



2016 Wonderland Namibia- Bronze







ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK



OTAVI MOUNTAIN REGION

2016 Wonderland Namibia- Bronze

*Windhoek - Kalahari Namibia - Fish River Canyon - Luderitz - Southern Namibia - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund - Erongo -
Twyfelfontein - Etosha National Park - Etosha National Park - Otavi Mountain Region*
17 Days / 16 Nights

Overview

Highlights:

- WORLD'S LARGEST SAND MASS - KALAHARI DESERT
- WORLD'S HIGHEST DUNES AT SOSSUSVLEI & DEAD VLEI
- WORLD'S 2nd LARGEST CANYON
- 2 UNESCO & 1 RAMSAR WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- DIAMOND GHOST TOWN OF KOLMANSKUPPE
- EXPERIENCE THE DAMARA CULTURE
- WILDLIFE DISCOVERY IN THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Recommended vehicle (Not included): SUV or 4x4 Double Cab

Combinations: EZ

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis
Windhoek	Onganga Hotel Pension	1	B&B
Kalahari Namibia	Camelthorn Kalahari Lodge	1	B&B
Fish River Canyon	Canyon Village	2	B&B
Luderitz	Protea Hotel Sea-View Zum Sperrgebiet	1	B&B
Southern Namibia	Helmeringhausen Hotel	1	B&B
Sossusvlei	The Desert Homestead	2	B&B
Swakopmund	Swakopmund Sands Hotel	2	B&B
Erongo	Omaruru Guesthouse	1	B&B
Twyfelfontein	Twyfelfontein Country Lodge	1	B&B
Etosha National Park	Okaukuejo Camp	1	B&B
Etosha National Park	Onguma Etosha Aoba Lodge	2	B&B
Otavi Mountain Region	Ghaub Guest Farm	1	B&B

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: Onganga Hotel Pension, Windhoek

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

After arrival at the international airport, you proceed via mountainous terrain to Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia, which has an afro-European flair and peaceful atmosphere. In the evening enjoy typical Namibian cuisine in one of the numerous restaurants in the city.

Optional

Old Brewery Craft Centre

The Diamond Works

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.

The Diamond Works

Witness first hand, the art of diamond cutting and the careful craftsmanship of jewellery manufacturing by our skilled experts – all whilst enjoying a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. View a replica of the iconic Cullinan diamond and discover the history of the Diamond and Gold Trade in South Africa. Our institute boasts a large range of premium loose diamonds and tanzanite, as well as gold and platinum jewellery. Our diamond tour is available in various international languages.

Diamonds have been associated with purity, strength, wealth, virtue, power and most importantly love. Today, an appreciation for diamonds has evolved, not to only appreciate any diamond but to appreciate a truly rare diamond – The Diamond Works diamond. The Diamond Works Institute is considered a true South African diamond and jewellery expert. Established in 2001, it has evolved to be one of the most renowned diamond facilities in the region.

The Diamond Works Institute extends its appreciation to tanzanite, a gem 1000 times rarer than diamonds. This exceptional stone represents the essence of Africa, and we whisper the tales of this stones journey from the ground to the showroom. Tanzanite is noted for its remarkably strong trichroism; appearing alternately sapphire blue, violet and burgundy depending on crystal orientation.



Overnight: Onganga Hotel Pension

Enjoy a stunning view onto the Auas mountain range from our bar which is the perfect place for a sundowner. All 10 rooms at Onganga have en-suite bathrooms, TV, telephone, roof ventilation, wall heater, a kettle for tea and coffee and a fridge. We provide a clean and comfortable environment for you to relax in. The pool, under the warm African sun, is the ideal place to relax. A generous and healthy buffet breakfast is served every morning and dinner is available in the evenings.

Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 2: Camelthorn Kalahari Lodge, Kalahari Namibia

Kalahari Namibia

The Kalahari is an exceptionally beautiful living desert a large semi-arid sandy savannah draped over a gently rolling inland sea of sand covering most of Botswana and large parts of Namibia and South Africa. It is also the last bastion of the San people with the modern world having enveloped all the other areas they once roamed. Here in Namibia it is typically red sands covered in thin, wispy, mostly golden grass and dotted with acacia trees and wide ranging wildlife including gemsbok, impala, jackals and cheetah.

Day Notes

Traveling south after breakfast, you will soon see the red sand of the Kalahari interspersed with yellow grasses, shepherd's trees and acacia's. Your lodge is situated on a private game reserve where Oryx, Springbok, Zebra, and a variety of smaller game species abound. In the late afternoon experience the Kalahari and its symbiotic components on a sundowner / nature drive (optional).

Optional

Sundowner Nature Drive

Overnight: Camelthorn Kalahari Lodge

Camelthorn is nestled in the cool woodlands on the Southern edge of the famous Ngamo Plains. Here you will be treated to a truly memorable safari experience in pure comfort and style. Dine al fresco style under our ancient camelthorn tree, savour your morning coffee in front of a roaring fire, track elephant herds on foot inside Hwange National Park, or enjoy close-up photography from inside our look up blind – this flagship lodge ticks all the boxes for your authentic African safari experience. Each villa has a private en-suite bathroom, fireplace, a private ground level deck, and upstairs outdoor maisonette with a hammock.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 3: Canyon Village, Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon

The FishRiverCanyon is located in the northern part of the Nama Karoo. It is the second largest canyon on earth, featuring a gigantic ravine that measures in total about 100 miles (160 km) long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 metres deep.

The FishRiver is the longest interior river found in Namibia, but its flow at present is a trickle compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. It cuts deep into the plateau that is today dry, stony and sparsely covered with hardy drought resistant plants such as succulents, euphorbia's and lonely quiver trees. The river flows intermittently, usually coming down in flood in late summer, and when it ceases to flow it becomes a chain of long narrow pools on the sandy rock-strewn floor of the chasm. At the lower end of the Fish River Canyon, the hot springs resort of Ai-Ais provides an oasis in the desolate rocky wastes. Guided and unguided walks into the canyon are possible during April to September, it is however strictly forbidden to climb into the canyon as a day visitor.

In the canyon you may encounter several species of mammals, such as wild horses, Mountain Zebra (Hartman Zebra), Kudu, Klipspringer, Leopard, Steenbok, Baboon and Springbok. The most common rodents include mice, rats, dassies, and dassie-rats. Bird life includes surprises like Pelicans, Black Eagles, Fish Eagles, Kingfishers, Lovebirds, Wild Ostrich and various species of waterfowl and wading birds, like Herons. In the natural pools of the Fish River are found an abundance of fish, such as barbled catfish and yellow fish.

Day Notes

This morning you travel further south into endless plains dotted with dolerite hills and desert-adapted vegetation. Visit the quiver tree forest at Keetmanshoop, before arriving at your lodge, situated close to the Fish River Canyon.

Quiver Tree Forest

Some 14 kilometres from Keetmanshoop is a striking natural phenomenon that is well worth a visit: a natural forest of roughly 200 quiver trees, set on a large outcrop of blackish dolerite rocks. Named for the pliable bark that was once used by bushmen to craft quivers for their arrows, quiver trees are in fact not trees at all, but unusually large succulents with scaly bark and twisted branches topped with spiky, fleshy leaves. The most mature specimens here are between 200 and 300 years old, and some measure as high as nine metres. The forest, which was declared a national monument in 1955, is best viewed at sunrise or sunset, when the soft, warm light further enhances this already captivating sight.

