



TRAVEL FOR THE SOUL



FIVE RIVER SAFARI
DIAMOND
Detailed Itinerary 2024



FIVE RIVER SAFARI DIAMOND

Experience the best kept secrets of Africa

Day 1: Windhoek

We pick you up at Hosea Kutako Airport in Windhoek. Once you have passed immigration and have collected your luggage, we depart for Windhoek (ca 40km from the airport). We check in at Windhoek Luxury Suites, where you can freshen up, take a swim or a shower, before we do a little tour of Windhoek, visiting some of the colonial building structures (Christuskirche, Tintenpalast, the old railway station) but also Windhoek's Central Business District, a craft market and Namibia' Freedom Museum (one of the best views of the city can be seen from the top of the museum).

In the evening your guide will take you to the famous Joe's Beerhouse for dinner, where you can taste some of Namibia's famed meat cuisine.

Day 2: Etosha National Park

After a wholesome breakfast at the guesthouse, we depart for the Etosha National Park, approximately 400 km north of Windhoek. We have a quick lunch in a little village called Outjo, before checking in at the stunning Toshari Lodge. Those very eager to see their first animals can accompany your guide into a short excursion into the Etosha National Park. However, you can also enjoy a swim and a beer at the lodge and just relax, your choice. We meet for a sundowner drink on the terrace, before sitting down to a wonderful buffet dinner.



Day 3: Etosha National Park

An early rise and breakfast; today we spend the entire day in the Etosha National Park, looking for virtually all that Africa has to offer in terms of wildlife. We visit various waterholes, exploring east and west, we view the actual salt pans and marvel at the porous rock formations that allow water to seep into natural waterholes. During the mid-day heat we stop over at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp, here we enjoy a Toshari-packed lunch, have a swim or a short siesta at the poolside, before continuing our quest to see lions, elephants and rhinos. In the late afternoon we leave the park and return to Toshari Lodge, where we freshen up before having sundowners and another fantastic meal.

Day 4: Etosha National Park

After a hearty breakfast we say goodbye to Toshari and travel back to the park. Our mission today is to traverse it from the central part where Anderson gate is, to the eastern part of the park. Our target is the Etosha King Nehale Lodge, approximately 50 km from Namutoni. Around midday we reach the Halali Rest Camp, where we will enjoy another of Toshari's scrumptious lunch packs. After a swim and a siesta, we continue on eastwards towards Namutoni, all the while watching Africa's nature. In the late afternoon we will reach Etosha King Nehale Lodge on the Andoni Plains. After check-in you are at your leisure, (each chalet has its own plunge pool) until we meet at the pool bar for a sundowner, after which we sit down to another exciting dinner.



Day 5: Etosha National Park

After an early breakfast we drive back to the park for another half day of exploration and adventure. We visit famed waterholes like Okevi, Tsumcor and Chudap, looking for elusive game like Leopards and Hyena. At lunch time we return to King Nehale for a good lunch, as well as a siesta. Those who still feel adventurous, can accompany the guide for a last afternoon excursion into the Etosha National Park. We meet at the bar for a sundowner before sitting down to another wonderful meal.

Day 6: Kavango River

We have a long drive ahead of us, which unfortunately cannot be avoided. After breakfast we take the road to Rundu, via Tsintsabis. What makes this part of the journey interesting is the unspoilt nature and the endless forests of Mangetti trees.

At Nkurenkuru we meet up with the Kavango River as it straddles the border between Angola and Namibia. Following it for another 130 km through pastures and grazing land of the Kavango people living along the river, we reach Hakusembe Lodge, situated on the banks of the Kavango River. After checking in and freshening up, we meet for a sundowner drink and dinner at the main restaurant. As with most of Gondwana's lodges, we have a superb buffet selection for every culinary taste.

Day 7: Bwabwata National Park

After breakfast we hit the road in an easterly direction – past Rundu along the B8 – and along the Kavango river towards Divundu.



