

Sense of africa

more than just a journey ...

2016 Jewels of Namibia





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Namib - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Etosha National Park - Waterberg Region
11 Days / 10 Nights

Overview

Highlights:

- WORLD'S HIGHEST DUNES AT SOSSUSVLEI & DEAD VLEI
- 2 UNESCO & 1 RAMSAR WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- WILDLIFE DISCOVERY IN THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
- EXPERIENCE THE DAMARA CULTURE
- AfriCat FOUNDATION

Travel Options Self- Drive, guided or flying option

Languages English, German

Please note the following up-grades & extensions can be booked at a surcharge:

- 1) Day 3 – Optional upgrade to Little Kulala
- 2) Day 7 - Serra Cafema Extension (2 Day Package)

Pick-up / Drop-off: Mowani Mountain Camp

This camp is in an amazing location on the banks of the Kunene River. Explore the remote Hartmann's Valley and Marienfluss by 4x4, and one of Africa's most remote areas rivers by boat, with expert guides from the Camp.

- 3) Day 7 - Okahirongo River Camp Extension (2 Day Package)

Pick-up: Mowani Mountain Camp

Drop-of: Mowani Mountain Camp

Okahirongo River Camp is an eco-friendly lodge build on a sweeping ridge and opening up to breath taking views of the Kunene River. Excellent service, delicious African-Italian cuisine and exquisite South-African wines will around your stay and make Okahirongo River Camp a most memorable safari experience.

4) Day 7 – Optional Upgrade to Little Ongava

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis
Namib	Wolwedans Dunes Lodge	2	FI
Sossusvlei	Kulala Desert Lodge	1	FB
Swakopmund	Strand Hotel Swakopmund	2	FB
Damaraland	Mowani Mountain Camp	1	FB
Etosha National Park	Ongava Lodge	1	FB
Etosha National Park	Onguma Tented Camp	2	FB
Waterberg Region	Okonjima Luxury Bush Camp	1	FB

Key

RO: Room only

SC: Self Catering

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and breakfast

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

FB+: Dinner, bed, breakfast, lunch and activities daily

FI: Fully inclusive

Day 1: Wolwedans Dunes Lodge, Namib

Namib

The Namib is the world's oldest desert, and although it stretches along the entire length of Namibia's coastline, the Namib commonly refers to the vast sea of sand from Luderitz to Swakopmund. For a big sandy desert the scenery is remarkably varied, with the giant red dunes of Sossusvlei being the most famous part. Because of how old it is the Namib is home to numerous species that don't occur elsewhere and although no humans live in the desert an amazing array of flora and fauna manages to survive here. Famous species include the Welwitschia – a living fossil plant, endemic chameleons, fur seals along the coast, brown hyenas, jackals and remarkably one of Africa's largest antelope the Gemsbok. The name Namib is of Nama origin and means "vast place" and vast it certainly is.

Day Notes

We travel west down the Namibian escarpment to the Namib Desert, the oldest desert on Earth. The luxury chalet of our lodge, nestled on the dunes in the heart of the 200'000 hectare NamibRand nature reserve, is set against a backdrop of unparalleled beauty and provides the perfect base from which to explore vast stretches of awe-inspiring nature. In the afternoon we can undertake a guided sundowner drive, before returning to our accommodation for dinner.

Activities

Namib Rand Private Nature Reserve
Sundowner Drive

Namib Rand Private Nature Reserve

The NamibRand Nature Reserve, located in southern Namibia, is a private nature reserve established to help protect and conserve the unique ecology and wildlife of the south-west Namib Desert. Conserving the pro-Namib, the area along the eastern edge of the Namib Desert, is critically important in order to facilitate seasonal migratory wildlife routes and to protect biodiversity. It is probably the largest private nature reserve in Southern Africa, extending over an area of 202,200 ha. The Reserve shares a 100km border with the Namib-Naukluft National Park in the west and is bordered in the east by the imposing Nubib Mountains. Virtually all facets of the Namib Desert are represented on the Reserve - sand and gravel plains and stretches of savanna alternate with mountain ranges and vegetated dune belts.



