



# Wild Globe Travel Consultancy

*Tailored Wildlife, Wilderness and Adventure Travel Across the Globe.*

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## Namibia Discovered - 42 Days

### Major Destinations

Windhoek - Okonjima - Waterberg Plateau Park - Etosha National Park - Kaokoland - Northern Damaraland - Twyfelfontein - Southern Damaraland - The Brandberg - Skeleton Coast National Park - Cape Cross Seal Reserve - Swakopmund - Namib Desert - Namib Naukluft Park - Sesriem - Sossusvlei - Aus - Luderitz - Kolmanskop - Fish River Canyon - Ai-Ais Transfrontier Park - Keetmanshoop - Kalahari Game Reserve



### Tour Highlights and Activities

An enchanting blend of diverse wildlife, natural wonders and thrilling activities, this tour encompasses the very best elements of a totally beguiling land. From the rugged, unforgiving coastline to the pristine, overwhelming deserts and huge areas of barely populated wilderness, Namibia is a land of intense extremes. Fish River Canyon, the sand dunes at Sossusvlei and the Brandberg and Spitzkoppe mountains are just a few of the natural highlights we will marvel at and the wildlife, incredibly adapted to living in such hostile conditions, is simply a revelation. We will discover as many species here as in any African country and we will do so in some of the most unusual and unspoilt environments on the globe. Depending on your preference, our activities can be just as extreme as the country, or a great deal less so, ranging from thrilling sky-dives, sandboarding at 80kmph and paragliding over the sand dunes at Swakopmund to awesome light aircraft and balloon flights, game drives, hikes, horse-rides and boat trips. When you add the friendly locals, the beautiful lodges and the countless inviting pools, this tour has everything you could want from an African adventure and although Namibia is rarely the first country that most people consider exploring, it is even rarer for those who do visit not to return.

### Day 1 - Windhoek to Okonjima Lodge

Arrive in the capital Windhoek and transfer north by road to Okonjima, home to the AfriCat Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores. This is a wonderful introduction to a very special country, both in terms of the beautiful lodge and surroundings and the essential work of AfriCat, who have successfully released over 900 of the 1000 or so leopards and cheetahs they have rescued to date.

### Days 2 to 3 - Okonjima Lodge and the AfriCat Foundation

We will spend two full days at Okonjima and although our visit will support this important foundation, this is a fabulous wildlife destination in its own right and the activities here represent a superb opportunity to view and even track some of Africa's most iconic predators. In addition to close encounters with the animals that are currently being rehabilitated, we will have the chance to observe the wild leopards, cheetahs, hyenas and hunting dogs that have been released into the main reserve, as well as a host of plains animals and smaller mammals. Game viewing is conducted on foot and in open-sided vehicles and the purpose built hide and waterholes are ideal for spotting many of the nocturnal creatures that visit the lodge, including aardwolf, caracal, porcupine, pangolin, armadillo and honey badger.





#### **Day 4 - Okonjima Lodge to the Waterberg Plateau Park**

After a final morning activity at Okonjima, we take a short drive further north to a stunning private reserve near Waterberg Plateau Park, Namibia's only protected mountain area and home to, among others, buffalo, giraffe, warthog, chacma baboon, oryx, eland, tsessebe, roan and sable antelope and both species of rhino.

#### **Days 5 to 7 - Waterberg Plateau Park**

We have three days to enjoy the spectacular scenery of the plateau, which towers 200 metres above the surrounding Kalahari plains and reaches almost 50km at its longest point.

Used as a breeding ground for endangered species due to its remote location, the vast majority of the wildlife in the area can be found either in the green woodlands and grassy plains of the plateau or in the many private reserves which surround it. We will split our time between the two and our activities will include game drives, both during the day and at night with spotlights, and a number of moderate hikes. The plateau protects the only remaining breeding colony of cape vultures in the country and the Waterberg area also supports the highest concentration of leopard in Namibia. In addition to this often elusive cat, our game drives in the reserve will provide us with the chance to observe cheetah, brown hyena, waterbuck, nyala, aardvark, pangolin, honey badger and caracal, some of which may be encountered as nocturnal visitors to the floodlit waterhole. We will certainly see groups of hippos wallowing noisily in the nearby lake and our efforts are also likely to be rewarded with close views of porcupine, springhare, genet and bushbaby, all of which live in the luxuriant grounds of our fabulous lodge.



#### **Day 8 - Waterberg Plateau Park to Etosha National Park**

We travel further north this morning to Etosha National Park, the premier national park in Namibia and one of the finest in all Africa. After a relaxing lunch and a refreshing swim at the first of our three destinations in and around the park, we will head out in our open-sided vehicle to begin exploring this immense and magnificent sanctuary.

