

ENCHANTING NAMIBIA

Private guided tour – 10 days

ITINERARY

Day 1- Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek) → Otjiwarongo (D)

Welcome to Namibia! Your personal driver-and-guide will meet and greet you at the Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek. On your way to the city of Otjiwarongo, you will pass through **Okahandja**, a charming small town situated on the **banks of a river that flows into the Swakop River**. You will visit the **craft market**, famous for its wooden sculptures from northern Namibia.

Dinner and overnight at the *Village Boutique Hotel in Otjiwarongo*.

The Village Boutique: This hotel is a perfect stopover on the way to Etosha. You will enjoy the luxurious modern comfort of the hotel, the veranda surrounded by shade trees, and the hotel's beautiful garden. The rooms are spacious and well equipped.

Day 2- Otjiwarongo → Etosha (B/L/D)

After breakfast, an entertaining and instructive morning awaits you. Get ready to visit the CCF!

The Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF) Field Research Centre, located outside of Otjiwarongo, was created in 1990 by Dr. Laurie Marker.

Cheetahs have been poached by farmers for years, and, as a result, these felines have lost much of their natural habitat. CCF is one of **Namibia's leading organizations fighting for the conservation and rehabilitation (back into the wild) of cheetahs**.

You will be able to take stunning photos of the big cats and, if you're lucky, **watch them take off at full speed during their sprint training**.

Then, before going to Etosha, you will have lunch at the Village Boutique Hotel.

Overnight at the *Etosha Safari Lodge*.

Etosha Safari Lodge – The **Etosha Safari Lodge** is located 14 miles from the main entrance of Etosha National Park. The restaurant and chalets, **situated on a hillock, offer magnificent views of the African bush savanna**. Each of the 65 double room chalets have air conditioners and mosquito nets, and a choice of **three swimming pools**. Apart from the restaurant and bar there is a **wooden platform to enjoy the sunset high above the Mopani bush**.

Day 3- Etosha (B/L/D)

Today is a full day of game drive in the Etosha National Park.

The Etosha National Park

One of **the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth – herds of elephant, black-maned lions, and the world's largest population of rare black rhinos** roam the plains of Etosha National Park. This vast area is home to **114 large and small animal species and 340 bird species**. Etosha owes its **unique landscape** to the Etosha Pan, a vast shallow depression of approximately **1,930 square miles** which forms the heart of the park. Once

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part of a large inland lake that dried up 120 million years ago as continental drift changed the slope of the land, a **white, chalky expanse dotted with the occasional waterhole now colors the park** to create the characteristic atmosphere of the Etosha of today.

Lunch at *Halali Rest Camp* and overnight at the *Etosha Safari Lodge*.

Day 4-Etosha → Twyfelfontein/Damaraland (B/L/D)

You will spend your day in **Damaraland**, a land of untapped wealth and **striking contrasts**. It's an area of very harsh terrain, but **subtle beauty**, from the **yellow grass** that grows seasonally after the February rains to the **clear blue skies** that stretch out across the endless horizons.

This morning, check out "the petrified forest", a remarkable site dating back to the **paleontological era**. These trees, from the pine family, were brought from the north by massive floods 125 million years ago. Some of the trees are **98 feet long, with 20 feet of circumference covered by hundreds of meters of sediment**. Over time, the pressure caused the organic material to be replaced by silica, transforming **the trees to rock**. Due to millions of years of erosion, the trees are now resting on an open surface.

Buffet lunch at the Vingerklip Lodge; dinner and overnight at the Camp Kipwe.

Camp Kipwe – Designed to **creatively embrace its granite boulders**, the Camp Kipwe embodies its Swahili meaning as it "blesses" the mind, body, and soul of every traveler that makes the journey to the camp. Take advantage of the **nearby Aba Huab River and the expansive landscape**. Enjoy the camp's **simplistic elegance** and appreciate the **attention to detail** in everything you touch.

Day 5 -Twyfelfontein → Swakopmund (B/L)

After breakfast, you will visit one of Damaraland's fascinating attractions – **Twyfelfontein**. Twyfelfontein ("doubtful fountain"), is a **massive open-air art gallery**. With more than **2,000 rock engravings**, Twyfelfontein represents **one of the largest and most important rock art concentrations in Africa**. In June 2007, this **striking natural red-rock gallery of tumbled boulders**, smooth surfaces, and history etched in stone was awarded **World Heritage Site status**, making it Namibia's first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site. .

In the afternoon, we propose an **orientation tour of Swakopmund**. **Swakopmund is an incredible seaside resort featuring an early 20th century Baltic Sea German architecture style, located in the middle of the desert**. The most symbolic building of Swakopmund is the **Hohenzollern building**, dominated by the figure of Atlas carrying the world. Not to miss are the **Prinzessin Rupprecht Heim on Lazarett St, the Woermann Haus (1905), the youth hostel, the Lutheran Church (1911) on Post Street, the court, the Station (1901), the buildings of the Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse (Sam Nujoma Avenue), the Arnold Shad Parade, and the 1915 metal pier**.

You will have lunch at the Twyfelfontein Country Lodge and dinner at your own expense in Swakopmund.

