



Namibia Self Drive with Camping





NAMIB



WINDHOEK



CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE

Namibia Self Drive with Camping

Green Kalahari - Aus - Southern Namibia - Swakopmund - Namib - Windhoek - Central Kalahari Game Reserve

12 Days / 11 Nights

7 Persons

Date of Issue: 05 March 2015

22 April 2015 - 03 May 2015



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Overview

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Green Kalahari	Protea Hotel Upington	1	B&B	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Aus	Klein-Aus Vista - Desert Horse Inn	2	SC	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Southern Namibia	Tsauchab River Camp	2	SC	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Swakopmund	Alte Brücke Resort	3	SC	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Namib	Wüstenquell Guest Farm	1	SC	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Windhoek	Klein Windhoek Guesthouse	1	B&B	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room
Central Kalahari Game Reserve	Kang	1	RO	1x Single Room, 2x Twin Room

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

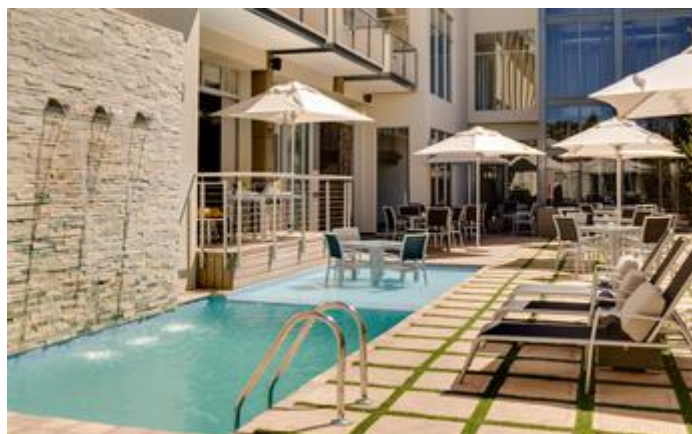
Day 1-2: Protea Hotel Upington , Green Kalahari (Wed, 22 Apr to Thu, 23 Apr)

Green Kalahari

The Green Kalahari is the verdant part of this enormous semi-desert, with the mighty Orange River bringing intensive agriculture, a wine route and the mighty Augabies Falls to the region.

Overnight: Protea Hotel Upington

Ideal for holidays and conferences, and set on the edge of the mystic Kalahari Desert, this hotel is surrounded by a town of beautifully landscaped gardens, lush green vineyards and the Orange River Valley. The Protea Hotel Upington is a welcome haven for weary travelers and is positioned in the heart of the Upington CBD, within walking distance of a fine selection of restaurants. It is the perfect base for exploring the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and Augrabies Falls National Park. The Namibian border is a mere 120km from Upington, making this the ideal place to stay over. It's a hotel that complements your travel style. Choose from 90 sophisticated, fully air-conditioned rooms with modern en suite bathrooms and each with its own minibar fridge and a tea and coffee maker. Protea Hotel Upington has four state-of-the-art conference rooms with the very latest presentation facilities.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 2: Klein-Aus Vista - Desert Horse Inn, Aus (Thu, 23 April)

Aus

This region is typified by the Succulent Karoo. The distinctive climatic characteristics of the Succulent Karoo make it different from all other deserts in the world. Rainfall is reliable and predictable, falling mostly in winter, and prolonged droughts are rare. The Succulent Karoo's botanical diversity is unparalleled by any other arid region on earth and is the world's only plant hotspot that is entirely arid. This ecoregion is home to greater than 5,000 higher plant species, nearly 40 percent of which are endemic, and 18 percent of which are threatened. It has the richest succulent flora in the world, harbouring about one-third of the world's approximately 10,000 succulent species. Other unique features include the diversity of miniature succulents (435 spp.) and geophytes (bulb-like plants 630 spp.). The ecoregion is also a center of diversity and endemism for reptiles and many invertebrate taxa, especially monkey beetles (Rutelinae: Hoplinii). The Namib Desert ecoregion to the north is characterized by extremely low and variable summer rain (less than 50 mm per year), and extremely sparse plant cover, dominated by ephemerals. To

the east lies the Nama Karoo ecoregion, a low open shrubland with variable grass cover and highly variable rain that falls mainly in the late summer months.

Day Notes

On arrival at the Lodge/Campsite you will be able to discuss with staff the options for day tours from this beautiful location in the Succulent Karoo Desert.

