

FACES OF NAMIBIA (FON)

11 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

LIVE THIS!

Experience Namibia's cultures in the regions they have inhabited for thousands of years. Follow their way of traditional living and learn about the survival strategies of the last few remaining nomadic tribes. Combine this with the traditional highlights, Etosha's wildlife kingdom and the world's highest dunes at Sossusvlei. A safari into the heart of Namibia, its people, its wildlife and its land.

Classification	Classic										
Pax	2 – 20 guests										
Vehicle	Minibus or Coach										
Languages	Bilingual English / German										
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
Included	Meals: 10 Breakfasts Entrance Fees: Etosha National Park; Ovambo Village; Himba Village; Twyfelfontein; Petrified Forest; Living Museum of the Damara; Living Museum of the Bushmen; Namib Naukluft 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											
1st November 2016 – 31st October 2017											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
7, 14, 21	5	2, 16	6	6, 20	3, 17	1, 15	12	3, 17, 31	14, 28	11, 25	2, 9, 16, 23

Day 1 / Monday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Starting in Windhoek we travel north to the **Etosha National Park**, where guests can optionally book a game drive in open vehicles. 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. At the lodge enjoy the unique and local flair, designed around a shebeen – the name for the traditional bars in Namibia – with a camp fire and live music.

Etosha Safari Camp



Day 2 / Tuesday

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. 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. Our home tonight is one of the camps inside the Park.

Halali or Namutoni Camp - Breakfast

Day 3 / Wednesday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK / OVAMBOLAND

This morning we traverse the remainder of the park and exit from the northern gate, the King Nehale Gate. We continue traveling into the "Region of the 4 O's" (locally referred together as "**Owamboland**"), home to eight **Oshiwambo** groups that constitute the largest tribe found in Namibia. The area is Namibia's most populated area by a long stretch, habituating over 50% of the population. It is an eclectic mix between communal, subsistence farming, fishing when necessary and the energy of formal and informal business sectors. Here we visit a local homestead where highlights include a traditional "Kraal" inhabited by local residents and learn about the Oshiwambo's local life, culture and customs.

Protea Hotel Ondangwa or similar - Breakfast

Day 4 / Thursday

KAOKOLAND

Traversing Ovamboland, enjoy the diversity of small villages and kraals, expanding pans and majestic palm trees with cattle, goats and donkeys roaming freely. We continue to **Kaokoveld** and arrive at our lodge in Opuwo, set high on a hill that allows us a magnificent view over the untouched landscape. Opuwo is a contrast of people that have remained true to their traditions and cultures and those that have embraced western culture, living in harmony side by side. In the afternoon we visit a **traditional Himba village**. The Himba have managed to maintain much of their traditional lifestyle, perhaps owing to the fact that the land they inhabit is extremely harsh and unyielding that it has been rarely coveted by the colonialists and commercial farmers. Today the Himba live as they have for centuries.

Opuwo Country Lodge - Breakfast

Day 5 / Friday

DAMARALAND

After breakfast we travel further south into **Damaraland**, one of the least populated and last true wilderness areas on earth. The area exhibits neither fences nor boundaries in its vast, stony desert landscape. It is marked by endless vistas across stark plains, ancient valleys and mountain massifs which bring the traveller close to nature. It's also the home of the unique desert elephant and a free roaming rhino population. Our lodge is situated along a dry riverbed and in close proximity to the **Brandberg**, Namibia's highest mountain and home to the famous "White Lady" rock painting (2.579m) a spiritual site of great significance to the San (Bushman) tribes. With more than 45 000 rock paintings, this is the largest open-air museum on earth.

Brandberg White Lady Lodge - Breakfast

Day 6 / Saturday

DAMARALAND

We start the morning with a visit to **Twyfelfontein**, Namibia's first World Heritage Site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2500 pictures some 6000 years ago. The reddish sandstone boulders seem to glow in the fierce heat, yet ancient Bushman and Damara sheltered from enemy and spied on game from these surreal rock formations. After a visit to a **Living museum of the Damara** to learn about how these people lived in the past, their beliefs, traditions and customs, we travel back to our lodge. In the afternoon we have the option of searching for the desert elephant on a guided nature drive or doing a hike to see the White Lady painting at Brandberg.

