



ESSENTIAL NAMIBIA WILDLIFE 2024

Windhoek - Sesriem - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Erongo Mountains

13 Days / 12 Nights

Reference: S12/24

02 August 2024 - 14 August 2024





Introduction

Namibia as a country is, if anything, rather unique. Likewise, a Namibia safari promises to be a very unique experience. For example, in Sossusvlei the play of light on the towering sand dunes will amaze you. A 'Living Desert' trip to observe the incredible life forms of the Namib 'dune sea' will astound you. Seeing the desert-adapted Elephants of Damaraland will move you. And watching the action unfold at a crowded waterhole in Etosha will excite you... Indeed, this 13-day Namibia safari offers something that just isn't matched by any other African safari experience.

Areas covered

We start our **Namibia Safari** with a night in Windhoek. After that our next stop is at Sesriem, gateway to the iconic landscapes of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Moving on we visit the Atlantic Coast with a couple of nights in Swakopmund. Heading back inland we then visit the remote Damaraland region. Then it's the exquisite game viewing of Etosha. And we divide our time here between two different camps. And finally, we visit the Erongo Mountain Conservancy before ending off back in Windhoek.

Accommodation

The accommodation is of a medium-plus standard. It includes a travel lodge, two lodges, a guest house and a couple of National Park resorts. Importantly, all accommodations have en-suite facilities, and are clean and comfortable.

The mammals

The wildlife of Namibia is as unique and interesting as the country itself. We'll stand a chance of seeing most of Africa's iconic game species on this Namibia safari. These include species such as: African Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Red Hartebeest, Common Wildebeest and others. Moreover, there are also some south-west African species to see, such as Gemsbok and Springbok . Other interesting mammals include: Damara Dik-dik, Dassie Rat, Honey Badger, Black-faced Impala, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra and Black Rhino. Indeed, Namibia is probably the best place on earth to see the latter. In addition, on our Living Desert tour we'll be looking for some very interesting desert-dwellers such as: Namib Sand Gecko, Shovel-snouted Lizard, Namaqua Chameleon, Peringuey's Adder, Tenebrionid beetles and many more.

The birding

Birds aren't the main focus of this Namibia Wildlife Safari. But, while we won't deviate from the main goal of seeing wildlife, there are still some great birds to be seen. These include Common Ostrich, Kori and Ludwig's Bustards, Rüppell's Korhaan, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Verreaux's Eagle, Augur Buzzard, Lappet-faced Vulture, Lilac-breasted Roller, Crimson-breasted Shrike and many more. However, if you'd prefer more of an emphasis on birding, then have a look at Essential Namibia Birding.

In conclusion, this Namibia Wildlife Safari offers a captivating and unique wildlife experience. From the dunes of Sossusvlei, to the dusty plains of Etosha and the striking rock outcrops of Erongo, this will be a phenomenal wildlife safari.

| Accommodation | Destination | Start | End | Basis | Duration |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| Arebusch Travel Lodge | Windhoek | 2 Aug | 3 Aug | FB | 1 Night |
| Desert Camp | Sesriem | 3 Aug | 5 Aug | FB | 2 Nights |
| Swakopmund Guesthouse | Swakopmund | 5 Aug | 7 Aug | FB | 2 Nights |
| Camp Kipwe | Damaraland | 7 Aug | 9 Aug | FB | 2 Nights |
| Okaukuejo Resort | Etosha National Park | 9 Aug | 11 Aug | FB | 2 Nights |
| Namutoni Resort | Etosha National Park | 11 Aug | 13 Aug | FB | 2 Nights |
| Ondudu Safari Lodge | Erongo Mountains | 13 Aug | 14 Aug | FB | 1 Night |

Key

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Price

ZAR 79 600 per person sharing

ZAR 7 090 single supplement

Included

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Ground transport
- Lawson's insulated water bottle
- Entrance fees
- Personalised checklists
- Specialist guide fees

Excluded

- All airfares
- Travel and medical insurance
- All drinks
- Optional excursions where applicable
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

Day 1: Friday, 2 August

Arebbusch Travel Lodge, Windhoek

Day Itinerary

After arriving in Windhoek, the group will meet up and we'll have a 45-minute drive through to our accommodation for the evening. The drive there will allow everyone to get a taste of the scenic wonder of this country, with scenic ranges of dry boulder-strewn mountains surrounding Windhoek, creating a rather striking setting. After getting settled in and having a bit of time to relax we'll have an optional birding walk at a nearby site where we aim to locate several worthwhile species such as Damara Rockrunner, Dusky Sunbird, Chestnut-vented Warbler and Yellow-bellied Eremomela, whilst Cape Rock Hyrax and the colourful Namib Agama also may be seen sunning themselves on suitable rocky ledges during the late afternoon. From here we'll return to our lodge for a well-earned dinner and sleep before an exciting day to come.

