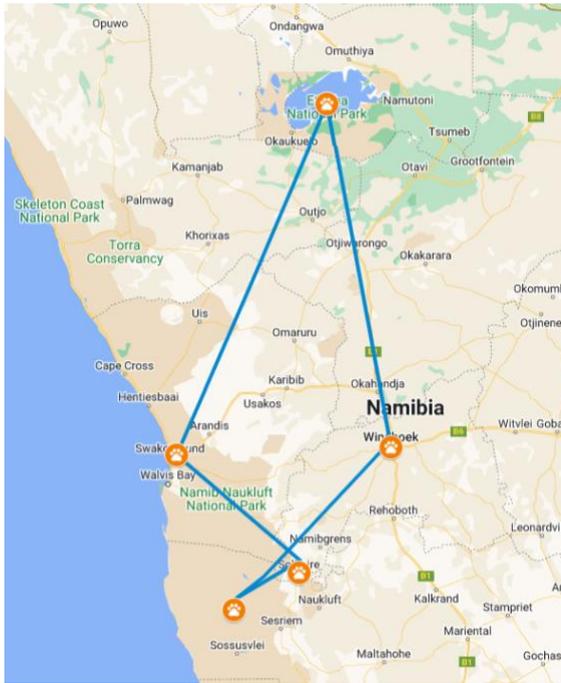




6 Day Namibian Highlights Lodge Tour



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Etosha National Park
- Damaraland
- Meet Namibia's Herero, Damara and Himba people
- Skeleton Coast
- Swakopmund
- Tropic of Capricorn
- Namib Desert – Sossusvlei & Deadvlei
- Solitaire
- Sesriem Canyon

TOUR ITINERARY

6 Days | Namibia

Information is subject to change. Travel times and accommodation can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

This fully accommodated and very comfortable safari might be short but it is action packed and stuffed full of many of Namibia's best of the best. Game viewing in the world renowned Etosha National Park, beautiful Damaraland and local tribes people. Namibia's highest mountain – The Brandberg and the forbidding Skeleton Coast with a shipwreck to see and photograph.

We spend time in the historic coastal town of Swakopmund, sampling the delights of the excellent restaurants and having the chance to take part in wild activities in and around the coastal area.

The world's highest sand dunes in the world's oldest desert await and welcome us, cheetah, up close and personal and a scenic drive up over the Khomas Hochland and central plateau brings us back to Windhoek at the journeys end of one of our most popular safaris.

DAY 1: WINDHOEK – ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

You will be collected from your accommodation within the Windhoek city limits at 07:15. We will begin with a pre-departure talk at our base lodge and an introduction to the rest of the group.

Heading north from Windhoek, we stop briefly at the small town of Otjiwarongo to gather some last-minute supplies before continuing on to Etosha and we enjoy a light lunch pack whilst "on the move". We enter Etosha National Park and game drive our way to our overnight accommodation inside Etosha National Park.

Etosha is huge, just over 22,000 square km and is home to 114 species of mammal, 350 species of bird, 110 species of reptile, uncountable numbers of insect and, somewhat bizarrely, one species of fish. There are good chances of spotting many of these different creatures as we tour through the park, stopping at the various waterholes along our way.

All visitors must be in camp by sunset and we aim to arrive at our lodge just before sunset and with time to settle into our rooms, with en-suite bathroom and tea/coffee facilities.

The 'game show' in Etosha doesn't stop when the sun goes down. All the Etosha camps have floodlit waterholes for extra game viewing opportunities. A visit, or two, is highly recommended this evening as we can expect many species to visit Moringa during the night and this waterhole is known to be very popular with elephants and the critically endangered black rhino.

Accommodation Twin share with en-suite bathroom

Meals Lunch & Dinner

DAY 2: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

We have the whole day to explore Etosha and we want to make the most of it. The park gates open at sunrise and we aim to be on our way just as the sun breaches the horizon. Early morning is usually a productive time for game viewing and first thing in the morning is a good time to catch big cats returning from the hunt.

We return to camp for breakfast and to load our vehicle before heading out into the park once again in search of big game. Etosha is a desert landscape and water is the most scarce natural resource.

There are however numerous waterholes here, both natural and man-made, and our game driving technique is to take in as many as of these possible. Here we hope that the game will come to us as the thirsty animals attend for a much needed drink.

On our way today we will stop to have a closer look at the Etosha Pan. The name Etosha translates as 'great white space' but this name does not do justice to the immensity of the pan. Over 4,700 square km of dazzling white mineral pan, so big that it can be seen from space.



We exit Etosha at the Anderson gate close to sunset and it is just a short drive to our accommodation in a comfortable spacious twin share room with modern en-suite bathroom facilities. An ideal space to sit back, relax and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you.

Accommodation Twin share with en-suite bathroom
Meals Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3: ETOSHA - SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast we aim to be on the road by 07:30 today. We are heading for the Skeleton Coast and we are taking the scenic route. We first head south on the main road, passing the small town of Outjo, then onwards towards the west and picking up the gravel road as we travel through an area known as Damaraland.

