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## Fly In Namibian Highlights

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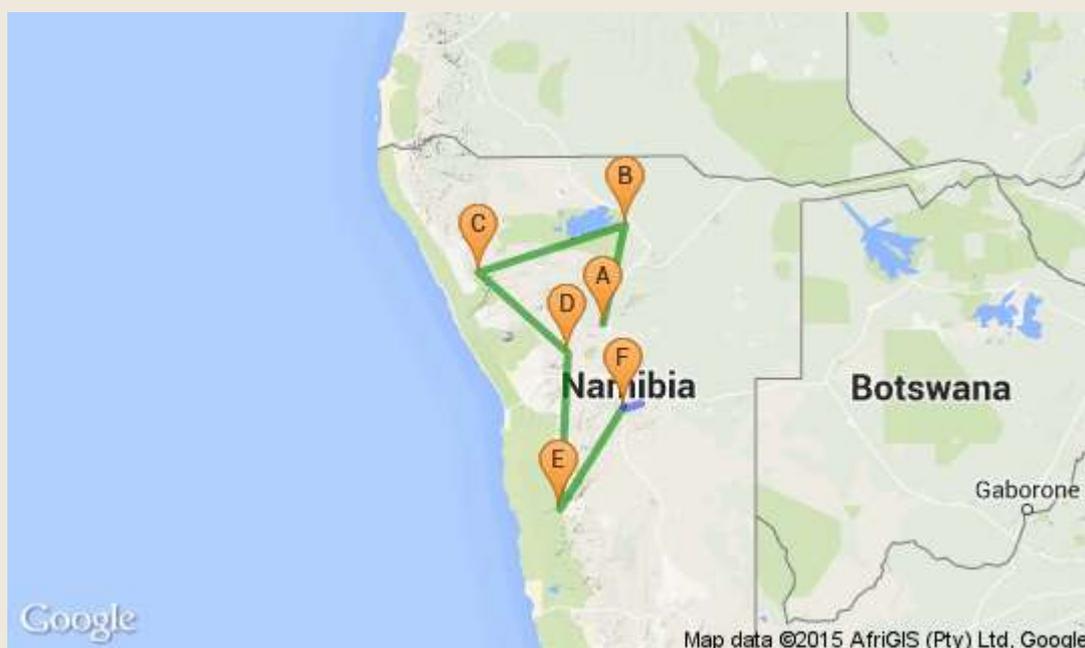




## Fly In Northern Namibia

*Waterberg Region - Etosha National Park - Damaraland - Erongo - Namib - Windhoek*  
12 Days / 11 Nights

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[Click here to view your Virtual Itinerary](#)

### Overview

The Journey: After your arrival at Hosea Kutako Airport, you collect your luggage and are met by your personal pilot. The Cessna waiting on the warm tarmac outside may look small but it is the African safari aircraft of choice. The Cessna 210 is a wonderful way to experience Namibia, high above the dusty trails but low enough to see the endlessly changing scenery. From here you will discover the hidden gems that Namibia has to offer, touring over the iconic Etosha National Park, walking through the desolate Erongo Landscape and enjoying the vista's of the Sossusvlei Dune Belt.

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PRIDE of AFRICA

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Waterberg Region	Okonjima Plains Camp	2	D, B&B	
Etosha National Park	Mushara Lodge	2	D, B&B	
Damaraland	<a href="#">Etendeka Mountain Camp</a>	2	FI	
Erongo	<a href="#">Erongo Wilderness Lodge</a>	2	D, B&B	
Namib	<a href="#">Kulala Desert Lodge</a>	2	FI	
Windhoek	<a href="#">Olive Grove Guesthouse</a>	1	B&B	

#### Key

RO: Room only

SC: Self Catering

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and breakfast

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

FB+: Dinner, bed, breakfast, lunch and activities daily

FI: Fully inclusive

### Day 1-3: Okonjima Plains Camp, Waterberg Region

#### Waterberg Region

The Waterberg Region incorporates the Waterberg Plateau National Park and the farming districts from Outjo and Otjiwarongo in the west to Grootfontein and Tsumeb in the west. Between Windhoek and Etosha lies a region of gentle rolling hills, where many of Namibia's larger farm and ranches can be found- the Central Highlands.