Overnight: Canyon Village [View iBrochure](#)

Canyon Village lies at the foot of a sweeping rock face in Gondwana Canyon Park. Well-appointed cottages in the Cape Dutch style afford views of the vast canyon scenery. The thatched main building is built right into the massive granite boulders and houses a restaurant and cosy bar. With the famous Fish River Canyon just 20 km away the village is a perfect starting point for exploring the canyon. Dozens of murals depict the history and culture of the Bondelswart Nama, the earlier inhabitants of this area. Relish the peace and quiet and enjoy the views at the 'pool with a view'.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 4: Canyon Village, Fish River Canyon

Day Notes

After breakfast, travel a short distance to the magnificent Fish River Canyon. Enjoy this natural phenomenon, the second largest of its kind on Earth, with its awesome splendour and adapted fauna and flora on a scenic walk along the ridge of the canyon. After the visit travel back to your lodge, where you can enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 5: Protea Hotel Sea-View Zum Sperrgebiet, Luderitz

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.

Day Notes

Your journey continues past Aus and down the open plains of the Great Escarpment to Lüderitz. On route see if you can spot the wild horses of the Namib, and, once in Lüderitz, enjoy a scenic drive to Diaz Point, site of Bartholomew Dias' landing in 1488.

Recommended

Wild Horses of the Namib

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.



Wild Horses of the Namib

Fighting for a life in freedom they hold an irresistible fascination: the Wild Horses of the Namib in south-western Namibia. For centuries their origin was shrouded in mystery. Their habitat, the barren plains around Garub on the eastern fringe of the Namib Desert, is no paradise; nevertheless they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions. Their forebears, once in the service of man, gained freedom for themselves: a life in the vastness of the Namib, away from human civilization, according to the rules of their own horse society. Perhaps this is the reason for the fascination of thousands of visitors every year. Plans for moving the herd to farms have been discarded by now: it has been decided that also in future the horses' place is in Namib Naukluft Park.



Overnight: Protea Hotel Sea-View Zum Sperrgebiet

Protea Hotels Sea-View Zum Sperrgebiet is Protea's first venture in the seaside diamond town of Luderitz. With a rich and colourful history, the town's heritage is encapsulated in the buildings and its surroundings. Against the stark backdrop of an unforgiving and ever-changing desert, you will find comfort in 22 comfortable rooms and one flat at Protea Hotels Sea-View Zum Sperrgebiet. Indulge your tastebuds with a variety of seafood or mouth-watering meat dishes in the restaurant, or relax in our heated indoor swimming pool or sauna.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 6: Helmeringhausen Hotel, Southern Namibia

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

This morning visit the “ghost town” Kolmanskop, the remnant of a bustling diamond town that flourished here from 1908 to 1950. Traveling north, your next stop is situated in a more densely vegetated area along the foot of the stunning Tiras Mountains.

Optional

Kolmanskop

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.



Overnight: 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.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 7: The Desert Homestead, 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

After breakfast you travel along stretches of grass plains interspersed with huge mountain ranges into the area of Sossusvlei, where your lodge is situated. En route you may choose to visit Duwisib. At your lodge you have the rest of the day at leisure.

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.



Overnight: The Desert Homestead

The wide grassy valley in which the lodge is situated is sheltered by the Nubib, Tsaris and Naukluft Mountains with a view reaching the distant dunes of the Namib Desert in the west. In this exquisite position, the lodge offers simple but stylish accommodation in thatched chalets which were designed with the fragile beauty of this remarkable environment in mind. The Desert Homestead will ensure you an unrivalled respite from the desert extremes.

Tranquil surroundings, Alfresco dining, delectably fresh farm cuisine, refreshing dips in the pool, stunning sunsets and sunrises are the basic pleasures at the lodge. And meandering across endless plains or discovering ancient water courses on a beautifully groomed steed is a magical and alternative way to appreciate your surroundings. The final remnants of each day see nature at her most profound. Rugged landscapes bathed in hues of pastel ... a truly humbling experience.