Windhoek

Situated in Central Namibia, the cosmopolitan city of Windhoek serves as the capital of the country. It is home to an international airport and a plethora of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation options. The city is clean, safe and well-organised, with a colonial legacy that is reflected in its many German eateries and shops, and the widespread use of the German language. Windhoek has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste an old fort, the 1896 Christuskirche Christ Church, and the more contemporary Supreme Court.

Overnight: Arebbusch Travel Lodge

Arebbusch Travel Lodge offers high quality accommodation at affordable rates in a natural setting in Windhoek – a gateway to the many wonders of Namibia's beautiful wide-open spaces, it's fascinating variety of cultures, nature, wildlife and majestic sunsets. Situated on the banks of the dry Arebbusch River, Arebbusch Travel Lodge nestles in the natural surroundings of the "veld". Far from the hustle and bustle of central city life, yet minutes away from the capital's shopping centres and attractions.



Day 2-4: Saturday, 3 August to Monday, 5 August

Desert Camp, Sesriem

Day Itinerary

Today we'll start with an early breakfast (or possibly a packed breakfast) before departing for the Namib Desert. Our route will take us across the incredibly scenic Hakos Mountains, and we'll drop off the interior plateau via the incredibly scenic Spreetshoogte Pass, where we may see species such as Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Klipspringer

and Chacma Baboon, with Herero Chat at the top of the want list as far as birds go. At the bottom of the pass the Namib Desert will be spread out before us as we make our way through increasingly arid country towards the Namib Naukluft National Park. Birds to look out for include Stark's Lark, Ludwig's Bustard, Rüppell's Korhaan, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and Common Ostrich. We'll slowly amble south towards our accommodation near Sossusvlei where we'll have a two-night stay, expecting to arrive late the afternoon with enough time to get settled in and relax before dinner.

On our full day we'll have an early start today as we take along a packed breakfast for our morning excursion to explore the spectacular Sossusvlei. Mammals to look out for include Gemsbok and Springbok, and birds such as Ludwig's Bustard, Namaqua Sandgrouse, and Burchell's Courser, with our main target for the day being Namibia's only true endemic, the Dune Lark. Along the way we'll stop at several well-known sites such as Dune 45, before finally completing the drive through to the actual Sossusvlei, where we'll be immersed in classic Namib Desert scenery. We'll return to camp late in the morning, by which time the temperature will start to climb and we'll spend the hottest part of the day after lunch relaxing in our rooms and enjoying the wonderful view. In the afternoon we'll visit the nearby Sesriem Canyon and Elim Dune, where Dune Lark also may be found, before setting off for sundowners close to camp, when we can admire the incredible desert scenery in the light of the setting sun.

Sesriem

As there is no accommodation at Sossusvlei, visitors to this desert wilderness are likely to end up staying at Sesriem, 65 kilometres away, where camps and lodges serve as a base from which to explore the dunes. 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 ('sesriem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)

Overnight: Desert Camp [View iBrochure](#)

Self-catering at its Best amidst unparalleled Desert Beauty...

Desert Camp is situated just 5 km from the entrance gate to Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon in the Namib Naukluft Park. Nestled under centuries old camel thorn trees, Desert Camp offers unsurpassed views over the Desert landscapes and surrounding mountains - An absolute must for the nature lover and photographer!

The 28 affordable self-catering accommodation units are equipped with an en-suite bathroom, shaded veranda with a fitted kitchenette, barbeque, power points and an adjacent parking area. Each air-conditioned room features twin beds and a fold-out sleeper couch to accommodate 2 small children (under 12) free of charge when sharing with 2 full paying adults. Utility boxes with most utensils needed are available at reception and fresh food supplies can be ordered daily.

Facilities at the main building include a fully stocked and serviced bar with big screen television, a sparkling swimming pool and 2 communal bomas with cooking and wash up facilities which are perfect for groups travelling together.

