

camping Africa

7 Day Namibia Private Guided Tour

Windhoek - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund & Coastal Strip - Etosha

South 7 Days / 6 Nights

2 PAX



Introduction

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Duration
Day 1	Villa Vista Guesthouse	Windhoek	1 Night
Day 2	Dead Valley Lodge	Sossusvlei	2 Nights
Day 4	Strand Hotel Swakopmund	Swakopmund & Coastal Strip	1 Night
Day 5	Okutala Etosha Lodge	Etosha South	2 Nights

- Travelling in a 4x4 Toyota Fortuner or similar
- Departure daily

Included

Services of an English-speaking guide and related costs; vehicle as indicated; accommodation and meals as stated in itinerary; entry fees to Namib Naukluft Park and Etosha National Park; Sossusvlei & surrounds excursion with Chameleon guide/vehicle; game drives with Chameleon guide/vehicle; fuel; airport transfers (arriving/departing together on days indicated);

Note: activities offered by Chameleon guide in Chameleon vehicle are private

Meal basis as per itinerary: B – breakfast; L – lunch; D - dinner

Excluded

Personal insurance; flights; visas; meals not stated; snacks and drinks including bottled water; optional activities and entry fees not stated; additional accommodation before and after safari; items of a personal nature; curios; laundry; phone calls and internet services; tips/gratuities/porter fees; etc

ITINERARUY

Day 1: Villa Vista Guesthouse, Windhoek

Day Itinerary

Upon arrival at the airport you will be collected and transferred to Villa Vista Windhoek. Depending on the time you may have the chance to wander the shops or city sights. Overnight in family room with en-suite facilities on a bed & breakfast basis. Dinner can be enjoyed at nearby Joes Beerhouse, optional meals, activities and additional transfers at own expense.

Consultant Notes

Suggest dinner at famous Joe's Beerhouse that's just a few minutes away - the guesthouse will assist with booking



Windhoek is Namibia's capital, 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 - though English is the official language. The city has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste (Old Fort), the 1896 Christuskirche (Christ Church), and the more contemporary Supreme Court. It's not a city to linger though - generally one or two nights is sufficient.

Overnight: Villa Vista Guesthouse

Villa Vista is a family owned and managed guesthouse who will readily assist with local bookings and offer plenty of advice to amenities. Situated in a quiet neighbourhood close to the Windhoek city centre it's in easy access to Joe's Beer House and shops/banks. All rooms are individually decorated in a unique style, using wood, glass, candles and natural elements with views over the garden, swimming pool, town or western mountains. There's a small gym area along with sauna and safe parking. Note there is no lunch/evening restaurant facility. Internet available.



Day 2-3: Dead Valley Lodge, Sossusvlei

Day Itinerary

You'll be collected from your accommodation by your guide and depart from Windhoek at around 08h15-08h30am. Driving through the rugged Khomas Hochland mountain range we descend to the desert floor and continuing onto our lodge. Later this afternoon visit nearby Elim's dune for sunset - watch the changing colours of the mountains and listen to the call of the barking gecko. The following day it's a pre-dawn departure from the lodge to the 2x4 car park - Dead Valley Lodge is situated inside the national park so there is the added advantage of being able to climb a dune and watch the sunrise over one of the dunes around Sossusvlei. We'll explore the area by foot witnessing the changing light and shadows on the sand dunes. There is the chance to climb a dune close to Sossusvlei and walk into Dead Vlei famous for its large expanse of bleached cracked clay and skeletal camel thorn trees, contrasting with a backdrop of huge orange-red dunes. As we retrace our steps, there is time to stop at Dune 45 one of the most famous and photographed dunes, before returning to the lodge for the heat of the day, later we visit nearby Sesriem

Canyon. Enjoy another spectacular sunset surrounded by this colourful desert and sleep under the bright stars of the southern hemisphere. Lunch at own expense (BD/BD) *Day 2: Approx 5-5.5hours; Day 3: Around 1hour to Sossusvlei*



Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes within the Namib Naukluft National Park. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographers' heaven. Perhaps the most iconic is the stunning Dead Vlei where the dazzling white clay pan is punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, and set against the backdrop of the apricot dunes. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Elim's Dune - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park, where the mountains of the Namib meet its plains and a great hiking destination.