Set amidst plains and rolling hills in a 220km<sup>2</sup> private reserve just south of Otjiwarongo, is Okonjima Plains Camp. It is the most affordable of the places to stay on the Okonjima Nature Reserve, whose raison d'être is the AfriCat Foundation, set up to conserve and protect Namibia's threatened cheetah, leopard and other wild carnivores. A stay here gives you the opportunity to learn about these animals and to see them up close and personal.

Namibia is home to over 20% of the world's cheetah population – the largest concentration in the world. Since 1993, AfriCat has rescued over a thousand cheetahs and leopards from Namibian farmland, returning over 85% of these animals to the wild. However, a few of the cheetahs at Okonjima were either orphaned or removed from the wild at a very young age, so do not know how to hunt for themselves. These are cared for within the AfriCat welfare programme.



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### Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp

Not only is Okonjima a luxury lodge, but it is also home to The AfriCat Foundation, a non-profit organisation, committed to long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores, especially cheetahs and leopards. A visit to Okonjima will give you an opportunity to witness some of AfriCat's work.

The NEW, Plains Camp design honours the Okonjima cattle-farming history. In the early 1920's, Okonjima became a cattle farm and was bought by Val (VJ) & Rose Hanssen in 1970. They were well-established Brahman breeders and continued to farm cattle until the need for solutions to increasing livestock losses became pertinent and post-independence interest in Namibia as a tourist destination, escalated. In 1993, the herds of Brahman and Jersey cattle were sold, changing the face of Okonjima as well as that of Carnivore Conservation!



The focal point of Plains Camp is the enormous main area that houses the reception desk, bar and curio shop, and a large dining area and several sitting areas spread out over two levels. Rather aptly nicknamed 'The Barn', the building is indeed reminiscent of a farm barn, albeit quite a modern one with a polished concrete floor, very high metal roof and exposed beams and brickwork, as well as floor-to-ceiling glass windows across the entire front, facing the grassy plains.

Outside, the setting is completed by an alfresco sitting area and, to the side, a barbecue and a couple of pizza ovens. There is also a small pool, designed like a farm reservoir, surrounded by manicured lawns dotted with sunloungers and shaded areas to relax out of the sun. With a total of 24 rooms, Okonjima Plains Camp is larger than its predecessor. There are two types of room: 14 Standard Rooms (ten of which were formerly the 'View Rooms' from Main Camp) and 10 View Rooms, which are larger and brand new. Despite the names, both room types offer views out towards the plain in front of camp. Nonetheless, all the rooms are spacious, and beautifully designed with light hues of blues and greens, and splashes of bright colors. The walls are decorated with painted wooden African artwork and photograph of Okonjima's carnivores; woollen rugs and mats are scattered on the polished concrete floors.



### Activities

Game View Drive, Tracking leopards with radio telemetry  
Bushman Trail  
Track Leopards on foot  
Self Guided walking Trails  
Information and Carnivore Centre



Bushman Trail – It constitutes an easy walking trail and is highly informative. You get to learn about the art of making traditional artefacts and how the San adapt and survive in an unforgiving wilderness environment.

You are welcome to go on one of our Self-guided Walking Trails, or do some birding - identify some of the more than 250+ species in the area, including Namibian endemics – Carp's Black Tit, Hartlaub's Francolin and the Damara Rock Runner. Self-guided Walking Trails on the surrounding mountains or in the bush-veldt are free of charge. Walking trails of 4 – 6 km's, for those of you who want to spend some time alone in the solitude of the Okonjima wilderness. Walk amongst various game and enjoy glorious views. . . . However, most of the trails do not start from the lodge, but require a short drive with your private vehicle to the start of the trail.

Visit AfriCat's 'Information & Carnivore Care Centre' , which offers you valuable insight into the work of The AfriCat Foundation. A guided drive to the Carnivore Care Centre allows you to meet some of our species ambassadors. Our guide will answer questions, explain the work we do with carnivores in Namibia and position the vehicle for that special photograph.