Meals can be enjoyed at the nearby Sossusvlei Lodge restaurant and their Adventure Centre offers a range of exciting Desert activities to explore the area.

A fully stocked shop, fuel and an Internet café is available at the Sossus Oasis Service Station.



Day 4-6: Monday, 5 August to Wednesday, 7 August

Swakopmund Guesthouse, Swakopmund

Day Itinerary

Today we'll have an early breakfast before a long but interesting drive across the seemingly barren plains towards the town of Swakopmund on the cold Atlantic coast, where we'll stay for two nights. Nearing the coast the landscape will morph into almost featureless gravel plains, where we may find Gray's Lark seeking shade among the rocks along the roadside, while the temperature may drop as much as 20 degrees as we arrive in Namibia main port of Walvis Bay. We'll stop for some birding and lunch at one of the numerous restaurants overlooking the charming esplanade before we finally complete the last short section of the drive to Swakopmund, arriving in the late afternoon for time to freshen up before dinner. and will take a bit of time out before heading out for dinner.

On our full day we'll have breakfast followed by a morning out in the dunes on a 'Living Desert' experience, where local guides will show us some of the remarkable creatures of the seemingly lifeless dune sea, such as Namaqua Chameleon, Peringuey's Adder, Shovel-snouted Lizard, Namib Sand Gecko, Gray's Lark, Tractrac Chat and various Beetles and other interesting critters. In the afternoon we'll take a drive along the Welwitschia route, where we can see some examples of this unique Namib Desert endemic plant. In the late afternoon we'll head back to town for time to freshen up before dinner.

Swakopmund

Set along Namibia's spectacularly scenic coast, the seaside town of Swakopmund is known for its wide-open avenues, colonial architecture, and its surrounding otherworldly desert terrain. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South-West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort town, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, adventure options, laid-back atmosphere and cool sea breeze make it a very popular Namibian destination. Visitors can look forward to a number of exciting activities including: quad biking, horse riding, paragliding, fishing, sightseeing and fascinating desert tours.

Overnight: Swakopmund Guesthouse [View iBrochure](#)

Situated in the town centre, a mere five-minute walk from the beach and main shopping area, Swakopmund Guesthouse is owned and run by the Borg family.



Day 6-8: Wednesday, 7 August to Friday, 9 August

Camp Kipwe, Damaraland

Day Itinerary

Today we'll have an early start, leaving the coast and heading into the remote Damaraland area, where we are staying at Camp Kipwe for two nights. On the way there we may visit the Cape Cross Seal Colony on the so-called 'Skeleton Coast', where up to a quarter of a million Seals can be found packed onto a small peninsula, or alternatively head inland directly in search of the endemic Herero Chat, one of Namibia's top birds. We should arrive at Camp Kipwe in the late afternoon and have time to settle in before a bit of birding around the lodge and a sundowner drink to end off the day.

Activities for the full day here include a visit to the Twyfelfontein Rock Engravings World Heritage Site, an area that holds in excess of 6000 petroglyphs etched onto the rocks in the region, where we'll learn about the cultural significance of this site and interpretations of the various images; and a long morning drive into the remote hidden river beds of Damaraland in search of the desert-adapted Elephants that inhabit this harsh region, an amazing experience indeed. In between we'll have time to slow down a bit and simply enjoy the stunning views from our rooms and see out the day with sundowners on the rock behind the camp.

Damaraland

This vast desert landscape is known as one of the most beautiful regions in Namibia. Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful, Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape featuring open plains, ancient valleys and spectacular rock formations. The major attractions are the sacred Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the otherworldly Petrified Forest. Visitors can take in the dramatic vistas, catch a glimpse of the rare desert-adapted elephant, and enjoy spectacular stargazing in crystal-clear night skies from one of the many safari camps dotting Damaraland. Other popular activities include: guided drives, nature walks and visiting the local communities. Don't miss the opportunity to view Damaraland's world-famous ancient rock art.

Overnight: **Camp Kipwe** [View iBrochure](#)

Camp Kipwe is an intimate and remote bush lodge located in Namibia's arid yet starkly beautiful Twyfelfontein region, home to many ancient Bushman etchings. The 9 specially designed rooms are unique and private, with an outdoor bathroom, thatched roofs and spectacular views over the surrounding area. A luxury thatched suite with a lounge equipped with air-conditioning, a satellite television, a double room with en-suite bathroom, laundry service and a mini-bar.

