivi region, arriving 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.

Day 17, Thursday Chobe National Park, Kasane, Botswana (BLD) (camping)

An early hot drink before we head off on a leisurely game drive, exploring the wonders of the Chobe National Park by road. Game drives within the park offer the opportunity to view abundant elephant and other big game species up close, and there is also the possibility of an encounter with one of the large predators.

You'll have some time to relax over lunch at our camp 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 sundowner 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.

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Day 18, Friday

Kasane – Livingstone, Victoria Falls, Zambia (100 km) (BL) (camping)

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 will be in a local restaurant at your own expense.

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

Day 19, Saturday

Livingstone (B)

This is a free day for you to explore the area or to take part in optional activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax a bit after your trip. For some of you, this will be your final night and what a fantastic place to enjoy your last evening with your group.

Lunch and dinner today, are not included in the price of the trip.

Only 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.

Day 20, Sunday

Livingstone – Rundu, Namibia (700 km) (BLD) (camping)

We say farewell to all the travellers flying out today. For those people returning to Windhoek, Namibia it is 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 of your transfer.

Day 21, Monday

Rundu – Windhoek (800 km) (BL)

Today we will be starting early again as we have a long drive back to Windhoek. We head south through Kavango Province, down through the towns of Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo and Okahandja before reaching our final destination, Windhoek.

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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.

Tour Summary:

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals	Approximate km
Tuesday	Windhoek – Sesriem area	Camping	Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Wednesday	Sesriem area	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	120 km
Thursday	Sesriem area - Windhoek	Guest House	Breakfast & Lunch	450 km
Friday	Windhoek – Okonjima/Africat	Camping	Breakfast, 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 – Kavita Lion Lodge	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Tuesday	Kavita Lion Lodge – Twyfelfontein/Damaraland	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	300 km
Wednesday	Twyfelfontein/Damaraland – Swakopmund	Guest House	Breakfast & Lunch	420 km
Thursday	Swakopmund - Windhoek	Guest House	Breakfast & Lunch	350 km
Friday	Windhoek – San Village/Kalahari Desert	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	260 km
Saturday	San Village/Kalahari Desert – Ghanzi, Botswana	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	245 km
Sunday	Ghanzi – Okavango Delta/Guma	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	450 km
Monday	Okavango Delta/Guma	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	-
Tuesday	Okavango Delta - Caprivi Strip	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	350 km
Wednesday	Caprivi Strip – Chobe Nat Park/Kasane	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	500 km
Thursday	Chobe Nat Park/Kasane	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	-
Friday	Chobe – Livingstone/Victoria Falls	Camping	Breakfast & Lunch	100 km
Saturday	Livingstone/Victoria Falls	Camping	Breakfast	-
Sunday	Livingstone – Depart Trip or Rundu	Camping	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner	700 km
Monday	Rundu - Windhoek	-	Breakfast & Lunch	800 km

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DEPARTURE DATES:

2012 / 2013

2 Day Return to Windhoek an additional N\$ 1 100.00 per person

2012									2013		
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
10	08	05	03	07	04	02	06	04	01	12	12
24	22	26	10	14	11	09	13	11	15	26	26
			17	21	18	16	20	18	29		
			24	28	25	23	27				
			31			30					

Additional Information:

There are a few nationalities that will require to pre arrange their entry visa to Namibia and Botswana. Please note that if this visa is required, it will need to be a multiple entry visa and not a single entry visa. Please check on booking this safari if you need a pre-arranged visa.

There is a US\$50.00 charge for entering Zambia and this is for the clients own cost. It's not included in your trip cost. Please note that this needs to be paid in **US\$**.

Minimum group size is 14 people, with a minimum of 2 participants. Transport for up to a Maximum group of 14 people and a Minimum of 2 participants. Transport for up to 8 people will be in a minibus and for 9 people and more in a specialised vehicle.

The style of safari is limited participation, 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. Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English.

Included:

- * All transport
- * Three meals 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 & drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

Excluded:

- * Sleeping bag (can be hired)
- * Alcoholic beverages
- * Soft drinks and bottled water
- * Personal Travel Insurance

Useful items to bring with you:

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

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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\$: 200.00 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.

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.

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