

12-DAY ULTIMATE NAMIBIAN SAFARI

Group Safari to Namib Naukluft/Swakopmund/Damaraland/Etosha - Onguma

- The 'Ultimate Namibian Safari' stands apart as it includes 2-nights at Sossus Dune Lodge in the world famous Namib Naukluft Park. You will reach Sossusvlei before sunrise!
- Climb the world's highest free-standing sand dunes.
- Visit UNESCO Heritage site Twyfelfontein, a Himba settlement and the AfriCat Foundation.
- End your safari in the game-rich Etosha National Park and Onguma Game Reserve.
- Accommodations include Classic level permanent tented camps and lodges.
- Group is guaranteed to depart with 1 person and is limited to 7 people.
- * AAC includes 2 complimentary nights in Windhoek plus transfers (a value of \$300.00 per person)



UNIQUE POINTS ON THE TRIP

- Travel with one of Namibia's most reputable and well-known naturalist guides.
- Stay in the only camp inside the world's 4th largest National Park.
- Climb some of the world's highest free-standing sand dunes.
- Sea kayak with seals and dolphins on the Skeleton Coast (option motor boat).
- Track for desert-adapted elephants.
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Twyfelfontein.
- Visit an authentic and remote Himba settlement.
- Explore 2 very different parts of the Etosha National Park by spending time on both the Ongava and Onguma Private Game Reserves.
- Sleep in the tree tops overlooking one of the most productive waterholes on the Onguma Reserve.
- Visit the world renowned Big Cat Research Center run by the AfriCat Foundation.



Day	Destination	Accommodation
01	Arrive Windhoek	The Olive Grove
02	Depart with Group Drive to Sossusvlei	Sossus Dune Lodge
03	Sunrise visit to Sossusvlei	Sossus Dune Lodge
04	Drive to Swakopmund	The Delight
05	Kayak trip on Walvis Bay	The Delight
06	Drive to Damaraland	Camp Kipwe
07	Full Day excursion in Damaraland Visit Twfelfontein	Camp Kipwe
08	Drive to Etosha National Park Visit Himba settlement	Safarihoek Lodge – 2018 departures Etosha Mountain Lodge – 2019 departures
09	Full day game drive Drive to Onguma Game Reserve	Onguma Tree Top Camp
10	AM game drive in Etosha Afternoon game drive Onguma	Onguma Tree Top Camp
11	Drive to AfriCat Foundation Continue to Windhoek	The Olive Grove
12	Depart Windhoek	

ITINERARY

DAY 01 (MON) WINDHOEK

On arrival in Windhoek, Namibia, clear Customs and Immigration. You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Windhoek is the capital and administrative, commercial and educational center of Namibia, situated in the center of the country at 5,410 feet (1650 m) above sea level. Windhoek is also the starting point for most Namibian safaris. The capital has been influenced greatly by German architecture from the early colonial days. Three castles were built between 1913 and 1918, and are located close together in what is now the fashionable suburb of Klein Windhoek. There are a variety of excellent restaurants in Windhoek featuring everything from seafood to international cuisine.

The Olive Grove is close to the city center in a quiet, peaceful area. There are 11 en suite rooms all featuring direct dial telephone, private safe, multi-channel satellite television, and air conditioning. One of Olive Grove's main features is the large veranda in front of every room, with tables and chairs for al fresco dining. The open air lounge, spa bath, plunge pool and tranquil garden all invite the visitor to unwind and relax under Namibia's open skies. The inside lounge is decorated with comfortable chairs and a fireplace in front of which to relax and read a magazine. A guest computer is available. Services and facilities available include; Laundry service, plunge pool and tranquil garden, "honor" bar, restaurant, spa bath on open air deck.

Accommodation: The Olive Grove (B) – *Luxury Room*



DAY 02 (TUE) WINDHOEK/SOSSUSVLEI

This morning your guide will pick you up at your hotel.

Drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, stopping for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way. You arrive at the Sossus Dune Lodge in the mid-afternoon. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune.



