



TRAVEL FOR THE SOUL



NAMIB DESERT
EXPLORATIONS SAFARI
Detailed Itinerary 2024



NAMIB DESERT EXPLORATIONS SAFARI

A journey through Namibia's natural wonders and rich heritage

Day 1: Windhoek

Ongoshi awaits your arrival at Hosea Kutako Airport in Windhoek. After all formalities have been completed, we take you to your accommodation to freshen up. A short while later we travel through the city of Windhoek to see some of the historic – and modern sites. We will have you back at your accommodation early afternoon for a rest. Early evening, we pick you up for an evening meal at the well-known Joe's Beerhouse, to give your pallet a first taste of Namibian cuisine.

Day 2: Kalahari Desert

After a wholesome breakfast we depart to the east and then southeast, driving through the Kalahari. Notice the different ecological formations as we drive through hills, flatlands, and red dunes. We stop for lunch under a shady camelthorn tree before arriving at the Bagatelle Lodge in the early afternoon.

After checking in and refreshing ourselves, we embark on a nature drive on the Bagatelle Ranch Lands, looking for the plains game to be found here. The team take you to view the cheetahs being fed, before we climb onto a dune for our first sundowner in Namibia's nature.

After returning we have time to freshen up before dinner.



Day 3: Fish River Canyon

After breakfast we continue our travels southwards along the red dunes of the Kalahari and the large grey gravel plains, making our way 500 km south of Windhoek.

As we near Keetmanshoop, the landscape changes completely as we drive into dolomite hills and quiver tree forests. We stop at rock formations called "Giant's playground, so named as it looks like a giant played with his Legos and put them on top of each other. Interspersed with quiver trees, this is quite a dramatic site.

After a short stop in Keetmanshoop to replenish supplies, we turn off towards the Fish River Canyon. About 40km outside of Keetmanshoop we have our lunch at the scenic Naute Dam which is Keetmanshoop's water supply. Directly below the dam we find wine and palm orchards being irrigated from the dam's water. Here we have a short stop at the Naute Kristall Stall, either for a cup of really decent coffee or to sample their gin/wine/spirits that are locally made there.

As we continue south we come into an arid mountain region through which the Fish River flows. But, as it has been a long day, we travel straight to the Canyon Lodge. After check-in and a short rest or swim, we have a great sundowner before dinner.

Day 4: Aus

Travelling a short way back, we find the turn-off to the Fish River Canyon, about a 30km drive. Enjoy the unbelievable scenery from the different viewpoints, looking at this canyon; depending on which time of the year you visit, water can be seen some of the time.

We head back northwards and then turn off towards the Atlantic. Our goal is to reach the little town of Aus. Historically of some importance during the beginning of the first world war, it is now best remembered as the home of Namibia's wild horses. We have a picnic lunch on the road before arriving at the Desert Horse Inn (Klein Aus Vista), our next accommodation. For the energetic, there are some wonderful, safe, hiking routes in the hills around the lodge. Sundowners and dinner at the lodge



Day 5: Lüderitz

We have an early appointment in Lüderitzbay at the ghost town. Here we are in a diamond protected area, having a look at the history of this little enclave that reminds of the old American goldrush. When diamonds were found lying in the sand, a town very quickly sprang up around the site. While most of the buildings have been reclaimed by the desert, a few have been renovated to show the interested guest how people lived at the beginning of the 20th century, what they did, how things functioned.

After this 2 – 3 hour tour, we drive into Lüderitz and the surrounding bay where a concrete copy of the Diaz Padrao (a Portuguese cross erected by the first sailors to land here) is to be found.

We have a late lunch in Lüderitz before driving back to Aus. On the way we visit the wild horses that have lived and survived here for over 100 years (probably descendants of South African military horses from the first world war). Sundowners and dinner will be held at the

Day 6: Namib Naukluft

We leave Aus for our drive northwards through the very beautiful Tiras mountains towards Sossusvlei. Here we have the flatlands and mountains on one side and the large dunes of the Namib Desert on the other. Geologically the environment changes every 30 – 40 km. A detour will take us past Schloss Duiseb, a castle built by a German and his American wife prior to the first world war. As this is a travelling day, we take our time to travel to our next lodge, the Namib Naukluft Lodge.

