

A LA CARTE AUTHENTIC NAMIBIA TOUR – 9 DAYS ITINERARY

Our 9 days Authentic Namibia tour is one of our classic tours around Namibia that gives you an excellent glance at its beautiful landscape, diverse culture, prolific wildlife as well as a proper knowledge of its governance, history and geography.

This departure covers mainly three areas of this beautiful country: its people, its fauna & flora and its geological formations which includes the unique region of Damaraland with its volcanic geology as well as the breath-taking monumental red dunes of the Namib Desert.

From the abundant wildlife of Etosha National park, through the traditional Himba people of Kaokoland and the coastal town of Swakopmund with its Germanic architecture, to the red monumental dunes of Namib Desert, said to be among the oldest deserts in the world, one has covered it all. The diversity of the landscape, the ever-changing colours and features of this country gives you the impression of visiting multiple countries in just one country.

This departure is guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants; the maximum number of participants per vehicle is 10.

Overview

Accommodation	Destination	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Mount Etjo Safari Lodge	Central Namibia	1	L&D	Room Type
Mokuti Etosha Lodge	Outside Etosha National Park	1	FB	Standard room
Okaukuejo Rest Camp	Etosha National Park	1	FB	Standard room
Hobatere Lodge	Kaokoveld	1	FB	Standard room
Twyfelfontein Country Lodge / Damara Mopane	Twyfelfontein	1	FB	Standard room
Swakopmund Lifestyle B&B and Apartments	Swakopmund	1	B & L	Standard room

Sossusvlei Lodge	Sossusvlei	2	FB	Standard room
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Key

L & D: Lunch & Dinner

FB: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner B & L: Breakfast & Lunch

September 24 – October 2, 2020:

Included

Included: All transport, three meals a day (unless differently specified), Accommodation as per itinerary, Park entrance fees, Professional guide (Gabriel), Pick up & drop off from accommodation in Windhoek

Excluded

Alcoholic beverages; Soft drinks & bottled water; Personal travel insurance

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 (September 24): Windhoek - Mount Etjo Safari Lodge, Central Namibia

Arrival in Windhoek international airport and direct transfer to Mount Etjo Safari lodge, into central Namibia. The central Namibian highlands are much cooler and less harsh than the arid lowlands that make up the majority of the country. This is great cattle ranching country and most tourism facilities have their origins in cattle and more recently game ranching.

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Windhoek – Mount Etjo Safari Lodge (300 km) (LD)

You will be collected directly from the airport.

We will travel north, stopping at small towns along the way including Okahandja, where we have time to visit Namibia’s largest wood carving market. The market is operated on a local co-operative basis and is one of the best places to shop for truly Namibian souvenirs. Continuing north, passing through farmland, we aim to arrive at Mount Etjo Safari Lodge during the middle afternoon.

Overnight: Mount Etjo Safari Lodge

'Etjo' means a place of refuge. Since 1975 Mount Etjo Safari Lodge has been the heart of the Okonjati wildlife sanctuary, offering African wildlife and guests from around the world more than just a place to stay, but a safe haven, tranquil surroundings and the opportunity to engage in the pristine beauty of African wilderness. At Mount Etjo Safari

Lodge, the African traveler will leave with his heart and mind enriched and his soul set at ease by having found peace and harmony in the African natural world.

The vibrant bird life at the Lodge is testimony to the beautiful gardens at the Lodge. Enormous palm trees, endless grass fields and a flamingo pond invite you to take a walk and a look around. The Lodge is built to face a large lake where animals regularly quench their thirst and hippos come to visit. Further in the distance lingers the magnificent Mount Etjo mountain, completing the picturesque scenery.

The unique architecture of our rooms, furnished and beautifully decorated in a splendid combination of luxury and African style will contribute to the exceptional experience of staying at Mount Etjo Safari Lodge. The Lodge is furnished with 22 luxury rooms, each with en-suite bathroom. Most of the rooms are situated next to the swimming pool which overlooks the watering hole where numerous animals come to drink during the day and night, while others overlook the spacious garden where the flamingos frolic. Various types of accommodation is available to suit the personal needs of young and old. The Lodge is fully wheelchair-friendly.

