

NAMIBIA ADVENTURE (NA)

 11 Days
 Windhoek to Windhoek

LIVE THIS!

Experience Namibia's highlights, but off the beaten track. The safari will traverse those routes less travelled, let you get out and experience Namibia on your skin and interact with some of the local cultures, whilst all the while including the major highlights.

Classification	Explorer										
Pax	2 – 14 guests										
Vehicle	4WD Land Cruiser or 4WD Truck										
Languages	Bilingual English / German										
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
Included	Meals: 10 Breakfasts Entrance Fees: Namib Naukluft National Park; Dorob National Park, Brandberg, 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 - Excursions / Activities on request										
Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement)											
1st November 2016 – 31st October 2017											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
12, 26	17	21	25	18	22	20	24	15, 29	12, 26	9, 23	7, 21

Day 1 / Saturday
NAMIB DESERT

Departing Windhoek, we travel down the steep central escarpment along the striking Naukluft range and through dry riverbeds into the Namib Desert, the oldest desert on Earth. Our accommodation is situated at Sesriem, the entrance gate leading to the highest dunes on earth at Sossusvlei, awarding us a view onto the Namib Desert plains and the steep cliffs of the Naukluft in the distance. Bidding the sun farewell with a cold drink in hand, we have the option of "braaiing" (local terminology for barbeque) our own dinner over the coals at our camp, or enjoying a luscious buffet at the nearby Sossusvlei Lodge.

Desert Quiver Camp

Day 2 / Sunday

SOSSUSVLEI / NAUKLUFT/TSARIS MOUNTAINS

With sunrise we enter the gate at Sesriem and the Namib Naukluft National Park, and travel via a valley of towering sand dunes to entrance of Sossusvlei. A 5km stretch of 4x4 driving takes us to where the river abruptly ends, blocked by the encroaching sand dunes. We walk to **Deadvlei**, a surreal white clay pan surrounded by monumental dunes and dotted with age-old Camelthorn tree skeletons. After numerous photo opportunities we enjoy our breakfast packs under the trees of **Sossusvlei**. On our departure from this surreal landscape we stop for a walk down the deeply eroded **Sesriem Canyon**. We continue towards the foot of the Tsaris Mountains. On our way we stop at the Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate to take part in **tour of the vineyard** and taste their production. Find out how, with so many factors counting against wine production in this unforgiving environment, many people wonder how Neuras can produce such wonderful wine.

Zebra River Lodge - Breakfast

Day 3 / Monday

NAUKLUFT/TSARIS MOUNTAINS

The lodge offers us direct access onto a large undisturbed area of the mountainous terrain. We further have the opportunity to explore the **Naukluft Mountain's** water-rich valleys on one of Namibia's most celebrated hiking terrain. The Mountain range is known for their abundant wildlife, including mountain zebras and leopards. In the afternoon we experience our first sundowner drive on one of the rocky mountain tracks that allow numerous awesome views over the low-lying Namib Desert plains.

Zebra River Lodge - Breakfast

Day 4 / Tuesday

SWAKOPMUND

Today the trip to **Swakopmund** leads us through two geologically fascinating canyons, being the Gaub and Kuiseb Canyons. We continue to 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 breath-taking picture. Having arrived in Swakopmund the rest of the day is spent at leisure in this tranquil coastal town, often also aptly referred to as the "playground of Namibia" due to many activities that are on offer here.

Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel - Breakfast

Day 5 / Wednesday

SWAKOPMUND

We have the entire day at our own disposal and can choose from a range of adventurous activities that would satisfy the adventurer as well as the nature connoisseur. Explore the desert dunes on a fast paced quadbike, or search for the desert-dwelling creatures on a guided "living desert adventure". See the ocean from above suspended by a tandem-parachute or doing a scenic flight by airplane. Another option is a marine cruise, feeding seals, seagulls and pelicans while spoiling yourself with fresh Namibian oysters and sparkling wine and searching for the more dramatic dolphins or whales. Walk the endless beach in complete isolation, or amble through the historical town on foot to fulfil your culinary as well as shopping desires. In the evenings you have a wide choice of restaurants at your disposal that specialize in dishes created by the "fruit of the sea".

Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel - Breakfast

Day 6 & 7 / Thursday & Friday

DAMARALAND

On our way to Damaraland we visit large lichen fields as well as the largest **fur seal colony** in southern Africa at **Cape Cross** – named after the cross erected by the Portuguese explorer Diego Cao. The route takes us along the Atlantic Ocean on a salt road and past the slim remainders of a ship wreck that lies along the formidable Skeleton coastline. We proceed via a less travelled dirt road into Damaraland, passing the Messum Crater with its giant Welwitschia plants, and heading for Namibia's highest mountain, the majestic **Brandberg**. On the next morning we take a walk onto a part of the Brandberg Mountain that reveals one of the most celebrated Bushman paintings on Earth, the **rock painting of the White Lady**. We also have the option to travel down a stretch of this riverbed in search of the elusive desert elephant.

Brandberg White Lady Lodge - Breakfast

Day 8 / Saturday

DAMARALAND

After breakfast we visit **Twyfelfontein**, a large “open air museum” that became Namibia’s first World Heritage site in 2007. With over 2.500 rock engravings and rock paintings, some of which are estimated to be over 6.000 years of age, this is one of the most fascinating areas in southern Africa which we explore on foot with an indigenous guide. Finally we visit a local **Living Museum of the Damara** to meet the indigenous inhabitants of Damaraland and to learn about their beliefs, customs and traditional lifestyle.

Toko Lodge - Breakfast

Day 9 / Sunday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we visit a **Himba village** to meet and learn about one of the last truly nomadic tribes left on earth that have not diverted from their traditional lifestyle. Interact with these authentic people and understand what makes them so unique. We then depart Damaraland for the **Etosha National Park** with its variety of fauna and flora making it one of Africa’s most celebrated wildlife reserves. The next two days will be spent exploring the park on extensive game drives, the first of which is enjoyed during this afternoon before travelling to our lodge shortly before sunset for dinner. 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.

Mondjila Safari Camp - Breakfast

Day 10 / Monday

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.

Mondjila Safari Camp - Breakfast

Day 11 / Tuesday

DEPARTURE

In the morning we depart and travel back to Windhoek, where our tour ends, or alternatively we join the Captivating Zambezi Tour to explore the riverine paradise of the Zambezi strip.

Breakfast

SUMMARY OF TOUR

Day	Accommodation	Meal Basis	Activities	KM
1	Desert Quiver Camp		Travel to Sesriem and Namib Desert, possibility of a traditional "Braai" over open flames	350
2	Zebra River Lodge	Breakfast	4x4 outing to the Sossusvlei, walk to Dead Vlei and hike into the Sesriem Canyon. Vinyard tour and wine tasting at Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate, Sundowner drive in the Tsaris Mountain range	240
3	Zebra River Lodge	Breakfast	Take part in optional hiking trails through the Naukluft Mountains	
4	Swakopmund Beach Hotel / Swakopmund Plaza Hotel	Breakfast	Drive through mountain and steep valley landscape to the Atlantic Ocean. Walvis Bay RAMSAR wetland	370
5	Swakopmund Beach Hotel / Swakopmund Plaza Hotel	Breakfast	Optional excursions to be enjoyed in and around Swakopmund	
6	Brandberg White Lady Lodge	Breakfast	Excursions to the ship wreck along the Atlantic Ocean, Visiting the seal colony at Cape Cross. Travel off-road through the Messum Crater to the Brandberg	300
7	Brandberg White Lady Lodge	Breakfast	Morning hike at the Brandberg Mountain discovering the rock paintings of the famous White Lady. Or a 4x4 drive into the Ugab River bed in search of the desert elephants.	
8	Toko Lodge	Breakfast	Visit the World Heritage site at Twyfelfontein, En route visit a traditional Damara Living Museum Village.	380
9	Mondjila Safari Camp	Breakfast	Visit an authentic Himba Museum Village. Afternoon game drive in the Etosha National Park	460
10	Mondjila Safari Camp	Breakfast	Full day Game drive in the Etosha National Park	250
11	Return	Breakfast	Return to Windhoek on tarred road	400

Alternative accommodation may be used