

FACES OF NAMIBIA (FON)

14 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

2018 SOA Scheduled Guided Tour

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	<p>Meals: 13 Breakfasts Entrance Fees: Etosha National Park; Ovambo Village; Himba Village; Twyfelfontein; 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 on bus Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance</p>										
Excluded	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities										
Optional Extras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner supplement (Day 1-9, 12, 13) - Excursions / Activities on request 										
Departure Dates											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
6, 13, 20	4	1, 15	5	5, 19	2, 16, 30	14	11	2, 16, 30	13, 27	10, 24	1, 8, 15, 22

- 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 / Monday

OTJIHAWERA MOUNTAINS

After arriving at the Airport or collection at your pre booked hotel in Windhoek we travel the short distance towards the Otjihawera Mountains on the outskirts of Okahandja. Here we have the optional opportunity to experience our first afternoon game drive and typical African sundowner. 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 (*not included*) on the terrace and observe the animals at the nearby lit up waterhole.

The Elegant Farmstead

Day 2 / Tuesday

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today we travel further north to the **Etosha National Park**, depending on arrival time, guests can optionally book a guided game drive in open game viewing 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 - Breakfast

Day 3 Wednesday

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.

Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Day 4 / Thursday

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.

Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Breakfast

Day 5 / Friday

OVAMBOLAND

This morning we explore the north eastern parts of the park and exit through 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 6 / Saturday

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 reach Opuwo, the "capital" of **Kaokoveld**. Our lodge is set high on a hill that allows us a magnificent view over the far reaching 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.

Opuwo Country Lodge - Breakfast

Day 7 / Sunday

KAOKOLAND

Today we visit a local **village of the Himba tribe** and experience an authentic introduction into the Ovahimba culture. 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. During your visit the Himba demonstrate important parts of their traditions including daily life, food production, craftsmanship and singing and dancing. You will learn and see details of their homestead, the holy fire, their religious beliefs and the importance of livestock. You are more than welcome to join in at the activities.

Opwu Country Lodge - Breakfast

Day 8 / Monday

DAMARALAND

After breakfast we travel south into the **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 massif which bring the traveller close to nature. It's also the home of the unique desert elephant and a free roaming rhino population. On the way to our lodge, which is situated along the dry riverbed of the Gauntegab, we stop at **Twyfelfontein**, Namibia's first UNESCO 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 to our lodge. In the afternoon we have the option of searching for the desert elephant on an optional guided nature drive.

Madisa Camp - Breakfast

Day 9 / Tuesday

ERONGO MOUNTAINS

Departing the Damaraland we travel past 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. 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 gentle 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 honor of Major Victor Franke, to which your guesthouse has access.

Omaruru Guesthouse - Breakfast

Day 10 / Wednesday

SWAKOPMUND

Today 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 11 / Thursday

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.

Europa Hof Hotel - Breakfast

Day 12 / Friday

NAMIB DESERT

Today we head south into the heart of the Namib Desert. Our journey takes us via two geologically amazing canyons (Kuiseb and Ghaub) and via endless desert plains into the vicinity of Sossusvlei. Our tranquil Lodge is situated near **Sesriem** offering true Namibian hospitality within the magnificent desert vistas and easy access to the highlights of this region, Sossusvlei and Deadvlei.

The Elegant Desert Lodge - Breakfast

Day 13 / Saturday

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.

The Elegant Desert Lodge - Breakfast

Day 14 / Sunday

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	The Elegant Farmstead		Afternoon at leisure, optional sundowner drive with the lodge	80
2	Etosha Safari Camp	Breakfast	Travel to Etosha National Park, optional game drive in the afternoon in open vehicles with the lodge	390
3	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Game drive in the Etosha National Park in tour vehicle	300
4	Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Breakfast	Full day Game drive in the Etosha National Park in tour vehicle	200
5	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
6	Opuwo Country Lodge	Breakfast	Travel into Kaokoland	300
7	Opuwo Country Lodge	Breakfast	Visit a traditional Himba village	100
8	Madisa Camp	Breakfast	Travel through the Damaraland and view age-old Welwitschia mirabilis plant, Visit Twyfelfontein, visit a Living Museum of the Damara	470
9	Omaruru Guesthouse	Breakfast	Travel to the Erongo Mountain Range, Visit a San Living Museum Village. Optional lunch at a unique Namibian Winery.	270
10	Europa Hof Hotel	Breakfast	Travel to Swakopmund. Leisure time in Swakopmund, enjoy optional activities in and around the city.	240
11	Europa Hof Hotel	Breakfast	Day at leisure, book any activities with your consultant / guide	
12	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Scenic drive through Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons to heart of the Namib Desert, optional sundowner drive with the lodge	360
13	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion.	170
14	Return to Windhoek	Breakfast	Return to Windhoek via the central plateau	280

Alternative accommodation may be used.