



~ Namibia Unboard Road Trip ~

10 DAYS - Sossusvlei | Swakopmund | Damaraland | Etosha

Day 1 - Windhoek to Sossusvlei area

This morning Ultimate Safaris will collect you from your various accommodation establishments or from the Windhoek International Airport (assuming you land before 08h00). You then depart Windhoek in your safari vehicle with your private guide and drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, stopping for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way.

You arrive at Sossus Dune Lodge in the mid-afternoon and you will stay here for two nights whilst you explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune. However, if you prefer, you can just relax and soak in the scenic and tranquil surroundings at Sossus Dune Lodge.

Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge or similar

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide

Day 2 - Sossusvlei / Namib Desert

This morning you will need to rise early for a magical excursion with your guide in the Namib Naukluft National Park, normally setting off before sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft and shadows accentuate the towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world and your guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and its myriad of fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs.

Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and surrounding dune fields to your heart's content you can enjoy a relaxed picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree. You then return to Sossus Dune Lodge in the early afternoon in time for a late lunch, with the option to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards if you haven't already done so the day before. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure (from experience, this is usually welcomed after an exhilarating morning in the dunes).

Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide



Day 3 - Sossusvlei to Swakopmund

NOTE: Option to include a sunrise balloon flight or scenic light aircraft flight over the Namib Naukluft National Park before you depart for Swakopmund (optional extra at additional cost).

The fascinating drive today takes you northwest through awesome and ever changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will meet the coast at the port town of Walvis Bay and then continue north to Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air for your next two nights. There will be time this afternoon to explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot, before heading off for dinner at a popular restaurant which specializes in locally harvested seafood.

Accommodation: Centrally located guest house

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide

Day 4 - Swakopmund

After an early breakfast your guide will drive you along the scenic coastal road back south to Walvis Bay for a memorable kayaking adventure within the outer lagoon. After meeting your kayaking guide you will be taken on a short scenic drive to Pelican Point to see its lighthouse and windswept beauty, stopping briefly at the salt works to view the variety of birdlife on your way to the launch point. The kayaking is an ideal way of seeing Cape fur seals, Heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. If you are lucky, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. During the course of the day the guide will stop and inform you about the environment and light refreshments will be served on the beach before heading back to Walvis Bay.

Alternatively, you also have the choice to partake in a memorable motorized boat seal and dolphin excursion within the outer lagoon and harbour should the kayaking not appeal. Here you should also see Cape fur seals, heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. Again, if luck is on your side, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. During the course of the excursion snacks will be served along with local sparkling wine and fresh oysters, before you will return to the jetty at roughly midday.

You then have the opportunity to explore the waterfront area of Walvis Bay further before returning to Swakopmund for an afternoon at leisure at your guesthouse or out in town. Activities such as camel rides, scenic flights, sandboarding and more can all be booked at an extra cost.

Accommodation: Centrally located guest house

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide



Day 5 - Swakopmund to Damaraland

Continuing on your safari today, the road takes you north and east into the wonderful and diverse region of Damaraland. You pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg which peaks at 2,573 m above sea level, and take time to view game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way. Damaraland is typified by displays of colour, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation.

The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. It is the variety and loneliness of the area as well as the scenic splendour which will reward and astound you, giving one an authentic understanding of the word 'wilderness'. If time allows this afternoon your guide will take you to visit the nearby attractions and geological sites of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) - if not there is plenty of time to see them tomorrow

Accommodation: Camp Kipwe or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide

Day 6 - Damaraland

After an early breakfast you will be treated to an exciting 4x4 excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab River valleys to explore this remarkable region and to search for game, including the elusive desert adapted elephants if they are in the area.

Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. As the elephants are mostly active in the mornings you will normally have the best chance to see them then before returning to camp for lunch. However, if all the safari participants agree, you also have the option to take a picnic lunch and stop to enjoy that in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed, ideally while watching a herd of elephant browsing nearby.

Your guide will arrange to fit in a visit to Twyfelfontein and other nearby attractions at a suitable time if you haven't already done so the previous day. On return to camp there should be time to take a walk into the local area with your guide if desired, or simply relax and enjoy some well-deserved leisure time.