Overnight: Klein-Aus Vista - Desert Horse Inn [View iBrochure](#)

Located in the Aus Mountains at 1,400 metres above sea level, Desert Horse Inn affords grand vistas of mountain scenery and sweeping desert plains. It consists of 24 spacious and tastefully decorated en suite rooms. Relax with sundowners on the wooden deck before enjoying a 3-course meal in the restaurant. Exchange travel experiences and recommendations at the evocative Wild Horse Bar or at the cosy fireplace in the lounge.



Included

Self Catering

Day 3: Klein-Aus Vista - Desert Horse Inn, Aus (Fri, 24 April)

Day Notes

Today you may take a day trip to Luderitz and explore this lovely sea side town. While there you can visit Dias Point and on your way back to your lodge/campsite visit the famous Kolmanskop Ghost Town.

Recommended

Luderitz

Dias Point

Kolmanskop

Luderitz

This seaside town is something of an anomaly – a piece of 19th century Bavaria bordering the pinkish sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Lutheran churches, German bakeries and colonial buildings are dotted about the settlement, while its windswept beaches are home to flamingos, ostriches, seals and penguins. The nearby ghost town of Kolmanskop is one of the most fascinating area attractions, located approximately 10 kilometres from Luderitz central.

Dias Point

On a lofty point on the Lüderitz Peninsula, Bartolomeu Dias in 1488 erected a *padrão* or stone cross on his homeward voyage to Portugal, after he had rounded the Cape of Good Hope. A replica now stands on the spot, known as Diaz Point, with the original kept -- as found, in pieces -- in museums in Cape Town and Lisbon. Seen from a sailing boat at sea, Diaz Point gains its true perspective, a rocky headland with its back to the desert. A colony of Cape fur seals lives at the foot of the point.

Kolmanskop

Amongst the sands of the Namib, the crumbling buildings of a small, once-luxurious town emerge from the drifting dunes. This ghost town is Kolmanskop, a reminder of the wealth of a time when diamonds could be picked by hand from the desert, and a remarkable photographic opportunity with few equals anywhere on earth. To the imaginative but uninformed, the "Sperrgebiet" (forbidden diamond territory) conjures up images of watchtowers, electric fences, barbed wire and ferocious guard dogs protecting the restricted area. This may tickle the fancy but could hardly be further from reality. In fact, for most parts there is nothing – nothing but the limitless desert and the occasional forlorn notice board with its stern WARNING! WAARSKUWING! WARNUNG! ELONDWELO! And then you find Kolmanskop, a deserted Ghost Town in the Sperrgebiet – once a cosmopolitan center where diamonds were lying around like "plums under a plum tree", a town built to last...until the diamonds ran out. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting monument to the day's boom and bust, where once opulent homes, shops, hospital and theater surrender slowly to the relentless heat and encroaching desert sand.

Included

Self Catering

Day 4: Tsauchab River Camp, Southern Namibia (Sat, 25 April)

Southern Namibia

Southern Namibia offers a harsh but beautiful environment, from the Orange River up to the Central Namibian highlands and between two deserts Southern Namibia is epitomised by vast, slowly changing landscapes.

Day Notes

As you head north you will see the landscape change before your eyes. Make sure you stop along the way at the Helmeringhausen Hotel to taste a piece of their famous apple pie! You may also want to stop at Duwisib Castle for the surreal site of this German inspired castle in the middle of the desert.

Overnight: Tsauchab River Camp

The unique Tsauchab River Camp guest farm with its exclusive chalets and private camping sites is situated on the banks of the Tsauchab River, surrounded by the imposing Naukluft and Tsaris Mountains. The Tsauchab River, with its giant wild fig trees and sparkling clear springs, is the main source of water when in flood to Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei. This natural phenomenon abruptly ends in a dry lake at the foot of the world's highest dunes.

The chalets are located 800m away from the reception and restaurant area. The chalets are built on the bank of the Tsauchab River surrounded by nature. The accommodation comprises out of two spacious double bed chalets, three thatch roof chalets and one family chalet all with on-suite facilities. Although the chalets are not built for self-catering, barbeque facilities was built at each chalet with a wash-up. The chalets do not have electrical points, only 12 V lights in the chalets.



Recommended

Helmeringhausen Hotel
Duwisib Castle

Helmeringhausen Hotel

The Helmeringhausen Hotel lies in the tiny settlement of Helmeringhausen in Southern Namibia. Hotel Helmeringhausen boasts a warm, cosy restaurant with exquisite meals and a refreshing swimming pool. Enjoy a cold beer or a glass of Cape Wine in the well-stocked fully licensed restaurant, whilst you catch up on all the local news or exchange travel information with fellow guests. There is also a cosy lounge with comfortable sofas and inviting fireplace. A hearty buffet breakfast, fresh farm produce for lunch and a three-course, set dinner menu are served in the restaurant.

