

A Walker's World

Highlights Of Namibia

Small group guided tour - 11 days / 10 nights

Namibia derived its name from the Namib Desert, the world's most ancient desert, which stretches 2000 km's from the Orange River in the South to the Kunene in the North. This vast country is four times the size of the United Kingdom (some 800 000 square kilometres) is renowned for the haunting beauty of its stark, diverse landscapes. This is a land of many faces including the shifting dunes, the flat plains and the sandy riverbeds of the desert region, the high central plateau and the shallow Etosha pan which is one of the world's most splendid game parks. While Namibia is the most sparsely populated country in the world, it boasts a rich blend of 13 different ethnic groups. Of the 1.4 million inhabitants, one of four people live in the urban centres, the largest of these being the capital, Windhoek.

Discover the highlights of Namibia on this 'grand' safari. We show you:

- The oldest desert on earth, the Namib
- The great Etosha National Park with game in abundance
- Damaraland with the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein
- Namibia's coastal resort, Swakopmund
- Visit the traditional San Bushmen at a living museum



Colourful Hereo women



Day 1: Windhoek

Arrive Windhoek Airport where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation for the night. Overnight at Klein Windhoek Guesthouse or similar. Own arrangements for dinner. **B**

Day 2: Windhoek to Namib Desert.

Your guide will meet you at your lodge early morning to depart from Windhoek via the scenic and steep Sreetshoogte Pass to the world's highest sand dunes at Sossusvlei. These dunes can reach up to 300m. A stop is made enroute at the Sesriem Canyon. On arrival relax at your lodge by the sparkling swimming pool and/or join a walking trail in the mountains.

Overnight on a bed and breakfast basis **B**

Driving: 285 km on gravel road – approx 4.5 hrs



Day 3: Sossusvlei excursion.

An early morning rise will be rewarded by the sight of the spectacular dunes at Sossusvlei on your excursion. Climb one of the highest dunes and be overwhelmed by

the sight of the dynamic and living desert. A full breakfast will be served under one of the camelthorn trees at Sossusvlei then explore sights like Deadman's Vlei. Return to your lodge for a siesta.

Overnight on a bed and breakfast basis. **B**

Driving 245 km – approx 1.5 hrs each way

Day 4: Namib Desert to Swakopmund.

En route to Swakopmund, drive through the Namib Naukluft National Park, an ancient land home to some of the rarest plant and animal species. Travel through the Kuiseb Canyon, then along the Swakop riverbed with stops at the moonlandscape, and see the incredible Welwitschia Mirabilis, an ancient plant endemic to the Namib Desert. Visit RAMSAR Walvis Bay lagoon, one of the most important wetland areas in Africa. Over 80% of African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breathtaking picture. Follow the scenic route between the dune belt and the Atlantic Ocean to Swakopmund. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure and you can explore the little coastal resort with charming German colonial architecture on your own. Overnight on a bed and breakfast basis. **B**

