



NAM2. Namibia Experience Escorted Tour (11 nights)

[Highlights: Etosha National Park, Damaraland, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei, Fish River Canyon, Kalahari Desert]



TOUR SUMMARY:

No of days / nights: 12 / 11

Tour starts: Windhoek

Tour ends: Windhoek

Includes: Accommodation, transport, English-speaking guide, meals as per itinerary.

Accommodation: Standard

Best time to visit: May to November

Set departures: One departure per month, except for September and October when there are 2 departures per month.

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY:

Day 1 Windhoek to Otavi Mountains

We depart Windhoek in a northerly direction and travel to the Otavi Mountain range, where our historical guest farm is situated (approximate travel distance 420 km). The rest of the day is spent at leisure. Relax along the pool in the large garden or take a scenic walk along one of the walking paths. At a frequented waterhole next to the guest farm you can observe some of the animals inhabiting the area.

Day 2 Otavi Mountains to Etosha National Park

After breakfast, we travel further north to the Etosha National Park, one of Africa's most diverse and well-known wildlife reserves (350 km). It boasts over 110 different animal species and is home to over 300 different bird species. The perennial springs along the edges of the Etosha Pan, a large, centralised saline depression with the size of the Netherlands, draw large concentrations of wildlife and birds during the dry seasons of the year. Shortly before sunset we travel out of the park to our lodge, situated within close vicinity of the entrance gate.

Day 3 Etosha National Park

We enter the park in the early morning and enjoy the entire day game driving. The park, with a size of over 22,000 square kilometres, is world renowned for its spectacular wildlife: elephant, black and white rhinoceros, lions, leopards, cheetahs, large herds of springbok, zebra, wildebeest, giraffe and a multitude of other fascinating species. Each waterhole experience is different and promises us amazing photographic opportunities and wildlife experiences.

Day 4 Etosha National Park to Damaraland

We travel westwards into Damaraland. Having visited the age-old Petrified Forest, we continue our adventure with a visit to Twyfelfontein, Namibia's only world heritage site. We also visit the Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes - all geological phenomena depicting the creation and evolution of some of the oldest landmasses on earth. (420 km)

Day 5 Damaraland to Swakopmund

We travel via majestic Mountain ranges and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2,579 m), to the Atlantic Ocean. Travelling along huge lichen fields, we arrive Swakopmund in the early afternoon (travel distance ca 320 km). Here we spend the rest of the day at leisure. Our hotel is situated in the centre of town, allowing us to reach most restaurants, shops and the sandy beach on foot. In the evening we can visit one of the excellent restaurants that Swakopmund has to offer.

Day 6 Swakopmund

The idyllic coastal town of Swakopmund is the perfect location for walking tours, shopping, relaxing at a quaint coffee shop or along the sandy beaches. This being Namibia's playground, we also have a wide variety of activities on offer, ranging from marine cruises, desert tours and scenic flights to quad biking, paragliding, parachuting and kite surfing to mention but a few.

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY CONT'D:

Day 7 Swakopmund to Sossusvlei

We travel via two geologically amazing canyons and via endless desert plains into the vicinity of Sossusvlei (280 km). En route we stand the chance to see some of the specially adapted desert animals that survive by the moisture of the early morning fog reaching inland from the Atlantic Ocean. At the Solitaire general trader, we can enjoy true Namibian home baked Apple Pie that is reputedly the best in Africa.

Day 8 Sossusvlei to Helmeringhausen

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. Gaze at the bright splash of sun-baked sand combined with the mighty play of shadows cast onto the lay side of the dunes. From Sossusvlei we visit Dead Vlei, a surreal white clay pan surrounded by monumental dunes and dotted with age-old camel thorn trees. Before travelling to our next accommodation, we visit Sesriem Canyon (travel distance 360 km).

Day 9 Helmeringhausen to Fish River Canyon

After breakfast we travel to the edge of the Sperrgebiet National Park in search of the wild horses of the Namib Desert. Originating from the second World War, these horses have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions of the desert and represent one of only very few wild horse populations on earth. Our destination today is the privately owned Gondwana Canyon Park, an ever growing wildlife reserve visioning the reintroduction of animal species that have been poached out of the area during the colonial era (440 km).

Day 10 Fish River Canyon

Our morning starts on the edge of the Fish River Canyon, where we gaze 550 meters into this magnificent geological phenomenon, the second largest of its kind on earth. We have the chance to explore the rim of the canyon on foot in order to learn more about the rare and adapted plant species that grow here, before travelling back to our lodge (travel distance 40 km).

Day 11 Fish River Canyon to Kalahari Desert

After breakfast we travel north into the largest sand mass on earth, the Kalahari Desert (travel distance 480km). The Bushman 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 acacias and shrubs, it is the only form of survival for a vast amount of specially adapted wildlife. We have the option of joining a sundowner drive, where we explore the fauna and flora of the desert and enjoy a sundowner drink while the sun is setting (nature drive not included).

Day 12 Checkout

After breakfast we continue northwards to Windhoek, where we are taken to either a hotel or to the International airport in time for your return flight. Here we bid farewell to our tour guide.