Alternate: Namib Desert Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

The main building and the chalets of Namib Desert Lodge are spread out along the foot of the fossilised dunes of the ancient Namib. A comfortable sojourn is guaranteed by 65 en suite rooms with air conditioning. A restaurant and bar, an inviting terrace with views of the fossilised dunes and two swimming pools beckon you to linger and relax. Oryx antelope and springbok make frequent appearances at our illuminated watering place.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 8: The Desert Homestead, Sossusvlei

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.

Recommended

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

Bed & Breakfast

Day 9: Swakopmund Sands Hotel, 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

After breakfast, travel through two rugged passes and via the Welwitschia plains and the Moonlandscape to Swakopmund. Better known as Namibia's playground, this idyllic town is wedged between the sweltering Namib Desert and the cold Atlantic Ocean, and enjoys a distinct German architecture and atmosphere. Swakopmund has numerous activities to offer.

Activities

Kuiseb Canyon

Optional

Kuiseb Delta

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.



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: Swakopmund Sands Hotel

The Swakopmund Sands is literary minutes’ walk away from the very popular Jetty and TUG restaurants as well as other tourist attractions and yet you have total privacy once on the premises of the Hotel. Each room is equipped with a flat screen TV, safe, under floor heating, fridge, as well as tea and coffee facilities for your convenience. A laundry service is available for same day delivery. Each bathroom has a hairdryer and shaving facilities and all international power points can be used. In the morning you will be able to enjoy a sumptuous buffet breakfast in a very relaxing and tranquil dining area.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 10: Swakopmund Sands Hotel, Swakopmund

Day Notes

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

Optional

Catamaran Charters
 Namibia Desert Explorers
 Sandwich Harbour 4x4
 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.

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.

Our popular Marine Dune Day (9h00-16h30) is a combination of both, a morning marine cruise and our Sandwich Harbour 4x4 afternoon excursion. During the marine cruise on your choice of boat (speedboat or catamaran) you have a chance to see pelicans, seals, dolphins, the Walvis Bay Harbour, old russian boats, oyster farms and Pelican Point with the old lighthouse. Our 4x4 guide will be waiting for you as soon as you are back to take you to Sandwich Harbour. We return between 16h30 and 17h00. Lunch on the boat and in the dunes, drinks and permits are included.



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.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 11: Omaruru Guesthouse, Erongo

Erongo

The Erongo Region is one of the largest of the 13 regions found in Namibia and received its name for the majestic Erongo Massif that dominates the area around Karibib, Omaruru and Usakos. The region reaches up to the Atlantic Ocean and includes the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, its northern boundary ending at the Ugab River where the Skeleton Coast National Park begins its stretch to Angola.

Day Notes

Departing the coastal town of Swakopmund you travel east towards the picturesque Erongo Mountain Range. Traveling past the Spitzkoppe you have the exceptional opportunity of visiting an authentic village of the San community living here. At the lodge you have enough time to spend at leisure along the sparkling pool, or explore the small town of Omaruru and its surrounds. Experience the magical sunset around a fireplace and marvel at the African sky whilst sipping your favourite 'Namibian Sundowner'.

Optional

San Living Museum

Spitzkoppe

Although not Namibia's highest mountains these giant granite domes with their amazing rock formations are its most famous.



San Living Museum

The San have survived the harshest conditions imaginable for thousands of years and for those still living out of cities not a lot has changed. With their gentle and generous nature you will have a visit with a people that will stay with you a life time.