Damaraland is famed for its scenery, mountains, open grasslands, tall koppies, (small hills), of round pink granite boulders, wide open spaces and big sky. We also have a chance to meet some of the locals as there are several places along our road today where we can find informal shops selling locally made, handcrafted souvenirs. Represented here we usually find ladies from the Himba, Herero and Damara tribes and most often they are wearing their traditional dress. Here we can interact with some of the colourful local characters who live in this harsh environment. Making a small purchase here is a good way to inject some cash directly into the local economy. We continue on through the beautiful landscape, making a stop for a light picnic lunch, under the shadow of Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg. Rising up from the desert floor, this giant monolith is 2,573 m above sea level and is formed of pink tinged granite.

We continue our journey west and soon arrive at the coast and the chilly Atlantic Ocean. The whole coastline of Namibia is known as the Skeleton Coast and it is easy to see why this barren seaboard is so named with its forbidding mountains and barren beaches. The wind, the waves and the huge fog banks all conspire to push ships onto the beach. The countless mariners that, in olden times, found themselves shipwrecked here faced the stark prospect of no fresh water, no food, no rescue and a slow death by exposure. Their Shipmates who went down with their ship were thought to be the lucky ones.

Heading south on the coast road our next stop is a more recent shipwreck. 15 km south of the small town of Henties Bay a fishing trawler, The Zeila, was beached in 2008. She was an old vessel that had been sold for scrap and was under tow at the time. The cable snapped and, as so many vessels before her, she was caught in the swell and currents and ended up on the beach. She lays quite close to the shore and is well positioned for photos. We complete the final leg of our journey into Swakopmund, we check into our accommodation, the centrally located A La Mer hotel and the town is easily explored on foot from our central location.

Swakopmund was founded by Captain Kurt von François of the imperial colonial army of the German empire in 1892. (He also founded Windhoek in 1890). It is an interesting town to say the least, bounded to the north, the east and the south by the mighty sand dunes of the Namib Desert and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. There are still many examples of colonial German architecture to be seen and the German language is still widely used. Swakopmund boasts some truly excellent restaurants and again your guide will be able to help you with recommendations and bookings.

Accommodation Twin share with en-suite bathroom
Meals Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 4: SWAKOPMUND – SESRIEM AREA

We have the option to have a more leisurely start this morning as we are only leaving Swakopmund in the middle morning.

If you choose not to have a lie in then Swakopmund offers many opportunities to keep us busy during our morning here. The town centre is small and easily explored on foot but there are also many extra, optional activities available. For those with a love of adrenaline quad biking and sand boarding is very popular if you fancy careering down the slip face of a sand dune at 60 km per hour. Our guide will discuss all the options with you in advance and will be able to facilitate any bookings that we would like to make.



Departing Swakopmund 11h30 we head east into the desert. We first cross the Namib gravel plains, large areas of flat and seemingly barren terrain broken up by huge mountain inselbergs. We have two mountain passes to traverse this afternoon, first is the mighty Kuiseb Pass and we follow the road from the top of the mountains, dropping steeply down into the canyon carved over eons by the Kuiseb River on its way to debouch into the ocean at the port town of Walvis Bay.

We climb up from the banks of the river and over the pass, travelling through the mountain peaks and on to the second, smaller canyon of the Gaub River, a tributary of the Kuiseb. We emerge from the mountains onto a flat road and almost immediately we cross the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5 south degrees. There is a signpost at this auspicious spot and we stop along the road for photos.

From here we continue on through the desert landscape to the tiny town of Solitaire where we can stretch our legs and sample the apple pie that has made this homestead famous. Onwards again to our destination for today, Desert Camp, located very close to the National Park entrance at Sesriem which is the gateway to the dunes at Sossusvlei. Overnight is in twin rooms with en-suite bathroom facilities.

Accommodation Twin share with en-suite bathroom
Meals Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5: SOSSUSVLEI

Getting into the dune area as early as possible this morning is the aim and that means a pre-dawn start and a very early breakfast. As we are staying outside of the national park we will enter the dune area as soon as the gate opens at sunrise.

The best time to photograph the dunes is around sunrise and sunset. This is when you can see towering sand dunes illuminated a glowing orange, apricot red on one side and swathed in shadow on the other. The depth of field is amazing at this time of day. From Sesriem we cover the 60 km into the dunes quickly and arrive at the 2x4 car park where all 2 wheel drive vehicles have to stop. From here we enter the ancient Tsauchab River-bed for the last 5km leg to Sossusvlei itself.

The Tsauchab River is ephemeral, it only flows seasonally, when there is enough rain, and for the most part the river-bed is dry. Eons ago, during these rare floods the Tsauchab sometimes received enough water to flow all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. However, as the millennia passed and the dune fields began to form, (around five million years ago), wind-blown sand invaded the river-beds. The rivers became more and more constricted by sand until eventually the occasional floods could not break through the sand barriers that had been erected by the wind. The valley we drove along this morning to get here is kept free of sand by the Tsauchab but Sossusvlei is now permanently waters end.

