



PRIDE *of* AFRICA

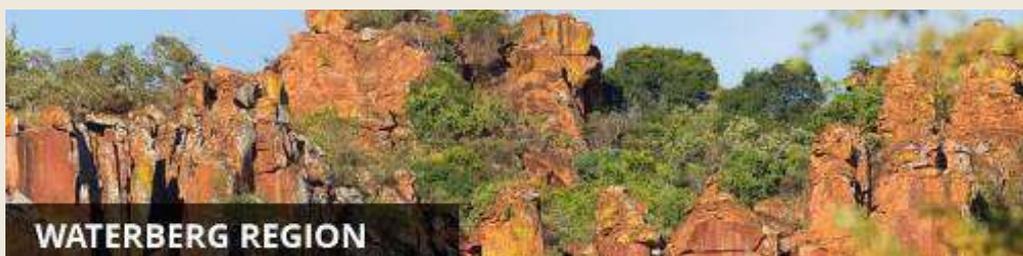
NAMIBIA REVEALED



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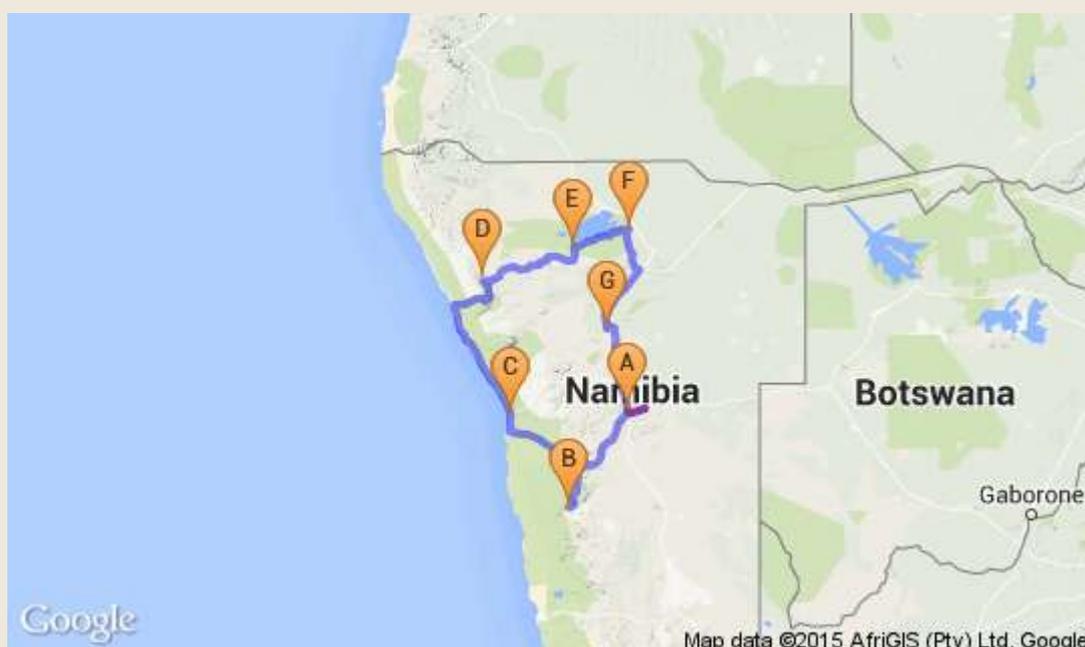


PRIDE *of* AFRICA



NAMIBIA REVEALED

Windhoek - Namib - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Waterberg Region
14 Days / 13 Nights
Self Drive



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



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Overview

This Self Drive Safari incorporates the finest that Namibia has to offer. The safari starts in the capital city of Namibia, towards the world famous Sossusvlei dunes, to one of the only coastal towns of Namibia, Swakopmund, where the guests can enjoy a visit to one of the largest seal colonies, enjoy the Crystal Gallery, which houses some veritable specimens, a slow meander on the iconic jetty, or a boat cruise in search of the dolphins. From her, travel along the desolate Skeleton Coast, known for its large amount of shipwrecks towards Etendeka Mountain Camp.