Overnight: Omaruru Guesthouse

Accommodation is offered in 20 comfortable and well-appointed rooms, each with its own en-suite bathroom. A healthy breakfast awaits you on the verandah, where friendly staff will tend to all your needs and make you feel right at home. Delicious meals are served at your request, in the cozy and inviting atmosphere of our dining room. During your stay you will enjoy our big shady trees and the saltwater swimming pool. Experience the magical sunset around our fireplace and marvel at the african sky whilst sipping your favorite 'Namibian Sundowner'.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 12: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge, Twyfelfontein

Twyfelfontein

TWYFELFONTEIN: NAMIBIA'S OWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE This National Heritage site confers yet another distinction to Namibia: that of one of the foremost centers of artwork in the world. It counts as the largest open-air art gallery in Southern Africa, its name reflecting a farmer's incredulity that the unreliable spring (Afrikaans: Twyfelfontein) could have supported the Stone Age hunter and its prey for thousands of years. The reddish sandstone boulders seem to glow in the fierce heat, yet ancient man sheltered from enemy and spied on game from these surreal rock formations. Here he assiduously carved away at the intractable rock surfaces to imprint his indelible creations. Today, you can browse amongst these selfsame boulders and slabs of sandstone and marvel at the grandest spectacle of rock engravings in Africa.

The area is also home to the geological phenomenon of Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes.

Day Notes

After breakfast you continue into the Damaraland where you visit Twyfelfontein, a World Heritage Site and an "open air art gallery" that boasts over 2500 different Bushman rock engravings and rock paintings. Close to Twyfelfontein, you can also visit a traditional Damara village, the original inhabitants of the Damaraland. Furthermore visit the Petrified Forest where pre-historic tree trunks jut out between patches of Welwitschia.

Optional

Damara Living Museum

Recommended

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Petrified Forest

Namibia's petrified forest west of Khorixas is indeed a rare phenomenon. As if through the intervention of some great time machine, the fossilized remains of these tree trunks provide an intriguing glimpse of flora that existed some 260 million years ago. The optical illusion is uncanny – right down to such details as the colour and texture of the bark and growth rings. As startling as the initial sight may be to road-weary eyes – the surprise reaches its climax when the visitor stoops to touch a section of log... for what to all intents and purposes is a piece of wood, turns out in reality to be cold stone!

Damara Living Museum

Observe and experience the traditional Damara way of life right in the heart of their traditional homelands. A unique opportunity to see a way of life that is slowly dying out. Open daily.



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: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

The Lodge is situated in the heart of the Twyfelfontein Uibasen Conservancy and boast 56 en-suite twin rooms, reception, lounge, curio shop, open dining room, bar and swimming pool. In construction utmost care was taken to reduce the visual impact on the environment and to blend into the mountainside with the use of thatch roofs, natural stone and paint colors toning in with the surrounding rock formations.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 13: Okaukuejo Camp, 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 a relaxed breakfast you can visit a traditional Himba village and meet these proud and statuesque people. The Himba still adhere to their traditional values and cultures and are one of the last truly nomadic tribes on Earth. Travel further north to the Etosha National Park, which, with its numerous water holes, is home to the array of 114 different animal and 340 different bird species that thrive here.

Recommended

Otjikandera Himba Village

Otjikandera Himba Village

A visit to this traditional Himba village is also a visit to the first registered Orphan Trust Fund in Namibia. The money received for tours to the Himba Village goes into a Trust which is mainly used for food and other necessities. The Otjikandero Himba Orphan Project tries to give the local tribe a chance to survive in the western world and tries to depict the proudness of the people, Himba lifestyle, tradition and culture and strives to ensure that future generations will live and thrive at Otjikandero and that the project can continue to grow.



Overnight: Okaukuejo Camp

Okaukuejo is located 17 km from the southern entrance of the park, and famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting. Accommodation is provided to suit every need, in premier bush chalets overlooking the waterhole; bush chalets and double rooms; or family chalets. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, shop, swimming pool, kiosk and camping facilities.