Duwisib Castle

Replete with history and romance Duwisib castle is an ideal stopover for visitors' en route to the South of Namibia. It was built by the German army officer Baron von Wolf for his American bride Jayta in the early 1900s. Apart from being a gift of love, Duwisib Castle was a dream turned into reality for Baron von Wolf, who had planned on breeding horses in this semi-desert environment. Sadly, he was killed during the First World War. His wife left for America, never to return, leaving the castle and all of its contents and dreams behind.

Included

Self Catering

Day 5: Tsauchab River Camp, Southern Namibia (Sun, 26 April)

Day Notes

Today calls for an early rise, as you will forever remember the picture of a sunrise over mighty dunes in the Namib Desert. Gaze at the bright splash of sunbaked sand combined with the mighty play of shadows cast onto the layside of dunes. After taking a walk along or even up some of the majestic dunes, travel back to your lodge. Stop at the Sesriem Canyon, a 30-meter deep gauge eroded into the desert floor by the forces of the mighty Tsauchab River.

Optional

Sossusvlei
Dead Vlei
Sesriem Canyon

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.

Sesriem Canyon

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.

Included

Self Catering

Day 6: Alte Brücke Resort, Swakopmund (Mon, 27 April)

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

After breakfast, travel through two rugged passes and via the Welwitschia plains and the Moonlandscape (permit required for the Moonlandscape section) to Swakopmund.

Overnight: Alte Brücke Resort

Alte Brücke Resort is situated within walking distance of the beach, near the Swakopmund Aquarium and one of the most popular resorts on the coast. We offer self catering chalets, fully-furnished and equipped, including breakfast. Our conference centre will cater for all your business requirements.

We also have top of the range camp sites, fully lawned and paved, consisting of individual ablution facilities, wash-up, braai and power points.

All activities at the coast, can be arranged and booked from our office.

Accommodation consists of 23-luxury self catering chalets (sleeps 1-6) complete with telephone, TV, microwave etc, serviced daily.

Our scrumptious buffet breakfast is included in the bed price.

Our secure camping facility is top class, each stand has its own private bathroom, fire place, wash up, power point and lawned area.

Wire less internet is accessible from any position on the premises.



Activities

Kuiseb Canyon

Optional

Kuiseb Delta

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.

Included

Self Catering

Day 7: **Alte Brücke Resort, Swakopmund** **(Tue, 28 April)**

Day Notes

With an early start you will meet your guide in Walvis Bay for a full morning of 4x4 driving in the amazing Sandwich Harbour Dunes. You can then spend the afternoon exploring Walvis Bay or just relaxing.

Activities

Sandwich Harbour

Sandwich Harbour 4x4

Recommended

Walvis Bay Lagoon

Sandwich Harbour

Located roughly 50 kilometres from Walvis Bay, Sandwich Harbour is a natural lagoon framed by sand dunes on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. It is a prime angling and bird-watching site, with countless sea birds coming to feed on the rich fish population, including rare white pelican and vivid flocks of pink flamingos.

Sandwich Harbour 4x4

Our Sandwich Harbour 4x4 Excursion takes you to the Walvis Bay Lagoon, the Saltpans, the Kuiseb River Delta, Sandwich Harbour, and - if weather and tides allow for it - the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon. We have plenty of time to stop and take pictures, and to enjoy the beautiful and unique scenery of one of the most spectacular areas in Namibia. Our roaring dunes and lookout spots are a highlight of every tour.

Walvis Bay Lagoon

Walvis Bay's calm natural lagoon is a twitcher's paradise, teeming with roughly 50 species of seabirds, including vivid flocks of flamingos, bulky-billed pelicans and glossy black cormorants. It's also a popular spot for windsurfing, kitesurfing and kayaking, while the promenade stretching for three kilometres along the water's edge is a great place for a scenic stroll. The Lagoon is one of the most important wetland areas on the African continent and a RAMSAR world heritage site. Over 80% of the African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breath taking picture when they appear in groups counting a few hundred thousand.

IncludedSelf Catering

Day 8: Alte Brücke Resort, Swakopmund (Wed, 29 April)

Day Notes

Enjoy the day at leisure or join one of the numerous activities Swakopmund has to offer.

Optional

Catamaran Charters

Namibia Desert Explorers

Living Desert Tours

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.

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.