In the foothills of the Grootberg massif, in stunning scenery set amidst the ancient Etendeka lava flows of northern Damaraland, you will find Etendeka Mountain Camp. This camp is well known for its small carbon footprint and it is one of the most eco friendly lodges in Namibia. Travel north, towards the iconic Etosha National Park, famous for its large salt pan. Days will be spent exploring the dramatic landscape and excellent wildlife. Towards the end of the journey, you will spend your last night at Okonjima, home of the Africat Foundation. Africat rehabilitates leopard, cheetah, hyena and wild dog and your day will be spent interacting with these wonderful predators in their natural environment.

After enjoying your last African Sunset, you will return to Windhoek for your connecting flight home.

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Windhoek	Olive Grove Guesthouse	1	B&B	
Namib	Sossusvlei Lodge	2	D, B&B	
Swakopmund	Atlantic Villa	3	B&B	
Damaraland	Etendeka Mountain Camp	2	FI	
Etosha National Park	Okaukuejo Camp	2	RO	
Etosha National Park	Mushara Bush Camp	2	D, B&B	
Waterberg Region	Okonjima Plains Camp	1	D, 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 1-2: Olive Grove Guesthouse, Windhoek

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.

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. Big Sky's first property in Windhoek and bordering The Olive Exclusive, the guesthouse takes homely atmosphere to a different level. Recently completely refurbished, each room has been decorated and painted with new colour schemes allowing a different feel, but with the same elegant and simplistic emphasis on décor.

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.



Included

Bed & Breakfast



Day 2-4: Sossusvlei Lodge, Namib

Namib



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 50,000km², 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, is 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.

Overnight: Sossusvlei Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

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.





Activities

Sossusvlei - The Red Dunes

The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are often referred to as the highest dunes in the world. Various arguments are laid out to support this claim, but all miss the point, which is that Sossusvlei is surely one of the most spectacular sights in Namibia. Located in the Namib Naukluft park, the largest conservation area in Africa, and fourth largest in the world - the sand dunes at Sossusvlei are just one excellent reason to visit Namibia. The best time to view Sossusvlei is close to sunrise and sunset; the colours are strong and constantly changing, allowing for wonderful photographic opportunities. The midday heat is intense and best spent in the shade.

Climbing to the top of Big Mama, as it is known to the locals, is well worth every bead of sweat. Catch your breath, take a drink and try to avoid camera shake before capturing some unique moments in your life. From the top you can see Naravlei; so-called because of the countless cucumber-like melons growing around the edge of the pan. The [Nara plant](#) is a vital source of nourishment for many desert creatures, including man. Cessna Pan is to the east and the rocky ridges of Witberg have proved to be a valuable landmark for adventurers over the years. Dead Vlei is at the foot of Big Mama. Its' dead camelthorn trees, some over 800 years old, stand helplessly as photographers worldwide attempt to capture that unique, ageless desert shot. In the rare event of an especially wet rainy season, the 'vlei' – meaning marsh or wetland – of Sossusvlei fills up with water, and its glistening surface forms a strikingly beautiful contrast with the reddish dunes.

The second attraction of the area is Sesriem Canyon, which is only a few kilometres from the campsite, the entrance gate, and main Nature Conservation office. The canyon derives its name from the fact that early Afrikaner trekkers had to use six ('ses') leather thongs (a thong is a 'riem') so that their buckets could reach the water far below. The canyon begins as an almost imperceptible but nevertheless deep cleft in level, stony ground, and then widens until it finally flattens out onto the plain. Because it is so deep and sheltered, it often holds water well into the dry season - an invigorating sight in such a barren and stark environment.

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 4-7: Atlantic Villa, Swakopmund

Swakopmund

Palm-lined streets, seaside promenades, fine accommodation, a pleasant summer climate and decent beaches. Welcome to Swakopmund - Namibia's premier holiday resort! 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. The area of Namib Desert around Swakopmund is named the West Coast Recreational Area. And recreation is the town's number one draw card. There are countless pursuits to help you spend your time, and money. For those interested in adventure activities Swakopmund offers sand boarding, quad biking, dune carting, parachuting, hot air ballooning, shark fishing, deep sea fishing and beach angling to name but a few. For the more sedentary there are restaurants, cafes, art galleries, museums, a snake park and aquarium.