Alternate: Toshari Lodge (Etosha Gateway)

Nestled on an outcrop of dolomite rocks, under a forest of Mopane and white Seringa trees, Toshari Lodge offers affordable but enchanting accommodation close to Etosha National Park. A warm welcome awaits you complimented by a refreshing cold drink on arrival. Absorb the peace and tranquility of the natural African bush as you amble through a blend of manicured lawns and rustic bush gardens to your private room. Take a refreshing dip in our sparkling pools and enjoy wholesome Namibian cuisine, complimented with herbs and vegetables from the garden and fresh home baked bread, in the tranquility of our striking African lapa with its stunning photographs of local Etosha wildlife. Campsites are also available; each pitch having a private shower room with hot and cold water, 220v power point, herb garden and braai place. Situated just off the C38 between Outjo and Okaukuejo, Toshari Lodge is ideally positioned for day visits into Etosha National Park; on your own or on our expertly guided tours. GPS Co-ordinates: South 19°33'26" East 15°52'33"



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 14: Onguma Etosha Aoba Lodge, Etosha National Park

Day Notes

The entire day is enjoyed game driving in the Etosha National Park. Shortly before sunset you travel out of the park to your lodge.

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 Etosha Aoba Lodge

[View iBrochure](#)

Welcome to the Namibian Wilderness - Welcome to Etosha Aoba Lodge - situated on a 36.000 ha private game reserve adjacent to the Etosha National Park. - Nature and leisure at it's best - where you can participate in any of our memorable activities or relax in a pleasant bush atmosphere. Onguma Etosha Aoba is located along the dry

“Omuramba Owambo” riverbed close to the Lapa. All bungalows have a private terrace with seating, shower / toilet, mini safe, “bush-minibar”, ceiling fan and tea / coffee facilities. For the winter season there are heating fans available. There is a swimming pool and a thatched bar, lounge and dining area that overlooks a small waterhole and free Wi-Fi.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 15: Onguma Etosha Aoba Lodge, Etosha National Park

Day Notes

After sunrise you again travel into the park again, enjoying the sight of pronking springbok and playful animals announcing the start of another glorious day. The dense stands of Mopani forests support a large variety of browsers and specialized predators such as leopards, while it offers a variety of migratory as well as non-migratory bird species safe cover and nesting sites.

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.



IncludedBed & Breakfast

Day 16: Ghaub Guest Farm, Otavi Mountain Region

Otavi Mountain Region

The Otavi Mountain Region is sometimes referred to as the "Golden Triangle", or as the "maize Triangle". Features of interest include the Hoba Meteorite and sink holes and underground lakes. The Hoba Meteorite is the largest meteorite in the world, and the largest naturally occurring piece of iron on the Earth's surface. It is made of nickel-iron and weighs about 60 tonnes. Lake Otjikoto and Lake Guinas are sinkholes the depths of which are not really known and nearby is the Dragon's Breath one of the largest and deepest underground lakes in the world. It was here just outside Otavi that World War I ended in southern Africa on July 1 1915.

Day Notes

Today you travel into the main agricultural and cattle farming region of Namibia, just south of Otjiwarongo you have the option of visiting the Waterberg National Park with the Waterberg Plateau rising like an enormous fort above the surrounding plains. This is one of the most scenic locations in Namibia - perfect for undertaking scenic walks or guided nature safaris on the Plateau.

Overnight: Ghaub Guest Farm

Guestfarm Ghaub is located in the agricultural heartland of Namibia's fertile northern region. Sprawling lawns dotted with palm trees and original old-style mission buildings roll into wild bush and a view of Otavi Mountains in the distance. The major attraction at Guestfarm Ghaub is caving – a thrilling experience! The Ghaub cave is Namibia's third largest cave and is about 38m deep and about 2,5km long. Book a two hour tour exploring the beautiful stalactites and stalagmites and revel in this wonder of nature.



IncludedBed & Breakfast

Day 17: Departure

Day Notes

Enjoy a pre-breakfast walk along one of the scenic mountain trails before traveling south towards Windhoek. After strolling through one of the large craft markets in Okahandja, your route takes you between high mountain ranges back to the capital city, Windhoek, where your tour ends.

Okahandja Craft Market - South

While most towns will have a local market with various crafts on offer this market is renowned for its hand carved wooden curios. Open daily.