Camp Kipwe offers guided nature walks around the Twyfelfontein Conservancy, as well as trips to see the Bushman etchings, the mysterious Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain. For a very special experience, an Elephant Nature Drive is a must-do; explore the terrain in search of these elusive desert-dwelling Elephants who have adapted to the dry and sandy conditions of northern Namibia.



Day 8-10: Friday, 9 August to Sunday, 11 August

Okaukuejo Resort, Etosha National Park

Day Itinerary

Today we'll have a last morning at Camp Kipwe, perhaps taking a birding walk in the Huab Riverbed before breakfast and departure for the world renowned Etosha National Park and Okaukuejo, in the central parts of the park, where we'll be based for the next two nights. After getting settled in we can head down to the waterhole to see if there's any activity before an afternoon drive, on which we'll head out to one of the nearby waterholes in the hope of finding some of Etosha's spectacular Lions, as well as other species such as Honey Badger, Black-backed Jackal, South African Ground Squirrel, Elephant, Springbok, Gemsbok and the like. Back at camp we'll have time to freshen up before dinner and can end off with a night session at the floodlit waterhole, which offers excellent chances for Black Rhino, and maybe some nocturnal predators such as Lion, Leopard or Brown Hyena. On our full day we'll perhaps start off with an early vigil at the waterhole to see what comes down to drink before sunrise, followed by the usual pre-breakfast game drive, breakfast and a rest before lunch and an afternoon drive – a by now familiar routine!

Etosha National Park

Situated in north-western Namibia, the Etosha National Park offers a premier game viewing experience. The park's diverse vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a variety of wildlife. Located in the heart of the park is the Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000 square kilometers. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after seasonal rains, making it the perfect habitat for wildlife. In the dry season, the wildlife is attracted to the perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing. Visitors can look forward to world-class game viewing including a variety of large mammals such as Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Zebra, Giraffe, a diversity of birdlife such as Flamingoes and Pelicans.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Resort

Okaukuejo was formerly a military outpost founded in 1901 and the tower was added in 1963. Located in the south of Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo is only 17 km from Anderson Gate. Okaukuejo offers a wide range of accommodation as well as all the necessities such as a petrol station and a shop. The restaurant and bar offer refreshments and delicious meals, while the swimming pool offers relief on hot days. The waterhole, for which Okaukuejo is famous, is a hub of animal activity starting in the early hours of the morning. Especially during winter diversity of game congregate in close proximity to the camp to quench their thirst.

After sunset floodlights illuminate the waterhole. This is the best time and place to see the endangered Black Rhino. This archaic mammal can often be seen drinking alongside Lion and Elephant. The number and interaction of the animals is the major drawcard of Okaukuejo Resort in Namibia.



Day 10-12: Sunday, 11 August to Tuesday, 13 August

Namutoni Resort, Etosha National Park

Day Itinerary

Today we can start off with a session at the camp waterhole, followed by breakfast and departure for Namutoni Resort on the eastern side of the park. It's a long drive but we'll be game viewing and birding all the way, with a lunch stop in Halali to break the journey, and also for a chance to find Violet Wood-Hoopoe and Bare-cheeked Babbler, two of the near-endemic target birds on our list. After arriving at Namutoni we can check in and perhaps visit one of the nearby waterholes, or perhaps just spend time relaxing in camp after the long day on the road.

On our full day we'll again have morning and afternoon drives, exploring the Fischer's pan area and perhaps heading all the way up to the Andoni Plains, and also heading into the bushier country south of the camp to look for the diminutive Damra Dik-Dik. Elephants and Giraffe are usually plentiful in the area as well, and the habitat in this area south of the camp is also good for Leopard, a species that prefers cover rather than open country.

Etosha National Park

As previously described

Overnight: Namutoni Resort

Built into an old German Fort Namutoni has a unique atmosphere. Within the fort you will find ample facilities. From the walls of the fort, you can enjoy an elevated view of the King Nehale Waterhole allowing for great game viewing without leaving the camp. The walls of the fort are also an excellent spot for sundowners. There is hardly a better way to end a day in the bush and Namibia than to marvel at the colours of the setting sun.

Namutoni is situated in the eastern part of Etosha National Park and is accessible via the Von Lindequist Gate. Its close proximity to Fisher's Pan makes Namutoni a hotspot for birders. A restaurant, craft shop, a pool and a viewing deck overlooking King Nehale Waterhole make the fort a great place to relax at lunchtime or after evening game drives. A superette, curio shop and petrol station allow you to stock up on everything that is necessary and nice.



