

EXPLORING NAMIBIA (EN)

13 Days
 Windhoek to Windhoek

LIVE THIS!

The classic Namibian Safari. This is an introduction to almost all the major highlights Namibia has to offer. The awe-inspiring landscapes of the Fish River Canyon, the surreal Namib Desert and the majestic mountain ranges in Damaraland and the amazing wildlife in the national parks and conservancies. This safari will leave you engrossed in Namibia.

Classification	Classic & Superior											
Pax - Classic - Superior	2 – 20 guests											
	2 – 6 guests											
Vehicle	Minibus or Coach											
Languages	Bilingual English / German											
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour											
Included	Meals: Classic: 12 Breakfasts Superior: 12 Breakfasts; 12 Dinners Entrance Fees: Fish River Canyon; Namib Naukluft National Park; Twyfelfontein; Petrified Forest; Living Museum of the Damara; Etosha National Park Portages All meals as specified in the itinerary Still Mineral Water Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance											
Excluded	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities											
Optional Extras	Dinner supplement for Classic Tour Excursions / Activities on request											
Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement, English Departures)												
1st November 2016 – 31st October 2017												
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
5, 12, 19, 26	3	7, 21	11, 25	11, 25	8, 22	6, 20	3, 17	1, 15, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 14, 21, 28	



DAY 1 / Saturday
KALAHARI DESERT

Leaving Windhoek, we travel into the largest sand mass on Earth, the **Kalahari Desert**. The Kalahari is a vast semi desert of wind-blown sand held by a sparse mantle of thorn scrub making it the largest continuous stretch of sand covering 9 African countries. Unlike other true deserts, the Kalahari does receive erratic rainfall. For many therefore "thirstland" is a fitting description. Lacking permanent surface water, the Kalahari is a challenging place to live except for those who have adapted to not only survive but flourish here. The Bushmen 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 still home to a surprising large amount of specially adapted wildlife. Enjoy the opportunity to experience the dunes and the wildlife and plants, in this desert environment.

Classic: Intu Africa Camelthorn Lodge

Superior: Intu Africa Zebra Lodge – Dinner & Nature Drive in the Kalahari

DAY 2 / Sunday
FISH RIVER CANYON

We continue south through expansive rocky plains, visiting the unique **Quiver tree forest**. Nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders, stacked in a mysterious way, the area is also aptly referred to as "**Giant's Playground**". We continue to our lodge, situated in close vicinity to the Fish River Canyon. We can optionally explore the area on foot or on a guided nature drive in the later afternoon.

Classic: Canyon Village - Breakfast

Superior: Canyon Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Day3 / Monday
LÜDERITZ

Our morning starts on the edge of the **Fish River Canyon** where we gaze into this magnificent geological phenomenon. The Fish River Canyon is located in the northern part of the Nama Karoo and it is the second largest canyon on earth, featuring a gigantic ravine that measures in total about 160 km long and up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 meters deep. The Fish River is the longest interior river found in Namibia, but its current flow is just a drop compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. We continue our journey along the scenic Mountain range along the Orange River, which forms the natural border to South Africa, and through the **Ai/-Ais/ Richtersveld Transfrontier Park** towards Lüderitz. On the way to Lüderitz we stop at Garub to encounter the **Wild Horses of the Namib Desert**.

Classic: Nest Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Nest Hotel Superior Room – Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 / Tuesday
LÜDERITZ

Our morning starts with a visit to **Kolmanskop** ghost town. Kolmanskop is a deserted Diamond Mining Town in the Sperrgebiet National Park. Once a cosmopolitan center, a town built to last...until the diamonds ran out. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting monument to the thriving past. We will also visit **Diaz Point** and explore the coastal town of Lüderitz itself.

Classic: Nest Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Nest Hotel Superior Room – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 / Wednesday
NAMIB DESERT

After an early breakfast we travel north through the pre-Namib to our lodge in the Namib Desert. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei, with some of the highest sand dunes on Earth towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the pool, or taking part in optional activities offered at our lodge.

Classic: Hammerstein Lodge - Breakfast

Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 / Thursday

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, enrapturing our senses, and providing an opportunity to capture this awesome landscape on film. You will be mesmerized by the surreal **Deadvlei**, surrounded by the highest dunes and **Sossusvlei**, where the mostly dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst majestic dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath. Thereafter we visit the **Sesriem Canyon**, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert.

