



“To travel is to discover that everyone is wrong about other countries.”
(Aldous Huxley, English author, 1894 - 1963)

Namibia – Deserts, Diamonds, African Gems

Let us put the sparkle back into your life and show you Namibia's best

Windhoek – Kalahari Desert – Fish River Canyon – Lüderitz - Sossusvlei – Swakopmund – Desert Express

Day 1: African Holiday Fever : Start your journey to magical Namibia where your African dream of real game encounters sparkling breathtaking landscapes is just an overnight flight away.....

Day 2: Good morning Africa! (40 km)
From Joburg onward flight to Windhoek, where local tour guide will meet and transfer you to the capital. Situated at 1,650m, Windhoek is surrounded by Auas, Eros, Kommas Hochland mountains and home to 300,000 inhabitants. After a short drive into the city, transfer to your lodge with afternoon at leisure.

Day 3: Kalahari (270 km)
Southbound through a vast savannah region, home to Nama, a Khoi-Khoi tribe, to Gondwana Kalahari Park, where parallel rows of majestic deep-red desert sand dunes welcome you. Here, where rain and humans are most scarce, living creatures developed unique fascinating special survival techniques. Camelthorn trees (Kameldorn) and Whitestems, are dotted sporadically in this desolation, where Springbok, Ostrich and Wild Boar roam, to live side by side with very famous Bushmen (San) of the Kalahari, a legendary folk who have lived and still live here exclusively off the meagre resources available. A late afternoon dune excursion introduces a magnificent colour palette of red sand, yellow grass and blue sky, combining harmoniously to form an everlasting snapshot of wonder.

Day 4: Fish River Canyon (400 km)
Outskirts of Keetmanshoop is home to quiver-tree forest - Aloes (*Aloe dichotoma*) so named by the bushmen, who hollowed branches to use as quivers for poison arrows. Keetmanshoop, founded by German Rheinische Mission, developed rapidly to become the Capital of the South. A desert-system covers a major part of south-central Namibia. Internationally famous Fish River Canyon, formed 130 million years ago, is the second largest canyon on earth. The gorge measures 160km in length, is up to 555m deep and 27km at its widest point.

Day 5: Succulent Karoo Sperregebiet (320 km)
Sunrise in the desert! A short drive to a vantage point to best enjoys this phenomenon followed by a hike back to the lodge for a scrumptious breakfast. Travel in a westerly direction via

Seeheim and Aus to the Succulent Karoo, situated on the southern edge of the huge Namib Naukluft Park. This desert lies in a winter-rainfall region and characterized by hardy succulent plants. Namib showcases a wide variety of these plant species and considered by scientists to be one of the 25 most interesting biospheres worldwide. The excursion to the Wild Horses of the Namib follows. For generations, these animals have adapted to the harsh life and barren conditions of the desert.

Day 6: Lüderitz – City of Diamonds (250km)
En-route to West Coast pass Diamond Area 1, a huge diamond mining area in the middle of the desert. Until the start of the last century, huge amounts of these precious stones were found here. Today, the main mining activities take place little further south. With Lüderitz in sight, a short stop at the ghost town of Kolmanskop, this was one of the richest wealthiest cities in Africa. This lasted until the diamond fields had been exploited. Empty roofless houses and buildings stand forlorn as a sole witness of those glorious times. Once a thriving city in the heart of desert, with its own schools, nursery schools, public swimming pool complete with Italian terrazzo tiles and, to cool things down, an ice-cream factory supplied free ice-cream and lemonade. On to Lüderitz, developed in the late 19th century and bought by a German business man, Adolf Lüderitz. Excellent incomes earned by residents from the diamond mines, resulted in beautiful colonial-style villas, homes and businesses. Felsenkirche (rock church), the railway station and post office are examples of this architecture and still fully operational today. Afternoon at leisure in Lüderitz.

Day 7: Direction North (430 km)
Travel north via Helmeringshausen to Duwisib Castle, magnificently built by Heinrich von Wolff in the midst of a barren wilderness. Accommodation today situated north of Sesriem near Namib Naukluft Park.

Day 8: Sossusvlei (180km)
Today's visit to Sossusvlei is one of those once in a lifetime must-do excursions. Start before sunrise and, in off-road vehicles, drive through endless Namibian landscapes passing Sesriem Canyon on the way. Sossusvlei, famous highlight in the heart of the Namib Desert, is a huge clay pan, enclosed by giant 300m high sand dunes, and developed

over a period of many millions of years. In morning light, dunes glow in an enchanting red hue, where, even during the dry season, the mighty Oryx antelope and nimble springbok can be seen frequently. Afternoon at leisure at your lodge.

Day 9: Namib Naukluft Park (360km)

Stunning landscapes envelope you on your journey through Namibia's largest nature reserve, where seemingly endless sand plains prevail. Namib Naukluft Park reserve is 2.5 times larger than the Etosha National Park. The name means narrow (nau) gorge (Kluft) and derived from a narrow canyon. During the rainy season, three rivers flow through the gorge. Stunning landscapes envelope you on your journey through Namibia's largest nature reserve, where seemingly endless sand plains prevail. Haunting desert silence is interrupted only by roaring breakers of the Atlantic Ocean at Swakopmund, most favourite popular coastal town in Namibia.

Day 10: Swakopmund (240 km)

First stop, Walvis Bay, fishing town and harbour terminal located 30kms from Swakopmund. Dolphin-Cruise boat takes you for a closer look followed by a relaxed beach picnic lunch. A stop over in the Welwitschia Area, home of *Welwitschia mirabilis* miracle plant, with its three meter long roots, can survive extreme draughts and reach up to 2000 years of age. Afternoon in Swakopmund, founded in 1892, still influenced culturally and architecturally by German colonial days, with art nouveau décor, German street and building names, and German being spoken everywhere.