Arriving in the late afternoon, we enjoy a relaxing sundowner and dinner.



Day 7: Sossusvlei

As we want to have perfect light for photography at Sossusvlei, we leave an hour before sunrise to arrive at the gate at sunrise (the earliest the gate opens). It is a 70 km drive through the dunes to get to both Dead Vlei and Sossusvlei. At Sossusvlei you have the chance to climb big Mamma (a very high dune at the vlei) after which we will have breakfast which we have brought with us. We then drive to Dad Vlei very famous for its color schemes of orange dunes, white crusty ground and millennia old dead trees that stand in this vlei.

As it gets very hot very quickly, we leave the dunes at around 11.00 to 11.30 and visit the Sesriem Canyon, a 30 – 60 meter deep channel cut into the soft sediment ground millions of years ago, a testament to very large rivers flowing through the area many millions of years ago.

We return to the lodge in the early afternoon for a light lunch. The rest of the afternoon is at your disposal to explore the area, have a swim or take a nap. Sundowners and dinner will be at the lodge

Day 8: Swakopmund

Today we intend to reach the Atlantic Ocean again. By way of the Ghaub and Kuiseb passes, that lie along the massive dune ridge which stretches all the way from Lüderitz to Walvisbay, we turn off into the Namib Naukluft National Park on the lookout for Oryx, Springbok, Hartebees and Giraffe, we follow the mountains northwards, then traversing west which will bring us into the vicinity of Swakopmund. Here we will have a look at our moon landscape (a large field of dolerite hills that follows the Swakop River for about 60 kilometers.

We will also have a chance to see the first old Wewitschia Plants that grow only in the Namib. They reach an age of approximately 2000 years, the specimens we intend to show you vary between 1200 and 1500 years.

We have a lunch picnic on the road.

In the late afternoon we arrive in Swakopmund and look up our accommodation, which is situated in the middle of the town, right on the beach. After a rest and freshening up, we will leave for dinner in one of the many excellent restaurants in Swakopmund. Or should you prefer this, we can arrange a romantic dinner for you and your partner anywhere in town.



Day 9: Swakopmund

Today is your day. This coastal region offers so much in terms of activities, we do not wish to diminish your options, so here, today, every guest can follow his or her own interests. Whether you wish to see the ocean wildlife from the deck of a catamaran (with oysters and champagne of course), take a tour into the desert to see its plant and animal life, go skydiving, quad biking, camel- or horse riding, do scenic flights over the desert or just wander through town, your guide will give you advice on all the options and arrange them for you.

We meet again early evening for another culinary experience in Swakopmund.

Day 10: Twyfelfontein

We leave the coast rather early as we have ways to go. Our road takes us some 70 kilometers up the north coast before turning inland. We visit the Spitzkoppe (the Matterhorn of Namibia) where a guide shows us some of the San rock art.

We also have lunch here and marvel at this beautiful environment. Then we turn north again. Near the mining town Uis, we pass the Brandberg Mountain on our way to Twyfelfontein Country Lodge. After freshening up or a swim, we have sundowners and dinner at the lodge.



Day 11: Twyfelfontein

Due to the extreme heat in this area, we leave for the San engraving early in the morning. A guide from the Heritage Council will accompany us into the mountains to show us the San engravings that abound in these mountains. After the brisk hour walk, we will visit a Damara Living Museum. While this concept is for show to visitors, it helps keep the Damara culture alive by teaching younger generations how their ancestors used to survive in this harsh environment. You will be shown how tools were made, how they hunted and built snares to trap animals, how clothing was made, how millet would be pounded to make one of the staple foods of Africa.

We return to the lodge for a light lunch. The early afternoon is for your leisure, either having a nap or laze by the pool. Later in the afternoon we meet one of the Twyfelfontein Country Lodge guides, who will take us into the dry river systems, looking for the desert adapted elephants. Here there are no guarantees, nature being what it is, there is always a chance of seeing Giraffe, Hartebees, Kudus, ostriches, springbok and hopefully the elephants. We do our sundowner on the way back to the lodge, somewhere in nature.

Day 12: Etosha National Park

As we make our way to the Etosha National Park, we stop at the Petrified Forest to view these ancient trees that were swept away by massive floods many millions of years ago, buried in kilometers of mud and then calcified. Every tree rind is still visible in these giants that turned to stone. We continue our trip, bypassing Toshari Lodge and entering the Etosha National Park. We have a picnic lunch on the way and now we search the waterholes for all wildlife the park has to offer.