Driving - 300 km on gravel road – approx 4 hrs

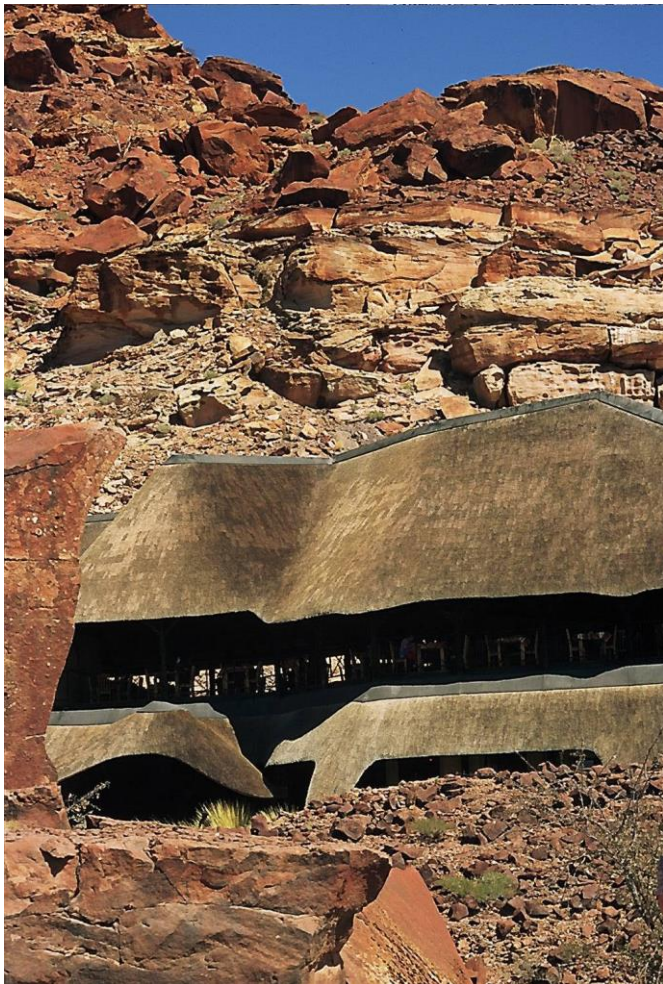
Day 5: Swakopmund.

Day free in Swakopmund. Enjoy optional activities such as kayaking, quad biking, sand boarding, a scenic flight or go tandem skydiving over the desert dunes.

Overnight at your hotel. Dinner is free this evening to experience any of Swakopmund's excellent restaurants. **B**

Day 6: Swakopmund - Damaraland.

Today drive north along the coastline, firstly stopping at the Cape Cross Seal Colony, the largest breeding site of the Cape Fur Seal. Then continue via Henties Bay and Uis to the vast regions of Damaraland. We shall visit the famous rock-engravings at Twyfelfontein, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the first Namibian site to receive this honour. Visit the Petrified Forest, a geological phenomenon of ancient wood petrified into stone.



Twyfelfontein Lodge

Visit the Organ Pipes, a curious arrangement of perpendicular basalt columns, and the desolate landscape of Burnt Mountain. Arrive at the Lodge during the course of the afternoon. **B**

Driving: 340 km on gravel road – approx 7 hrs

Day 7 - Damaraland – Etosha National Park

After breakfast travel to Etosha National Park. Because of the harsh desert climate, the elusive desert elephants (seasonal) have adapted their lifestyles to survive, often travelling up to 70 kilometres in search of food and water. Enter the Etosha National Park at the western side. We shall stop at various waterholes en route to view game. This Park is well-known for its huge herds of zebra and antelope. With a bit of luck, we should be able to spot elephant, lion and/or other predators. Overnight near Etosha National Park on a bed and breakfast at a safari camp. **B**

Driving: 350 km on tarred and gravel roads – approx 8 hrs dependent on game-viewing

Days 8 & 9: Etosha National Park.

The next two days are devoted to the abundant wildlife found in the Etosha Park, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. The Park is home to 4 of the 'Big 5' – elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. Game viewing in the park is largely centred around waterholes, an ideal place to sit and watch some of the 114 species of game and abundant bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, kudu, oryx, eland as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and black-faced impala are all found here. Etosha means the 'place of dry water' with its' vast mirage-inducing saltpan. It is the premier game-viewing destination in Namibia.



Wildebeest, zebra and impala share the waterhole



Oryx at waterhole, Etosha

Stay at a charming safari lodge just 2 kms from the Eastern entrance of Etosha National Park.