Wolwedans Dunes Lodge

The Dunes Lodge is perched on top of a dune plateau, overlooking panoramic vistas in all directions and capturing the beauty of the desert in a most memorable way. Building style is a combination of wooden structures and canvas

blinds, opening up to the desert beyond. The lodge reflects the ambience of a tented camp, but provides the comfort and protection of a permanent building. Each of the nine spacious chalets with en-suite bathrooms sports a private verandah, which connects you to vast stretches of untouched sand. Sleeping with your canvas blinds open is just like sleeping under the stars. The main complex - which has completely been rebuilt during 2003 - consists of two lounges, a number of sundowner decks, a fireplace, a tea deck, a library, the wine cellar and two dining rooms. The lodge also has a swimming pool, which is suspended above the sand. All communal areas of the lodge open out onto decks with superb views.



Overnight: Wolwedans Dunes Lodge

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Included

Fully Inclusive

Day 2: Wolwedans Dunes Lodge, Namib

Day Notes

We enjoy the entire day on the Namib Rand Nature Reserve. Activities offered consist of nature drives on the private property or scenic guided walks. Our specialist guide brings us close and explains to us in detail the flora and fauna found in this untouched environment, home to specially adapted animal species such as oryx, springbok, giraffe and even leopard.

Activities

Nature Drives
Guided Walks

Wolwedans Dunes Lodge

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Included

Fully Inclusive

Day 3: Kulala Desert Lodge, Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei's rich ochre sand dunes offer one of the most mind-blowing sights you will ever experience. Their oscillating crests rise to an astonishing 320m and, with their air of timelessness, create an unforgettable wilderness in the heart of the world's oldest desert. Dwarfed by the sheer size of the highest dunes on earth, your ascending footprints look like insect trails leading into infinity. The solitude is immeasurable and your place in the great scheme of life takes on a curious insignificance. The white vleis (clay pans) contrast sharply against the red sand and vast

blue sky, while fog-dependent animals and plants seek shelter from the sweltering heat underneath the sand and age-old camelthorn trees. One of these pans, referred to as Dead Pan, is a large ghostly expanse of dried white clay, punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, carbon-dated as being between 500 and 600 years old. During this time the flow of the Tsauchab River into the pan was stopped by the formation of a dune belt – hence the trees died, now forming part of Namibia’s own Salvador Dali “painting”.

Day Notes

We have the option of enjoying a hot-air ballooning experience over the breathtaking landscape of the Namib Desert, after which we enjoy breakfast in the midst of the dune landscape. Afterwards we travel the short distance to our lodge, exclusively situated inside the Namib Naukluft Park. In the evening we admire the mighty play of shadows and colours that the setting sun casts onto some of the highest dunes on Earth at Sossusvlei. Experience the desert’s elusive grandeur and breathtaking beauty in this pristine environment while enjoying a sun downer drink, before returning to your lodge for dinner.

Optional

Namib Sky Balloon Safaris

Namib Sky Balloon Safaris

Unforgettable and most beautiful experience, a Balloon Safari over the Sossusvlei area is the ultimate treat to yourself. Take off and drift across this magic landscape at Sunrise towards an unknown destination... After an unforgettable one hour flight, an Out of Africa Champagne Breakfast awaits. But before you get back to your original destination, one more surprise awaits you. Depending on where you land, a lovely nature drive takes you back to the take-off point.



Overnight: Kulala Desert Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Hidden at the foot of the majestic Sossusvlei dunes, a private entrance to Namib Naukluft Park makes Kulala Desert Lodge the closest location to Sossusvlei, while magnificent views of its famous red dunes, mountainous scenery and vast open plains make it the most spectacular.



Alternate: Little Kulala [View iBrochure](#)

This acclaimed desert retreat is situated amongst camel thorn trees on the dry Auab riverbed in the Kulala Wilderness Reserve. The 11 climate-controlled, thatched villas merge seamlessly into the timeless desert landscape, with exquisite fittings and fixtures and innovative bleached decks each with a private plunge pool. The extensive use of neutral colours, gorgeous textures and natural light reproduce the soothing pastel tones of the desert. Each villa has a rooftop 'skybed' for romantic stargazing, with both indoor and outdoor showers. An elegant entertainment area includes al fresco fine dining as a highlight. Varied activities aim at acquainting guests with the splendour, solitude and stark beauty of the Namib Desert, with excursions to Sossusvlei (via our own private gate), and nature drives and walks providing awe-inspiring views of desert-adapted wildlife and plants. A balloon safari at extra cost offers a unique experience soaring silently above the desert, while quad biking takes place at one of the nearby camps.