Sossus Dune Lodge has been built in an environmentally sensitive manner, primarily from wood, canvas and thatch, in an attractive ‘afro-village’ style. Located within the Namib-Naukluft Park, close to the Sesriem Canyon, and providing sweeping vistas of the dunes to the west, you benefit from being able to reach Sossusvlei before sunrise, or to stay until after sunset.

Accommodation units are interlinked by elevated wooden walkways, and consist of 23 well spaced en suite desert chalets. All units offer magnificent open vistas of the surrounding landscapes. Sossus Dune Lodge offers professional guided excursions to Sossusvlei, Sesriem and the surrounding areas, as well as sunset drives and guided walks, to fully unleash the beauty and biological diversity of the desert environment. Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge (Full Board)



DAY 03 (WED) SOSSUSVLEI

Early morning excursion to the Namib Naukluft National Park. Arriving at sunrise allows you to capture the dunes in the best light. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world.

Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and surrounding dune fields, enjoy a picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree. You then return to your lodge in the early afternoon in time for a late lunch, with the option to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards (if it was not visited the day before). The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge (Full Board)



DAY 04 (THU) SOSSUSVLEI/SWAKOPMUND

This morning there is an optional balloon safari or a scenic flight over the Namib Naukluft National Park available prior to your group’s departure (*additional fees apply and must be pre-booked*).

Depart with your guide and continue on to Swakopmund, which is charming with its distinctive continental air and historic buildings. There will be time to explore the town with its craft shops and cafes. Arrive in time to explore the town before enjoying a group dinner at a popular seafood restaurant.

Swakopmund was founded in 1892 by German settlers and is highlighted by traditional colonial architecture. Visitors enjoy palm-lined streets, seaside promenades, a vast array of restaurants and cafes and nice beaches. The town is the perfect base for adrenaline activities such as sandboarding, quad biking and deep sea fishing.



The Delight Swakopmund is walking distance from the harbor, seaside promenade, shops and restaurants. The hotel is modern and unique and is a wonderful contrast to historical Swakopmund. Accommodations include 54 rooms each with en suite bathroom, in-room safe, mini-fridge, hair dryer and tea/coffee making facilities. The bright and airy bar is the perfect place to relax between touring. Accommodation: The Delight Swakopmund (B,L,D) or similar



DAY 05 (FRI) SWAKOPMUND – WALVIS BAY

Enjoy a scenic morning drive along the coast to Walvis Bay for a kayak trip around the lagoon.

The kayaking is an ideal way of seeing Cape fur seals, Heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. If you are lucky, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. *For those not wanting to partake in the kayaking, an alternative seal and dolphin cruise on a motorized boat is available.*

Return to Swakopmund where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: The Delight Swakopmund (B,L,D) or similar



DAY 06 (SAT) SWAKOPMUND/DAMARALAND

Depart this morning and continue northeast to Damaraland. Pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg which peaks at 2,573 m above sea level, and perhaps spot some game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way.

Wildlife is not concentrated and the natural laws of food and water dictate the movements of the rare desert elephant and black rhino, gemsbok, kudu, and springbok. Early morning mists, generated by the clash between the icy Atlantic Ocean and the warm desert air of the Skeleton Coast, drift inland along the stark canyon, providing sustenance to the flora and fauna of the region. Rare succulent plants somehow manage to eke out an existence in this harsh countryside.



Camp Kipwe is ideally located to explore Twyfelfontein and the north eastern region of Damaraland. The camp features eight tents with attached outside bathrooms and private decks. Views from each tent and main lounge area are spectacular and extend out over the desert and rock formations. Enjoy the refreshing swimming pool between activities.

Accommodation: Camp Kipwe (Full Board)



DAY 07 (SUN) DAMARALAND

Early breakfast and then depart with your guide on an exciting 4-wheel excursion along the Aba Huab and Huab River valleys searching for desert adapted elephant.

