

# Pride of Africa

## Safaris

### The 12 Day Namibian Highlight Safari - Lodges

Booking Code NAM 04

This Safari is for a minimum of four people sharing, valid all year round, and includes:

- 2 nights Sossusvlei Lodge, Namib Naukluft Park
  - 2 nights Swakopmund, West Coast
    - 2 nights Aba-Huab, Huab River
- 4 nights Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo & Halali
  - 1 night Waterberg Plateau Park
    - Drop off in Windhoek

### Day 1 and 2: Sossusvlei Lodge, Namib Naukluft Park



Sossusvlei



Sossusvlei Dunes



Sossusvlei Lodge

We meet the group on arrival at Windhoek International Airport. We leave Windhoek heading in a southerly direction towards Sossusvlei where we will be staying for the next two nights. Lunch will be served en route, and we arrive at our lodge late afternoon with time to settle into the beautiful surroundings.

A very early departure on Day 2 takes us to some of the highest sand dunes in the world at the famous Sossusvlei. We spend the morning exploring the area, and return to the lodge for a delicious lunch. That afternoon we visit the Sesriem Canyon before returning to the lodge to enjoy the African evening and a mouth-watering dinner. We prepare to travel further the following day.

Sesriem, the gateway to Sossusvlei, is named after a 30m deep canyon carved through layers of conglomerate by the Tsauchab River. The name is translated as "six thongs" – a reference to the fact that pioneer farmers had to use six ox thongs to lower buckets to the pools in the narrow canyon.

The red dunes at the Sossusvlei are some of the most impressive natural treasures of Namibia. With a relative height of about 375m above the Tsauchab River and a height difference of about 225m to the neighbouring valleys these mountains of sand are an amazing sight.

Below the present dune field lie the 30 million year-old Tsondeb Sandstones, which represent petrified dunes of an ancient Namib. Thus at Sossusvlei a picture of a desert is created, which lies on the petrified evidence of an even older desert. Both deserts however are separated by a long period of a more humid climate.

### **Days 3 and 4: Swakopmund, Beach Lodge**



**Swakopmund**



**Dolphin sightings on cruise**



**Beach Lodge, Swakopmund**

We leave the Namib Desert and Sossusvlei behind after an early breakfast and travel west towards the historic town of Swakopmund. The morning is spent exploring the Kuiseb Canyon, and having lunch en route. Passing through Walvis Bay we will stop at the Lagoon which is renowned for large concentrations of waders, flamingos and shore birds. The afternoon can be spent at your leisure exploring the town.

Swakopmund is popular amongst visitors because of its old-world charm and relaxed atmosphere. Founded in 1892 during the period of German colonial rule, it served as the territory's main harbour for many years. Today this quaint town, hedged by desert and sea, is enhanced by lush green lawns, palm trees and carefully tended public gardens.

After breakfast we drive to Walvis Bay. An optional boat cruise takes us around Walvis Bay Harbour giving the opportunity to see Cape Fur Seals and Dolphins. For the more adventurous the day can be spent quad biking, skydiving, sand boarding etc. Please note that all activities in Swakopmund will be for your own cost. On arrival day 1 a booklet with all activities and pricing in Swakopmund will be handed to you to help you decide how to make the most of Swakopmund.

The coast with its desert hinterland offers many options, both for adventure and for relaxation.



**Desert outside Swakop**



**Seal on cruise**



**Quad biking**

## **Days 5 and 6: Aba-Huab, Huab River**



**Kudu Bull in Damaraland**



**Damaraland scenery**



**Rock paintings**

Leaving the coast our route takes us around the Brandberg towards the Ugab River where we'll be **camping tonight**. At the Brandberg you'll be able to see the famous "White Lady" rock engravings.

The Brandberg is not only the highest mountain in Namibia (the summit of the highest peak, Konigstein, is 2574m above sea level), but is Africa's largest open-air art gallery. The most famous of its more than 44 000 rock paintings is the so-called White Lady frieze in the Tsisab Ravine. Although the central figure is no longer considered to be a white female, the name White Lady has persisted.

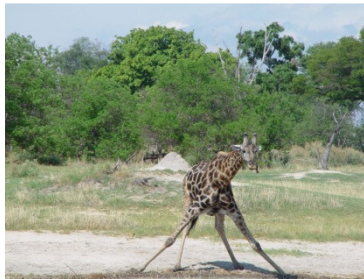
An early start takes us through dry riverbeds and over hills in search of the ever eluding Desert Elephant and Rhino. In the afternoon we explore a large collection of rock engravings at Twyfelfontein.