Included

Full Board

Day 4: Strand Hotel Swakopmund, Swakopmund

Swakopmund

With palm-lined streets, seaside promenades and fine accommodation for all budgets, Swakopmund is Namibia's most popular holiday destination, and its pleasant summer climate and decent beaches attract surfers, anglers and beach lovers from all over Southern Africa. Thanks to its mild temperatures and negligible rainfall, Swakopmund generally enjoys grit in the oyster. When an easterly wind blows, the town gets a good sand-blasting, and almost

perpetual drizzle. The fog rolls up to 30km inland and provides moisture for desert-dwelling plants and animals, including 80 species of lichen.

For better or worse, Swakopmund feels overwhelmingly Teutonic – indeed, it has Germany – but for visitors, it's a Namibia's adrenalin capital, and offers a wide range of gut-curdling activities from sand boarding and quad-biking to skydiving and camel riding. Note, however, that it gets especially busy around Namibian school holidays in December and January, when temperatures average around 25°C.

Day Notes

Leaving the majestic dune landscape behind, we travel via towering mountain ranges, rugged canyons and endless desert plains to Swakopmund. After our arrival in this idyllic coastal town we have some leisure time at our disposal, before travelling to the Welwitschia plains and the Moon Landscape and ending the daylight hours with an unforgettable sparkling wine sundowner. Dinner is enjoyed in one of the excellent restaurants the coastal town has to offer.

Activities

Sossusvlei

Dead Vlei

Kuiseb Canyon

Kuiseb Delta

Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei's rich ochre sand dunes offer one of the most mind-blowing sights you will ever experience. Their oscillating crests rise to an astonishing 320m and, with their air of timelessness, create an unforgettable wilderness in the heart of the world's oldest desert. Dwarfed by the sheer size of the highest dunes on earth, your ascending footprints look like insect trails leading into infinity. The solitude is immeasurable and your place in the great scheme of life takes on a curious insignificance. The white vleis (clay pans) contrast sharply against the red sand and vast blue sky, while fog-dependent animals and plants seek shelter from the sweltering heat underneath the sand and age-old camelthorn trees. One of these pans, referred to as Dead Pan, is a large ghostly expanse of dried white clay, punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, carbon-dated as being between 500 and 600 years old. During this time the flow of the Tsauchab River into the pan was stopped by the formation of a dune belt – hence the trees died, now forming part of Namibia's own Salvador Dali "painting".



Dead Vlei

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain

as dessicated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namib Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.



Kuiseb Canyon

Mysterious and remote, the Kuiseb Canyon was carved aeons ago by the Kuiseb River, which runs mainly underground. This deep fissure is flanked by steep folds of rock on one side and the copper-coloured sand dunes of the Namib Desert on the other, and shelters several wildlife species that are acclimatised to the region's harsh environment, including hyena, buck and even leopard.



Kuiseb Valley and Moon Landscape

As the Kuiseb River nears the coast it splits into multiple pathways and disappears into the dunes, creating a landscape of shifting sand, dry river beds and desert-adapted shrubs. For hundreds of years, this area has been home to the Topnaars, descendants of the Khoisan, who survive by keeping cattle and sheep and growing a nutritious melon variety in the dry river beds. The delta is also known for its archaeological riches, which include score of ancient middens, Topnaar burial sites and petrified elephant tracks.

Travel through this desolate and forbidding valley of conical and dome shaped hills near Swakopmund, reminiscent of an actual lunar landscape, resembling the lifeless surface of Mars itself. The Moonlandscape represents the leftover of an ancient, enormous mountain range. During more severe weather patterns, the valleys of the mountain range as well as the mountain range itself has been chafed, chiseled and gouged by wind and the waters of the nowadays known Swakop River. Known as "badland topography", the crumbling granite surface hardly supports any plant life and is best viewed in the late afternoon to enjoy terrific light and shadow contrasts and cooler temperatures.