Day 8: Mahangu National Park

We cross the Kavango and explore the western part of the Bwabwata National Park, all along the riverside. There is an incredible variety of birdlife here – and for the first time we will be able to watch hippos and buffaloes as they graze along the riverbank. We stop for lunch at one of the picnic spots along the river. In the afternoon we make for the Ndhovu Lodge, directly opposite to the Bwabwata Park and right next to the Mahangu Park. After refreshing ourselves we set off for a sunset cruise on the Kavango River, enjoying the atmosphere. After a delicious dinner, we sit at the fireplace and listen to the sound of the frogs, watching the stars.

After breakfast we embark on a combination of boat and game drive into the Buffalo Core Area. At first the Ndhovu captain slowly traverses the river along the edges, looking for birdlife. As we cross over the river, a game viewer awaits us in the park, ready to take us on a wildlife drive through lesser travelled parts of the park. This excursion takes around 5 hours, we should be back at the lodge for lunch. After lunch and a siesta, those still energetic can join the guide on a drive into the Mahangu National Park, but feel free to sit on your deck, doing a private sightseeing from their deck, as there is so much happening on the river front. Sundowner and dinner at the lodge. We meet for a sundowner drink after which dinner will be served.



Day 9: Okavango Panhandle

Driving through the Mahangu Park to the Botswana border at Mohembo, we drive through the town of Shakawe to a little village called Samochima. Here we unpack and safely store our vehicle, as we are being picked up by boat. About 15 minutes down the river, we disembark on a semi island on which Xaro Lodge has made its home. This tented camp is very private and secluded and we will spend a day here exploring the panhandle of the Okavango, looking amongst others for the very elusive Pells Fishing owl.

After checking in, we have a light lunch after which the afternoon will be at your own leisure. In the late afternoon we embark on a sunset boat cruise down river.
Dinner under starlight at the lodge.

Day 10: Okavango Panhandle

At sunrise, after a cup of coffee or tea, a Xaro guide will collect you to explore the island on foot. He will point out various animal tracks, talk about the indigenous vegetation and hopefully lead you to a nest of Pel's Fishing owls.

In the late morning you return to the lodge for breakfast.

The morning is spent at your leisure, reading, utilizing the swimming pool, or just enjoying the view of the meandering Okavango River from the deck of your tent.

After a light lunch we embark on a birding boat cruise up the river, looking for the Kingfishers and the nesting grounds of the bee-eaters on the edges of the riverbank.

Dinner under the stars.



Day 11: Bwabwata National Park

Re-crossing the border back into Namibia, we continue along the B8 towards Kongola, on the eastern side of the Bwabwata Park. Here the Kwando River runs through the Zambezi region, forming a natural triangle with the Linyanti river. Most of this area is dedicated to nature conservation, we have three Wildlife Parks in this area.

As we near Kongola, we turn off toward the Angolan border and visit a Mafwe village. This traditional village aims at keeping their culture alive, as well as showing the rest of us how the tribes used to manufacture, hunt, plant and make clothing. In the early afternoon we arrive at the Namushasha Lodge. After checking in, and a little time to freshen up, we embark on a river boat which will take us into the Bwabwata National Park. Here we climb onto game viewers which will take us to the famous "horseshoe", a U-shaped part of the Kwando River where elephants like to converge.

I personally have seen over 300 elephants here. There is a hide which can be accessed by guests, to have better photographic opportunities to capture this unbelievable part of nature.

On return to the lodge, we have our sundowner, followed by a delicious dinner.

Day 12: Bwabwata National Park

After an early breakfast we travel to the Bwabwata National Park. We will be spending most of the day tracking and observing wildlife in this forested area. We will take lunch packs with us, somewhere on the river we will stop for lunch. In the late afternoon we return to the lodge for sundowners and dinner



Day 13: Mudumu National Park

As we leave this part of the Kwando River, we drive southwards along the Kwando. Here we have two National Parks. On our right, we will find the Mudumu National Park. After registering at the Wildlife offices, we will traverse the thick sand until we get to the river, then explore it from the Hippo Pools until well beyond Nakatwa.