Amongst the many other attractions west of Khorixas are the Petrified Forest and Twyfelfontein with its superb collection of over 2400 rock engravings. Nearby are the Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes, a series of angular columns of dolerite exposed in a dry riverbed.

## **Days 7, 8, 9 and 10: Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo & Namutoni**



**Elephants in Etosha**



**Giraffe drinking**



**Leopard resting**

Today we head for the world-renowned Etosha National Park. We enter the Park through the southern gate at Okaukuejo. Lunch will be served en route or on arrival at Okaukuejo. A late afternoon game drive enables us to explore the waterholes in the southern part of the park. After dinner, evening spent at the floodlit waterhole where an array of animals comes down to drink.

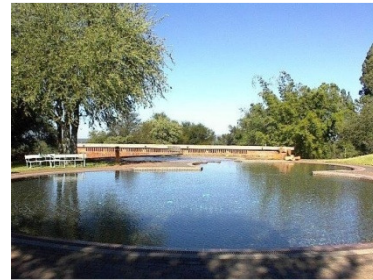
Etosha is one of Africa's great national parks; the game viewing here is on a par with Kruger, Hwange, the Masai Mara and Serengeti. Some 114 mammal species, 110 reptile species and more than 340 different bird species have been identified, and three well appointed rest camps cater for the hundreds of daily visitors.

Each rest camp has a floodlit waterhole, which offers overnight visitors the chance to see good numbers of game in an unusual environment. A large proportion of the park is either closed to the public or inaccessible by road, which has enabled conservationists to carry out important studies of wildlife.

Depart Okaukuejo heading in an easterly direction to our **next camp** Fort Namutoni. After lunch, there is time to enjoy viewing the waterhole, until late afternoon when sundowners will be enjoyed on top of the Fort.

The central feature of the park is the Etosha Pan, a huge depression that in years of exceptional rainfall becomes a lake again, although even then the majority sits only a few centimetres deep. There are no roads across the pan; but along the southern fringes is a network of gravel roads, which offer some exceptional views of this natural feature, which can be clearly seen from space. A visit to Etosha is one of the highlights of any visit to Namibia.

### **Day 11: Waterberg Plateau Park**



A short drive takes us to the Waterberg Plateau Park where you'll be able to explore the plateau on foot. The next morning you will be taken on a game drive to the top of the plateau, which enables you to see some of the rare game species.

The Waterberg Plateau Park, southeast of Otjiwarongo, is a popular en route stop. Rising unexpectedly above the Acacia savanna, the plateau with its sheer orange cliffs is inhabited by both species of rhino, roan, sable, buffalo, leopard, eland, giraffe, as well as a diversity of other species. Activities include walks, optional guided game-drives, a four-day hiking trail and wilderness trails.

### **Day 12: Windhoek, Capital city of Namibia**

An early departure enables us to reach Windhoek in time for lunch, after which you will be dropped off at your guesthouse or airport. That will conclude our service.

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**This trip is inclusive of:**

- All accommodation as specified in the itinerary
- All meals, table wines and local beers, mineral water
- Park entry fees
- Activities as per the itinerary
- Game drives/Nature walks as specified
- The services of a professional safari guide with vehicle

**This trip Excludes:**

- Airport Tax
- Optional extras and activities
- Travel Insurance
- All telephone calls are for your own account
- Laundry
- Extra drinks at the bar
- Strong spirits
- Visas (if needed)

**General Information:**

**Insurance:** It is compulsory for all clients to be insured for personal accident, medical emergency, travel and rescue expenses, cancellation and curtailment prior to departure from their home country.

**Health requirements:** Malaria occurs in certain areas of Namibia and Botswana. It is recommended that you consult your physician as to the appropriate malaria prophylaxis. All water on safari is safe for drinking.

**Travel documents:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of the safari. The following people DO NOT need a Visa for Namibia and Botswana provided that you have a return airfare as proof: FRG, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Ireland, UK, Austria, Italy, France, USA, Canada, Japan, Scandinavia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Netherlands, and South-Africa.

**Items to bring with:** Light and rugged items like denims/slacks, shorts, cool tops and comfortable hiking shoes as well as sandals (slops, flip-flops) for the warmer days. In winter warm sweaters or jackets are required. Sunburn protection, insect repellent, hat, sunglasses, binoculars, torch and toiletries.

**For wildlife photography a minimum of a 200mm lens is recommended. Zoom lenses can be very useful. Also bring extra film and batteries.**