Overnight: Strand Hotel Swakopmund [View iBrochure](#)

The Strand Hotel Swakopmund will be located directly on the mole (promenade) in Swakopmund, surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean, with direct access to the main beach in town. On the fourth side it will back up to the town's beautiful central park, through which it is a short five minute walk to the historic centre of this charming, German, Victorian era colonial seaside town, with all its shops, cafés, restaurants and bars. When Strand Hotel Swakopmund opens, with its extensive, unique and creatively entertaining restaurants, bars, deli, lobby-lounge, sea facing terraces and shops, set on this historic and iconic site, it's destined to become a destination in itself for all visitors to and residents of Swakopmund. Its architectural inspiration finds its roots deep in Namibian German colonial history and reflects this in a tasteful contemporary manner. The interiors are residential in nature, and the brief to all designers involved was to create a non-hotel. One as charming and welcoming as the town it is in. Simply very warm and comfortable, and as they say in German: "gemütlich" with a genuine "sense-of-place" Every aspect of the Strand Hotel Swakopmund is being developed according to international four-star standards. It's very possibly going to be the benchmark against which all hotels/lodges in Namibia will be measured. IMPORTANT: All pictorial depictions used are computer generated and are indicative only. All facts and figures presented are subject to change as the plans and designs pertaining to this development are finalized and continuously enhanced and improved. The Strand Hotel Swakopmund is being "sculptured" rather than simply "built".?

**Included**

Full Board

Day 5: Strand Hotel Swakopmund, Swakopmund**Day Notes**

This day promises both relaxation and adventure. On a marine cruise on the calm waters of the Walvis Bay peninsula, we enjoy interaction with cape fur seals, dolphins, leather back turtles and maybe even whales and orka's, whilst sipping cold sparkling wine and savouring the taste of fresh oysters and snacks. The afternoon is at leisure. Swakopmund offers a wide variety of activities including scenic flights, quad biking, dune boarding, desert explorations and much more.

Activities

Catamaran Charters

Optional

Scenic Desert Flights

Namibia Desert Explorers

Catamaran Charters

The Catamaran Charters Team invites you aboard the 45ft Royal Cape Sailing Catamaran Silverwind, or the 60ft Simon Sailing Catamaran Silversand, or the 40ft Admiral Motorised Catamaran Silvermoon, to enjoy an adventure packed tour to Pelican Point and Walvis Bay's beautiful bay area. The chances of encountering dolphins, whales, turtles, seals and Mola Mola (sunfish) make the search for the marine big 5 and adventurous tour by enjoying sparkling wine, fresh oysters and other mouth-watering snacks aboard the spacious and comfortable catamarans.



Scenic Desert Flights

A dramatic flight over the Namib Desert, see how the seldom present waters of the Kuiseb River stop the advance of the red sands of the Namib, experience the vastness of the magnificent dune formations as you fly south to Sossusvlei and then return along the coast passing over long gone mining settlements, lonely shipwrecks, seal colonies, colourful salt works, Windhoek Harbour and finally back to Swakopmund.



Namibia Desert Explorers

Experience the sheer thrill of riding a quad bike through Namibia's boundless expanse of shifting sand dunes. After the engines are revved up and ready to roll, an experienced guide will lead you through the Swakopmund River mouth into the dune belt. Feel the freedom of riding through one of nature's great wildernesses. As the towering dunes approach we weave our way through the smaller ones towards the "Amphitheater". With "Power-up" we blast our way to the top of the first big dune via the "Roller Coasters" to the top of "Big Billy". We stop for a drink and you get the opportunity to capture the stark and savage beauty of the Namib Desert. After riding down "Devils Dip" we ride the berms, spirals and slopes as we cruise towards the "Table Top" a great dune that offers a spectacular view of the sea.

Included

Full Board

Day 6: Mowani Mountain Camp, Damaraland

Damaraland

Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. The major attractions are Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the Petrified Forest. Damaraland, one of the least populated places on earth, shows no fences nor boundaries in the vast, stony desert landscape. It is marked by endless vistas across stark plains, ancient valleys and brooding, distant mountains which bring the traveller as close to nature as is comfortably possible. In Damaraland, plants and animals have over millennia evolved side by side with the harsh environment, creating unusual geological features, which together with a wealth of rock paintings and engravings, a population of desert-adapted elephant and rhino, combine to form the unique attraction to this region. Damaraland was once an area occupied primarily by the Damara people, but over time became home to other tribes such as the Hereros and the displaced Riemvasmakers of South Africa. Today, many residents of Damaraland are thus of mixed heritage, but most consider themselves Damara.

