

NEW AFRICAN FRONTIERS
NAMIBIA

TOUR CODE: NA 1605

16 DAY – EXPLORING NAMIBIA & CAPTIVATING CAPRIVI COMBO

SAFARI TYPE: Scheduled Tour – Accommodated – Guided Safari
DURATION: 16 days / 15 nights
DEPARTURE DAYS: Saturdays (Scheduled departure dates)
DEPARTURE LOCATION: Windhoek – Namibia
TOUR ENDS: Windhoek – Namibia
COUNTRIES VISITED: NAMIBIA - BOTSWANA

Language available: English / German
VEHICLE: Microbus / bus
Min / Max Persons: 2 /16

ROUTING HIGHLIGHTS:

Windhoek – Kalahari Desert - Keetmanshoop – Quiver Tree Forest - Fish River Canyon - Southern Namib - Lüderitz – Kolmanskop, Ghost Mining Town – Aus - Namib Naukluft Park – Sossusvlei – Sesriem Canyon - Swakopmund - Damaraland – Twyfelfontein - Etosha National Park – Rundu – Caprivi – Traditional Village - Mahango Game Park - Bwabwata National Park – Kasane - Chobe National Park – Chobe National Park

ITINERARY:



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Day 1

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.

Day 2

Kalahari Desert – Fish River Canyon

Travel further 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 3 & 4

Fish River Canyon – Aus – Lüderitz

Your morning starts on the edge of the Fish River Canyon, where you’ll 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 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 5

Aus – Namib Desert

After breakfast you continue 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 your overnight lodge.

Day 6

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 our 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, when walking up one of these dunes to admire the desert landscape. Thereafter visit the Sesriem Canyon, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert.

Day 7

Namib Desert – Swakopmund

After breakfast you will travel 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 arrival in the coastal town of Swakopmund, you’ll have the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 8

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

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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 9

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.

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. Here you'll also visit the Welwitschia mirabilis plant – the oldest living desert plant on earth! After a visit to a traditional Damara village you will proceed on to your overnight 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 park. With a size of over 22'000 square kilometres, it is world renowned for its spectacular wildlife: elephant, black and white rhinoceros, lions, leopards, cheetahs, large herds of springbok, zebra, wildebeest, giraffe and a multitude of other fascinating species. Each waterhole experience is different and promises us amazing photographic opportunities and wildlife experiences. Shortly before sunset you will depart out of the park back to your overnight lodge.

Day 12

Etosha National Park – Otavi

The first part of the day is spent traversing the park from west to east. In the afternoon you will travel to your next overnight lodge, where you enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure and reminisce about the day's exciting events. Relax along the pool in the large garden or take a scenic walk along one of the walking paths. At a frequented waterhole next to the guest farm you can observe some of the animals inhabiting the area.

Day 13

Otavi - Bwabwata National Park

After breakfast you will continue north towards Namibia's lush Caprivi region. En route you will stop at Hoba Meteorite, the world's largest known meteorite that came crashing down some 80'000 years ago. Continue to the Kavango area, known for its rich selection of hand-made wooden crafts, to the western border of the Bwabwatwa Game Park. Here the lodge lies secluded in the lush vegetation lining the banks of the mighty Kavango River. You can optionally partake in a sundowner cruise on the Kavango River that also visits the Popa Falls.

Day 14

Bwabwata National Park

This morning you can enjoy a game drive into the Mahango Game Park, home to rare animal species such as puku, lechwe, roan and sable, which in turn attract a large variety of predators such as lion, leopard and even the highly endangered wild dog. The park is divided into three

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different habitats, namely the Kavango River, the flood plains, known as omurambas and dense woodlands, the combination of which create a haven for over 300 different bird species. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure and take in the mesmerizing environment from the comfort of your lodge.

Day 15

Bwabwata National Park – Zambezi River

After a leisurely breakfast you will travel east through the Bwabwatwa Game Park, previously known as the Caprivi Game Park. This elongated yet very narrow strip of land forms part of the age-old migration route of a variety of game species moving north from Botswana into Namibia. En route you will visit a traditional caprivi village to learn more about the tradition and culture of the Kavango people, who have upheld a subsistence farming way of life for hundreds of years. Your lodge for the evening is situated along the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, where you'll have the option of experiencing this water world on a boat cruise.

Day 16

Zambezi River – Chobe National Park

After breakfast you will depart via the Kiaat forests and towering Baobab trees into Botswana. Having traversed the Chobe National Park, your tour ends in Kasane where you will be dropped off at your accommodation of choice.

- Extend your stay in the Chobe National Park with a two-night package
- Join a Botswana Highlights tour via the Chobe National Park, Makgadikgadi pans, the Okavango Delta and the Kalahari Desert back to Windhoek.
- Transfers available from Kasane to Livingstone or Victoria Falls town for our Victoria Falls package.
- Extend your stay with the Okavango Delta package starting in Kasane
- Scheduled flights from Victoria Falls to Windhoek or South Africa available.

TOUR SUMMARIES: CLASSIC KALEIDOSCOPE & CAPTIVATING CAPRIVI

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

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Sunday	Damaraland Mopane Lodge	Breakfast	Cape Cross	440
Monday	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Twyfelfontein, Burnt Mountain, Organ Pipes Petrified Forest, visit a Damara traditional village.	500
Tuesday	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Full Day Game viewing in the Etosha National Park	300
Wednesday	Ohange Lodge	Breakfast	Half Day Game viewing in the Etosha National Park	440
Thursday	Divava Okavango Lodge & Spa	Breakfast	Visit Hoba Meteorite, optional boat cruise	500
Friday	Divava Okavango Lodge & Spa	Breakfast	Game drive into Mahangu National Park	
Saturday	Protea Zambezi River Lodge	Breakfast	Visit a traditional Caprivi village	330
Sunday	Drop off in Kasane	Breakfast	Drive through the Chobe National Park	130

Departure dates:

2011	
Nov	Dec
05	10
12	
19	
26	

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