Guests are invited to participate on foot in the radio-tracking of the rehabilitated Spotted Hyaenas on the Large Carnivore Tracking Trail. These rehabilitated carnivores roam freely and catch their own prey within the 20 000 ha private, Okonjima Nature Reserve.

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### Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 3-5: Mushara Lodge, Etosha National Park

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### Etosha National Park

Translated as the 'Place of Mirages', 'Land of Dry Water' or the 'Great White Place', Etosha is an apparently endless pan of silvery-white sand, upon which dust-devils play and mirages blur the horizon. One of Africa's best game reserves, Etosha National Park protects a vast shallow bowl of silvery sand the size of Holland – and its surrounding bush. 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 make's for excellent game viewing.

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's finest and most important Game Reserves. Etosha Game park was declared a National Park in 1907 and covering an area of 22 270 square km, it is home to 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species and, surprisingly, one species of fish. The Etosha Park is one of the first places on any itinerary designed for a holiday in Namibia.

Etosha, meaning "Great White Place", is dominated by a massive mineral pan. The pan is part of the Kalahari Basin, the floor of which was formed around 1000 million years ago. The Etosha Pan covers around 25% of the National Park. The pan was originally a lake fed by the Kunene River. However the course of the river changed thousands of years ago and the lake dried up. The pan now is a large dusty depression of salt and dusty clay which fills only if the rains are heavy and even then only holds water for a short time. This temporary water in the Etosha Pan attracts thousands of wading birds including



impressive flocks of flamingos. The perennial springs along the edges of the Etosha Pan draw large concentrations of wildlife and birds.

The game viewing in Etosha National Park is excellent, the best time being from May to September - the cooler months in Namibia. Elephant are very common, though digging for water below the sand wears down their tusks, so big tuskers are very rare. Often large family groups are seen trooping down to waterholes to drink, wallow and bathe. The park's population has been under scientific scrutiny for the infrasonic noises (below the range of human hearing) which they make. It is thought that groups communicate over long distances in this way.

Among the rarer species, black rhino continue to thrive here, and the floodlit waterholes at Okaukuejo and Halali provide two of the continent's best chances to observe this aggressive and secretive species. In recent years, about a dozen white rhino have been introduced. Your best chance of seeing these is in the east of the park, around Aus, Springbokfontein, Batia or Okerfontein, either early or late in the day.

Black-faced impala are restricted to Namibia and southern Angola, occurring here as well as in parts of the Kunene region to the west. With only isolated populations, numbering under a thousand or so, they are one of the rarest animals in the region. The Damara dik-dik is the park's smallest antelope. Endemic to Namibia, it is common here in areas of dense bush. Roan antelope and red hartebeest occur all over the subcontinent, though they are common nowhere. This is definitely one of the better parks in which to look for roan, especially in the mopane areas around Aus and Olifantsbad. All of the larger felines are found in Etosha, with good numbers of lion, leopard, cheetah and caracal. The lion tend to prey mainly upon zebra and wildebeest, whilst the cheetah rely largely upon springbok. The seldom-seen leopard, take a varied diet, including antelope and small mammals, whilst the equally elusive caracal go for similar but smaller prey.

### **Overnight: Mushara Lodge**

Located just 8 km from the Von Lindequist Gate on the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park, Mushara Lodge is an ideal overnight stop for visitors to the game reserve. The lodge consists of ten spacious chalets, one family unit, a triple room and two single rooms. The name Mushara is derived from the Purple Pod Terminalia tree which grows abundantly on the lodge grounds and in the surroundings. The thatched public area includes a small library with a selection of good books, a bar with an extensive wine cellar, an airy lounge complete with welcoming fireplace for winter evenings, a dining area and a well stocked curio shop.

Great attention has been paid to the décor, which is an eclectic blend of traditional African and modern works of art mixed with original older paintings. Ten well-spaced thatched chalets are arranged in horseshoe shape around the swimming pool. All the chalets and individual rooms are extremely spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, mosquito net, mini-bar, safe, tea and coffee station, sockets for charging storage batteries and direct telephone connection. The bathrooms are en-suite with separate toilette. The chalets and single rooms have a shower, whereas the triple room and the family house have a shower and bath.