Classic: Namib Desert Lodge - Breakfast

Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 / Friday

SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast we travel via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Moon Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. In Walvis Bay we 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 breathtaking picture when they appear in groups. Having arrived in **Swakopmund**, the rest of the day is spent at leisure. With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a very popular holiday destination in Namibia. Its pleasant summer climate and long stretched beaches attract anglers and surfers from all over Southern Africa. For the international guest, Swakopmund is a bohemian mix of German architecture and African time, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. It is colorful, it is vibrant, but most of all, it is fun.

Classic: Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Strand Hotel – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 / Saturday

SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the “playground of Namibia”, it has numerous activities ranging from, adventure to exploring the fascinating features of the Namib Desert and the animals and plants that occur and survive here. Embrace the relaxed pace of this idyllic coastal town whilst enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many café’s. Alternatively explore the rugged, sweltering desert on a day tour, or view this awesome, environment from the air on a scenic flight. Find your inner child and push adrenaline to its limits with extreme adventures such as skydiving over the desert or quad biking and sand boarding on the dunes. Take time to get the feel of this quaint town with its historic buildings, museums, shopping arcades and beach bar that has transformed into its own personality by the vibrant use of color and the bohemian lifestyle.

Classic: Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Strand Hotel – Breakfast, Dinner & Marine Cruise

Day 9 / Sunday

DAMARALAND

Heading further north, we travel via the **Brandberg**, Namibia’s highest mountain (2.579m), 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. We visit to **Twyfelfontein**, a heritage site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2500 pictures some 6000 years ago! After a visit to a nearby **Living Museum of the Damara** we proceed on to the **Petrified Forest** - a geological phenomenon depicting the creation and evolution of some of the oldest landmasses on Earth. Here we also visit the **Welwitschia mirabilis** plant – the oldest living desert plant on Earth.

Classic: Damara Mopane Lodge - Breakfast

Superior: Vingerklip Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 / Monday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

After a relaxed breakfast, we travel towards the **Etosha National Park**, famous for its vast amount of wildlife and unique landscape. Once we have reached our camp located on the outside of the National Park, we have the rest of the day at leisure, but can optionally also book an afternoon guided game drive in open game drive vehicles with the lodge.

Classic: Etosha Safari Camp - Breakfast

Superior: Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa – Breakfast, Dinner



Day 11 / Tuesday

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. The Park was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist. Despite the size of the Etosha National Park, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to visitors. Game viewing in the park is largely focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, in excess of 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx, eland, as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. An extensive network of roads link the over 30 water holes allowing the visitor an opportunity to do a real game viewing safari over the stretch of the park as each different area will provide different encounters.

Classic: Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Superior: Mushara Collection – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 12 / Wednesday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in the Etosha National Park. We may encounter animal species we have not seen the previous day and look forward to any new surprises at the different waterholes visited. The Etosha Pan dominates the park. This salt pan desert, which is nearly completely enclosed by the park and is lined by numerous watering holes, is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km in places. During Etosha's notorious dry spells the pan is a deathly place, lying parched and cracked under the molten African sun. It is claimed that game viewing is best during the dry spells as animals will then congregate closer to water. But even in the rainy season the park remains an abundant wildlife haven. You then have the pleasure of experiencing the rebirth of life as the young foals, cubs and chicks are seen frolicking with their parents and the sprouting new green shrubs and grasses create a pleasing green oasis. In the afternoon we travel back to our lodge, where we enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Classic: Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Superior: Mushara Collection – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13 / Thursday

DEPARTURE

After breakfast we continue southwards to Windhoek. We will visit the craft markets in the main street of the capital city, where after we are dropped off at our hotel or at the international airport for our return flight.

Breakfast

EXTENSION

Namibia Experience Tour (NE)

Please Note:

For the Namibia Experience, the tour is extended with a fantastic 2-night package at either The Elegant Farmstead (Classic) or the GocheGanas Nature Reserve (Superior).

Classic Extension:

Day 13 / Thursday

OTJIHAVERA MOUNTAINS

Departing Etosha, we travel south towards Windhoek, where the next three days are spent on a Namibian game farm. Besides being a haven for birders, the game farm boasts game species such as eland, giraffe and kudu, which we will experience during an optional afternoon nature drive the following afternoon (not included).