Activities

Cheetah feeding

Included

Breakfast, Lunch and dinner

Rooms have air-conditioning and fans

Day 2 (September 25): Mount Etjo – Mokuti Etosha Lodge - Etosha National Park (280km; +- 3h30)

As the closest lodge to Etosha National Park, Mokuti is only four minutes drive from the eastern Von Lindequist Gate near the historical Namutoni Fort and is located on its own private 4.000 hectare nature reserve, which shares a common border with this fascinating wildlife reserve.

Day Itinerary

Mount Etjo Safari Lodge – Mokuti Etosha Lodge (300 km) (BLD)

We travel via the towns of Otjiwarongo and Tsumeb to a lodge situated on the outskirts of the park on private land offering a more intimate and comprehensive experience.

All rooms at Mokuti Etosha Lodge offer modern accommodation and a view of the sprawling Mokuti Etosha Lodge gardens or indigenous bush, situated in separate one-story chalet style buildings, with thatched roofs, in a large landscaped setting.

Overnight: Mokuti Etosha Lodge



This intimate lodge has 90 rooms and 16 luxury rooms. Recently refurbished, they are all air conditioned and come equipped with satellite TV, a mini-fridge, safes, free Wi-Fi, tea/coffee-making facilities and en-suite bathrooms. The lodge also offers the Tambuti Dining Room and Marula Bar, the Pool Bar and Terrace, two tennis courts, a spa, a gym and the only open air African Boma in the area.

With its size of about +- 23,000 km², Etosha National Park is one of the most important wildlife sanctuaries in the World. Here, we have the opportunity to observe an abundant fauna: lions, elephants, Rhino (black and white), leopards, and different species of antelopes like gemsboks (Oryx), both the mountain and plain zebras, wildebeests, springboks, to mention but a few, as well as more than 300 different species of birds inventoried. Its numerous waterholes, both inside the park and at the edge of its three

resorts, give an unprecedented wilderness experience that we have never seen before. The beautiful landscape, its salty pan and camel thorn trees, are all breath taking. We enjoy our morning and afternoon games drive to observe this unique fauna.

Activities

PM game drive into Etosha National Park.

Included

Full Board

Standard double rooms: air-conditioned

Day 3 (September 26): Mokuti – Etosha National Park – Okaukuejo Resort

The Etosha National Park is Namibia's premiere game viewing experience, situated in the northwest of Namibia and is an area well known for its wildlife. Vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a diversity of wildlife. In the heart of the Park is The Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000sq kilometres. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after good rains to a depth which is seldom deeper than 1m. In the dry season wildlife is attracted to perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing.

Day Itinerary

East Etosha region – Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park (BLD)

A full day's game driving. We again leave early to enjoy the cool morning air as we game drive our way through Etosha to Halali camp, situated in the middle of the park. Along the way we visit several waterholes and are afforded splendid views of the massive Etosha Pan. The game viewing is usually excellent and we have the chance to tick off a few new

species that are not normally seen on the Namutoni side of the park.

We stop at Halali for a rest and a leisurely lunch. There is time to visit the Halali waterhole and to make use of the swimming pool and bar facilities before continuing on our way and game driving down to Okaukuejo, Etosha's main rest camp and resort where we will check in and set up camp. Originally the site of a German fort built in 1901, Okaukuejo now houses the Etosha Ecological Institute, founded in 1974; the round watchtower is a remnant of the fort.

After your evening meal there are still more chances to see Etosha's big game at a floodlit waterhole, situated on the boundary of our camp and easily reachable within a minute or two on foot.