Living Desert Tours

The Living Desert Tour is a unique 4x4 adventure which specializes in bringing the desert to life while sharing the awesome beauty of the Namib Desert with travellers from all over the world. The coastal dune belt may seem barren and lifeless to many people, but in fact it is alive with a fascinating variety of little desert adapted animals, which are able to survive on the life-giving fog which consistently rolls in from the cold Atlantic Ocean. Come see the Dancing White Lady Spider (*Carparachne aureoflava*) cartwheel 44 turns per second down a dune to escape the enemy. Admire the transparent Namib Dune Gecko (*Pachydactylus rangei*) with webbed feet that are equivalent to snow shoes. Learn about the different beetles and insects and how they survive in the dune desert. Follow in the tracks of a legless Lizard (*Fitsimmon's Burrowing Skink*), observe Sand Diving Lizards (*Meroles Anchieta*) dancing on the hot sand, Sidewinder Snakes (*Perinquey's Adder*), Desert Chameleons and many more fascinating creatures. Learn about the geology, structure and formation of the desert, and admire the vast and beautiful landscapes while enjoying a scenic dune drive combined with fun and adrenalin.

IncludedSelf Catering

Day 9: Wüstenquell Guest Farm, Namib (Thu, 30 April)

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

Leaving the coast behind you will head east to your lodge located a few hours drive away. Here you can explore the private nature reserve including bushman paintings.

Overnight: Wüstenquell Guest Farm

Bizarre rock formations, fantastic views, bushmen paintings, 7 fountains, a unique fauna and flora with quiver trees and the very rare lithops (living stones) make Wüstenquell a special experience! Directly bordering the Namib Naukluft Park, Wüstenquell with its famous Eagle Rock is the closest accommodation to the Welwitschia plains and moonlandscape. A great stop-over on your way from or to Swakopmund; direct access to the park and only 2 hours away. A paradise for photographers!



Included

Self Catering

Day 10: Klein Windhoek Guesthouse, Windhoek (Fri, 1 May)

Windhoek

Pulsing with life, opportunity and a sparkle of adventure, Windhoek is a multicultural city characterised by tranquil co-existence and enough living space for all its citizens, which number 350'000. Visitors can enjoy the best of two worlds between the European-style architecture and lifestyle, to the vivid beat of African culture and environs. The first recorded settlements were established because of the springs in the area. In about 1842, the Oorlam Kaptain, Jan Jonker Afrikaner, settled in at the strongest spring in the present Klein Windhoek. At the time, the place was called "/Ai-//Gams" (Fire Water) by the Namas, and "Otjomuise" (Place of Steam) by the Hereros, both names

bearing references to the hot springs. The German colony came into being with the determination of its borders in 1890. Germany sent a protective corps (the “*Schutztruppe*”) under Major Curt von Francois to maintain order; the garrison was stationed at Windhoek, where it was strategically situated as a buffer between the Namas and Hereros, while the twelve strong springs provided water for the cultivation of food.

The present Windhoek was founded on 18 October 1890 when Von Francois laid the foundation stone of the fort, which is known as the Alte Feste (Old Fortress).

Windhoek has a rich cultural life where activities happily mix and match to produce some interesting combinations. The “township” of Katutura is an journey for discovering the sounds and smells of Africa. The highlight is a visit to the Tukondjeni Market, which offers services that satisfy many community needs. It’s a busy place, where one can purchase supplies and traditional Namibian food such as barbecued meat, dried fish, fried mopane worms (known as “*omaungu*”) and other traditional food such as “*ombidi*” and dehydrated wild spinach.

Day Notes

Today you proceed via mountainous terrain to Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. Your accommodation is situated in a quiet suburb and close to the city center with its afro-european flair and peaceful atmosphere. In the evening enjoy typical Namibian cuisine in one of the numerous restaurants in the city.

Overnight: Klein Windhoek Guesthouse

Klein Windhoek Guesthouse is situated in one of Windhoek’s best suburbs in a quiet area next to the Klein Windhoek Riverbed – an ideal location for business people and tourists. From here it is a short 5 minute drive to City Centre; shops and popular restaurants are in close proximity. We offer a variety of rooms and self catering units.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 11: Kang, Central Kalahari Game Reserve (Sat, 2 May)

Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Miles and miles of grassland, a true wilderness.

Day Notes

For your final day in Namibia and depending on your flight departure time you may choose to spend some time exploring Windhoek or doing some last minute shopping before some of you head to the airport. The cars will then proceed east towards Botswana for your overnight stop at Kan Ultra Stop.

Overnight: Kang

Optional

Old Brewery Craft Centre

Old Brewery Craft Centre

Right in the centre of the city, on Independence Avenue, you will find this vibrant local craft market with a huge range of crafts on offer. Stall holders come from all parts of Namibia so variety is guaranteed. Open daily.

Included

Room Only

Day 12: Departure (Sun, 3 May)
