

Namibia – Sand, Sea & Big 5 Detailed Itinerary

Namibia is a photographer's paradise where one can find the highest, most colourful sand dunes in the world. Explore the coast lines rich population of wading birds and flamingo's with huge colonies of seals and penguins. Also found in Namibia is ancient bushman rock art and paintings.

Namibia also boasts Africa's most famous park, Etosha National Park. One of the few places today where you have the chance to observe the Big 5 as well as seeing a host of other wildlife and birds.

This itinerary has been used by us many times and we feel that it really gives you the most complete experience of this amazing country.

Our sample itineraries can be modified and adapted to suit your own interests, budget and time; please feel free to design your own itinerary and use this for ideas.

Trip Summary

11 - 12 days

Lodge & hotel accommodation

Best time to visit: March - November

Start WINDHOEK > NAMIB NARKLAUFT NATIONAL PARK > SOSSUSVLEI > SWAKOPMUND > TWYFELFONTEIN > WEST ETOSHA > end EAST ETOSHA (option to end in Kaokoland)

Trip Details

Day 1-2

Arrive at Windhoek International Airport, where you will be personally greeted, depending on arrival time and overnight hotel stay in Windhoek can be arranged. The charm of the City of Windhoek lies in its harmonious blend of African and European cultures and the friendliness of its people. It has been characterised by a vitality born of a sense of freedom and pride in self.

Windhoek is often described as one of the cleanest capitals in Africa and visitors are surprised that this city, considered to be part of deepest Africa, offers all modern amenities that conform to some of the world's highest standards

From Windhoek there will be a drive of approximately 3-4 hours to Namib Naukluft National Park. Here you can enjoy the Namib Desert's stunning scenery hosting some of the highest accessible dunes in the world in an area known as Sossusvlei. In fact the Namib Desert is thought to be the oldest living desert on earth where the flora and fauna are perfectly adapted to this harsh environment.



There is also fascinating wildlife to be found here like the Oryx Antelope, Kudu, Springbok, Steinbok, Klipspringer, Mountain Zebra, Ostrich and Baboon. So camera's at the ready!

Activities here can include climbing and walking the dunes (you will be overwhelmed by the view) game drives, balloon safari's, sun downers with a mesmerising sunset!

Day 3-4

Take a leisurely 3-4 hour drive through some of Namibia's extraordinary 'moon-scape' country before reaching the coastal city of Swakopmund. Here you can spend the morning exploring the city which resembles a small German town and manages to create a feeling of timelessness with its palm-lined streets, seaside promenades, restaurants, cafes, art galleries and museums. This place never fails to impress!



On the second day enjoy a boat trip to meet the thousands of Cape Fur Seals and a visit to the famous Welwitschia fields in Namib Park. You will experience the excitement of feeding a few seals who might even join us on the boat! Best of all, you can watch dolphins ride the bow of the boat, and with a bit of luck you might see Sunfish and Leatherback Turtles. In season, the larger mammals like the Southern Right Whale and the Humpback Whales may be spotted and occasionally the Killer Whales.

Afterwards, just relax on the boat and Enjoy oysters, champagne and a mouth-watering snack platter.

Overnight stay at one of Soren's favoured hotels in Swakopmund.

Day 5-6

The following morning it is time to say goodbye to Swakopmund and drive north up the Skeleton Coast. This is a drive of around 5 hours, but is an extraordinary game drive! Along this remote coastline you will see the hulks of dead ships, ancient and modern, where you can really gain a sense of what it must have been like to have been shipwrecked in this truly extraordinary, raw piece of wilderness!

During this drive there will also be the opportunity to experience and discover the Welwitschia plant. These weird yet wonderful and unique plants are one of the few things on Earth that can truly claim to be one of a kind. There really is nothing like it, on average Welwitschias are 500-600 years old, although some of the larger specimens are thought to be 2000 years old. There is also great birdlife and unique animals to be spotted.



Wake up to the sun rising over this beautiful country.

The area, known as the Twyfelfontein Uibasen Conservancy, boasts a multitude of rock engravings and paintings by the first hunter-gatherer and inhabitants of 6000 years ago. The area was used as a place of worship and shaman rituals. To preserve this unique region, Twyfelfontein was declared Namibia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Plant lovers will find many Namibian plant species here, such as the unique Welwitschia. Animal species in the region are adapted to the Namibian desert climate and include elephant, rhinoceros and giraffe. Or don't forget you can just relax by the sparkling pool.

There are also spectacular rock formations where volcanic activity and geological events of prehistoric times have shaped the surface. Those interested in geology will want to pay a visit to the Organ Pipes, Burnt Mountain and Petrified Forest – all rock formations unique to Namibia, situated in the vicinity of the Lodge.

Day 7-8

An early breakfast followed by a scenic drive to the western side of the world famous Etosha National Park, where you will arrive just in time for lunch at the lodge. After lunch you will explore Etosha on a game drive in one of our specialised 4x4 vehicles.

Etosha National Park offers some of the greatest game viewing in one of Africa's most famous 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', encloses a huge, flat 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.



During the drier months from June to November the water points exert a magnetic pull on the big game herds, and forms the centrepiece for visitors looking to see the nearly 150 mammal species to found in the park, including several rare and endangered species such as the Kudu, Black Rhino, Black-faced Impala, Red Hartebeeste and Gemsbok.

Day 9-10

After a leisurely breakfast it is time to head to your final destination of the trip. A leisurely game drive through Etosha stopping on route for a picnic lunch to the Eastern side of Etosha National.



Etosha's eastern perimeter is more remote than its western side, giving it a unique African charm along with fantastic game viewing and probably the best place in the world to see the endangered black and white rhino in its natural habitat.

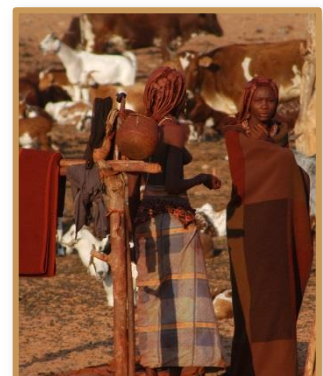
Etosha National Park is one of Soren's favourite areas and is a must-see destination on any itinerary for a safari in Namibia. A real paradise for photographers and anyone with a passion for wildlife, Etosha really does have it all.

Day 11

After a leisurely breakfast it is time to Leave Etosha and head back to Windhoek by air or drive to draw a successful safari to an end....

Day 12 (recommended add on)

An optional add on to this trip would be a visit to Kaokoland in North Western Namibia where you can explore the culture of the Himba people. A tribe of nomadic pastoralists who have clung to their traditions and the colourful Himba women are noted for their intricate hairstyles and traditional jewellery. As Himba men and women wear few clothes apart from a loin cloth or goat skinned mini-skirt, they rub their bodies with red ochre and fat to protect themselves from the sun which gives their skin a rich red colour.



The Himba jewellery is made from iron or shell, and due to their intricate designs have become very popular amongst western tourists. Himba homesteads are cone shaped structures made from palm leaves, mud and cattle dung.

To book this trip or for further information please contact a member of our experienced team

info@africaallways.com

Joe Coogan: 1-321-480-2300

www.africaallways.com