If the adrenaline inducing activities are not suited to you, then the architecture and general feeling of Swakopmund might be more to your liking. This town has the ambiance associated with a small German village, and the town seems to be stuck in time. Although in recent times the new generation have woken up to the tourist potential of the area, Swakopmund still manages to create a feeling of timelessness.

Buildings and monuments of note in Swakopmund include the Hohenzollern Building, the Marine memorial, the War memorial in memory of those killed in World War 2, Princess Rupprecht House originally a military hospital now a private guest house. The Kaserne buildings originally served as a barracks and is of a similar design to the Alte Feste in Windhoek and Fort Namutoni in Etosha. The Swakopmund Railway station was completed in 1901 and now houses the Swakopmund Hotel, while the bells of the Deutsche Evangelical Church were imported from Germany. Standing close to the State House (Kaiserliches Bezirksgericht) is the Swakop Lighthouse at just over 20 meters it has been functional since 1902.

The main beach area is called the Mole, and is the result of a largely unsuccessful attempt to construct the artificial harbour (as South Africa owned the only natural harbour in the area at Walvis Bay). The town's most iconic symbol is the Swakopmund jetty, initially used as mooring for ships it later became a popular area for anglers and walkers. It has fallen into disrepair on numerous occasions and has been subject to several attempts to rescue it from complete dereliction. Recently large scale work has been completed on the jetty which now proudly boasts a small restaurant and bar area.

True to its German traditions early mornings and evenings in Swakopmund can be cold throughout the year, as the cold Atlantic Ocean meeting the Namib Desert creates a fog bank. This coolness is often a relief from the heat of the rest of Namibia, but does mean that Swakopmund is not the tropical sunbathing mecca that most people imagine. For day trippers a visit to the Cape Cross Seal Colony is worth a visit as it offers a taste of the Skeleton Coast and the seals are worth a visit. The Welwitschia drive is an interesting way to spend a few hours and introduces you to some of the fauna and flora of the Namib Desert. Bird lovers can pay a visit to the Swakopmund Salt Works or the Walvis Bay Lagoon, which in season is frequented by thousands of flamingos.

Overnight: Atlantic Villa

Situated within sight and sound of the mesmerising Atlantic Ocean, The Atlantic Villa offers accommodation within walking distance from the beach, a few minutes' drive from Swakopmund town centre and a quiet relaxed atmosphere complimented by its location. Our elegantly and luxurious decorated rooms offers spacious and comfortable accommodation. Our friendly staff will make you feel pampered from the minute you enter the Atlantic



Villa Boutique Guesthouse. Relax with a cup of freshly ground coffee in your room or unwind in any of our comfy lounges where you are welcome to play on our grand Piano, or just settle down with a cold drink on the terrace.



Activities

Swakopmund Museum
 Boat charter Swakopmund
 Quad Bike Swakopmund
 Crystal Gallery Swakopmund
 Swakopmund Jetty
 Swakopmund City Tour

These are optional activities that can be done in Swakopmund.

Swakopmund Museum

Located at the Mole, the Swakopmund Museum is diminutive but fascinating, housing displays focusing on a wide array of aspects related to the region and its surrounds, including wildlife, environment, geology, history and anthropology.

Swakopmund Jetty

A favourite viewpoint with tourists and locals alike, the Swakopmund jetty stretches out into the ocean, offering beautiful panoramas of the town and excellent angling. The northern half of the jetty is reserved for fishermen.

Swakopmund City Tour

Better known as Namibia's playground, this idyllic town is wedged between the sweltering Namib Desert and cold Atlantic Ocean. This desert town is a rhapsody of adventure, fun, exploration and relaxation. Graced with many beautiful, old buildings in a colonial, Bavarian style, the best way to experience this small town is on foot.

Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 7-9: Etendeka Mountain Camp, Damaraland



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. Elephants 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.

The Spitzkoppe (sharp head) is one of Namibia's most recognizable landmarks. Its shape has inspired its nickname, 'The Matterhorn of Africa,' but the similarities begin and end with its sharp peak. It is actually the remnant of an ancient volcano, formed in the same way as the Brandberg and Erongo massifs. It was first climbed in 1946 and is now a popular climbing destination with local and foreign mountaineers alike, with plenty of technical climbs available.