Around lunchtime we will picnic along the river, before continuing southwards to the Nkasa Rupara Park. Inside this park we find the stunning Nkasa Lupala tented camp. This is a lodge with a difference, as there are no fences around it and the wildlife literally flows around this space.

We have our traditional sundowner and dinner – however this is not the end of the evening – there is a night drive planned so as to see more of the nocturnal animals. Lions, leopard, hyenas, just to name a few move predominantly at night, but also the smaller cats like civets, as well as honey badgers are very seldom seen during day time.

Day 14: Linyanti River

An early rise will take us on a game-drive toward the Linyanti River. This early in the morning there is a good chance to find leopard or lion on a kill – before we embark on a river boat to follow the Linyanti river northwards. This is one of the most pristine nature areas in Africa and reminds me of the Okavango Delta, it has so many similarities.

We return to the lodge for lunch, the afternoon is leisure time, for a siesta or spending a bit of time in the pool.

As per tradition, we meet for sundowner and dinner on the main deck.



Day 15: Zambezi River

As we drive back to the tar road, we continue following the Linyanti all the way to Katima Mulilo, the capital of the Zambezi region. This is a bustling town, so if you need to do any shopping, here is where you will find it. After Katima, we follow the Zambezi to a camping place called Zambezi Mubala Camp. Here we offload our luggage as we will be taken to the lodge by boat.

Enjoy your first boat ride on the mighty Zambezi – it takes 20 Minutes to reach the lodge.

In the late afternoon we embark on a leisurely sundowner boat cruise and enjoy the majestic scenery.

After returning and freshening up, we have dinner on the open terrace, whereafter we have a nightcap watching the stars, or have a last chat at the fire.

Day 16: Zambezi River

Early in the morning your guide will take you on a scenic walk along the riverfront – hopefully the carmine bee-eaters have arrived and are nesting in this area in their thousands. The guide will show you different plants, birds and reptiles as you walk along the river.

Returning to the lodge we have a late breakfast. You now have some leisure time until the early afternoon where we embark on a final boat cruise on this part of the Zambezi. Dinner will be held on the terrace.



Day 17: Moremi National Park

We cross the border into Botswana and drive through the Chobe National Park to a town called Kasane. Kasane lies on the Chobe River and borders Namibia.

At Kasane airport a transfer plane awaits us to take us into the Okavango Delta. The vehicle is left here safely and we fly over the Okavango Delta to land at the Khwai airstrip on the edge of the Moremi National Park in the Okavango Delta.

Personnel of the Obona Moremi Lodge greet us to take us to the Obona Moremi Tented Camp on the edge of Khwai River. After a welcoming drink and checking in, a light lunch will be served. In the afternoon we embark on the game viewer to explore the concession areas north of the Moremi National Park, which is teeming with wildlife. We have a sundowner in this magnificent area before returning to the lodge for dinner and relaxing around the fireplace.

Day 18: Moremi National Park

In the very early morning Obona guides wake us for a game drive into the Moremi National Park. As the nocturnal wildlife might still be visible, we are in the park at first light and explore the northeastern areas of Moremi, looking for wild dogs, lions and hopefully a leopard.

In the late morning we return to the lodge for brunch.

After a siesta and maybe a swim in the pool the guides pick us up for a last game drive in this wild area. Sundowner again will be somewhere in the wilderness.

We return to the lodge for dinner.



Day 19, 20 & 21: Savuti

After breakfast the staff helps us pack our gear into an overlander vehicle. The day before, the mobile camp team has left to set up camp somewhere in Savuti. This will be a very different experience to travelling from lodge to lodge, but probably the greatest way to see the wild, as the camp moves every day and we catch up to it, all the while game viewing as we take on the road to the next camp.

