

## EXPLORING NAMIBIA (EN)

13 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

2018 SOA Scheduled Guided Tour

### 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.

<b>Classification</b>	Classic & Superior										
<b>Pax - Classic</b>	2 – 20 guests										
<b>- Superior</b>	2 – 6 guests										
<b>Vehicle</b>	Minibus or Coach										
<b>Languages</b>	Bilingual English / German										
<b>Driver / Tour Guide</b>	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
<b>Included</b>	<b>Meals:</b> Classic: 12 Breakfasts Superior: 12 Breakfasts; 12 Dinners <b>Entrance Fees:</b> 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 on Bus Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance										
<b>Excluded</b>	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities										
<b>Optional Extras</b>	Dinner supplement for Classic Tour (Day 1-6 & 9-12) Excursions / Activities on request										
<b>Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement, English Departures)</b>											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
4, 11, 18, 25	2	6, 20	10, 24	10, 24	7, 21	5, 19	2, 16, 30	14, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6, 13, 20, 27

- Same day flight departures out of Windhoek International are only possible after 19h00
- Arrival flights on day of tour departure to be no later than 09h00

### 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 therefor “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, wildlife and plants, in this desert environment.

**Classic:** Intu Africa Camelthorn Lodge

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

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**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. Here 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 past the Naute dam towards the coastal town of Lüderitz. On the way to Lüderitz we stop at Garub where we might 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 centre, a town built to last...until the diamonds ran out. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting monument to the thriving past. Returning to Lüderitz we visit **Diaz Point** and explore the coastal town of Lüderitz.

**Classic: Nest Hotel - Breakfast**

**Superior: Nest Hotel Superior Room – Breakfast, Dinner**

**Day 5 / Wednesday**

**NAMIB DESERT**

After an early breakfast we travel north along the Tiras Mountain range to our lodge in the Namib Desert. Here we are located at the gateway to **Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon**, with some of the highest sand dunes on Earth towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the pool, enjoying the vast open desert plains, or taking part in optional activities offered at the lodge.

**Classic: The Elegant Desert Lodge - Breakfast**

**Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner**

**DAY 6 / Thursday**

**NAMIB DESERT**

The 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: The Elegant Desert Lodge - Breakfast**

**Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner**

**Day 7 / Friday**

**SWAKOPMUND**

After breakfast we travel via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. Reaching the coastal harbour town of 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 when they appear in groups. Continuing along scenic dune belts and the Atlantic Ocean we reach **Swakopmund**, where 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 colourful, 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 colour 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 past 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 **Twyfelfontein**, a UNESCO heritage site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2.500 pictures some 6.000 years ago! After a visit to the 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 tranquil 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 just outside of the National Park, we head onto our first safari into the National Park. Together with our guide we explore the various waterholes located close to Okaukuejo and the Andersson gate.

**Classic: Etosha Safari Camp - Breakfast**

**Superior: Etosha Village – 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: Onguma 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: Onguma Collection – Breakfast, Dinner**

**Day 13 / Thursday**

**DEPARTURE**

After breakfast we continue southwards to Windhoek. Depending on available time we can still 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 a 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 to see, eland, kudu, oryx, springbok and giraffes to name just 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 spectacular 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**

Via mountainous terrain we travel 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.

**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 centre, or you can explore the natural surrounding area on a scenic walk or by mountain bike. In the afternoon we embark on a guided game drive in open vehicle.

**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	440
3	Monday	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Travel past the Naute dam towards Lüderitz, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	420
4	Tuesday	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy optional oyster tasting in Lüderitz	50
5	Wednesday	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Travel through the southern Namib Desert along the Tiras Mountains	440
6	Thursday	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	170
7	Friday	Swakopmund Plaza /Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive through Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
8	Saturday	Swakopmund Plaza /Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Day 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	480
10	Monday	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Afternoon Etosha game drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	200
11	Tuesday	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	300
12	Wednesday	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with your guide	200
13	Thursday	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek or extend your stay in the Otjihavera Mountains near Okahandja	540
<b>EXTENSION PACKAGE</b>					
13	Thursday	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Drive into the Otjihavera Mountains near Okahandja, Optional Nature Drive	
14	Friday	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Afternoon game Drive in open vehicle	
15	Saturday	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	

**Alternative accommodation may be used**



**EXPLORING NAMIBIA SUPERIOR**

	<b>DAY</b>	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>MEALS</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>KM</b>
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	440
3	Monday	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Dinner	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Travel past the Naute dam towards Lüderitz, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	420
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	470
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	Etosha Village	Breakfast, Dinner	Afternoon Etosha National Park Game drive with tour vehicle and guide	220
11	Tuesday	Onguma Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive with tour vehicle and guide	300
12	Wednesday	Onguma Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive with tour vehicle and guide	200
13	Thursday	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek or extend your stay in the Auas Mountains near Windhoek	540
<b>EXTENSION PACKAGE</b>					
13	Thursday	GocheGanas Reserve	Breakfast, Dinner	Drive to the Auas Mountains near Windhoek, Optional Nature Drive / Walk in the afternoon	570
14	Friday	GocheGanas Reserve	Breakfast, Dinner	Afternoon game Drive in open vehicle	
15	Saturday	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	100

**Alternative accommodation may be used**