#### Activities Optional

Game Drive Mushara

Game Drives Etosha

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#### Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 5-7: Etendeka Mountain Camp, Damaraland

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### Damaraland

Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. Here there are prehistoric water courses with open plains and grassland, massive granite koppies and deep gorges. Towards the west, the geography changes dramatically with endless sandy wastes, that incredibly are able to sustain small, but wide-ranging, populations of desert-adapted elephant, black rhino, giraffe, ostrich and springbok. These animals have adapted their lifestyles to survive the harshness of the sun-blistered, almost waterless desert spaces. Elephant move through euphorbia bush country, and can travel up to 70km in a day in search of food and water and unusually, do not destroy trees in their quest for food. Follow black rhino cow and her calf in typical Damaraland 'melkbos' terrain. Together, Damaraland and [Kaokoland](#) are known as the Kaokoveld.



Highlights of the area include:

- The Brandberg - Namibia's highest mountain and home to the famous 'White Lady' Bushman Painting.
- Twyfelfontein - a wonderful rocky outcrop with thousands of Bushman engravings.
- Spitzkoppe - a typical pointed inselberg, and a place of great mystery to the ancient San people
- The Petrified Forest - which is millions of years old.
- The Vingerklip (finger rock) - a towering finger of limestone that rises 35m above its base.

The Brandberg 'the fire mountain' is named after the effect created by the setting of the sun on its western face, which causes the granite massif to resemble a burning slag heap glowing red. The Brandberg (and the Spitzkoppe) is a favourite place for climbers in Namibia, and both mountains contain a high density of San (Bushman) art. The main attraction at Twyfelfontein (doubtful spring) is its large gallery of rock art, one of the most extensive in Africa.



Two other well-known geological features close to Twyfelfontein are the Organ Pipes and the Burnt Mountain. The Organ Pipes are a distinctive series of dolerite pillars that have been exposed by erosion and can be viewed in the small gorge on the left hand side of the road leading to the Burnt Mountain. This flat-topped mountain derives its name from the piles of blackened limestone at its base.

## Overnight: Etendeka Mountain Camp

[View iBrochure](#)

Following the signing of the groundbreaking joint-venture agreement with the neighbouring communities, the decision was made to completely rebuild and relaunch Etendeka Mountain Camp. The unique new dining area stays true to Etendeka's long standing and award winning commitment to eco-friendly values.



In the foothills of the Grootberg massif, set amidst magnificent scenery and the ancient Etendeka lavas of northern Damaraland, the ten new en-suite Meru tents have been refitted with luxury mattresses and 100% cotton linen. Necessary comforts have not been overlooked with the bathrooms also benefiting from a makeover, while the traditional, open-air bucket shower still holds pride of place. Simple, fresh, wholesome meals are prepared, either in solar ovens or on open fires, and enjoyed under African skies. Extensive use is made of solar power throughout the camp. Etendeka is one of only two establishments that have been awarded the highest rank in the Namibian Eco-awards.

At Etendeka, wildlife has acclimatised to a precarious existence amongst the towering basalt mountains and dry mopane-shaded river courses of the Kunene Region. A strong focus is on walking activities. "The feel at Etendeka is rustic; we wanted to bring back that rugged element of the traditional tented camp that most have unfortunately lost." Manager and co-owner of Etendeka Mountain Camp, Dennis Liebenberg has been running the property for the past 20 years and knows the area like the back of his hand. He loves to share his knowledge with guests.



## Activities

Etendeka Walk

Etendeka Scenic Drive

Your days here are spent exploring the area on foot and in open game drive vehicles with the exceptionally knowledgeable guides. This is not a fast paced safari, but rather a privileged introduction to an environment that holds many of Namibia's unique natural attractions.