The camp will offer you decent beds in a tent with on suite bathrooms with chemical toilets and hot and cold bucket showers. The staff will create great meals on the open fire.



Day 22: Kasane

After breakfast we say goodbye to the camp team. As we get onto the game viewer for the last time, we say goodbye to the bush and hello to civilization once again. The guide drops us off at Kasane airport where we retrieve our vehicle. We drive the short route to Kasane.

Here we check into the Chobe Safari Lodge at the edge of the town. After a siesta and some lunch we embark on a boat cruise on the Chobe river along the Chobe National Park. We return to the lodge just after sundown. Dinner at the lodge

Day 23: Chobe National Park

A very early game drive into the Chobe Park sees us on the road at 6.00 am. This is the best time to see the cats and various carnivores on the river front. This park has one of the most concentrated animal densities in Africa and we will not be disappointed.

We return to the lodge before lunch. During the late afternoon we once again embark on a boat cruise along the Chobe National Park. Dinner will be served at the lodge.

Day 24: Victoria Falls

After a hearty breakfast we travel towards the Kazangula border and enter Zimbabwe. The formalities can take a while with all the traffic between the two countries.

Having arrived in Victoria Falls, we check into our lodge and freshen up. Then we are off to view the Magnificent Victoria Falls, one of the Natural World Wonders.

We return to the lodge for sundowners and dinner.



Day 25: Victoria Falls

We have a leisurely breakfast together. Those that wish to do a helicopter flight will be taken to the landing pad, the rest of the guests can relax, until all are together again. Your guide will then take you to the airport for your departure home.

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 can be read with Windhoek, Namibia, as a starting point or Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, as a starting point. The chronological order would then be reversed. This brief will detail the safari coming from Windhoek, Namibia
- **This safari includes the following:**
 1. Accommodation (bed & breakfast): 24 nights
 2. Dinner: 23 (Vic Fall Dinner is not included)
 3. Lunches: 23 lunches
 4. All Park entry fees
 5. Boat/game drive combos: 3
 6. Boat/sundowner cruises: 4
 7. Game drives in National Parks: 13
 8. Flight into the Delta
 9. Visit to the Victoria Falls
 10. Sundowner drinks: 23
 11. All vehicle, insurance, and cross-border fees (your personal visas for Zimbabwe are excluded)
 12. All guiding fees
 - 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, or Victoria Falls Airport, Zimbabwe, depending which destination is your preferred starting point. Flights to and from Southern Africa are NOT included



Accommodation Five River Safari Diamond

1. Windhoek: Windhoek Luxury Suites (1 night): <https://thewindhoek.com>
2. Toshari Lodge (2 nights): Anderson Gate, Etosha Nationalpark: <https://quiverandco.com/toshari-lodge/>
3. King Nehale Lodge, Etosha National Park (2 nights): <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/etosha-king-nehale>
4. Hakusembe Lodge, Rundu, Okavango (1 night): <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/hakusembe-river-lodge>
5. Ndhovu Safari Lodge, Divundu (2 nights): <https://www.ndhovu.com>
6. Xaro Lodge, Okavango Panhandle (2 nights): <https://xaro-lodge.com>
7. Namushasha Lodge, Kongola, Kwando (2 nights): <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/namushasha-river-lodge>
8. Nkasa Lupala, Nationalpark Nkasa Rupara (2 nights): <https://www.nkasalupalalodge.com/>
9. Zambezi Mubala, Zambezi (2 nights): <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/zambezi-mubala-lodge>
10. O Bona Moremi Safari Lodge, Fly-In Okavango Delta (2 nights): <https://obona-lodges.com>
11. Mobile Safari, Savuti (3 nights)
12. Chobe Safari Lodge, Kasane Chobe River (2 nights) <https://underonebotswanasky.com/chobe-safari-lodge>
13. Bayete Lodge, Victoria Falls, Simbabwe (1 night): <https://www.thebayetecollection.com/bayete-guest-lodge/>

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