The trees of the Petrified Forest were uprooted some 200 million years ago and were swept along by rivers in flood, covered by sediments and then subsequently uncovered by erosion. Your local community guides will provide more of an insight into the area, whilst ensuring that pieces of petrified wood are not removed.

The 35m-high Vingerklip (finger rock) is also known as Kalk-Kegel (limestone pillar) and rises above the Bertram farm. It is an erosional remnant of a limestone plateau and was formed over 15 million years ago. The large cave in its base, surrounded by rubble, gives the impression it will topple over any minute. It was first climbed in 1970 by the American Tom Choate.

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

Nature Walk
Game Drive

Included

Fully Inclusive
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 9-11: Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha National Park

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 makes 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.

There have been several attempts to introduce wild dog here, but so far no success. The usual problem has been that the dogs don't know to avoid lion, which have subsequently killed them for no apparent reason.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Camp

Okaukuejo Camp (formerly known as Okakwiju), meaning a woman who bore a child each year, stands near the public southern entrance of Etosha National Park, at the western end of the famous Etosha Pan. Although a larger camp than most we feature, it is a popular choice due to its well-established waterhole, which attracts a variety of game in large numbers. 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.



Okaukuejo officially opened for visitors in 1957, and is the oldest and largest of the three former government-run rest camps (the other two are Halali Camp and Namutoni Camp). Okaukuejo's main attraction is the large, flood-lit waterhole, which receives exceedingly regular visits from a wide diversity of wildlife. These animals include herds of antelope, lion, family groups of elephant and black rhino, which are seen remarkably frequently. It's not an over-statement to say that this is probably the best place in Africa to observe black rhino in the wild – as there are often a number of individuals that come down to this waterhole to drink at night.

The spectacle starts at dawn and continues throughout the day, with visits from herds of zebras and springbok during the afternoon. It's especially fun to sit back after dinner with a bottle of wine, watching the water's nocturnal visitors and their interactions. Beside this, the landmark stone tower at the heart of Okaukuejo rest camp is an excellent spot to relax and watch the sun go down behind distant mountains.

The main facilities at Okaukuejo are typical of a rest camp and include a restaurant, where all the meals are served as a buffet, a bar, a kiosk where light meals and drinks are available during the day, a curio shop, a post office, as well as a fuel station and three swimming pools. Two large pools are for adults and there's a smaller, shallower pool for children. There's also a tourist shop, selling basic food items, and a tourist centre, displaying the ongoing park research.

Whilst staying at Okaukuejo, activities mainly consist of wildlife viewing – and the vast majority of visitors come in their own cars, and drive themselves around the park. Etosha was set up as a reserve for visitors to drive themselves, with a network of very well-marked and signposted roads. However, Okaukuejo does offer morning, afternoon and evening game drives. The advantage of taking the morning or the night drive is that they give you access to the park before/after the gates are closed to the public. The morning drives leave around an hour earlier than the park gates open to the public, and the night drive is entirely after the park closes for the day – so you will have the park to yourself.



Activities

Etosha Game Drive

Included

Room Only

Day 11-13: Mushara Bush Camp, Etosha National Park



Overnight: Mushara Bush Camp



Mushara Bush Camp is situated just 9km from the eastern gate to Etosha National Park. The lodge is situated on its own 2,500 ha private reserve where a variety of wildlife and birdlife can be found. It is surrounded by the Purple Pod Terminalia tree, from which the name Mushara is derived. The green lawn is occasionally visited by local wildlife.

The Mushara Bush Camp offers a down-to-earth tented bush camp experience which is well suited as an exceptional affordable base for independent travelers and families exploring the magical Etosha Pan National Park. The main Bush Camp House is thatched and has a true bush camp feel to it. The early evenings see a camp fire lit where guest can exchange stories of the day's wildlife sightings. Dinner, lunch and breakfast are served on the thatched verandah with the bush being a mere step away.

There is disabled access, Internet connection and secure parking. A hot and cold breakfast style buffet, light lunches and a set dinner menu are served on the verandah, with the bush as your closest companion. The swimming pool is ideal for a splash and a dip after a day's activities.