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**Included**

Fully Inclusive

Drinks (Local Brands) Included

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**Day 7-9: Erongo Wilderness Lodge, Erongo**

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**Erongo**

The Erongo Region is one of the largest of the 13 regions found in Namibia and received its name for the majestic Erongo Massif that dominates the area around Karibib, Omaruru and Usakos. The region reaches up to the Atlantic Ocean and includes the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, its northern boundary ending at the Ugab River where the Skeleton Coast National Park begins its stretch to Angola. The Erongo Conservancy is a private conservancy encompassing about 30 landowners and their farms and lodges stretching over 2,000km<sup>2</sup> (200 000ha). All fences have been taken down between these farms in order to conserve and protect the area. As proof of its success, white rhino were released here in 2009 and the first calf was born in 2010, although they are rarely spotted.

The Erongo Wilderness Conservancy centres around the Erongo Mountains which consist of huge boulder and granite formations on the outskirts of an ancient volcano. They are bordered by the Namib Desert to the west and a mixed, woodland savannah to the east. This rare confluence of ecosystems is home to a vast array of plant, reptile, mammal and bird species, some endemic to Namibia.

The Conservancy's mission includes the preservation of the rich cultural heritage in the form of rock paintings and engravings that are found throughout the area, such as at the Paula's Cave rock art site. This is found at Erongo Wilderness Lodge, which was one of the founding members of the conservancy.

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**Overnight: Erongo Wilderness Lodge [View iBrochure](#)**

Just west of Omaruru, Erongo Wilderness Lodge perches amidst the rugged granite kopjes of the Erongo Mountains – within the area of an ancient volcanic crater. The lodge is a founder member of the 2,000km<sup>2</sup> Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy, which brings together 30 private landowners in an effort to conserve this diverse area. The area is locally well-known for excellent birding, and there are rare and endemic species of flora and fauna here. There are also bushman rock paintings hidden in between the rocks all around this area.



There is a special wilderness area, encircled by the Erongo Mountains, where the desert, mountain, and bushveld ecosystems combine. Here, in a secluded valley, you will find ten luxury tented chalets in a dramatic setting of granite boulders and breathtaking views

Erongo Wilderness Lodge is a friendly, relaxed lodge which offers great views across the mountains with good walking and birding. Erongo's 10 comfortable tented chalets have superb views and are built up on stilts. Each is tucked away between its own boulders offering seclusion and privacy. The rooms are simply furnished with sundecks at the front and en-suite bathrooms at the back. One of the rooms is a slightly more private Honeymoon suite and there is also one room suited to families.

Raised wooden walkways and natural stone steps connect the tented chalets to the main area which sits atop a separate hill. Here you will find the restaurant and lounge, one large room built from stone and thatch, and open on one side from the waist up. Within it are a central fireplace, dining area, small lounge and a 'mokoro' bar, all decorated with African basketwork and masks. There is a big leather sofa with matching chairs, and a small library of books, as well as a selection of curios for sale.



From an outside deck, you can watch animals come down to the floodlit waterhole below. There is also a birdbath right next to the restaurant where, whilst eating brunch you can watch rosy-faced lovebirds, red-eyed bulbuls, black-throated canaries and white-tailed shrikes at some water as well as rock dassies and the endemic dassie rats vying for drinking space.

A small pool built amongst the rocks has a partially shaded grassy area and a few loungers. Above this is a thatched sundowner deck, complete with comfy chairs and a large table – the perfect spot for toasting spectacular sunsets.

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## Activities

### Nature Drive and Paula's Cave

Activities on offer at Erongo mainly involve walking, which is certainly the best way to explore this beautiful area, possible either with the lodge's knowledgeable guides or on your own. Walking the area surrounding the Lodge is highly encouraged and is the best way to experience the beauty of the Erongo Mountains. Our guides have been very well trained on the interesting Fauna and Flora of the area and are available to escort guests through the property at any time that suits them. An unlimited number of guided walks are included in the rate. We have put together a number of interesting walks to suit people of all different fitness levels. You can opt to join guided morning walks, which vary in length from one to four hours, and evening sundowner walks to a good vantage point for your G & T. There are two guided walks offered, a long one starting at 6am (which is about three hours in length) and a shorter one starting at 7am (which is about 2 hours).