The waterhole has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in

Southern Africa” and the ideal venue to witness peculiar animal politics. Black rhino, Africa’s tallest elephants, lion and numerous species of antelope are regular visitors during the cool, dry season.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Resort

Okaukuejo is located 17 km from the southern entrance of the park, and famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting. Accommodation is provided to suit every need, in premier bush chalets overlooking the waterhole; bush chalets and double rooms; or family chalets. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, shop, swimming pool, kiosk and camping facilities.

Activities

Full day game drive

Included

Full Board

Standard double rooms: air-conditioned

Day 4 (September 27): Hobatere Lodge, Kaokoveld





The Kaokoveld is a dry, mountainous and relatively undeveloped region that takes in the harsh beauty of the Skeleton Coast and the coppery sands of the northern Namib Desert. The area is inhabited by three main ethnic groups – the Damara, Herero and Himba people – each with their unique customs, traditions and rituals.

Okaukuejo – Hobatere (210 km) (BLD)

Today we travel through the previously restricted area of Western Etosha National Park, exiting via the Otjovasandu Gate.

Overnight: Hobatere Lodge

The name Hobatere means “Find me”, and once you do, you will enjoy a warm welcome and personalized service. Hobatere Lodge is located 80 km north of Kamanjab on the western border of the Etosha National park, situated in a concession area of 32 000 ha, which is home to a wide selection of game including Lion, Leopard, Oryx, Eland, Cheetah, Giraffe, Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra and Elephant. Our activities centre around day or night game drives, bird watching and guided walks, affording guests ample opportunity to view the abundance of wildlife and endemic species in the area. We also have a hide overlooking a nearby waterhole and a sundeck with panoramic views, which is floodlit for part of the night.

Activities

PM nature drive

Included

Full Board

Rooms have freestanding fans



Day 5 (September 28): Twyfelfontein Country Lodge, Twyfelfontein

Twyfelfontein is a site of ancient rock engravings in the Kunene Region of north-western Namibia.

Hobatere – Twyfelfontein (340 km) (BLD)

Within this area you have the opportunity of visiting a Himba Village – the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia. These tribes-people have migrated here, lifestyle and customs intact, and are following their traditional way-of-life in their village on a farm, the exact location of the site varies as the Himba occasionally roam to a new location. We will learn about marriage customs, traditional food and the mysteries of the “Holy Fire” religion.

Our journey today takes us into one of the most beautiful desert regions in Namibia, Damaraland. We drive west via the Grootberg Pass and then take a detour to visit the ancient Bushman rock engravings at Twyfelfontein. At this location we will have a local guide to conduct us on a short guided tour before heading to our overnight stop.

Overnight: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

The Lodge is situated in the heart of the Twyfelfontein Uibasen Conservancy and boast 56 en-suite twin rooms, reception, lounge, curio shop, open dining room, bar and swimming pool. In construction utmost care was taken to reduce the visual impact on the environment and to blend into the mountainside with the use of thatch roofs, natural stone and paint colours toning in with the surrounding rock formations.

Activities

Otjikondera Himba Village Petrified Forest Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Otjikandera Himba Village

A visit to this traditional Himba village is also a visit to the first registered Orphan Trust Fund in Namibia. The money received for tours to the Himba Village goes into a Trust which is mainly used for food and other necessities. The Otjikandero Himba Orphan Project tries to give the local tribe a chance to survive in the western world and tries to depict the proudness of the people, Himba lifestyle, tradition and culture and strives to ensure that future generations will live and thrive at Otjikandero and that the project can continue to grow.



Petrified Forest

Visitors will find a collection of enormous fossilized tree trunks that can be dated back 280 million years!

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Twyfelfontein is a World Heritage Site boasting one of the richest rock art concentrations in Africa. Thousands of tourists come to this site each year to view some 2,500 Stone Age rock engravings. The area is home to 17 rock art sites, which collectively encompass 212 engraved stone slabs. There are an additional 13 sites displaying rock paintings.



Included

Full Board
Rooms have ceiling fans

Day 6 (September 29): Swakopmund Lifestyle B&B and Apartments, Swakopmund



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.