The Damaraland community comprises a unique group of people who recognised the value of the wildlife on their land and formed a Community Wildlife Conservancy to protect it. Until 1981, Damaraland was unprotected and open to poachers, mostly from outside of the of the Damaraland area. In the interests of the Damarland wildlife a game guard system was eventually formed with people from the community and the welfare of the wildlife increased. Today it is one of the last places in southern Africa where game still roams freely like it did thousands of years ago – a true wilderness..

Day Notes

Departing northwards along the Atlantic Ocean we may elect to visit the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, home to some 100 000 Cape Fur Seals. We proceed inland past the majestic Brandberg Mountain (Namibia's highest peak) into Damaraland, one of the most geologically diverse and untouched wilderness areas in Africa. The area has free-roaming game such as Hartman's Mountain zebra, giraffe, springbok, black rhino and desert elephant, the latter two being extremely rare and endangered. Our luxurious lodge (translated meaning "The place of God") is situated in the midst of huge granite boulders with awesome views of the surrounding terrain.

Activities

Brandberg

Brandberg

The Brandberg ('Fire Mountain') Massif is Namibia's highest peak, with its zenith, the Königstein ('King's Stone'), standing at a whopping 2573 metres above sea level. Named for the vivid shade of orange it sometimes turns at sunset, the Brandberg has been sacred to the San people for centuries, and the Tsisab Ravine at its base is permeated with over 45 000 ancient San rock paintings, including the famous 'White Lady'.



Overnight: Mowani Mountain Camp

Mowani Mountain Camp offers luxury tented accommodation with magnificent desert views. Open air en-suite bathrooms and private decks give you great views of Damaraland and the reliability of nearby Twyfelfontein with its San engravings and paintings is contrasted by the elusive desert adapted elephants. The Twyfelfontein conservancy has been protecting the southern most roaming ground of the black rhino and elusive desert elephant. Sustainable eco-tourism and community upliftment is of the utmost importance at Mowani. Guides from the local tribes compliment day-time game drives to track mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, klipspringer and if you are fortunate enough... the leopard! The adventurer in me took over at Mowani. Days were filled with game drives, hot air balloon trips over the Aba-Huab Valley, champagne breakfasts and al fresco meals amidst the dusky landscape beneath Mopani trees.



Included

Full Board

Day 7: Ongava Lodge, Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park is the parade ground of the beasts, a kaleidoscope of creatures bewildering character and variety. It was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor of German South West Africa, von Lindequist. He demarkated an area of over 100'000 km², creating the largest game reserve on earth and expelling thousands of indigenous people from their traditional and ancestral dwellings to stay outside the park. Present day Etosha National Park was pared down due to political considerations in the 1960's by the Odendaal Plan and now covers a modest but still very impressive 22'270 square kilometres. Despite the massive size of Etosha, only

the southern edge of the pan is accessible to casual visitors. In the central and eastern region there are over 30 water holes - ideal places to sit and wait it out for an unbelievable 114 different game and over 340 different bird species. The Etosha Pan dominates the park. The 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. At such times it is utterly barren, an austere playground for heat and wind which conjure up their characteristic atmospheric tricks. Glassy mirages dissolve the horizon and tremble over the blindingly flat surface while graceful dust devils carry out their swirling dances over the plains. When the waters do eventually come, the pan undergoes a miraculous transformation. From a vacuous stillness it springs into living paradise awash with life. Out of the blue in their thousands come migrant flamingos, splashing the sky with plumage which eventually condenses on the horizon in undulating lines of crimson, pink and white. Guided by an uncanny faculty for navigation they come to the pan for a short breeding season from as far as Walvis Bay – how they know of the water 500 miles north stays a mystery.

Such thrills are part of the earthy encounters with nature which give Etosha and other Namibian wilderness areas a dimension which goes beyond the simpler interpretations of nature. These sanctuaries have become sources of human well-being, where man can shake off his metropolitan afflictions and can recharge the batteries of sanity and perspective which have run down in the course of powering the locomotive of progress.