An optional afternoon nature drive is also available in an open 4 x 4. This starts at 3:30pm and lasts about 3 hours. Seeing a variety of small game – including steenbok, kudu, oryx, klipspringer, Hartmann's mountain zebra and warthog. Erongo Wilderness Lodge forms part of the 200 000 hectare Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy. This pristine wilderness area straddles the Erongo Mountains: a natural reserve within a vast volcanic crater complex, which boasts unparalleled biodiversity. After about an hour and a half's drive through the scenically beautiful lodge property you will end up at the foot of the hill where the site of Paula's Cave can be found. An easy walk up the hill will take you to the National Monument site of some outstanding bushman rock art. After exploring the rock art, relax with a cold 'sundowner' drink and enjoy the closing of the day. A slow drive searching for nocturnal animals with the help of a spotlight will bring you back to the lodge in time for dinner. A must-see for anyone visiting the area. This drive can be done both in the morning or the afternoon.

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## Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 9-11: Kulala Desert Lodge, Namib

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### Namib

The Namib is the world's oldest desert, and although it stretches along the entire length of Namibia's coastline, the Namib commonly refers to the vast sea of sand from Luderitz to Swakopmund. For a big sandy desert the scenery is remarkably varied, with the giant red dunes of Sossusvlei being the most famous part.

If your picture of the desert includes enormous Lawrence-of-Arabia dunes, vast gravel plains, towering mountain ranges and deep sculptured canyons, then your image is of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Covering almost 50,000km<sup>2</sup>, it is one of the largest conservation areas in Africa and protecting one of the oldest deserts on earth (South America's Atacama Desert being the other contender for this title). The Namib Desert's scenery is stunning.

Jutting out into the desert are the impressive Naukluft Mountains. Whilst the high plateaux and mountainsides tend to be rocky and sparsely vegetated, the ravines and valleys are verdant. An hour's drive northeast of Sesriem, the main escarpment juts out into the desert forming a range known as the Naukluft Mountains. In 1968 these were protected within the Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park – to conserve a rare breeding population of Hartmann's mountain zebra. Shortly afterwards, land was bought to the west of the mountains and added to the park, forming a corridor linking these mountains into the Namib National Park. This allowed oryx, zebra and other game to migrate between the two, and in 1979 the parks were formally combined into the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Receiving occasional heavy rainstorms in summer that feed its network of springs and streams in its deeper kloofs, the Naukluft supports a surprisingly varied flora and fauna. Its high plateau and mountainsides tend to be rocky with poor, if any, soil. Here are distinctive euphorbia, acacia, commiphora and aloe plants (including quivertrees – which are found in a dense stand in Quivertree Gorge). Most are low, slow-growing species, adapted to conserving water during the dry season. The variations of slope and situation result in many different niches suiting a wide variety of different species. Down in the deeper kloofs, where there are permanent springs, the vegetation is totally different, with many more lush, broad-leaf species. Wild, cluster and sycamore figs are particularly prevalent, whilst you should also be able to spot camelthorn, buffalo thorn, wild olive and shepherd's trees.

The Naukluft has many animals, including large mammals, though all are elusive and difficult to spot. Hartmann's mountain zebra, oryx, kudu and klipspringer are occasionally seen fleeing over the horizon (usually in the far distance). Steenbok and the odd sunbathing dassie are equally common, and springbok, warthog and ostrich occur, but are more often found on the plains around the mountains. The mountains should be a classic place for leopard, and the smaller cats – as there are



many small mammals found here – though these are almost never seen. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded here., Raptors are usually seen soaring above. Black eagles, lanner falcons, augur buzzards and pale chanting goshawks are common.

When people speak of visiting the Namib Desert, this is often the area they mean. The classic desert scenery around Sesriem and Sossusvlei is the stuff that postcards are made of – enormous apricot dunes with gracefully curving ridges, invariably pictured in the sharp light of dawn with a photogenic oryx or feathery acacia adjacent. Sesriem and Sossusvlei lie on the Tsauchab River, one of two large rivers (the other being the Tsondab, further north) that flow westward into the great dune field of the central Namib, but never reach the ocean. Both end by forming flat white pans dotted with green trees, surrounded by spectacular dunes – islands of life within a sea of sand.