Activities

Elim Dune
Dead Vlei
Dune 45
Sesriem Canyon

Elim Dune

Just five kilometres from the camp at Sesriem, Elim Dune is best viewed at sunset, when the colours deepen, intensifying the contrast between the red dunes and the purple-blue Naukluft Mountains on the opposite horizon. Elim Dune is roughly 100 metres in height and the climb to its zenith takes under an hour.

Dead Vlei

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namib Desert, blue skies, a white-clay pan, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.



Dune 45

Dune 45 is located 45kms from the Sesriem gate, (and entrance to dunes), it is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – has earned it the distinction of ‘most photographed dune in the world’. Popular for sunrise, many people climb to gain a vantage point to watch the sun rise over the surrounding area and enjoy the changing colour of the dunes, at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient it is an easier climb than many of the other dunes found.



Sesriem Canyon

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 (‘ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.



Overnight: Dead Valley Lodge

Dead Valley Lodge is situated next to the main entrance gate inside the Namib-Naukluft National Park, between the Sesriem campsite and Elim Dune on the way to the world famous Sossusvlei and the Dead Vlei. This oasis offers a panoramic view of the Namib Desert with towering red sand dunes, rugged mountain ranges, and arid desert savannahs.

Each of the 20-free-standing luxury tented chalets is climate controlled and equipped with double bed units, electric plugs, private patios, a kitchenette, and free-standing bathrooms stocked with toiletries. Guests can enjoy the top-class restaurant that serves delicious Namibian-style cuisine, relax in the picturesque bar with a cold drink after a day of activities, or cool off in the open-air swimming pool overlooking the Elim Dune.

The lodge's eco-friendly design and architecture have truly been inspired by Sossusvlei and with its own entrance into the Namib-Naukluft National Park, making the Dead Valley Lodge one of the closest lodges to Sossusvlei pan. The lodge offers game drives in the morning and afternoon to Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon.

The official opening for guests will be on 1 July 2019.



Included

Sossusvlei excursion and surrounds

Day 4: Strand Hotel Swakopmund, Swakopmund & Coastal Strip

Day Itinerary

Our drive today takes us through the gravel desert plains and over the Gaub and Kuiseb Passes (and Tropic of Capricorn), to the port town of Walvis Bay. We visit the lagoon, a protected RAMSAR wetland site where we may see the many species of birds including greater and lesser flamingos, pelicans, avocets, plovers and the endemic Damara tern before a short stop at the salt farm. From here continue onto Swakopmund, full of historic buildings and where you can join optional (own expense) adventure activities such as sand boarding, quad biking, scenic flights, which you have time for this afternoon only. Overnight is in family room with en-suite bathroom. Lunch and dinner at own expense in the restaurants and cafes in town or at the hotel (B/B) *Approx 5-5.5hours*



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, 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, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular and has a wide range of accommodation establishments, banks, restaurants/cafes and shops.

Along this stretch of coastline (Walvis Bay and Swakopmund) you can take part in a selection of activities sating the thirst of those seeking adrenaline adventures - sky diving, quad biking and sandboarding; or for the more leisurely a range of marine activities including kayaking and cruises. The coastal desert can also be explored with trips to Sandwich Harbour, or informative desert tours... There is a long list so just ask us!

Walvis Bay is Namibia's major harbour town and the lagoon has prolific bird life including flamingos, pelicans as well as the breeding area for the endemic Damara tern - any bird enthusiast should make a stop here.

Further north along this coastline - part of the Skeleton Coast, you'll find shipwrecks and the famous Cape Cross seal colony - one of the largest fur seal colonies in the area.

Activities

Walvis Bay Lagoon

Walvis Bay Lagoon

Walvis Bay's calm natural lagoon is a twitcher's paradise, teeming with roughly 50 species of seabirds, including vivid flocks of flamingos, bulky-billed pelicans and glossy black cormorants. It's also a popular spot for windsurfing, kitesurfing and kayaking, while the promenade stretching for three kilometres along the water's edge is a great place for a scenic stroll.



Overnight: Strand Hotel Swakopmund [View iBrochure](#)

The Strand Hotel Swakopmund is located directly on the Mole (promenade) in Swakopmund, surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic Ocean, with direct access to the main beach in town. On the fourth side it will back up to the town's beautiful central park, through which it is a short five minute walk to the historic centre of this charming, German, Victorian era colonial seaside town, with all its shops, cafés, restaurants and bars. There are extensive, unique and creatively entertaining restaurants, bars, deli, lobby-lounge, sea facing terraces and shops. Its architectural inspiration finds its roots deep in Namibian German colonial history and reflects this in a tasteful contemporary manner.