Today you will visit Twyfelfontein, the 2500 prehistoric engravings from the vanished San people that depict wildlife, animal spoor and abstract motifs. It is perhaps the largest and finest collection of petroglyphs in Africa. The engravings show animals such as elephant, giraffe, kudu, lion, rhinoceros, springbok, zebra and ostrich that once used to drink from a fountain at the bottom of the hill. In some cases footprints were engraved instead of hooves or paws. Twyfelfontein is one of Namibia's key National Monuments and has recently become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue to Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes. Burnt Mountain is a rounded hill located a few kilometers from Twyfelfontein, which seems to catch fire again at sunrise and sunset. Its fantastic range of colors at dawn and dusk are due to a chemical reaction that took place roughly 125 million years ago when molten lava penetrated organic shale and limestone deposits, resulting in contact metamorphism. In ordinary sunlight it is a dull black. Blackened rubble lies to one side like cinders from the original fire. The Organ Pipes are another geological curiosity in the area consisting of a mass of perpendicular dolerite columns that intruded the surrounding rocks also about 125 million years ago and have since been exposed in a ravine due to river erosion.

Accommodation: Camp Kipwe (Full Board)



DAY 08 (MON)

DAMARALAND/ETOSHA

Today after a very early breakfast you will set off on your journey to the Etosha National Park, traveling via the Grootberg Pass. The highlight of your day will be visiting a local Himba settlement. These semi-nomadic people are one of the last truly traditional peoples of Namibia and have little time for conventional practices. Here you will be given insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine.



You will also visit the Grootberg Primary School, a rural school where Ultimate Safaris' Conservation Travel Foundation is actively involved, assisting with improved education infrastructure and methods.

After visiting the Himba you will head east through the small town of Kamanjab before continuing to Etosha National Park, enjoying a picnic lunch enroute. Arrive your camp in the late afternoon or early evening.

2018 Departures ~

Safarihoek Lodge is located in a 60,000 hectare conservation area that shares a boundary with Etosha National Park. The luxurious rooms are expansive with floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open out to a private balcony with each room overlooking the vast Mopani woodlands. The main lodge is modern in design with thatched roof, large patio, boma and fire pit and refreshing swimming pool. Relax by the fireplace or enjoy a glass of wine in the wine cellar. The lodge's waterhole is popular during the dry season with a variety of visiting wildlife.

Accommodation: Safarihoek Lodge (Full Board)



2019 Departures ~

Etosha Mountain Lodge is located in the exclusive Etosha Heights Private Reserve on the southwest border of Etosha National Park. The lodge features seven comfortable chalets each with en suite bathroom, indoor shower and large bathtub. The main area includes a thatched lounge, restaurant and bar with an expansive deck which is the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner. The lodge also features a well-stocked wine cellar, curio shop and swimming pool.

Accommodation: Etosha Mountain Lodge (Full Board)



DAY 09 (TUE)

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a full day of game viewing in Etosha National Park. Prior to sunset you will continue to your next camp, located in Onguma Game Reserve. This evening enjoy game viewing in front of your camp's floodlit waterhole.

Etosha is Namibia's premier game viewing destination. It is one of Africa's largest game parks being nearly the size of Switzerland. Large herds of plains game concentrate around the waterholes in the dry season and provide exciting game viewing. Species that can be seen year round include elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, springbok, oryx, kudu and the damara dik-dik. Etosha National Park covers over 13,700 square miles and is one of the finest parks in Africa. The heart of the park is the Etosha Salt Pan - an enormous shallow depression over 60 miles across - which has numerous perennial springs around its circumference.



The Onguma Game Reserve borders onto Etosha National Park and situated next to the von Lindequist gate which is the eastern entrance to the park. The Reserve covers an area of 94000 acres and incorporates ecological substrata such as savannah, bushveld, omuramba and dry pan. Plains game roam freely and there are over 300 species of birds in that area.

Onguma Tree Top Camp is located on the Onguma Game Reserve, bordering on the eastern side of Etosha National Park. It is a small and intimate camp, features four thatched wooden chalets built on wooden stilts amongst the tree tops. Each room has an en suite bathroom with indoor-outdoor shower, and a private deck where you can relax and enjoy the floodlit waterhole. The main lodge offers a bar, fireplace, expansive deck, boma and open-plan dining room.