Although the river seldom flows, note the green camelthorn, *Acacia erioloba*, which thrives here, clearly indicating permanent underground water. Continuing westwards, the present course of the river is easy to spot parallel with the road. Look around for the many dead acacia trees that mark old courses of the river, now dried up. Some of these have been dated at over 500 years old. Dead Vlei is an old pan with merely the skeletons of trees left – some over 500 years old. Many consider it to be more starkly beautiful than Sossusvlei.

Sossusvlei & Nara Vlei is as far as the pans extend. Beyond here, only tall sand dunes separate you from the Atlantic Ocean. Most years, the ground here is a flat silvery-white pan of fine mud that has dried into a crazy-paving pattern. Upon this are huge sand mounds collected by nara bushes, and periodic feathery camelthorn trees drooping gracefully. All around the sinuous shapes of the Namib's (and some claim the world's) largest sand dunes stretch up to 300m high. It's a stunning, surreal environment.

Floods so powerful are rare, and Sossusvlei can fill overnight. Though the Tsauchab will subside quickly, the vlei remains full. Miraculous lilies emerge to bloom, and the bright yellow devil thorn flowers (*Tribulus* species) carpet the water's edge. Surreal scenes reflect in the lake, as dragonflies hover above its polished surface. Birds arrive and luxuriant growth flourishes, making the most of this ephemeral treat.

Individual dunes afford superb views across this landscape, with some of the best from 'Big Daddy'. It's a strenuous climb to the top, looking out across to 'Big Mama', but the climb, followed by a long walk, are rewarded by the spectacle of Dead Vlei laid out below – and the fun of running down the slip-face to reach it. Famous species include the *Welwitschia* – a living fossil plant, endemic chameleons, fur seals along the coast, brown hyenas, jackals and remarkably one of Africa's largest antelope the Gemsbok. The name Namib is of Nama origin and means "vast place" and vast it certainly is.

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**Overnight: Kulala Desert Lodge** [View iBrochure](#)



Hidden at the foot of the majestic Sossusvlei dunes, a private entrance to Namib Naukluft Park makes Kulala Desert Lodge the closest location to Sossusvlei, while magnificent views of its famous red dunes, mountainous scenery and vast open plains make it the most spectacular.





Situated on the 210km<sup>2</sup> private Kulala Wilderness Reserve south of Sesriem, Kulala Desert Lodge offers a close and spectacular view over the Namib-Naukluft dune sea to the west, and the Namib-Naukluft mountains to the east. Originally opened in 1996, the entire lodge was built to make the most of the vista. In addition to the dunes on its doorstep, however, its defining attraction remains a private entrance from the reserve into the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

The entire lodge has been built to make the most of this magnificent vista. Two adjoining thatched roofs, each climbing to a peak redolent of the dunes, shelter the central area. Beneath this you will find the reception area, office, curio shop, kitchen and restaurant, which spills over to the veranda on one side. In good weather, dinner is served outside by candlelight. To the other is Kulala's bar and lounge, decorated in warm shades of browns, reds and burnt oranges. An open fireplace in the lounge is often lit during the winter months (mid June–August) when night-time in the desert can be particularly chilly. During the rest of the year the high thatched ceiling and stone floors keep the main areas cool. In keeping with the natural feel of thatch and stone, a clay wall encompassing two sides of the central building helps to keep any adverse weather at bay. At the side of the main building is a reasonably good-size swimming pool, which you may share with the birds as they often swoop in for a quick drink. It's a large, walled off area with sunloungers and some thatched shady spots to escape the sun during the heat of the day.