Day Notes

After breakfast, we visit Southern Africa's largest open-air museum at Twyfelfontein. This World Heritage site has more than 2500 different rock engravings from when the Bushmen inhabited this land some 6000 years ago. After the visit we travel north to the Etosha National Park, home to an amazing 114 different game as well as 340 different bird species.

Activities

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Twyfelfontein is a World Heritage Site boasting one of the richest rock art concentrations in Africa. Thousands of tourists come to this site each year to view some 2, 500 Stone Age rock engravings. The area is home to 17 rock art sites, which collectively encompass 212 engraved stone slabs. There are an additional 13 sites displaying rock paintings.



Overnight: Ongava Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

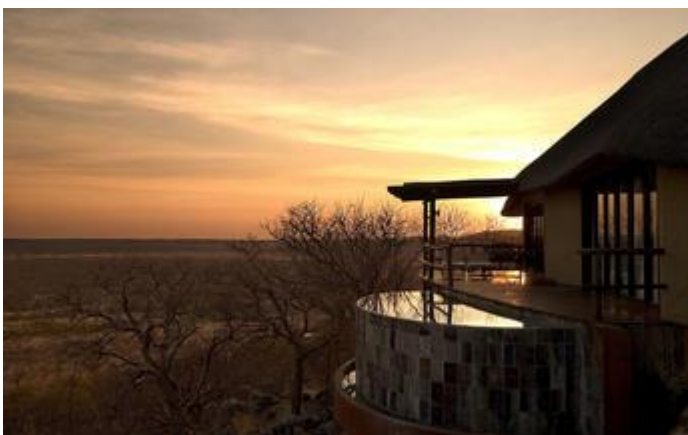
The well-established Ongava Lodge is situated along the southern boundary of Etosha National Park in the privately owned Ongava Game Reserve. Situated as it is close to the top of a hill in the foothills of the Ondundozonanandana

Mountain Range, the vantage point is beautiful and overlooks a well-frequented waterhole and the plains beyond. Ongava Lodge offers luxury accommodation in 14 rock and thatch en-suite chalets. There are impressive views over the camp's waterhole from the main lounge and dining areas and there is also an inviting pool to cool off in the heat of the day. Meals are either served in the main dining area under thatch or on the dining deck under the stars. Activities include game drives into Etosha, visiting hides, and nature drives and walks on the reserve. Ongava has resident white and black rhino, giving guests staying at Ongava the opportunity to see both species.



Alternate: Little Ongava [View iBrochure](#)

Little Ongava is perched on the crest of a hill commanding magnificent vistas of the plains stretching for miles to the horizon. Arguably Namibia's most civilised and luxurious accommodation, Little Ongava offers an extraordinary experience as the focal point of an Etosha journey. This intimate camp has only three spacious suites each with its own plunge pool, en-suite bathroom, 'sala', and outdoor 'al fresco' shower. The lounge and dining area have wonderful views of a productive waterhole below the camp and lends itself to relaxed, stylish dining under the African sky. Guests at Little Ongava share a dedicated guide and vehicle, ensuring the best possible nature experience at one of Africa's great wildlife destinations. Day and night wildlife-viewing drives, visiting hides overlooking waterholes, walks and rhino tracking with experienced guides can all be enjoyed exclusively on this reserve. Game drives and day trips into nearby Etosha National Park are also offered.



Included

Full Board

Day 8: Onguma Tented Camp, Etosha National Park

Day Notes

After breakfast we enjoy a full day game drive in the Etosha National Park, travelling from west to east with our tour guide in the touring bus.. With its 114 different animal and 340 different bird species, this park belongs to the world's most diverse wildlife parks, and promises to be an unforgettable game experience. Our lodge, built like a huge fortress into the midst of the African Bush borders onto the park with views onto the frequented Fisher's Pan from the deck.

Activities

Etosha Game Drive

Etosha East

Sense of Africa Etosha Game Drive

Game drive through Etosha National Park searching for predators, plains game, reptiles & birds. Vehicle height, large sliding windows and reclining seats in the larger coaches ensure that our guests enjoy the best possible view and photographic opportunities. Depending on the time of year, these game drives take many different routes, but most often focus around the waterholes where you are most likely to see a variety of wildlife taking the chance to get a drink and swim.



Etosha East

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. The Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km². The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.



