

NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS NAMIBIA

TOUR CODE: NA1302

13 DAY EXPLORING NAMIBIA - BRONZE

SAFARI TYPE: Scheduled Tour – Accommodated – Guided Safari
DURATION: 13 Days / 12 Nights
DEPARTURE DAYS: Saturdays (see departure dates below)
DEPARTURE LOCATION: Windhoek – Namibia
TOUR ENDS: Windhoek – Namibia
MIN / MAX PAX: 2 / 16

ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:

Windhoek - Kalahari Desert – Quiver Tree Forest - Fish River Canyon – Aus - Lüderitz -
Kolmanskop Ghost Town – Namib Naukluft Desert Park – Sossusvlei – Sesriem –
Swakopmund - Cape Cross – Damaraland – Twyfelfontein - Etosha National Park - Windhoek

ITINERARY:



Day 01

Windhoek – Kalahari Desert

Leaving Windhoek, travel into the largest sand mass on earth, the Kalahari Desert. The bushman refer to it as the “Soul of the World”, an emotive description for this area! With its deep red sand dunes and endless grass plains interspersed with Acacia’s and shrubs, it is the only form of survival for a vast amount of specially adapted wildlife. Enjoy the opportunity to experience the fauna and flora that has survived this desert environment for thousands of years.

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NAMIBIA

Day 02

Kalahari Desert – Fish River Canyon

Travel south through expansive rocky plains, visiting the unique Quiver Tree forest. Nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders, stacked in such a mysterious way that it seems giants played here. Continue to your overnight lodge, situated in close vicinity to the Fish River Canyon.

Day 03 & Day 04

Fish River Canyon – Aus – Lüderitz

This morning starts on the edge of the Fish River Canyon, where you gaze 550 meters into this magnificent geological phenomenon, the second largest of its kind on earth. Travel to the Succulent Karoo, one of the 20 most important biomes on earth. On the second day you will travel to Lüderitz and visit a ghost town that was left to the hands of the relentless and unforgiving desert. Other attractions visited consist of the Wild Horses of the Namib Desert, Diaz Point and the coastal town of Lüderitz itself.

Day 05

Aus – Namib Desert

After breakfast you will travel north through the pre-Namib to your overnight lodge in the Namib Desert. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei, where some of the highest sand dunes on earth stand towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the pool, or taking part in optional activities offered at the lodge.

Day 06

Namib Desert

This morning demands an early start. The first rays of sunrise paint the mountains of sand into a variety of apricot, red and orange, contrasted against a crisp blue skyline, entrapping your senses, and providing an opportunity to capture this awesome landscape on film. Sossusvlei is where the mostly dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst majestic dunes, walking up one of these dunes to admire the desert landscape. Thereafter you will visit the Sesriem Canyon, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert.

Day 07

Namib Desert – Swakopmund

After breakfast you will depart via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Moon Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. In Walvis Bay you will visit the shallow lagoon, one of the most important wetland areas on the African continent and a RAMSAR world heritage site. Over 80% of the African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breath taking picture when they appear in groups counting a few hundred thousand. Upon arrived in the coastal town of Swakopmund, you'll have the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 08

Swakopmund

Swakopmund is the perfect location for walking, tours, shopping, relaxing at a quaint coffee shop or along the sandy beaches. This being Namibia's playground, the town also has a wide variety of activities on offer, ranging from dolphin cruises, desert tours and scenic flights to quad biking, paragliding, parachuting and kite surfing - to mention just a few.

Day 09

Swakopmund – Damaraland

Heading further north, travel along vast lichen fields to Cape Cross, a fur seal reserve where at times over 80'000 animals frolic in the waves of the Atlantic. Drive via the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2579m), into the Damaraland, one of the least populated and geologically diverse areas in Africa. This harsh, rocky environment is home to the rare Desert Elephant, the Black Rhino and free-roaming antelope species.

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NAMIBIA

Day 10

Damaraland – Etosha National Park

Start the morning with a visit to Twyfelfontein, a heritage site where bushman communities engraved and painted over 2500 pictures some 6000 years ago! Close by explore the Burnt Mountain, Organ Pipes and the Petrified Forest - all geological phenomena depicting the creation and evolution of some of the oldest landmasses on earth. You will also visit the Welwitschia mirabilis plant – the oldest living desert plant on earth! After a visit to a traditional Damara village we proceed on to your lodge situated close to the world-renowned Etosha National Park, and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 11

Etosha National Park

The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the Etosha National Park, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. The park is home to 4 of the Big Five - Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhino – its waterholes supporting a rich diversity of birds and mammals, including rare species such as black-faced Impala, roan, cheetah, and Namibia's smallest antelope, the Damara Dik-Dik.

Day 12

Etosha National Park – Otavi

Today you will partake on a game drive in the Etosha National Park. You may encounter animal species you have not seen the previous day and look forward to any new surprises at the different waterholes visited. In the afternoon you will travel to your overnight lodge, where you can enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 13

Otavi - Windhoek

After breakfast continue southwards to Windhoek, where you'll visit the craft markets in the main street of the capital city, there after you will be driven to your hotel or to the international airport for your return flight.

TOUR SUMMARY:

| DAY | ACCOMMODATION | MEAL BASIS | ACTIVITIES | KM |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Saturday | Kalahari Anib Lodge | | Optional dune drive in the Kalahari Desert | 280 |
| Sunday | Canon Roadhouse / Village | Breakfast | Quiver Tree Forest, sundowner walk | 480 |
| Monday | Klein Aus Vista Desert Horse Inn | Breakfast | Visit Fish River Canyon | 345 |
| Tuesday | Klein Aus Vista Desert Horse Inn | Breakfast | Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert | 280 |
| Wednesday | Hammerstein Lodge | Breakfast | Optional experience with African big cats | 295 |
| Thursday | Namib Desert Lodge | Breakfast | Dead Vlei, Sossusvlei, Sesriem Canyon | 280 |
| Friday | Schweitzerhaus Hotel | Breakfast | Walvis Bay lagoon - RAMSAR World Heritage site | 290 |
| Saturday | Schweitzerhaus Hotel | Breakfast | At leisure, book activities with your consultant | 80 |
| Sunday | Damaraland Mopane Lodge | Breakfast | Cape Cross | 440 |

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NAMIBIA

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|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Monday | Etosha Safari Camp | Breakfast | Twyfelfontein, Burnt Mountain, Organ Pipes Petrified Forest, visit a Damara traditional village. | 500 |
| Tuesday | Etosha Safari Camp | Breakfast | Game viewing in the Etosha National Park | 300 |
| Wednesday | Ochange Lodge | Breakfast | Game viewing in the Etosha National Park | 470 |
| Thursday | End of tour | Breakfast | Travel back to Windhoek | 420 |

Alternative accommodation may be used

Departure dates:

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2011 | |
| Nov | Dec |
| 05 | 10 |
| 12 | |
| 19 | |
| 26 | |

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|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 2012 | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
| 07 | 04 | 03 | 07 | 05 | 09 | 07 | 04 | 08 | 06 |
| 21 | 18 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 23 | 21 | 11 | 15 | 13 |
| | | | | | | | 18 | 22 | 20 |
| | | | | | | | 25 | 29 | 27 |

Private tour: Any date on request, minimum of 6 participants