Day 11: Desert Express (200 km)

Take the morning for a last stroll through Swakop, and then its all systems go....Wait for the green light signal to board the Desert Express to Windhoek. A hotel train on wheels, the Express has been rolling for ten years, transporting passengers and guests in the lap of indulgent gorgeous luxury. Up close and very personal, as more Namibian natural beauty wonders go whizzing by. Initially the train travels through vast gravel desert plains before reaching granite-like formations of the Kahn River Valley. During a stop desert sundowners are served while the setting sun triggers a true symphony of colour. An excellent gourmet dinner, served in style at the overnight stop, will tantalise your taste buds. The tranquillity of seclusion with a Namibian starry sky combines to banish civilization into oblivion.

Day 12: Back to Civilization (150 km)

After breakfast on board, a last wild visit at Okapuka game farm for the feeding of the lions. Arrive Windhoek Station at 10h30. Situated at 1,650m above sea level, Windhoek, surrounded by Auas, Eros, Komas Hochland mountains, is home to 300,000 inhabitants. An informative tour with

visits to the Lutheran Christuskirche (Christ's church), Tintenpalast (Government Buildings) as well as Reiterdenkmal (1912) and Alte Feste (Old Fort), former headquarters of Schutztruppe and today, Namibia's national museum. City of Windhoek, the heart of Namibia, offers shopping, sightseeing or relaxing opportunities, where German and African traditions huddle side by side with vibrant street markets adjacent to colonial buildings.

Day 13: Farewell to Namibia (50 km)

Use the morning for a last souvenir shopping spree, before transfer to Windhoek airport for your homeward journey.

Day 14: Back home again

Early morning arrival in Europe with memories and mementoes of land far away – Deserts, Diamonds, African Gems - Namibia's best
Auf Wiedersehen.....till next time.....

*Or extend your holiday with our optional extension:
The North – Damaraland and Etosha Pan.*

Optional Extension:

The North – Damaraland and Etosha Pan

Day 13: Damaraland (400 km)

Travel north through the stark landscape of central Namibia. Visit large arts and crafts market in Okahandja, and then via Otjiwarongo and Outjo to the heart of Damaraland. Numerous rock paintings can be seen and in the middle of thorn savannah, the striking Vingerklip, a rock-column, 35m high. Enjoy unique fantastic views of table mountains of the Ugab-Valley. Dinner and overnight at Vingerklip.

Day 14: Etosha National Park (200 km)

Head north to Etosha Park, aptly named Jewel of Africa. "Etosha" means "place of dry water" in Ovambo language, and refers to the huge 5000 square kilometre salt pan in the centre of the park. Mirages of large water areas deceive animals and people alike, as the pan is absolutely dry and totally bare of any vegetation except during rainy season when it is filled with water. Etosha has more than 100 mammal species, including elephant, cheetah and rhino. A short drive after leaving the park brings you to your Lodge.

Day 15: Go Safari!

Game spotting is best in very early hours of the morning (just after sunrise) and late afternoon. More than 30 waterholes are home to not only Big Five (elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and leopard) but also 340 different bird species. PAN is one of the

most important breeding grounds for flamingos. Early morning game drive in open vehicles, so get your camera ready! Remainder of the day relax at your lodge, or perhaps another safari (optional)

Day 16: Back to Windhoek (500 km)

A full day of travelling back to Windhoek before your farewell-dinner.

Day 17: Good Bye (50 km)

Use the morning for a last souvenir shopping spree, before transfer to Windhoek airport for your homeward journey.

Day 18: Back home again!

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Auf Wiedersehen.....till next time.....

Services included in main programme:

- ☺ Travel/ transfers in air-con coach
- ☺ Qualified English speaking tour guide
- ☺ 11 x accommodation incl. breakfast in very good middle-class hotels/lodges
- ☺ 9 x Dinners
- ☺ Entrance fees mentioned in programme
- ☺ Excursion to Dunes of the Kalahari
- ☺ Excursion to Wild Horses of the Namib
- ☺ Sossusvlei 4x4 Excursion
- ☺ Boat Cruise (Walvis Bay)
- ☺ Desert Express Train Trip Swakopmund to Windhoek
- ☺ Gratuity with meals included in programme
- ☺ Porterage at airports and hotels
- ☺ Value-added-tax (VAT) and tourism levy

Services not included main programme

- ☹ Expenses of a personal nature
- ☹ all meals not mentioned above
- ☹ Flights
- ☹ Visa-fees (if applicable)

Price: From R19 450 per person sharing (excluding airfares)

Rates quoted on any advertising subject to rate of exchange at date of travel without prior notice.

Services included in extension programme:

- ☺ Travel and transfers in air-conditioned coach (appropriate to group size)
- ☺ qualified English speaking local tour guide
- ☺ 4 x accommodation incl. breakfast in very good middle-class hotels / lodges
- ☺ 4 x Dinner
- ☺ entrance fees according to programme incl. of Etosha National Park
- ☺ 1 x game drive in Etosha by bus
- ☺ 2x half-day game drives in 4x4 vehicles in Etosha
- ☺ gratuity with meals included in programme
- ☺ porterage at hotels and airports
- ☺ Value-added-tax (VAT) and tourism levy

Services not included in extension programme:

- ☹ Expenses of a personal nature
- ☹ All meals not mentioned above
- ☹ Flights
- ☹ Visa-fees (if applicable)

Price: From R7 800 per person sharing (excluding airfares)

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