#### **Days 9 to 14 - Etosha National Park**

Centred around the largest salt pan in Africa, which at over 120km long and in places 70km wide, represents just 25% of the total park, Etosha is a haven for an enormous variety of wildlife and we have six full days to immerse ourselves in one of the most unique and rewarding environments on the continent. In addition to huge concentrations of lion and large herds of elephant, zebra and giraffe, we are likely to encounter both black and white rhino and an abundance of antelope, including oryx, eland, greater kudu, blue wildebeest, springbok and two rare subspecies, the black-faced impala and the damara dik-dik. Major predators include both leopard and cheetah, caracal, spotted and brown hyena, as well as the more diminutive bat-eared fox and the ubiquitous black-backed jackal. Other small mammals and reptiles abound and the birdlife is equally impressive. Over 340 species have been recorded at Etosha and up to a million greater and lesser flamingos descend on the salt pan after the summer rains. Although the game driving here is









exceptional and will always produce any number of superb sightings, the real beauty of Etosha are the floodlit waterholes, which attract a staggering number of animals, particularly during the dry season when the arid savannah which dominates much of the park forces the wildlife to congregate in large numbers at the few remaining water sources. Black rhinos can routinely be viewed drinking within a few metres of the rest camps and we will have the option of spending time at several major waterholes during our stay. Another highlight of our visit will be the night game drives, which will afford an entirely different perspective of the park and an opportunity to encounter many nocturnal creatures and very active lions.

### **Day 15 - Etosha National Park to Kaokoland**

After a final early morning check at the waterhole and a leisurely breakfast, we will depart Etosha to the west for Kaokoland, a huge, silent wilderness in the northern extreme of the country.

### **Days 16 to 18 - Kaokoland**

The next three days will be spent in almost total solitude, as we search for the famous desert elephants of the area and other animals adapted to living in this harsh, but breathtakingly beautiful environment. Lion, springbok, oryx and brown hyena are among the animals that somehow manage to exist here and we will have the opportunity to track a pride of lions being studied by the Desert Lion Conservation project. We will also be able to visit the nomadic Himba people, game drive during the day and at night and enjoy the wonderful facilities of our lodge, not least the inviting azure pool during the shimmering midday heat.



### **Day 19 - Kaokoland to Northern Damaraland**

We change direction now, if not pace, as we amble south to the first of our lodges in Damaraland, another huge, untamed and incredibly scenic wilderness that we will explore at leisure over the next few days. After enjoying a sumptuous lunch and a revitalising swim amid the swaying palms of our beautiful oasis lodge, we will take to the bush in our game vehicle and experience the majesty of a Namibian sunset.

### **Days 20 to 22 - Northern Damaraland**

Our primary focus for the next three days will be the vast concession area of our lodge, which supports the largest predator population outside Etosha, as well as the rare Hartman's mountain zebra and desert-adapted elephant and black rhino. Monitored and protected by the Save the Rhino Trust for almost thirty years, black rhino numbers have trebled in the area and we will have the opportunity to learn more about this vital conservation project and to search for some of the rhinos that thrive here. In addition to the superb game drives on offer, exciting guided walks are also available with experienced local guides.

### **Day 23 - Northern Damaraland to Southern Damaraland**

This morning we begin our journey towards Southern Damaraland, stopping on the way to visit the Petrified Forest, a number of fossilized tree trunks which are believed to be at least 250 million years old. We will arrive at our lodge around lunchtime and have the afternoon free to

examine the fascinating rock carvings at Twyfelfontein, some of which are thought to date back to around 300BC. Believed to be carved by the San or Bushmen, skilled hunter-gatherers who once occupied the region, there are over 2,500 engravings in the area, the



majority of which depict animals that the San would have hunted. There is a walking trail that affords an excellent view of the wonderful art on display and we will delay our return to the lodge just long enough to watch the fire-red sun slip away beyond the distant hills.