Overnight: Onguma Tented Camp [View iBrochure](#)

In the local Herero language, Onguma means, "the place you don't want to leave." With a stunning main building and seven tents providing private, exclusive accommodation, Onguma Tented Camp, certainly lives up to its name. Like the bush where soft air blows against sharp thorns, Onguma Tented Camp is a study in contrasts. Textures such as stone, suede, linen and steel create a setting that is sleek and modern but also inherently of the earth. Inspired by a photograph of an Oryx on Etosha's Fisher's Pan, the interior echoes the colours of its natural surrounds. Grey, charcoal, black, white, and creams, together with a touch of muted or unexpectedly bright green, adds sophistication and earthiness to the atmosphere of this seven tent camp.



Included

Full Board

Day 9: Onguma Tented Camp, Etosha National Park

Day Notes

This morning we again enter the park by open vehicle for a half day game drive. 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 – its waterholes supporting a rich diversity of birds and mammals, including rare species such as black-faced impala, roan, cheetah, and Namibia's smallest antelope, the Damara dik-dik. In the afternoon we enjoy a sundowner drive on the Onguma Reserve in an open vehicle.

Activities

Open Vehicle Game Drive with Lodge
Etosha Pan

Etosha Pan

Aeons ago, Etosha Pan was the bed of a vast lake; today what remains is a glittering, silvery-green salt pan that stretches across roughly 5000 square kilometres. Etosha is protected by the Etosha Pan National Park surrounded by savannah plains and woodlands supporting large herds of elephants. When dry, the pan sustains little life except for the algae that gives it its distinctive colour, and migratory birds that use it as a pit stop, but with heavy rain it becomes a shallow lake where flamingos breed, pelicans wade and feed, and a variety of mammal species come to quench their thirst, including leopards, lions, white rhinos, hunting dogs and antelopes.



Included

Full Board

Day 10: Okonjima Luxury Bush Camp, Waterberg Region

Waterberg Region

The Waterberg Plateau is a particularly prominent location, elevating high above the plains of the Kalahari of Eastern Namibia. Waterberg Park and some 405 km² of surrounding land were declared a Nature Reserve in 1972. The plateau is largely inaccessible so in the early 1970s several of Namibia's endangered species were translocated there to protect them from predators and poaching to extinction. The programme was very successful and Waterberg now supplies other Namibian parks with rare animals. In 1989, black rhinoceros was reintroduced to the area from Damaraland.

The Waterberg Plateau National Park is ecologically diverse and rich and has over 200 different species of bird with some rare species of small antelope on the lower hills of the mountain. Geologically, the oldest rock stratum is over 850 million years old and dinosaur tracks were left there some 200 million years ago. The first human inhabitants were the San people, who left rock engravings believed to be several thousand years old. A small tribe of the San were still living their traditional lifestyle on the plateau until the late 1960s. It was the site of one of the major turning points in Namibia's history. It was at Waterberg, in the foothills, that the Herero people lost their last and greatest battle against German Colonial forces at the beginning of the 20th century.

Day Notes

After breakfast, we proceed south to the home of the AfriCat Foundation. You can witness some of the foundations work, which is committed to researching and rehabilitating Namibia's threatened wild cat populations. With the abundance of animal and bird life and spectacular scenery, Okonjima is a photographer's paradise. Activities include cheetah or leopard tracking, a leopard feed, a bushman walk or the night feeds of nocturnal wildlife.

Activities

The AfriCat Foundation

The AfriCat Foundation

The AfriCat Foundation was founded in the early 90's and formally registered as a non-profit organisation in August 1993. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores.



Overnight: Okonjima Luxury Bush Camp

Not only is Okonjima a luxury lodge, but it is also home to The AfriCat Foundation, a non-profit organisation, committed to long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores, especially cheetahs and leopards. A visit to Okonjima will give you an opportunity to witness some of AfriCat's work. OKONJIMA'S LUXURY BUSH CAMP is situated on the edge of a wilderness area. Each EXCLUSIVE chalet enjoys complete privacy and is a combination of earthy, ochre walls and khaki-green canvas, under a thatched roof.



Included

Full Board

Day 11: Departure

Day Notes

Start the day with a scenic morning walk, and, after a leisurely breakfast, return to Windhoek where you will arrive in the early afternoon.