

CANYONS & DESERTS (CD)

9 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

2018 SOA Scheduled Guided Tour

LIVE THIS!

Discover Namibia's four deserts in the south of the country. The undulating and vegetated dunes of the Kalahari Desert; the rocky plains and majestic Fish River Canyon of the succulent Karoo; the majestic star dunes and surreal vleis of the Namib Desert. Interspersed with game drives and fun, this tour provides unequalled landscapes.

Classification	Classic & Superior										
Pax - Classic	2 – 20 guests										
- Superior	2 – 6 guests										
Vehicle	Minibus or Coach										
Languages	Bilingual English / German										
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
Included	Meals: Classic: 8 Breakfasts Superior: 8 Breakfasts; 8 Dinners Entrance Fees: Fish River Canyon; Namib Naukluft 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										
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 (Day 1-6) - Excursions / Activities on request										
Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement, English Departures = Bold)											
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 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, 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. 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 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

DEPARTURE

After breakfast we travel back to Windhoek to our hotel or to the international airport for our return flight.

Breakfast

SUMMARY: CLASSIC TOUR

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Intu Africa Camelthorn Lodge		Optional dune drive in the Kalahari Desert	260
2	Canyon Village	Breakfast	Garas Quiver Tree Forest	440
3	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Travel past the Naute dam towards Lüderitz, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	420
4	Nest Hotel	Breakfast	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy optional oyster tasting in Lüderitz	50
5	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Travel through the southern Namib Desert along the Tiras Mountains	440
6	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	170
7	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive through Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
8	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Day at leisure, book any activities with your consultant / guide	
9	End of tour	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek @ 13h00	380

Alternative accommodation may be used

SUMMARY: SUPERIOR TOUR

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Intu Africa Zebra Lodge	Dinner	Game drive on the private reserve with dune sundowner (including drinks)	260
2	Canyon Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Garas Quiver Tree Forest	440
3	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	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Dinner	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy optional oyster tasting in Lüderitz	50
5	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Travel through the Namib Desert along the central escarpment	470
6	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	120
7	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
8	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Catamaran dolphin cruise with fresh oysters and sparkling wine	80
9	End of tour	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek @ 13h00	380

Alternative accommodation may be used