Accommodation: Onguma Tree Top Camp (Full Board)



DAY 10 (WED) ETOHSA NATIONAL PARK/ONGUMA GAME RESERVE

Enjoy a morning game drive in Etosha National Park, returning to camp for lunch.

This afternoon you will have a game drive in Onguma Game Reserve. Return to camp for sundowners and a farewell dinner.

Accommodation: Onguma Tree Top Camp (Full Board)



DAY 11 (THU) ONGUMA/OKONJIMA./WINDHOEK

Early morning departure as you travel from Onguma via Tsumeb, Otavi and Otjiwarongo as you reach Okonjima's AfriCat Day Center. You will arrive in time for lunch followed by an informative game drive and tour of the center.

AfriCat Foundation is a wildlife sanctuary which focuses on the research and rehabilitation of Africa's big cats, especially injured or captured leopard and cheetah. Close encounters with leopard and cheetah are an unforgettable highlight.

Following the visit at AfriCat Day Center, continue driving to Windhoek, arriving late this afternoon. Onward transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Accommodation: The Olive Grove (B) – *Luxury Room*

DAY 12 (FRI) WINDHOEK

Transfer to airport for departing international flight.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS:

Per Person	Feb-May	Jun-Dec
2018 Departures	\$3,795.00	\$4,375.00
<i>Single Supplement</i>	\$750.00	\$795.00
2019 Departures	\$4,195.00	\$4,795.00
<i>Single Supplement</i>	\$825.00	\$875.00

~ AAC Value added bonus – complimentary transfers and hotel nights x2 in Windhoek ~

2018 DEPARTURE DATES: (Day 01/Monday in Windhoek)

FEB 12	MAR 19	MAR 26	APR 02	APR 09	APR 16
APR 23	APR 30	MAY 07	MAY 14	MAY 21	MAY 28
JUN 04	JUN 11	JUN 18	JUN 25	JUL 02	JUL 09
JUL 16	JUL 23	JUL 30	AUG 06	AUG 13	AUG 20
AUG 27	SEP 03	SEP 10	SEP 17	SEP 24	OCT 01
OCT 08	OCT 15	OCT 22	OCT 29	NOV 05	NOV 12
DEC 17	DEC 24				

2019 DEPARTURE DATES: (Day 01/Monday in Windhoek)

FEB 11	MAR 18	MAR 25	APR 01	APR 08	APR 15
APR 22	APR 29	MAY 06	MAY 13	MAY 20	MAY 27
JUN 03	JUN 10	JUN 17	JUN 24	JUL 01	JUL 08
JUL 15	JUL 22	JUL 29	AUG 05	AUG 12	AUG 19
AUG 26	SEP 02	SEP 09	SEP 16	SEP 23	SEP 30
OCT 07	OCT 14	OCT 21	OCT 28	NOV 04	NOV 11
NOV 18	NOV 25	DEC 16	DEC 23		

AIR ARRANGEMENTS (subject to change until ticketed):

Please note the following sample airfares. Lower promotional airfares are offered throughout the year so please take a moment to contact our "in house" air department for even better pricing options!

INTERNATIONAL:

Economy Class: **From \$1,299.00-\$2,299.00 per person** (low-high season)

Business Class: **From \$5,399.00 per person** (via Europe or on SAA) (low season)

New York/Johannesburg/New York - Please call for add-on fares from your departure city.