Brandberg White Lady Lodge - Breakfast

Day 7 / Sunday

ERONGO MOUNTAINS

Departing we travel towards the picturesque Erongo Mountain range. En route we visit a local **living Museum of the San** to see and learn more on the ancient traditions and life style of this ancient Bushman community. Arriving at our guesthouse you have enough time to spend at leisure along the sparkling pool, or explore the small town of Omaruru and its surrounds, that includes one of only 3 wine farms in Namibia. Omaruru is a quirky town with a plethora of small arts and crafts shops, cafes' and small art or photography galleries, being almost a mix of a gentile European retirement town, African engagement and touristy and arty enterprise. Especially unique and worth a visit is the Crystal Kellerei, one of only two wine farms situated in this Desert country, with a lovely lunch of local produce and cheeses. Enjoy the magical sunset from the Franke Turm, a stone tower built by the colonial Germans forces in honour of Major Victor Franke, to which your guesthouse has access.

Omaruru Guesthouse - Breakfast

Day 8 / Monday

SWAKOPMUND

We travel to the Atlantic Ocean town of Swakopmund. 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.

Europa Hof Hotel - Breakfast

Day 9 / Tuesday

NAMIB DESERT

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. You have the option to participate in a dolphin cruise from Walvisbay, enjoying the view of the desert from the Atlantic Ocean whilst sipping sparkling wine and enjoying light snacks. In the early afternoon we continue with our journey via two geologically amazing canyons (Kuseb and Ghaub) and via endless desert plains into the vicinity of Sossusvlei. Our Guestfarm is situated near **Solitaire** offering true Namibian hospitality within the magnificent desert vistas.

Solitaire Guestfarm - Breakfast

Day 10 / Wednesday

SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT

This day calls for an early rise, as we will forever remember the picture of a sunrise over the mighty dunes of the Namib Desert. This is the desert that the country derives its name from, the seas of sand of which have been declared a World Heritage site. Gaze at the bright splash of sun-baked sand combined with the mighty play of shadows cast onto the layside of the dunes. We travel to **Sossusvlei** where we visit **Dead Vlei**, a surreal white clay pan surrounded by monumental dunes and dotted with age-old Camelthorn tree skeletons. Before traveling back to our lodge, we visit **Sesriem Canyon**, a 30-meter deep gauge incised into the desert floor by the Tsauchab River, the same river that suddenly ends at Sossusvlei.

Solitaire Guestfarm - Breakfast

Day 11 / Thursday
DEPARTURE

After breakfast we travel back to Windhoek where we are dropped off at our accommodation of choice, or transferred to the airport for our outward flight.

Breakfast
TOUR SUMMARY:

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Etosha Safari Camp		Travel to Etosha National Park, optional game drive in the afternoon in open vehicles with the lodge	450
2	Halali or Namutoni Camp	Breakfast	Full day Game drive in the Etosha National Park in tour vehicle	200
3	Protea Hotel Ondangwa or similar	Breakfast	Half day Game drive in the Etosha National Park, Visit a working Ovambo traditional village and learn of their traditions and customs	250
4	Opuwo Country Lodge	Breakfast	Travel into Kaokoland and visit a traditional Himba village in the afternoon	300
5	Brandberg White Lady Lodge	Breakfast	Travel through the Damaraland and view age-old Welwitschia mirabilis plant	490
6	Brandberg White Lady Lodge	Breakfast	Visit Twyfelfontein, visit a Living Museum of the Damara, Optional elephant tracking in vehicle in the afternoon or visit the "white lady" rock painting.	250
7	Omaruru Guesthouse	Breakfast	Travel to the Erongo Mountain Range, Visit a San Living Museum Village. Optional lunch at a unique Namibian Winery.	300
8	Europa Hof Hotel	Breakfast	Travel to Swakopmund. Leisure time in Swakopmund, enjoy optional activities in and around the city.	240
9	Solitaire Guestfarm	Breakfast	Morning at leisure in Swakopmund, optional activities can be booked for the morning	350
10	Solitaire Guestfarm	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	130
11	Return to Windhoek	Breakfast	Return to Windhoek via the central plateau	350

Alternative accommodation may be used.