#### **Day 24 - Southern Damaraland (Skeleton Coast National Park)**

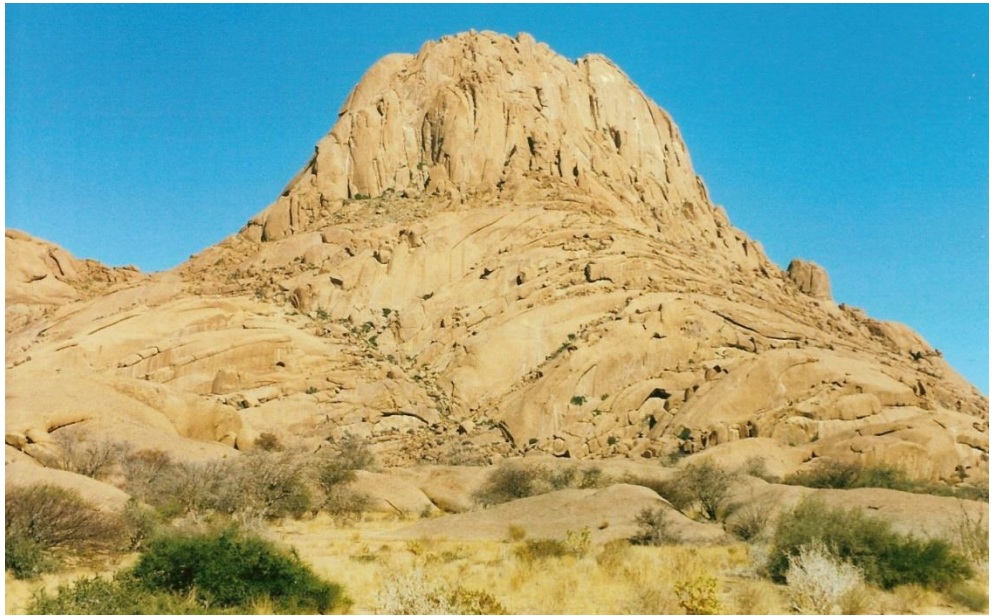
We make an early start today and continue south to The Brandberg, or Fire Mountain, a colossal granite massif, the summit of which, 'Konigstein', is the highest peak in Namibia at 2,573m. The highly impressive mountain aside, the area is famous for a large number of San rock paintings, most notably The White Lady, a 40cm high figure within a hunting scene who was originally thought to be a woman of European origin, but who is now believed to be an indigenous tribesman daubed in white body paint. Whether male or female, the artwork on display is stunning and there are around 45,000 individual figures painted at almost 900 sites in the area. We will take the walk in the Tsisab Ravine, which includes The White Lady and a large number of other paintings. A short distance south is Messum Crater, home to the remarkably unattractive, but incredibly resilient *Welwitschia Mirabilis* plant, which can survive the harshest desert climate and live for over 2,000 years. After a brief stop to examine this truly astonishing plant, we head west to our first view of the Atlantic Ocean at Skeleton Coast National Park, where we will stop at the remains of the Winston, one of the many ships wrecked in what is one of the most treacherous stretches of coast on the planet. Our final destination of a busy day will be the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, where at times over 200,000 cape fur seals can be found, as well as the brown hyenas and black-backed jackals that come to feed on them. The remaining daylight will be spent observing the surprisingly noisy seals and we will overnight in a nearby lodge.





## Day 25 - Southern Damaraland to Swakopmund

After a relaxed breakfast we make the short journey south along the coast to Swakopmund, the premier holiday resort in Namibia and now also the adrenaline capital of the country. In all we have three days to enjoy the best activities the area has to offer, including tandem sky-diving, quad bike tours, sandboarding, paragliding and hot air balloon, light aircraft and helicopter flights. Alternatively, if throwing yourself out of a plane at 10,000ft is not really your idea of fun, this beautiful German colonial town has plenty of other attractions to pass the time, from full-day tours exploring the natural wonders of the bordering Namib Desert to an excursion to Spitzkoppe Mountain and dolphin watching in nearby Walvis Bay. When you add the white, sandy beaches, gentle horse-rides, slightly less comfortable camel rides, attractive architecture, fine dining, stylish art galleries and even an aquarium, you can see why the locals flock to Swakopmund in such numbers.



## Days 26 to 27 - Swakopmund

Given the exciting 4x4 trails, the varied wildlife that we are likely to encounter and the incredible terrain that we will traverse, including the haunting Moon Landscape north of the Swakop River and the arresting geological formations of Khan River Valley, the Namib Desert exploration is probably the best 'land' tour available at Swakopmund. The full-day visit to the always alluring Spitzkoppe is also highly recommended, as is the boat trip at Walvis Bay, on which it is possible to see common bottlenose and heaviside's dolphin, cape fur seal and, if our trip coincides with their seasonal migration to the area, southern right and humpback whale. Although this is one of the most picturesque places in the world to make a tandem sky-dive, and they are a wonderfully exhilarating experience, another great option is to take a scenic helicopter or cessna flight. Various flights are available, but the long one, which incorporates the Skeleton Coast wrecks, the sand dunes at Sossusvlei and the mighty Fish River Canyon, is by far the best. It even includes a stop at the canyon and a drive to one of the best viewpoints.