Sossusvlei does still sometimes flood, (perhaps once in a decade). After good rains in the Naukluft Mountains where the river rises Sossusvlei can become inundated, and the lake that this creates can last for many months, but no longer can the river find its original path to the Atlantic. There is a 4x4 shuttle service that will transport us through the sandy terrain of the river-bed.

We will visit Dead Vlei, an ancient pan completely surrounded by dunes, that is strikingly populated with dead, skeletal camelthorn trees. These trees have been a feature on this landscape for over 1000 years. Sossusvlei is almost surrounded by dunes, just one narrow path kept open by the Tsauchab River. We have time to explore the area on foot and to climb one of the highest dunes in the world, some towering 300 m above us, the views are breathtaking and justly famous.

We drive back the way we came, (there is only one road), stopping at the iconic Dune 45, (so named as it is 45 km from Sesriem. There is time to climb Dune 45 if you still have energy, or perhaps just a sit in the shade at the base of the dune will suffice.

Driving back to Sesriem we take a short excursion to see the Sesriem Canyon. Only four km from Sesriem, this canyon has been carved out of the landscape by the Tsauchab River. Around two million years ago there was an ice age in Europe. This caused glaciers to form and resulted in a worldwide drop in sea level. The knock on effect of



this at Sesriem Canyon was that it increased the length and waterflow of the Tsauchab River. This greater force of water allowed the Tsauchab to begin cutting through the terrain resulting in the canyon we can see today. We can easily walk into the river-bed, it is usually much cooler in the canyon and we can follow the river for some way along its journey to Sossusvlei.

We head back to Desert Camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation Twin share with en-suite bathroom
Meals Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6: SESRIEM AREA - WINDHOEK

Our last day today but excitement is still on the menu. We head back to Solitaire and join an open vehicle to visit one of their local conservation projects, in this case cheetah. Solitaire is home to a number of cheetah that, for different reasons, are unable to be released back into the wild. for different reasons. This excursion allows us the chance to learn all about the cheetah, the work done by local conservation projects, and also get some incredible photos of the world's fastest land mammal. After the activity our guide will get us a sample of the apple pie that has made this homestead famous.

There is some lovely mountain scenery on our drive back to Windhoek. The road climbs up onto and over Namibia's central plateau and we return to Windhoek via the small community at BüellsPort and the small town of Rehoboth. We arrive mid-afternoon and will be dropped at the accommodation of your choice within Windhoek city limits.

Accommodation Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through your agent
Meals Breakfast

For those that choose to fly today, NO FLIGHTS DEPARTING PRIOR TO 19H00 in case there are unexpected delays returning from safari.

TOUR INFORMATION

Pre-Departure Information:

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure Booklet to help you prepare. Below is some basic tour information.

Tour departure point

Pickup is included from your centrally located hotel/guest house/backpackers within Windhoek.

Tour ending point

Drop off is at your centrally located hotel/guest house/backpackers within Windhoek.

Tour Accommodation

Accommodation is spent in twin share rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Please contact us should you have any questions regarding the accommodation on tour.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your reservations agent to make these bookings.

Single Supplements

Single supplement only applicable to single travellers that request their own room, otherwise single travellers will be matched with another traveller of the same gender on a twin share basis.



What is included

- *Transport in a custom built safari vehicle with pop up roof & USB charging capabilities & air-conditioning
- *Services of a professional English speaking guide
- *5 nights' accommodation in twin share rooms with en-suite bathrooms as above
- *Meals as above (B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner)
- *National Park entry fees (2 days Etosha & 1 day Sossusvlei)
- *Game drives as above in tour vehicle
- *Sossusvlei excursion (including 4x4 shuttle)
- *Pick up and drop off within Windhoek city limits
- *Tap water

What is excluded

- *Flights
- *Visas
- *All drinks
- *Snacks between meals
- *Tips and gratuity
- *Items of a personal nature

Health

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disability that you may have.

Visas

Please note that these are your responsibility. Some nationalities require visas for Namibia.

Insurance

All clients require adequate Travel Insurance. Medical Insurance is not sufficient. Activity providers can refuse participation of activities, if the correct valid Travel Insurance is not provided.

General

All information is subject to change without prior notice, changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better-quality experience. This would be where we are able to make improvements, sometimes last-minute decisions due to the nature of the tour/event. Travel times and campsites can change depending on road or weather conditions, or any unforeseen circumstances. These are used as a guideline only. On our longer tours it is possible that your crew, truck and fellow travellers will change due to our unique tour linking system. Please ensure that you have received the latest version of this dossier- your consultant will send you a link to do this, we ask clients to download the latest tour dossier 1 week before your tours departure so you are up to date with any changes.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details:

General Enquiries & Reservations: info@detourafrica.co.za/

Website: www.detourafrica.co.za/

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WhatsApp: +27 60 0186 293

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We are member of SATSA (#1802) so you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected.