Day 10: Etosha National Park to Windhoek

After breakfast we depart to Windhoek via Otjiwarongo to Okahandja, where we stop at the woodcraft market. You can do some souvenir shopping here before we arrive Windhoek late afternoon where you will

overnight at Klein Windhoek Guesthouse or similar on a bed and breakfast basis. Enjoy true Namibian hospitality this evening and a farewell dinner at Joe's Beerhouse restaurant. **B**

Driving: 420 km on paved road – approx 8 hrs

Day 11. End your safari with a transfer to Windhoek Airport. **B**

DEPARTURE DATES 2020 in English language solely. Other dates with dual language (German and English) are available. Please enquire:

11 March	1 July	7 October
8 April	12 August	
3 June	9 September	

Group size – Minimum 2, maximum 20

PRICE 2020:

Low season Jan - Jun NZ\$3,309 per person share twin NZ\$739 single supplement

High season Jul - Oct NZ\$3,615 per person share twin NZ\$739 single supplement

Included:

- Safari in a small group (minimum 2, maximum 20 participants) with a qualified English speaking tour-guide
- 10 nights accommodation in mid-range properties with a mix of chalets, lodges and tented camps – all rooms have ensuite bathrooms
- Transportation in 12-seater, 4X4 safari vehicle - air-conditioned
- Meals: breakfast daily
- Activities as mentioned in the itinerary
- Park entrance fees
- Medical emergency evacuation insurance (to the nearest hospital)
- Still and sparkling water on board the bus free of charge.

Excluded:

- Lunches and dinners to be paid by the guest directly
- All optional tours and trips are to be paid in advance or to the tour guide, who will gladly assist with the necessary reservations.
- Game drives on tour are conducted in an enclosed minibus. If you wish to go by open landrover these can be booked and paid for separately at your safari camp.
- Tips and gratuities
- Insurances
- Items of a personal nature



Brief History:

Namibia's past is as diverse as its landscapes. The first inhabitants were the San hunter-gatherers (bushmen) who roamed the sunlit spaces more than a thousand years ago. They were followed by the Hottentots in the South and the Wambo and Herero who moved in from the north. The Portuguese navigators were the first Europeans to land in Namibia as they charted the coastline in their desperate search for a route to the Indies. The first European settlers were predominantly German missionaries who set up mission stations during the late 18th and early 19th century. However, it was only in the late 19th century that the colonial powers showed real interest in Namibia and in 1884 Adolf Lüderitz, a Hamburg trader, succeeded in getting full-scale annexation of the entire territory known as Namibia. The only territories excluded were the Walvis Bay enclave and the Guano islands, which remained the property of the Cape colonial government under British rule.

At first the German government's main role in this young colony was to establish and maintain civil order. However, as the colonial community grew and economic progress was made, the Herero and Nama people began to question this "progress" and its direct threat to traditional freedoms. There were a number of rebellions; the most significant being that of the Herero peoples whose numbers dropped from 80,000 to a post-rebellion figure of 15,000.

During World War 1, South West Africa was the first German possession to fall to the Western allies and in 1915 an interim South African military administration was installed in Windhoek. After the war, the Treaty of Versailles entrusted South West Africa to the Union of South Africa as a mandate. During the mid 1950's, there was increased resistance to the South African authorities and the seeds of rebellion were sown. After many years of negotiating and fighting between the South African authorities and

SWAPO (the South West African People's Organisation), Namibia held its first democratic elections in February 1990 and Sam Nujoma, who returned to Namibia after 30 years in exile, was unanimously elected president of Namibia.

Climate:

Namibia's climate falls into the "continental tropical" category, but there is very little of the lushness that one normally associates with the latter word. Namibia is hot but for the most part bone dry. Namibia's rains are very unreliable and some of the drier regions received their entire annual quota during one single cloudburst. What rain there is, generally falls during the summer months (end of November to beginning of February). Mean annual precipitation is about 250 millimetres, although the arid Lower Orange and Namib regions enjoy less than 100 mm per annum and frequently a lot less. Temperatures vary according to area. The climate in the desert coastal belt is largely determined by the up welling of the cold Benguela Current offshore and South Atlantic high-pressure system. The Benguela current is responsible for the omnipresent fog and the temperatures are very moderate 15 - 19 degrees. In the central highland region days are warm to hot (20-34 degrees in summer) and nights are cool, with extremes during the winter when temperatures can drop to zero.

Book through:

A Walker's World
Don't just see the world. Experience it.
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