## Day 28 - Swakopmund to Sesriem

We have the option today of a morning transfer 390km south to Sossusvlei or of enjoying a final activity in Swakopmund and delaying our journey until after an early lunch. Either way, we will have time to marvel at the dramatic scenery as we travel through



the Namib Desert to Sesriem, the base from which we will experience one of Namibia's natural wonders, the extraordinary red sand dunes of Sossusvlei. If we leave Swakopmund early, our delightful lodge has any number of activities to fill our afternoon or we can simply relax at the floodlit waterhole and watch the frequent visitors refresh themselves from the parched desert.



### **Days 29 to 30 - Sesriem and Sossusvlei**

As our base is just a few minutes drive from Sossusvlei, we will make an early start on our first day to watch the sun climb above the perfectly sculptured dunes towering majestically over a seemingly endless Namib Desert. As the sun rises the dunes are slowly bathed in an amazing natural light and the combination of intriguing shadow, intense red sand and uninterrupted clear blue sky will produce countless picture opportunities and just as many unforgettable memories. If anything, the scene is even more inspiring and vivid at sunset and we will ensure that we return at least once during our stay to capture the full glory of this epic landscape. On our first morning we will have plenty of time to explore the area before we decide which dune we would like to climb for even better views of this remarkable natural phenomenon. We will also visit Deadvlei, a white clay pan with a spectacular mix of soaring dunes and



ghostly, dead camelthorn trees, as well as the shaded 30m walls of Sesriem Canyon, which is very close to our lodge and a welcome chance to cool down in the inviting pool. Although we will have climbed at least one, the best way to experience the dunes of Sossusvlei is from the air and we have the option of both hot air balloon and light aircraft flights during our stay. Whilst the ballooning is always a great thrill, given that it is entirely weather dependent, it can be a little hit and miss in terms of what you actually see, whereas the cessa flight guarantees amazing views of not only the dunes, but of the ocean and large stretches of the Skeleton Coast, including some of its famous wrecks. Another option is a game drive, as it is easy to forget with all the other attractions, that Sossusvlei lies within the Namib Naukluft

Park, which supports a surprisingly diverse range of wildlife within its highly delicate eco-system. In addition to a massive variety of reptiles and birds, at various points throughout the park it is possible to observe oryx, greater kudu, klipspringer, steenbok, springbok, grey duiker, hartman's mountain zebra, chacma baboon, spotted hyena and even leopard and caracal. Of the smaller mammals, bat-eared fox, black-backed jackal, African wild cat, meerkat, yellow mongoose, aardwolf and cape ground squirrel are just a few of the species which occur here.

### **Day 31 - Sesriem to Luderitz**

We depart Sesriem early this morning, as we have to cut inland before driving further south to a small lodge near Aus, where we will have lunch and spend some time with the beautiful feral horses that have lived in this area of desert for decades. After enjoying their wild exuberance, and possibly viewing the klipspringer and other antelope that also reside here, we will head west again to overnight in the coastal town of Luderitz.







## Day 32 - Luderitz to Fish River Canyon

This morning we get back out on the ocean for a three-hour boat trip to see African penguin and cape fur seal colonies and possibly the heaviside's dolphin, which is only encountered along the stretch of southerly coast from Angola down to South Africa. Back on dry land we have a very short drive south to Kolmanskop Ghost Town, a once thriving diamond mining town eventually abandoned following the discovery of richer diamond deposits further south in the Orange River area. After a visit to the museum and an opportunity to photograph the timeless desert slowly reclaiming the dilapidated buildings, we will transfer south east to another of Namibia's many natural wonders, Fish River Canyon. Situated in the Ai-Ais Transfrontier Park, a joint venture with South Africa, Fish River Canyon is 160km long, up to 27km wide and 500m deep. However, the mere facts do not prepare you for the sheer grandeur of one of nature's masterpieces and we will enjoy the breathtaking views at two contrasting vantage points before we make the short journey to our lodge.



## Days 33 to 35 - Fish River Canyon

The next three days are a real adventure, as we journey down into the canyon to explore the rugged landscape on foot and in 4x4 vehicles. This is really the only way to do justice to such an overwhelming environment and the combination of scenic hikes and exciting drives will enable us to experience the solitude and splendour of this eternal haven in almost total isolation. Apart from our friendly guides, who will set up the bush camps and prepare delicious meals, the only living creatures we are likely to encounter are the animals that make their home here, including baboon, rock hyrax, several types of antelope and various lizard and bird species. We will visit numerous outstanding view points, hike through one of the most beautiful and narrowest gorges in the canyon and look for wildlife in areas that very few people ever venture to. At night spacious tents are available if required, although they are rarely necessary and one of the real pleasures of this part of the trip is lying in a sleeping bag listening to the evocative sounds of an African night and gazing spellbound at the brightest sky imaginable. Alternatively, if lodges are preferred, it is possible to undertake some of the activities as day trips and to replace others with horse-riding and peaceful sundown drives.