The custom-made luxury tents are built from a combination of canvas and local limestone. They are all equipped with an en-suite bathroom and shower, (and oversized window to view the bush) a fan, mosquito nets, tea/coffee station and an in-room safe. Every tent has its own 8 square meter private verandah, with roof to floor window. The brushed cement floors and lime stone walls are designed to keep the rooms cool from the hot afternoon sun. 4 of these tents are ideally suited for families, as they have a sleeper couch, ideal for two small children. Activities at the camp centre around morning and afternoon game drives into Etosha National Park.

The main area at Mushara Bush Camp includes a lounge, bar and dining area, although meals are usually served on the camp's thatched veranda. At the side is a long bar, which is also where the breakfast buffet is laid out. Décor is a stylish blend of soft yellows, blues and greens, complemented by soft, warm ceiling lights made from baskets that hang above each table. Numerous sofas and chairs provide space for relaxing, perhaps with one of the magazines tucked in buckets or wall pockets. The stone floor of the dining area combines with a large number of potted plants to give the area a natural look; even the room dividers are painted to look like stone.

In front of the main area is a twinkling swimming pool, raised from the ground and built in a circular shape with a smaller circle at one end to form a shallower children's pool. From the shady sunloungers around the pool, you can watch the resident warthogs grazing. A campfire is a good focal point for guests to enjoy the end of the day.

Activities from Mushara Bush Camp focus on morning and afternoon game drives into Etosha National Park, which you can



also visit independently. The wildlife here is exceptional, featuring most of Africa's big game, and as the camp is a mere 8km from the park, the drive is straightforward even for those with children.

Further Information: <http://www.mushara-lodge.com/mushara-bush-camp/>

Activities

Mushara Game Drive

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast
Drinks (Local Brands) Included

Day 13: 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 220km² 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.

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.

The main bedroom area has very large windows, letting in plenty of light and affording great views of the plains from your bed. Two double beds, which can be pushed together to make one king-size bed, lie beneath two ceiling fans, while hot-water bottles are provided for cooler evenings. Behind the headboard are shelves and hanging space, and each room has a tea/coffee station, a small selection of books, a safe and a telephone to contact reception. Each room also has its own private veranda with two comfortable canvas chairs and a small table. The bathroom is a good size and has twin washbasins, with large wall mirrors and a vanity area with a retro-style stool and a make-up/shaving mirror. There is also a mini fridge where you can keep bottled water and drinks. Off this is a separate toilet and at the other end of the bathroom is a large walk-in shower. Shaded parking is an additional feature of each room – useful as those furthest from the main area are quite a hike. For families, two of the View Rooms and four of the Standard Rooms are configured as adjoining units with an interleading door. Along with the new design of the camp, we noticed a much more relaxed attitude towards families and children as young as six or seven years old, although parents still need to be aware of some restrictions to activities, in place for safety reasons.



Without doubt the main attraction of the Okonjima Reserve is the chance to track big cats and carnivores. Radio-tracking



leopard and/or spotted hyena is from game-viewing vehicles (when you could well come across animals such as giraffe and mountain zebra, too), while for those staying at least two nights, rehabilitated cheetah can be tracked on foot.

Depending on your length of stay at Okonjima, you could also include a visit to AfriCat's Information & Carnivore Care Centre, which offers a valuable insight into the work of the AfriCat Foundation. Additionally, guests may follow the marked walking trails – within the fenced area encompassing the camp and lodges – on their own, perhaps keeping a look out for birds along the way, or take the 'Bushman Trail' with one of the guides to get an insight into how these ancient people set up homesteads, made fire and hunted their prey. After dinner, there is also the option to join a guided 4WD night drive in the reserve. The OKONJIMA activities include tracking rehabilitated carnivores on foot; visiting the AfriCat Carnivore Care & Information Centre; tracking leopards from a game-viewing vehicle. OKONJIMA also offers a guided Bushman Trail.

Activities

Okonjima Predator Interaction

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 14: Departure

After a last African Breakfast, you will return to Windhoek, for your connecting flight home, with memories of Namibia firmly rooted in your heart.



Transport

Transfers

Date	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
	Windhoek International	Olive Grove Guesthouse		

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Pride of Africa Safaris	+267 6800 890	reservations@prideofafrica-safaris.com	Tanja von Kaschke