Day 12: Tuesday, 13 August

Ondudu Safari Lodge, Erongo Mountains

Day Itinerary

We'll start off the day with an easy morning drive to the south of camp where we hope to locate the diminutive Damara Dik-dik, as well as Black-faced Babbler, before we return to camp for breakfast in time to pack up and make our way to the south for our final stop in this wonderful country. We should arrive in time for lunch and some time to relax through the heat of the day. Later on, the afternoon we'll depart for a drive to a nearby rock art site where we have the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the San-Bushmen who inhabited this region. We'll end off the last full day of the tour with a great dinner and perhaps some stargazing under the clear desert skies (Namibia has some of the best stargazing in the world, due to the exceptionally dry and clear skies).

Erongo Mountains

Conveniently located only a few hours' drive from Namibia's capital city of Windhoek, the Erongo Mountain Range stretches across the plains between the towns of Omaruru and Karibib and is home to a remarkably rich natural heritage. This expanse of rugged wilderness serves as one of Namibia's most popular tourist drawcards, attracting visitors with its spectacularly scenic landscapes, magnificent caves and rock painting sites, and its impressive array of wildlife species. These include, among others: Rhino, Elephant, Cheetah, Leopard, Giraffe, Wildebeest, Impala, Blesbok, Waterbuck, Kudu, Warthog, Mountain Zebra, Oryx, Eland, Springbok and over 200 species of bird. Visitors can look forward to enjoying a variety of adventurous activities such as hiking, rock climbing, games drives, horse riding safaris and mountain biking.

Overnight: Ondudu Safari Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Located in Omaruru in Namibia, The Erongo Wild offers luxury accommodation perfect for nature enthusiasts looking for a relaxing getaway surrounded by pristine natural landscapes. The lodge features a selection of luxury tented rooms, two honeymoon suites, and a family room. There is also a self-catering tented unit that comprises two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. During their stay, guests can enjoy delicious meals at the on-site restaurant. Activities in the area include village tours, hiking, and game drives.



Day 13: Wednesday, 14 August

End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

We'll start the day early as we head out for a morning walk through the surrounding hills, with more of a birding focus as we aim to locate the shy Hartlaub's Spurfowl as they call from exposed boulders during the early hours of the morning. We'll be on the lookout for a range of species however, from the beautifully patterned Damara Rockrunner to the curious Dassie Rat, the only representative of its family, normally seen scurrying among the boulders. After our walk we'll return for breakfast before starting the drive through to Windhoek from where we'll catch a return flight to Johannesburg and onwards.

Urgent Contact Numbers

| Company Name | Telephone | Email Address | Contact Person |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lawson's Birding, Wildlife & Custom Safaris | +27 82 576 7526 | mavourneen@lawsons-africa.co.za | Mavourneen Pearce |
| Lawson's Birding, Wildlife & Custom Safaris - Emergency Contact | +27 82 576 7526 | | |

Service Provider Directory

| Service Provider | Ref. Number | Telephone | Address |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Arebbusch Travel Lodge | | +26461252255 | Cnr of Golf & Auas Rd, Olympia, Windhoek, Namibia |
| Camp Kipwe | | +26461232009 | Camp Kipwe Twyfelfontein 9000 |
| Desert Camp | | +27219304564 | On the D826 / C27 Road to Sossusvlei Sesriem Namibia |
| Namutoni Resort | | +264 61 285 7200 | |
| Okaukuejo Resort | | +264612857200 or +26467229800 | Okaukuejo, Namibia |
| Ondudu Safari Lodge | | +26461228104 +274812600830 | D2315 Road (10km) Farm Okapekaha Omaruru 9000 |
| Swakopmund Guesthouse | | Tel: +264 (0)6446 2008 | Hendrik Witbooi 35 Swakopmund 9000 |

Terms and Conditions

Itinerary Terms and Conditions

Note that this tour can only run at the listed price with a minimum of two participants.

This itinerary is subject to change due to weather conditions at the time and other factors beyond our control.

The species mentioned in the itinerary represent only some of the possible ones we may see on the tour, however, none of these can be guaranteed even though every effort will be made where possible to locate them. A full list of possibilities appears on your checklist.