Here we find every animal Africa has to offer except the river animals like hippo, crocodile and cape buffalo – of course, nature being what it is, we rely on our luck to spot as many animals as we can. In the late afternoon we leave the park for our nightly accommodation, the Toshari Lodge.

Here we have our sundowner and dinner.



Day 13: Etosha National Park

We leave rather early and re-enter the park. Today we want to explore the western areas of the park, visiting all waterholes to spot the wildlife. We will have a lunch picnic at one of the picnic spots along the way.

In the afternoon we return to Toshari Lodge for a swim or a rest.
Sundowners and dinner at the lodge

Day 14: Etosha National Park

We re-enter the park, but today we travel eastwards, partly along the Etosha Salt Pan, partly into thick bushy areas. We lunch at Halali, about halfway to our next destination all the while visiting the man-made and natural waterholes to look for animals.

In the late afternoon we approach the Etosha King Nehale Lodge, approximately 50 km east of Namutoni. Each chalet has its own plunge pool, so relax, freshen up
We have our sundowner at the bar before having dinner.

Day 15: Etosha National Park

We return to the bush, exploring the eastern and northern regions of the park. Returning to the lodge for lunch and a siesta, those who still feel energetic, can join your guide on a last afternoon excursion before returning to the lodge for a swim or a drink at the bar.
Sundowners and dinner at the lodge.



Day 16: Windhoek

We return to Windhoek today. The guests leaving right away will be dropped off at the airport in good time while those extending their stay will be dropped off at their arranged meeting places to take them to their accommodation.





Notes and Conditions

- Ongoshi Offroad Expeditions reserves the right to change advertised lodges with lodges of similar standards, should advertised lodges be fully booked.
- This safari starts, and ends in Windhoek, Namibia
- This safari includes the following:
 1. Accommodation (bed & breakfast): 15 nights
 2. Dinner: 13 nights (Swakopmund dinner not included)
 3. Lunches: 14 lunches
 4. All park entry fees
 5. Visit to the Giant's playground and quiver tree forest
 6. Visit to the Fish River Canyon
 7. Visit to the ghost town Kolman's kop
 8. Visit to Sossusvlei and Deadvlei
 9. Visit to the Spitzkoppe and its San paintings
 10. Nature/elephant drive in the Twyfelfontein area
 11. Visit to the Damara Living Museum
 12. Visit to the World Heritage Site Twyfelfontein (San engravings)
 13. Visit to the Petrified Forest
 14. Game drives in the Etosha National Park (4 days)
 15. Sundowner drinks: 15
 16. All vehicle and insurance fees
 17. All guiding fees
- **Not included: Your Swakopmund activities.** (There is such a large offer of different activities, we feel everyone can choose how to spend this day at the coast. Your guide will assist you with all your wishes)
- **Safari Costs:** The safari will be guaranteed as of 4 pax. This will also be the initial quote to you. Should the tour fill up to 6 guests, the amount will be reduced .
- Ongoshi Offroad Expedition's contract with you will start and end at Hosea Kutako Airport, Windhoek. Flights to and from Southern Africa are NOT included





Accommodation Namib Desert Explorations Safari

1. Windhoek: Windhoek Luxury Suite (1 night): <https://thewindhoek.com>
2. Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch (1 night): Kalahari Desert: <https://bagatelle-lodge.com/>
3. Canyon Lodge, Fish River Canyon (1 night):
<https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/canyon-lodge>
4. Klein Aus Vista , Aus, (2 nights):
<https://www.klein-aus-vista.com/accommodation/desert-horse-inn/>
5. Namib Naukluft Lodge, (2 nights): <http://www.namib-naukluft-lodge.com>
6. Swakopmund Sands Hotel (2 nights): <https://quiverandco.com/swakopmund-sands/>
7. Twyfelfontein Country Lodge, Damaraland (2 nights): <https://twyfelfontein.com.na/>
8. Toshari Lodge, Etosha Pan, Anderson gate (2 nights): <https://quiverandco.com/>
9. King Nehale Lodge (2 nights): <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/etosha-king-nehale>

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