Kulala's 23 chalets are known as 'kulalas', a term derived from an Oshiwambo word meaning 'to sleep'. Each of these spacious kulalas is made of canvas and wood with a thatched roof, and raised slightly off the ground to allow a through flow of air. This, along with a ceiling fan, helps to keep the rooms cooler during the hot summer months. Inside, twin or double beds sit on polished wooden floors, and white bed linen with bright, bold cushions and throws give a very fresh feel. Bright reading lights are mounted on the wooden headboard, behind which hides a small writing desk and luggage rack. Each room also has a closet with a small safe, full-length mirror, and tea-and-coffee making facilities; flasks of hot water are provided on request and usually with your morning wake-up call. At the back of each chalet, a stepladder leads up to a private roof terrace above the bathroom, where guests can sleep out under the stars in comfortable bedrolls. Outside, on a private covered deck to the front of the kulala, a small wooden table and two canvas directors chairs are perfectly placed to enjoy the views of the surrounding desert. Below the roof terrace, the clay-and-brick en-suite bathroom has a flushing toilet and shower, kitted out with shampoo, body lotion and soaps. In an effort to conserve water in this arid environment, Kulala provides a bucket in each bathroom to catch cold water until it runs hot, and this water is then used to clean the chalet.

Kulala Lodge welcomes children of all ages, and in keeping with their family-friendly approach, they have a family room with two bedrooms that share one bathroom and a wooden deck. Additionally, four en-suite kulalas are set up in pairs, each pair sharing a large wooden deck. These would work well for families with older children, or for small groups of friends travelling together. Occasionally, though, when the lodge is very busy, they are also used for two separate couples.

The most popular of the activities at Kulala Desert Lodge is a guided 4WD morning drive into the dunes, to include a visit to Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. The Kulala Wilderness Reserve has its own private entrance into the Namib-Naukluft National Park, less than ten minutes' drive from the lodge, so participants don't need to access the dunes via the gate at Sesriem. Other possible activities at Kulala include guided and unguided walking trails, and sundowner drives on the nature reserve. For an extra cost, it is also possible to take an early-morning balloon flight from Kulala Desert Lodge. Following a flight over the desert of around 50 minutes, a delicious champagne breakfast is served amongst the dunes. This is not an inexpensive option, but we highly recommend it.





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### Activities

Sossusvlei Excursion  
Kulala Lodge Nature Drives  
Walking Trails at Kulala Lodge

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### Optional

Horseriding Kulala  
Hot Air Ballon Trip Kulala

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### Included

Fully Inclusive  
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

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## Day 11-12: Olive Grove Guesthouse, Windhoek

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### Windhoek

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. Windhoek 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.

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### Overnight: Olive Grove Guesthouse [View iBrochure](#)

Olive Grove is a small upmarket accommodation establishment situated close to the city centre in a quiet, peaceful area. This guesthouse takes homely atmosphere to a different level.

The contemporary design and décor of the guesthouse has been carefully thought out. The minimalist style is softened by lanterns and printed fabrics, while the neutral shades of grey and green are reminiscent of the olive trees growing outside.

Wide sweeping stairs lead up to the front veranda where simple, well-crafted metal furniture is set up for dining, with an open-plan kitchen that helps create an air of informality. The ground floor of the house has a reception area, and a cool, comfortable lounge where there is a computer with internet access.



The newly renovated, open-plan kitchen allows guests to see how meals are prepared, while they enjoy a drink in the lounge. The menu was also reinvented and is now fully a la carte, quite unique for a guesthouse. Home-style food is rounded off with great presentation, pushing up the level of the guesthouse dining experience. The upper deck has been revamped into a private dining corner, with two Moroccan-style sections, for guests to get comfy on the large pillows and enjoy the ambience and view from the top.

The on-site Wellness Room offers a selection of professional services, to assist guests on their journey towards inner and outer well-being. Whilst each of the ten rooms and one suite cater for every need of the most discerning traveller, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance.



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### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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## Day 12: Departure

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After breakfast you will be transferred by road to the airport to board your flight, with Namibia firmly entrenched in your heart.





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## Transport

### Flight Information

Date	Flight	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
		Hosea Kutako International Airport [WDH]		Okonjima Plains Camp			
		Okonjima Plains Camp		Mushara Lodge			
		Mushara Lodge		Etendeka Mountain Camp			
		Etendeka Mountain Camp		Erongo Wilderness Lodge			
		Erongo Wilderness Lodge		Kulala Desert Lodge			
		Kulala Desert Lodge		Olive Grove Guesthouse			

### Urgent Contact Numbers

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