

CANYONS & DESERTS (CD)

9 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

Classification	Classic & Superior
Classic	2 – 16 guests
Superior	2 – 6 guests
Vehicle	Minibus or Coach
Languages	Bilingual English / German
Driver / Tour Guide	Services of registered driver guide throughout the tour
Included	<p>Meals: All meals as specified in the itinerary Classic: 8 x Breakfasts Superior: 8 x Breakfasts; 7 x Lunches; 6 x Dinners</p> <p>Drinks: Superior: Selected Beverages</p> <p>Entrance Fees: Fish River Canyon; Namib Naukluft National Park</p> <p>Portages Still Mineral Water on Bus Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance</p>
Pick Up	Collection by your guide at the International airport if arrival is before 09h00, or directly at your pre-booked hotel / guesthouse in Windhoek
Excluded	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities
Optional Extras	- Additional Excursions / Activities on request
Meal Options	- This tour can be booked on either Breakfast only or ad Dinner, Bed & Breakfast option - Only nights in Swakopmund exclude dinner

Departure Dates

	Tour Language:	Bilingual	Bilingual (Classic only)	English
	Departure Days:	SATURDAY	TUESDAY	SATURDAY
2020	November	7, 21, 28	17	14
	December	5	-	-
2021	January	9, 23	-	-
	February	6, 20	-	-
	March	6, 20	30	-
	April	17	-	3
	May	1, 15, 29	11	-
	June	12	-	26
	July	10, 24, 31	13, 27	-
	August	7, 14, 21, 28	10	-
	September	11, 18, 25	7, 21	4
	October	9, 16, 23	5, 19	2

Special Discount / No Single Supplement

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

TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE!

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 Nama Karoo; the majestic star dunes and surreal vleis of the Namib Desert. Interspersed with game drives and fun, this tour provides unequalled landscapes.

DAY 1 | SATURDAY / TUESDAY KALAHARI DESERT

Leaving Windhoek, we travel into the enormous 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 most extensive continuous stretch of sand covering 9 African countries. Unlike other true deserts, the Kalahari does receive erratic rainfall. For many therefore "thirstland" is a more 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 dunes and endless grass plains interspersed with acacia's and shrubs, it is still home to a surprisingly large amount of specially adapted wildlife. Enjoy the opportunity to experience the red dunes, wildlife and plants, in this desert environment on an optional nature drive (*On the Superior version this nature drive is included*).

Classic: Intu Afrika Collection

Superior: Intu Afrika Collection – light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages) & Nature Drive in the Kalahari

DAY 2 | SUNDAY / WEDNESDAY FISH RIVER CANYON

We continue south through arid and extensive rocky plains. Visiting the unique Garas quiver tree forest you are welcomed by quirky human-made sculptures of scrap metal which set a contrast to this serene, timeless space with Quiver trees and aloes nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders, stacked mysteriously, 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 explore the area on foot or an optional guided nature drive in the later afternoon highlighting the Quiver trees, rugged landscape and impressive sweeping rock formations.

Classic: Canyon Village - Breakfast

Superior: Canyon Lodge – Breakfast, light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)

Day3 | MONDAY / THURSDAY 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 is the second largest canyon on earth, featuring a gigantic ravine that measures in total about 160 km long, 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, where we stop shortly at the Naute Kristall Cellar and Distillery, to taste some of their unique liquors (optional) or simply enjoy a delicious cup of coffee. Proceeding onwards we head towards the coastal town of Lüderitz. On the way to Lüderitz, we stop at Garub, viewing point for the **Wild Horses of the Namib Desert**.

Classic: Lüderitz Nest Hotel Comfort Room- Breakfast

Superior: Lüderitz Nest Hotel Superior Room – Breakfast, light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)

DAY 4 | TUESDAY / FRIDAY LÜDERITZ

Our morning starts with a visit to **Kolmanskop** ghost town. Kolmanskop is a deserted Diamond Mining Town in the Sperrgebiet National Park. Once an opulent and decadent town, a monument to the Diamond boom and built to last...until the diamonds ran out. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting monument to the thriving past, offering visitor's unique photo motives into a bygone era. On our return to town, we visit **Diaz Point**, with its Padrao on a cliff overlooking the harsh Atlantic Ocean. Here we stop at a small café

(drinks and snack optional) to experience nature's forces, the wildlife and residents of Lüderitz encounter each day before arriving back in Lüderitz where we explore this small, historic town.