Day 5-6: Okutala Etosha Lodge, Etosha South

Day Itinerary

We drive to Etosha, our accommodation for the next 2 nights is situated outside the park. We will enter at the Anderson Gate the next day and will be enjoying game drives and exploring the park visiting waterholes and

searching for the many species of game. Etosha is recognised as one of the best game parks in Southern Africa for the numbers and various species of game as well as the interesting geology. Overnight in family room with en-suite facilities, additional meals at own expense. (BD/BD) *Approx 6hours plus stops, game drive vary*



The national park can be accessed via the southern entrance at Andersson's Gate and the central point is Okaukuejo Resort. Visitors can catch a glimpse of abundant wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. Popular activities include: game drives, tracking rhinos on foot, guided nature walks, or watch the sunset over this magnificent landscape. Just outside the national park is the upmarket Ongava Private Reserve, as well as a number of mid-level accommodation and camp sites.

Overnight: Okutala Etosha Lodge

This beautiful and stylish lodge facility can host a maximum of 24 exclusive guests. The lodge has a total of 11 en-suite double rooms:

In addition to spectacular rooms, Okutala Etosha Lodge offers a warm welcome, a relaxing atmosphere, a cool refreshing pool, a spectacular view on our large waterhole that can be viewed from the Lapa Deck, a restaurant with a bar as well as a bar at the Lapa, a Kiosk that sells Okutala merchandise, a laundry service and Internet at the Restaurant and Lapa areas.



Day 7: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

This morning we leave the lodge behind and start our journey back to the capital city and onto the airport. - *No flights prior to late afternoon - or ideally, add an extra night accommodation in/around Windhoek - approx 6hours*

NAMIBIA INFORMATION

Namibia is an incredible country to visit but please remember that we are in Africa and that not all standards are the same as you would get in Europe or other first world countries. To the majority of our clients, that is part of the appeal of travelling to destinations such as ours. If you are not comfortable with new challenges then you may wish to consider other companies or destinations. Please also note that due to the location of destinations, some long days are inevitable - you'll travel on gravel roads which can vary in quality depending on the season and maintenance work carried out – we follow only well-defined roads. Please also note we do not drive around/after sunset - this is for safety reasons due to animals on the road. We generally aim to depart from a destination in the morning, allowing comfortable time to travel to our next point and giving clients time to appreciate the area on arrival. Drive times are approximate and can vary according to road conditions, group sizes and vehicle type - they should be used as guideline only and include a short stop en-route to destination. The longer/more often you stop, the longer it takes to get to your destination

Namibia: The currency in Namibia is the Namibia Dollar, which is fixed to and equals the South African Rand on a 1-1 basis. The dollar and SA Rand are the only legal tender in Namibia and both are used freely, however the Nam dollar is not legal tender in South Africa and we recommend that you exchange your money prior to departing Namibia

Banking: Banks are found in most towns and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30-16h00 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as travellers cheques though out of large towns travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange. You can also obtain cash from many of the ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

Credit Cards: Visa and MasterCard are generally accepted in shops and restaurants in towns and many lodges. Use of credit cards may incur an additional fee. Occasionally lines may be down and services not available particularly in remote destinations and payment will need to be in cash

Cash: South African rand can be purchased in advance. The Namibia dollar is not an international currency and therefore can only be obtained in country. Cash is available at ATM machines using credit card and pin number. There is FX bureau upon arrival at International Airport for those arriving by air. Recommended Currency for Exchange: USD is readily exchanged in Namibia and GBP/AUD to a lesser extent. No USD notes prior to 2004 and not all places will accept USD100 notes – take smaller denominations. Take your money in a combination of ATM cards and cash

Security: Whenever withdrawing cash at ATM's or at a bank or using a credit card for payments in a shop/restaurant etc, please ensure you use normal security precautions, do not let your card out of your sight and with ATM's ideally use one that has a security guard or is within its own enclosed room rather an ATM on the street. At lodges, use the safe provided or lock your valuables away when you are not in the room, and when travelling keep your valuables out of sight – try not to leave your camera/valuables bag lying on a seat particularly when the car is unattended, also try to split your valuables so you have money/cards in different locations and a copy of your passport/tickets etc in a separate bag