## Days 36 to 37 - Fish River Canyon (East)



This morning we transfer to our final destination in the region, a private game reserve just 20km east of the canyon. Although the scenery and views here are reason enough to visit, another objective is to support an important project that works with the local community and has seen wild animals reintroduced to an area in which they once flourished. The entire reserve is situated on reclaimed farmland and instead of watching sheep graze among the striking quiver trees, now large herds of oryx, springbok and greater kudu again roam their former range. Hartebeest, blue wildebeest and two species of zebra have also been reintroduced and a wealth of smaller mammals are also thriving as a result of the protection here. We will spend two days at this serene retreat, relishing the peace, the idyllic pool and the relaxed game activities available, including very special horse rides against a gorgeous landscape.



### **Day 38 - Keetmanshoop to Kalahari Game Reserve**

After another delicious breakfast prepared entirely of local produce, we transfer north to our final wildlife destination, a private game reserve situated in the heart of the Kalahari savannah. We will detour near Keetmanshoop to visit the Quiver Tree Forest for which the area is famed and towards the end of our journey we will stop at Hardap Dam, the largest dam in Namibia and a haven for a great variety of birds, including fish eagle, osprey, great white pelican, yellow-billed stork, ostrich and kori bustard. In addition to the prolific birdlife, the adjoining game reserve also protects a small population of black rhino, which we will search for before moving on to our lodge in the Kalahari.



### **Days 39 to 40 - Kalahari Game Reserve**

Given the amazing spectacles that we will have witnessed and the almost countless activities that we will have experienced, this is a fitting way to conclude our tour, as we once again search for the animals that best represent the heart of wild Africa, the big cats. Lion, leopard and cheetah all occur here and we have two days to catch a final glimpse of these and many other magnificent animals. As usual our game drives will be conducted in open vehicles and we also have the chance to take a guided walk with a Bushman tracker, who will teach us a little of a way of life that has existed at one with nature for centuries.



### **Day 41 - Kalahari Game Reserve to Windhoek**

On what will be a leisurely day, there will be time for one last game activity this morning before we depart for a very special final night in one of the most beautiful hotels in Africa. Set upon a hill with glorious views of Windhoek and the Khomas Hochland mountains, our final destination is a castle-styled hotel that will provide a fairytale setting for our farewell to this vibrant country. The beautifully landscaped garden and terrace, stylish pool and sumptuous rooms will all ensure that we fall asleep with a slightly less heavy heart as we contemplate the end of a very special adventure.



## Day 42 - Windhoek

After a relaxed breakfast and a few hours to enjoy the superb facilities and genial atmosphere, our tour will end with a transfer from the hotel to the airport for the international flight home.

### Additional Options

As few people are aware exactly how much this amazing country has to offer, and given its proximity, trips to Namibia are often combined with a visit to South Africa. Although this can work really well and can easily be arranged, Namibia itself is a compelling destination and there are a large number of additional options available to those travellers willing to explore further. Mainly as a result

of its remote location in the north-east, Khaudum Game Park is rarely visited, but it is an outstanding reserve and is probably the best place to see hunting dog in the country. If you are going to make the effort to visit, it can make sense to start at Victoria Falls and to take the rewarding drive across the Caprivi Strip, which includes two significant wildlife areas, Mahango Game Park and Bwabwata National Park. This option also opens up a number of possibilities beforehand in Botswana, including Chobe National Park and the Okavango Delta and, if you do intend to mix countries, the combination of northern Namibia and



northern Botswana is an extremely good one, both in terms of the logistics and the incredible destinations that you will be able to experience. In the far north of Kaokoland, on the border with Angola, rafting trips are available on the Kunene River, including a few easy rapids up to grade 4 and a chance to visit the impressive Epupa Falls. In addition to a number of excellent private game reserves, there are great hiking opportunities all over the country, one of the best of which is the four to five day hike through Fish River Canyon from Hobas to Ai-Ais. Both Brandberg and Spitzkoppe offer hikes and climbs for all abilities and there are a number of cultural projects which enable visitors to spend up to several days living with local communities, learning how these resourceful people have lived in harmony with their environment for so long.







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