Accommodation: Camp Kipwe or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide



Day 7 - Damaraland to Southern Etosha National Park

Today you set off on your journey to the Etosha National Park, travelling via the regional centre of Khorixas and the settlement at Kamanjab.

Soon after the latter, your guide will take you to visit a Himba 'Living Museum' where you will be able to meet some of the local community who will be happy to demonstrate elements of their traditional lifestyle. The Himba are one of the last truly traditional peoples of Namibia and they are normally nomadic, but those that have settled here are now firmly established and unlikely to move on. They have little time for conventional practices but welcome visitors who want to learn about the customs and traditions of this very proud nation, and they are very willing to offer insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine.

Once you have seen all you want, and you have enjoyed your picnic lunch which may be served here or elsewhere along the way, you will head north east to tonight's destination at the Etosha Mountain Lodge, which is situated on the south western border of Etosha National Park. After your arrival you will have some time at leisure which can be spent appreciating the unique surroundings of the lodge and enjoying the game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole. You can also take advantage of a different game viewing vantage point by visiting the camp's underground and elevated hides.

Accommodation: Etosha Mountain Lodge or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide

Day 8 - Southern to Eastern Etosha National Park

Today is dedicated to a full day of exciting game viewing within the central section of Etosha National Park from your private safari vehicle as you make your way from the southern Andersson's Gate to Halali (where you may stop for lunch) and then on across via selected waterholes such as Goas, which are normally particularly good for game viewing, to Namutoni Camp in the east.

You will have to leave the Park before sunset and head out to stay at the delightful Onguma Tree Top Camp with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner.

The rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole where game comes and goes throughout the day and night.

Accommodation: Onguma Tree Top Camp or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide



Day 9 - Etosha National Park & Onguma Game Reserve

Another morning dedicated to memorable game drives within the eastern section of Etosha National Park with your guide. You return to camp for lunch and an early afternoon rest, spending your final afternoon on a game drive on the private Onguma Game Reserve, culminating in a sundowner overlooking Fischer's Pan. You then return after sunset with enough time to freshen up and enjoy your final 'safari dinner' overlooking the camp's floodlit waterhole.

Accommodation: Onguma Tree Top Camp or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities: Excursions with Guide

Day 10 - Onguma Game Reserve to Windhoek via the AfriCat Foundation

Your early departure will take you south from Onguma Tree Top via Tsumeb, Otavi and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima's AfriCat Day Centre, a wonderful highlight with which to conclude your safari. Okonjima is home to the AfriCat Foundation, a wildlife sanctuary which focuses on the research and rehabilitation of Africa's big cats, especially injured or captured leopard and cheetah. You arrive in time for lunch before embarking on an exciting and informative game drive and tour of the centre.

After the excursion the journey continues further south to arrive back in Windhoek in the late afternoon, just as the sun is setting. Upon your arrival in Windhoek you will be transferred to your accommodation establishment of choice, or out to the Windhoek International Airport. If flying out in the evening departure flights must be no earlier than 21h00. A final night in Windhoek is highly recommended!

Accommodation: N/A

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Activities: Excursions with Guide



SUMMARY

START POINT: WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

END POINT: WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

PRICE:

- ~ £3175 per person sharing in May
- ~ £3575 per person during peak season (June-Sept)
- ~ No single supplements if you are happy to be paired with a fellow traveller of the same sex
- ~ £650 single supplement if you require your own room

INCLUDES:

- ~ 9 night's accommodation in 4 or 5* hotels or lodges
- ~ 9 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 9 dinners
- ~ All road transfers
- ~ Main activities as specified

EXCLUDES:

- ~ Flights, visas and travel insurance
- ~ Meals not specified
- ~ Pre or post tour accommodation
- ~ Airport transfers
- ~ Spending money
- ~ Gratuities and items of a personal nature

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

- ~ Accommodation in Windhoek - POA
- ~ Sunrise balloon flight in Sossusvlei - POA
- ~ Scenic flight from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund - POA

NOTE: You have the option to extend your safari for an additional night or two at Okonjima, staying at their delightful Luxury Bush Camp. This affords you the opportunity to get a more in-depth insight into the work being done by the AfriCat Foundation as well as getting to see more of cheetah, leopard and other big cats in the wild.

- ~ Additional 1 night £685
- ~ Additional 2 nights £1175