Twyfelfontein – Swakopmund, Skeleton Coast (420 km) (BL) (accommodation)

From here we head deeper into the desert and pass Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m) and more beautiful Damaraland scenery. We make a stop in the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here, rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc. can be found at bargain prices.

From here we turn directly west and cross the gravel plains on our way to the Atlantic Ocean and the Skeleton Coast. Meeting the ocean at Henties Bay, we first head north along the coast to visit the seal colony at Cape Cross. At certain times of the year as many as 100,000 Cape Fur seals congregate.

The next destination is Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast into Namibia's premier seaside town. We aim to arrive in the late afternoon giving us time to explore

the town on foot before sunset.

Tonight we take the chance to sample one of the excellent restaurants. The seafood in Swakopmund is superb. Your guide will offer to organise a group meal in a local restaurant for this evening. Participation is recommended but by no means required.

Dinner is for the client's own account.

Overnight: Swakopmund Lifestyle B&B and Apartments

The new Lifestyle B&B and Apartments, privately owned & managed, situated in Swakopmund, is undoubtedly the jewel of Namibia. Guests can anticipate a warm sense of modern style while taking away an original experience. Lifestyle B&B and Apartments provide a trendy accommodation concept as to give everyone a choice between different accommodation options. Although all the apartments are self-catering equipped, the guests have the choice whether to book an apartment for self-catering or bed & breakfast.

Activities

Cape Cross Seal Colony

Cape Cross Seal Colony

This colony of Cape Fur Seals is one of the largest in the world, home to approximately 80 000 to 100 000 of these so-called 'seals', which are in fact a species of sea lion. Day trips to the colony are offered and the seals can be viewed from a walkway at a distance of roughly 200 metres.





Included

Breakfast and Lunch
Rooms have air-conditioning

Your tour guide will discuss all the possible options with you before you reach Swakopmund and will offer to make bookings in advance of your arrival. (N.B. All extra activities and excursions in Swakopmund are subject to availability and are made at the client's own risk and expense).

This is the last day of our trip and after lunch we will transfer back to the capital city where you will be dropped off at your accommodation in the late afternoon / early evening.

Optional

Daredevil Adventures Living Desert Tours Catamaran Charters

Daredevil Adventures

Daredevil Adventures offers clients the ultimate experience right in the heart of the beautiful Namib Desert. From a trip through some of the highest sand dunes in the world to a ride around the safely designed kiddies track offer something for everyone. The team at Daredevil Adventures consists of very experienced and well trained individuals. All quad bikes and equipment are serviced regularly by qualified professionals to ensure that everything is in an excellent condition.



Living Desert Tours

The Living Desert Tour is a unique 4x4 adventure which specializes in bringing the desert to life while sharing the awesome beauty of the Namib Desert with travellers from all over the world. The coastal dune belt may seem barren and lifeless to many people, but in fact it is alive with a fascinating variety of little desert adapted animals, which are able to survive on the life-giving fog which consistently rolls in from the cold Atlantic Ocean.

Come see the Dancing White Lady Spider (*Carparachne aureoflava*) cartwheel 44 turns per second down a dune to escape the enemy. Admire the transparent Namib Dune Gecko (*Pachydactylus rangei*) with webbed feet that are equivalent to snow shoes. Learn about the different beetles and insects and how they survive in the dune desert. Follow in the tracks of a legless Lizard (*Fitsimmon's Burrowing Skink*), observe Sand Diving Lizards (*Meroles Anchieta*) dancing on the hot sand, Sidewinder Snakes (*Perinquey's Adder*), Desert Chameleons and many more fascinating creatures. Learn about the geology, structure and formation of the desert, and admire the vast and beautiful landscapes while enjoying a scenic dune drive combined with fun and adrenalin.