INTER-AFRICA: From \$250.00*-\$650.00 per person

Johannesburg/Windhoek/Johannesburg

(*from \$250.00 only when booked in conjunction with South African Airways from the USA and is subject to availability at time of booking)

LAND COSTS INCLUDE:

- Accommodations (including 2 nights hotel in Windhoek)
- All meals and game activities on safari (Full Board)
- Meals as stated breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D)
- All road transfers
- Park and guiding fees
- Mineral water on board safari vehicle

NOT INCLUDED:

- Tips to staff and guides
- Drinks and Laundry
- Other meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional Ballooning safari at Sossusvlei (from \$495.00 per person)
- Extra meals in Windhoek
- Airport departure taxes
- Scheduled air fares
- Travel insurance

NOTES:

- 1) This safari is guaranteed to depart with a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 7.
- 2) You have the option to extend your safari a night or two at Okonjima, staying at their Bush Camp.
2018 rates - Priced \$795.00 per person sharing for 1-night stay and \$1395.00 per person sharing for a 2-night stay.
2019 rates - Priced \$875.00 per person sharing for 1-night stay and \$1475.00 per person sharing for a 2-night stay.
- 3) Scenic Flight is available from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund (Day 04). Fly over the Namib Sea Sand shipwrecks, seal colonies, abandoned diamond camps and Walvis Bay. 2018 rates - Based on 3 people \$725.00 per person / Based on 2 people \$875.00 per person. For 2019 rates, please request.

The **Okonjima Bush Camp** is located 3 kilometers from the main lodge and features nine luxury, thatched African-style chalets. Each chalet has a queen size bed, mini-bar, in-room safe and private deck area to enjoy the view. There is a swimming pool, reception area, curio shop and lounge with fire places all overlooking a waterhole.

Accommodation: Okonjima Bush Camp (B,L)



Trip Report:

What an adventure! The 'Ultimate Namibian Safari' is an overland trip across Namibia visiting many of its iconic locations. The Namib/Naukluft National Park encompassing a portion of the Namib Desert (thought to be the planet's oldest at 43 million years). It is a barren and beautiful place, home to 700 year old dead trees that don't decay because it is so arid, fog catching Namib Desert Beetles, and Oryx so efficient at absorbing water they concentrate their urine into pellets.

Sossusvlei is a land of sweeping red dunes. Over time iron in the sand oxidizes, like metal rusting, the brighter the color the older the dune. It is also home to some of the tallest sand dunes in the world, the tallest being Big Daddy measuring in at roughly 325 meters...

The dramatic desolation of Damaraland with its desert dwelling elephants was a trip highlight for me. They are uniquely adapted to extremely dry sandy environments and are one group of only two known populations in the world...Damaraland is also home to Twyfelfontein, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with one of the largest concentrations of rock art anywhere in Africa. Hundreds of San rock paintings and engravings spanning at least 2000 years can be easily seen. The Himba, semi nomadic pastoralists who still hold onto their culture and traditional way of life also call Damaraland home. I had conflicting feelings about the impact our visit and that of other travelers would have on their lifestyle, but I can honestly say that visiting them and witnessing one of the last truly traditional peoples of Africa was one of my most memorable experiences...

Etosha is one of the best places to see rhinos. The biggest elephants in Africa are found here, as well as the White Ghosts, Etosha's famed white elephants. Their skin stained white from the clay and calcite dust they regularly bathe in to cool themselves. We were most fortunate to see a standoff between a lone black rhino and a young bull elephant full of bravado. The standoff lasted less than a minute but seeing these two giants face off was mesmerizing. As with any encounter with a truly wild and endangered animal the experience was spellbinding...

The lions – wow. I have been to Botswana and Zimbabwe on previous trips to Africa but never saw lions. In Etosha I saw them numerous times. My first sighting consisted of a pride of nine including a young cub. We sat watching a lioness defend her kill from Black-backed Jackals and were close enough to hear her crunch through the bones. Truly incredible!...

The key to any successful adventure lies with the guide. Franco was ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!!!. Always good humored, an excellent communicator, immensely knowledgeable, enthusiastic and passionate about nature and all creatures (large and small), expertly placing us perfectly into the best positions for optimal wildlife viewing time after time. He brought every scene and second of Namibia to life. I am forever grateful to him for taking us on a remarkable journey of many layered and rich experiences and for helping us understand all that is Namibia.

Thia Bunker, Sep 2017