Overnight at **Villa Margherita Guest House**

Villa Margherita – The Margherita house offers a **unique and exquisite accommodation** for visitors looking for a **truly remarkable retreat in Swakopmund**.

Day 6- Swakopmund (B/L): Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbor

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You will spend today along the **Atlantic coast**.

In **Sandwich Harbour**, the dunes **run directly into the sea, a spectacular sight** to see. The desert along the coast is the oldest on earth, and much of it is still undiscovered. For centuries, the **TopNaar people** have lived by the Namibian coast, mainly near the **Kuiseb River which is now Walvis Bay**. The **lagoon at Walvis Bay is a haven for marine wildlife**, and the sea continues to be a central aspect of the culture and community.

Depart from Walvis Bay for a **Dolphin Cruise** around the bay. Disembark at the old wreckage site, then **savor fresh oysters, snacks, and champagne on the beach**.

Then, you will be taken by a **4x4 utility vehicle to Sandwich Harbour to enjoy the magnificent scenery of the dunes and lagoon**.

Dinner at your own expense and overnight at Villa Margherita Guest House.

Day 7-Swakopmund → Namib Naukluft (B/L/D)

The **Namib-Naukluft National Park** is one of Africa's largest and oldest protected areas, **covering 19,305 square miles and protecting some of the most varied and extraordinary ecosystems in Namibia**. On this grand scale, the Namib-Naukluft provides a **sanctuary to large mammals** including black rhinos, Hartmann's mountain zebras, leopards, and cheetahs.

After breakfast, discover the **Welwitschia Mirabilis**, a botanical curiosity which is found almost exclusively in the fog belt of the Namib Desert. Certain specimens are **older than 1,500 years and produce almost 657 feet of leaves**.

Then, explore the **Kuiseb Canyon**, a geological formation of schist strata through which the Kuiseb River has carved an impressive **6 mile-long canyon**. This river is the dividing line between the endless rocky plains of the north and the sand dunes that end near the Orange River.

Packed lunch from Swakopmund Hotel.

Dinner and overnight at the **Hoodia Desert Lodge**.

Hoodia Desert Lodge – This lodge is comprised of **11 luxury chalets**, each located a good distance from the other to **assure you privacy in this breathtaking environment**. The lodge is **family-owned** and managed by Thomas & Henreza Becker, both **enthusiastic about delivering professional hospitality** with a personal, human touch.

Day 8-Namib Naukluft (B/L/D)

Spend another day in the Namib Desert.

Discover **Dead Vlei** (Dried-up Lake), a **truly unique, white clay landscape** where only a **few dead trees remain, surrounded by dunes**. Visit **Sossusvlei**, which boasts the **world's highest dunes** (higher than 984 feet). The Namib is the oldest desert on the planet and is **the kingdom of the desert antelope – the oryx**. A 4x4 shuttle will transfer you over the last 3 miles to Sossusvlei.

Lunch at Sossusvlei Lodge.

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By the end of the day, you will explore the **Sesriem Canyon**, formed by the Tsauchab River, which has eroded a **164 foot-deep gorge**.

Dinner and overnight at Hoodia Desert Lodge.

Day 9-Namib Naukluft → Windhoek (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will return to Windhoek, where you will have lunch at Gatheman.

In the afternoon, you will have time to explore Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. The city sits at an altitude of 5,426 feet above sea level in the heart of **Khomas Hochland**. The city's first inhabitants referred to it as the "**place of vapor, water, or fire**" due to the numerous **hot water springs**. The Germans arrived in 1890, and the city grew around an **old fort and Ink Palace which over looks the city**.

Dinner at La Marmite and overnight at The Olive Grove Guesthouse.

The Olive Grove Guesthouse – The Olive Grove is a **small, up-market accommodation** situated in a quiet area but **close to Windhoek's city center**. Recently completely refurbished, each room is decorated and painted with its own color scheme, allowing a different feel, but with the same **elegant and simplistic** emphasis on décor.

Day 10-Windhoek → Windhoek airport (B)

Breakfast and drop-off at the airport.

DETAILS

- ❖ **Tour duration:** 9 days
- ❖ **Group Size:** 8 max per vehicle
- ❖ **Start on:** All year long
- ❖ **Country visited:** Namibia
- ❖ **Comfort:** High
- ❖ **Level of difficulty:** Easy
- ❖ **Transport:** 4x4 sport utility vehicle with an English-speaking private driver-guide
- ❖ **Accommodation:** Private double room
- ❖ **Additional Information:** Passport required at time of booking. Visa: Bearers of U.S. passports who plan to visit Namibia for tourism for less than 90 days can obtain visas at the port of entry; visas are not required prior to entering the country.
http://windhoek.usembassy.gov/travel_to_namibia.html

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❖ **What's Included:**

- The service of an English-speaking private driver-guide for 10 days
- Food and hotel for your driver-guide
- Vehicle, car insurance, and gas
- Meals described in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- 9 nights in luxury lodges or charming guesthouses
- Entrances fees for national parks

❖ **What's Not Included:**

- International airfare
- Tips for your driver-guide
- Travel insurance

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