Catamaran Charters

The Catamaran Charters Team invites you aboard the 45ft Royal Cape Sailing Catamaran Silverwind, or the 60ft Simon Sailing Catamaran Silversand, or the 40ft Admiral Motorised Catamaran Silvermoon, to enjoy an adventure packed tour to Pelican Point and Walvis Bay's beautiful bay area. The chances of encountering dolphins, whales, turtles, seals and Mola Mola (sunfish) make the search for the marine big 5 and adventurous tour by enjoying sparkling wine, fresh oysters and other mouth-watering snacks aboard the spacious and comfortable catamarans.



Day 7 (September 30): Swakopmund – Namib Desert (300km; +- 4h)

The Namib Desert is surely one of the oldest deserts in the world. Its monumental dunes of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei have no match with any other sand dunes worldwide. The day is spent among these red sand dunes, a short excursion into the Sesriem canyon as well as a sunset hike on top of Elim dune are enjoyed.

We travel out over the Eros Mountains and along scenic roads on our way south-west to the desert. We also pass over part of the Naukluft Mountains, which are of particular interest for the ancient geological history of this part of the country. Heading down from Namibia's central plateau by way of the beautiful Remhoogte Pass, we reach open

plains and the tiny settlement of Solitaire.

We cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain gives way to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib. We aim to arrive at our camp during the late afternoon and watch the colours glow and change

Overnight: Sossusvlei Lodge

Situated at the Entrance Gate to the Namib Naukluft Park, Sossusvlei Lodge offers direct access to the towering red sand dunes, the famous pan of Sossusvlei, the scorched black trees of Dead Vlei and the remarkable depths of the Sesriem Canyon.

The 45 individual luxurious accommodation units at Sossusvlei Lodge are carefully laid out to perfectly blend in with the magnificent surrounding natural environment. Each fully air-conditioned unit has a patio, en-suite bathroom with shower and a spacious bedroom under canvas with adobe-style plaster walls to give the visitor a distinctive sense of being close to nature.

Experience the true art of Hospitality with the thoughtful touch of attentive staff to contribute to a truly memorable experience. Facilities include a sparkling pool, bar, beer garden and an al fresco terrace where one can enjoy exquisite food, award-winning wines and magnificent views of the floodlit waterhole.

The Sossusvlei Lodge Adventure Centre provides a range of activities including Quad-Biking, Guided Excursions, Sun- downer Trips, Hot Air Ballooning, Scenic Flights and much more to explore the area's natural beauty.



Included

Lunch & dinner

Sossusvlei Lodge: rooms have air-conditioning Desert Camp: rooms have fans

Day 8 (October 1): Sossusvlei Lodge / similar, Sossusvlei

Sesriem area– Sossusvlei – Sesriem area (FB) (Accommodation)

A pre-dawn start is essential this morning as we want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert. After passing through Sesriem, the gateway to the dunes, we head into the heart of the dune field, reaching Sossusvlei on foot, trekking the last 5 km through the dunes. Landscape photo opportunities abound in the cool of the morning, with dawn's soft light first illuminating the dunes from crest down the back slope, then blazing orange everywhere, creating a powerful contrasting vista across the whole

desert. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or ostrich makes it essential to remember your camera!

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting dune 45. As the day wears on we return to Sesriem for lunch, escaping the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon we will take a short excursion to the Sesriem Canyon.

Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. 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. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Deadvlei - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park, where the mountains of the Namib meet its plains.



Dune 45

Named for its location 45 kilometres past the town of Sesriem, Dune 45 is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – have earned it the distinction of ‘most photographed dune in the world’. If you’re not keen for the strenuous hike to the top of Big Daddy, Dune 45 is a more forgiving alternative, standing at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient.

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.



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 Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.

Included

Full Board

Day 9 (October 2): Namib Desert – Windhoek airport (4500km; +-5h) (BL)

Sesriem area – Windhoek (450 km) (BL)

After breakfast we begin our journey back to Windhoek following a different route, ascending the massive Gamsberg Pass in the Khomas Hochland.

We can also choose to book an extra night in Windhoek at own account and relax before embarking the next day. Breakfast only.

Included: Breakfast and lunch plus transfer to the airport

END OF SAFARI