



EXPERIENCE NAMIBIA

Booking ref: G01

19 days / 18 nights

This guided safari takes you to some of Namibia's highlights. Admire the deep gorges of the Fish River Canyon, climb the world's highest dunes at Sossusvlei and discover that the desert "lives". Allow yourself to be enchanted by the magic of Lüderitz and Swakopmund, two charming towns on the Coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the drive to the rustic Palmwag Lodge and cross the world famous Etosha National Park from West to East before returning to Windhoek via the popular Okonjima Lodge.

Day 1:

Arrival at Hosea Kutako (Windhoek International) airport, where you will be met by your guide. Subsequent transfer to the capital of Namibia for check-in to Elegant Guesthouse. After check-in at the accommodation establishment, you will be taken on a city tour. Windhoek is a city of many contrasts. Modern skyscrapers blend with historic buildings dating from the turn of the century. Several buildings from the German colonial era have been preserved and restored to fulfil useful functions in the community today. Some of the sights you will see on your tour are the Ride Memorial, the Old Fort, the Parliament Building (also known as the "Ink Place"), the Lutheran Church, the Railway Station and many more.

Overnight stay at Elegant Guesthouse or similar - Bed & breakfast.

Day 2:

After breakfast departure from Windhoek and drive via Rehoboth, the centre of Namibia's Baster community into the red dunes of the Kalahari Desert to the Bagatelle Kalahari Game Lodge. Late afternoon, participate in a guided game drive to learn about the flora and fauna of the Kalahari Desert.

Overnight at the Bagatelle Kalahari Game Lodge or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3:

A full day's journey takes you south through the desert-dominated landscapes to a picturesque Quiver Tree Forest. This prehistoric tree reaches skyward with graphically forked branches, their trunks peel and form intricate patterns as the tree matures, these are rewarding subjects to photograph. Giant's Playground is an impressive jumble of massive boulders; a virtual maze where time can be spent wandering through the extensive rocky labyrinth. You proceed to Keetmanshoop and thereafter continue via the Naute Dam, to the Fish River Canyon, which is the second largest in the world.

Overnight at the Canyon Lodge or similar on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4:

Today you can view the spectacular northern fringes of the Fish River Canyon from various vantage points. Here the impressive surrounding rock formation provides many interesting hours for enthusiastic nature lovers.

Overnight at the Canon Lodge or similar on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 5:

The next leg of the journey takes us via the small historic village of Aus and through the vast barren expanse of the Prohibited Diamond Area, to Lüderitz. Lüderitz is renowned for its old-world charm and distinctly German colonial architecture. Set around the bay, with their original gables, winding stairwells, verandas, turrets and bay- and bow windows still intact, these buildings have a unique character.

Overnight at The Nest Hotel or similar on bed & breakfast basis.

Day 6:

After breakfast we visit Kolmanskop, a ghost town that was abandoned over 40 years ago and now gives a fascinating insight into the area's great diamond boom. A few of the buildings have been restored, but many are left exactly as they were, and now the surrounding dunes are gradually burying them. Return to Lüderitz. After a short sightseeing tour of Lüderitz, we are going on an afternoon excursion to the Diaz cross where the daring Portuguese sailors erected a stone pillar in the 1480's.

Overnight at The Nest Hotel or similar on bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7:

The journey leads once more through the Diamond Prohibited Area via Aus and Helmeringhausen to Farm Namtib. Experience the daily life of a farmer in the south.

Overnight stay at Farm Namtib or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8:

Today we travel through some of Namibia's most spectacular sceneries. Vast expanses of yellow savannah are dotted with bushes and solitary camelthorn trees. Distant mountain ranges take on different nuances of purple and blue as the day progresses. En route you visit the Duwisib Castle, which was built by Baron von Wolff for his American wife Jayta in 1909. The furnishings and paintings were imported from Germany.

Our destination is The Desert Homestead & Horestrails, situated south of the Sesriem gate at Sossusvlei.

Overnight at Desert Homestead or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 9:

Visit Sossusvlei - a clay pan surrounded by some of the highest sand dunes in the world) - and the Sesriem Canyon.

Overnight at Desert Homestead Lodge or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 10:

The route takes us north via the Kuiseb Canyon to Swakopmund. Highlights en route include a drive to the "Moon Landscape" and the ancient desert plant, "Welwitschia mirabilis". This quaint desert town with its old-world charm and relaxed atmosphere hedged by desert and sea, is enhanced by lush green lawns and palm trees

Overnight at the Hansa Hotel or similar on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11:

Morning dolphin cruise on the Walvis Bay Lagoon. The afternoon is at own leisure.

One overnight stay at the Hansa Hotel or similar on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 12:

Departure from Swakopmund along the Atlantic Coast towards the North. Visit the lichen fields near Wlotzka's Baken before continuing to Henties Bay, a small holiday resort. Onwards to the seal colony at Cape Cross. After visiting the seals, the journey continues via Ugabmund to the southern Skeleton Coast Park to inspect a shipwreck. You leave the Skeleton Coast Park in the early afternoon via Springbokwasser and can experience the harsh transition from the Namib Desert to the Damaraland highlands with its impressive landscape and ragged valleys.

Overnight stay at Grootberg Lodge on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 13:

Enjoy a full day tour in open 4 x 4 game-viewing vehicles into the private concession area of the lodge, search for desert elephants, or physically track amongst a wide variety of game – the mighty desert elephant and the threatened black rhino by 4x4 vehicle.

Overnight at the Grootberg Lodge on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14:

We travel via the Grootberg Pass to Kamanjab and further on the tarred road to the Etosha National Park. Afternoon arrival at the Okaukuejo Restcamp in the Etosha National Park. At the heart of this National Park is the Etosha Pan, a vast dry shallow depression. Perennial springs feed the waterholes along the southern verge, which attract a myriad of animal species.

Overnight stay in a bungalow in the Okaukuejo restcamp or similar - Dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 15 and 16:

We spend these days discovering the mysteries of the African bush in Etosha National Park. We are spending the day doing game drives in the park and visit the numerous waterholes that attract a large diversity of animal and bird species, many of these being endemic to the country.

Overnight stay in a bungalow in the Okaukuejo Restcamp or similar - dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 17 and 18:

Continue to the Okonjima Lodge, home of the Africat Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and protection of Namibian wild cats, in particular leopard and cheetah. Enjoy the opportunity to admire and photograph these predators.

Two overnight stays at Okonjima Main Camp on a full board basis.

Day 19:

Return journey via Okahandja to Windhoek. Okahandja is an important centre for woodcarvers from the north. They practice their ancient skills at the Woodcarvers Market next to the main road. This is a good place to pick a last souvenir. Arrival in Windhoek with transfer to Hosea Kutako Airport for check-in on your outbound flight. Bid farewell to Namibia!

INCLUDED:

- All transport as per itinerary routing
- Accommodation on shared basis
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- Activities and park fees as specified in itinerary
- Mineral water en route

EXCLUDED:

- Expenses of a personal nature, i.e. laundry, telephone expenses, gratuities and other personal purchases
- All drinks
- Personal- as well as medical- and evacuation insurance
- Additional activities

SCHEDULED DEPARTURES:

22.04.2010 - 10.05.2010

24.06.2010 - 12.07.2010

05.08.2010 - 23.08.2010

23.09.2010 - 11.10.2010

04.11.2010 - 22.11.2010