Tipping: 10% is customary in restaurants but only if you are happy with the service, tipping for other services is not compulsory. Most lodges will have a tip box, which will share out amongst its staff but please note that guides are normally tipped separately. Suggest N\$100 for a 2night stay/person for the tip box. On a guided/group safari tipping is at the discretion of the clients and tends to vary for the size of the group and length of safari, however, as a general rule we suggest around N\$50/day for the guide

Guideline to spending money: Whilst we do our best to give a guideline price for spending money this will vary with each individual as some visitors enjoy buying souvenirs and taking part in optional activities, whilst others have a more limited budget. We suggest around US\$50-60 per day for the average spender (excluding optional activities and will also depend on amount of meals are included on your trip)

Booking: When you have decided on a trip a booking form will need to be completed, signed and returned to us and we will enquire regarding availability and advise you. Once we have taken deposit, a confirmation is sent to you, advising you of the services agreed and booked. Payment is due approximately 6 weeks (sometimes 8 weeks depending on the supplier) prior to departure.

Dietary: We can assist with booking of various dietary requirements or food allergies but we appreciate your details when you book with us (or with your agent) and we will advise the appropriate lodges. Please be aware that the choice and options may not be as great as your home country.

Weather: Please note that in winter evenings and nights in particular can be very cold we recommend layered clothing – daytime temps can be 25°C so t-shirts and shorts is great for then but thermals are very useful for evenings/night. Summer temperatures can exceed 40°C but also bring our rainy season so a lightweight rain jacket is handy, as with most places layering is the most recommended way of clothing – please ensure you pack your clothes in plastic bags and ensure cameras/electrical equipment is suitably protected

Climate: The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route

Electrical: plugs are 220V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek and most international airports; they are the same as South Africa if you are shopping in home country or at airport. Some lodges will also offer 2pin sockets or adaptors but please do not rely on this, it is much better to bring your own. It is possible to re-charge batteries at most lodges but clients must be responsible for security of their possessions.

Insurance: It is essential that you purchase comprehensive personal travel insurance before you embark on your holiday, medical insurance is insufficient. Travel insurance is for your own protection and should include evacuation; we also recommend full cover for baggage loss etc and consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel. We recommend www.worldnomads.com as an insurance option. If you have credit card insurance – please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country. If you are uncertain whether this is enough please contact us when you book to ensure you have adequate cover

Health: Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection. Note that Etosha is an official malarial area (low risk) so

please discuss with your doctor and obtain any necessary protection before departing your home country. No vaccinations are required by law for the countries being visited on this tour though we recommend clients are up to date with vaccinations of TB, hepatitis, polio etc

Water: All tap water in Namibia has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. Tap drinking water is generally safe to drink but bottled mineral water is easily available at shops and rest camps should you prefer to drink this, at some lodges it is provided though may be at additional cost

Visas: The onus is on the client to organize all visas required for clients prior to departure. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your scheduled departure date country of travel and has sufficient empty pages. If this is not the case, there is a danger of being turned away by the Immigration Service on arrival at the airport – assuming your airline has agreed to bring you and risk a fine in the first place. The Company cannot be held liable for any necessary visas or other travel documents not held by the clients. Please also note that if your passport requires a visa for the countries you visit and multiple entries if necessary, you will need to carry your passport with you during the trip. Please note if travelling with children that an unabridged birth certificate is required, the rules and regulations may change so please ensure you check and ensure you have the correct documentation with you for your trip

Responsible Tourism: When we put together an itinerary for you, our aim is to try to ensure you have the experience of a lifetime, we strongly believe in low impact or positive impact tourism. Furthermore, our responsibility to the country/ies you visit and the environment is to try our best to ensure that all benefit – whether that is a small, local operator, local community or conservation programme. Your itinerary may include visits a “local community/village” which will enable you to directly assist and barter for a piece of jewellery; perhaps overnight at a locally-owned campsite or lodge; maybe a local guide takes you to a place of interest or site; or visit an organization set up to protect endangered animals and species that occur naturally in the country. We will give you an insight into these initiatives but if you want more information please ask. Note that these initiatives vary according to the region travelled and what is available), remember your safety and enjoyment is also of paramount importance so we will not for example, use a camp site located in a place we consider unsuitable. Please also follow some of the notes we issue in our pre-departure information to minimise the effects of negative tourism on local cultures (respect for others and their beliefs etc). Generally, we prefer not to use large, international hotel chains as much of the revenue leaves the country but again, should you prefer this option we are happy to oblige.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation: If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you.