The Elegant Farmstead - Breakfast

Day 14 / Friday

OTJIHAVERA MOUNTAINS

We have the morning at leisure for a late sleep in followed by breakfast. In the afternoon we enjoy an optional nature drive in an open Ranger vehicle. The farm offers rich bird life and there are 11 different animal species on the farm, eland, kudu, oryx, springbok and giraffes to name a few. We have the great opportunity to spot animals and take photos while our guide describes to us various fauna, flora and birdlife of the farm. Drinks and snacks will be served while we watch and enjoy the sunset. Back at the Farmhouse we will enjoy dinner on the terrace and observe the animals at the nearby lit up waterhole. (Dinner is not included)

The Elegant Farmstead - Breakfast & Nature Drive

Day 15 / Saturday

DEPARTURE

We travel via mountainous terrain to the international airport or you can also be dropped off in Windhoek at your accommodation of choice.

Breakfast

Superior Extension:

Day 13 / Thursday

GOCHEGANAS NATURE RESERVE

Departing Etosha, we travel south towards Windhoek, where the next two days are spent on a nature and wellness reserve situated amidst the scenically beautiful Aus Mountain range. Tomorrow afternoon we embark on a guided game drive in open vehicle.

GocheGanas Nature reserve – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 14 / Friday

GOCHEGANAS NATURE RESERVE

The entire day is spent at leisure on the game reserve. You can unwind with a wellness treatment in the modern and comprehensive wellness center, or you can explore the natural surrounding area on a scenic walk or by mountain bike.

GocheGanas Nature Reserve – Breakfast, Dinner

Day 15 / Saturday

DEPARTURE

We travel via mountainous terrain to the international airport or you can also be dropped off in Windhoek at your accommodation of choice.

Breakfast

TOUR SUMMARIES:
EXPLORING NAMIBIA CLASSIC

	DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Saturday	Intu Africa Camelthorn Lodge		Optional dune drive in the Kalahari Desert	260
2	Sunday	Canyon Village	Breakfast	Garas Quiver Tree Forest, walk onto a granite hill (excluding drinks)	440
3	Monday	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Ai/-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	525
4	Tuesday	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy optional oyster tasting in Luederitz	50
5	Wednesday	Hammerstein Lodge	Breakfast	Travel through the Namib Desert along the central escarpment	290
6	Thursday	Namib Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	260
7	Friday	Swakopmund Plaza /Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	300
8	Saturday	Swakopmund Plaza /Beach Hotel	Breakfast	At leisure, book any activities with your consultant / guide	
9	Sunday	Damara Mopane Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Twyfelfontein and Petrified Forest. Visit a Living Museum of the Damara	520
10	Monday	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Optional afternoon game drive in open vehicles with the lodge	190
11	Tuesday	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle	200
12	Wednesday	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle	300
13	Thursday	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek	540
EXTENSION PACKAGE					
13	Thursday	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Drive into the Otjihavera Mountains near Okahandja Optional Nature Drive	
14	Friday	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Game Drive in open vehicle	
15	Saturday	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	

Alternative accommodation may be used

EXPLORING NAMIBIA SUPERIOR

	DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Saturday	Intu Africa Zebra Lodge	Dinner	Game drive on the private reserve with dune sundowner (including drinks)	260
2	Sunday	Canyon Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Garas Quiver Tree Forest, walk onto a granite hill (excluding drinks)	440
3	Monday	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Dinner	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Ai/-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	525
4	Tuesday	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Dinner	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy optional oyster tasting in Luederitz	50
5	Wednesday	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Travel through the Namib Desert along the central escarpment	340
6	Thursday	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	120
7	Friday	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
8	Saturday	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Catamaran dolphin cruise with fresh oysters and sparkling wine	80
9	Sunday	Vingerklip Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Excursion to Twyfelfontein and Petrified Forest. Visit a Living Museum of the Damara	520
10	Monday	Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa	Breakfast, Dinner	Optional afternoon game drive in open vehicles with the lodge or wellness treatment	220
11	Tuesday	Mushara Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle	200
12	Wednesday	Mushara Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle	300
13	Thursday	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek	540
EXTENSION PACKAGE					
13	Thursday	GocheGanas Reserve	Breakfast, Dinner	Drive to the Auas Mountains near Windhoek Optional Nature Drive / Walk in the afternoon	
14	Friday	GocheGanas Reserve	Breakfast, Dinner	Game Drive in open vehicle	
15	Saturday	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	

Alternative accommodation may be used