Classic: Lüderitz Nest Hotel Comfort Room - Breakfast

Superior: Lüderitz Nest Hotel Superior Room – Breakfast, light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)

Day 5 | WEDNESDAY / SATURDAY

NAMIB DESERT

After an early breakfast, we travel across vast open plains, stopping for an optional light lunch in the countryside town of Helmeringhausen before continuing further north along with the Tiras Mountain range to our lodge in the Namib Desert. We are located close to Sesriem the gateway to **Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon**, with some of the highest dunes on Earth towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the sparkling 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, light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)

DAY 6 | THURSDAY / SUNDAY

NAMIB DESERT

The morning demands an early start. Entering the Namib Naukluft National Park shortly after sunrise, the first rays of sunlight 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 impressive landscape on film. You will be captivated by the surreal **Deadvlei** surrounded by some of the highest dunes on earth and **Sossusvlei**, where the dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these majestic dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath. Your endurance will be rewarded with an unforgettable **desert breakfast** amidst the ancient camelthorn trees and endless dunes as backdrop. After this thrilling experience we visit the **Sesriem Canyon**, a life-sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert before returning back to our lodge and cooling off along the swimming pool or with a refreshing drink on one of the quiet retreats located all around the lodge.

Classic: The Elegant Desert Lodge – Desert Breakfast

Superior: Sossusvlei Lodge – Desert Breakfast, light lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)

Day 7 | FRIDAY / MONDAY

SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast we continue our journey approaching the little settlement of Solitaire on the edge of the Namib Naukluft National Park, feeling like you have arrived in the middle of nowhere, before travelling 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 Africa's lesser flamingos breed in this lagoon and present a breath-taking picture when they appear in groups. Continuing along the scenic route between the dune belt 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 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 rhythms, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. It is colourful, it is vibrant, but most of all, it is pure fun.

Classic: Europa Hof Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Strand Hotel – Breakfast, Light Lunch

Day 8 | SATURDAY / TUESDAY

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 while 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: Europa Hof Hotel - Breakfast

Superior: Strand Hotel – Breakfast & Marine Cruise

Day 9 | SUNDAY / WEDNESDAY

DEPARTURE

After breakfast a transfer takes us back to Windhoek to our hotel or the international airport for our return flight.

Breakfast

SUMMARY: CLASSIC TOUR

Day	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Intu Afrika Collection		Optional dune drive in the Kalahari Desert	260
2	Canyon Village	Breakfast	Visit the Garas Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground	440
3	Lüderitz Nest Hotel - Comfort Room	Breakfast	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Travel past the Naute dam, visiting the Naute Kristall Distillery towards Lüderitz, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert	420
4	Lüderitz Nest Hotel - Comfort Room	Breakfast	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy an optional oyster tasting in Lüderitz	50
5	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Travel across vast open plains of the southern Namib Desert and Tiras Mountains to the central Namib Desert	440
6	The Elegant Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion	170
7	Europa Hof Hotel	Breakfast	Scenic drive through Gaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon	350
8	Europa Hof 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	MEALS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	Intu Afrika Collection	Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Game drive on the private reserve with dune sundowner (<i>including drinks</i>)	260
2	Canyon Lodge	Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Visit the Garas Quiver Tree Forest and Giants Playground	440
3	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint, Travel past the Naute dam, visiting the Naute Kristall Distillery towards Lüderitz, Wild Horses of the Namib Desert at Garub Station	420
4	Nest Hotel – Superior Room	Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town and Diaz Point, enjoy an optional oyster tasting in Lüderitz	50
5	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Travel across vast open plains of the southern Namib Desert and Tiras Mountains to Sesriem	470
6	Sossusvlei Lodge	Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner (incl. selected beverages)	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot followed by a desert breakfast, Sesriem Canyon excursion	120
7	Strand Hotel	Breakfast, Light Lunch	Scenic drive through Gaub and Kuiseb Canyons, visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon	350
8	Strand Hotel	Breakfast	Catamaran marine cruise with fresh oysters and sparkling wine is served	80
9	End of tour	Breakfast	Travel back to Windhoek @ 13h00	380

Alternative accommodation may be used