

NAMIBIA HIGHLIGHTS (NH)

9 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

2018 SOA Scheduled Guided Tour

LIVE THIS!

Discover the main highlights in Namibia, from the awe-inspiring seas of sand of the Namib desert, the cultures and awesome landscapes of Damaraland and the variety and amounts of wildlife. This tour showcases the major highlights of the country. This safari is ideal as an introduction or as a once only visit.

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: 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										
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 1-2 & 5-8) - Excursions / Activities on request										
Departure Dates (Special Discount / No Single Supplement English Departures=Bold)											
Nov '17	Dec '17	Jan '18	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
8, 15, 22, 29	6	10, 24	14, 28	14, 28	11, 25	9, 23	6, 20	4, 18	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24, 31

- 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 / Wednesday
NAMIB DESERT

Departing Windhoek, we travel to our lodge in the Namib Desert. This is the gateway to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei, where some of the highest sand dunes on Earth stand 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: The Elegant Desert Lodge

Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge - Dinner

Day 2 / Thursday
SOSSUSVLEI / 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

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landscape on film. You will be mesmerized by the surreal **Deadvlei**, surrounded by the highest dunes and **Sossusvlei**, where the mostly dry Tsachab 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 3 / Friday

SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast, we travel via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Moon 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 breathtaking 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 4 / 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 5 / 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 6 / 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 7 / 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 8 / 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 9 / 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

Please Note:

*This tour can be extended with a fantastic 2-night package at either **The Elegant Farmstead (Classic)** or the **GocheGanas Nature Reserve (Superior)**.*

Classic Extension:

Day 9 / 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 10 / 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 11 / 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 9 / 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 10 / 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 11 / 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 SUMMARY: CLASSIC

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	The Elegant Desert Lodge		Travel into the Namib Desert	280
2	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	170
3	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
4	Swakopmund Plaza / Beach Hotel	Breakfast	At leisure, book any activities with your consultant / guide	
5	Damara Mopane Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Twyfelfontein and Petrified Forest. Visit a Living Museum of the Damara	480
6	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Afternoon Etosha game drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	200
7	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	300
8	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with your guide	200
9	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek	540
EXTENSION PACKAGE - CLASSIC				
9	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Drive into the Otjivera Mountains near Okahandja, Optional Nature Drive	500
10	The Elegant Farmstead	Breakfast	Game Drive in open vehicle	
11	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	100

Alternative accommodation may be used

TOUR SUMMARY: SUPERIOR

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Sossusvlei Lodge	Dinner	Optional afternoon activities	360
2	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	120
3	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Scenic drive via Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit Walvis Bay lagoon and bird island	350
4	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Dinner	Catamaran dolphin cruise with fresh oysters and sparkling wine	80
5	Vingerklip Lodge	Breakfast, Dinner	Excursion to Twyfelfontein and Petrified Forest. Visit a Living Museum of the Damara	520
6	Etosha Village	Breakfast, Dinner	Afternoon Etosha National Park Game drive with tour vehicle and guide	220
7	Onguma Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive with tour vehicle and guide	200
8	Onguma Collection	Breakfast, Dinner	Full day Etosha game Drive with tour vehicle and guide	300
9	Windhoek	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek	540
EXTENSION PACKAGE - SUPERIOR				
9	GocheGanas	Breakfast, Dinner	Drive to the Auas Mountains near Windhoek Optional Nature Drive / Walk in the afternoon	570
10	GocheGanas	Breakfast, Dinner	Game Drive in open vehicle	
11	Departure	Breakfast	Transfer to Windhoek or Airport	100

Alternative accommodation may be used