The Bushmen Shaman Experience 10 Days / 9 Nights

Booking Code (NAM 06)

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

- Overnight in Windhoek on a DBB basis
- Uris Safari Lodge near Tsumeb
- Nyae Nyae Conservancy (Tsumkwe, Bushman Land)
- Overnight at Omaruru Game Lodge
- Overnight at Ai-Aiba Rock Painting Lodge

Please note that scheduling may change (e.g., scheduled times for dances and healing sessions may change due to the Bushman elder's directives).

Day 1; Windhoek, Namibia

On arrival at Windhoek International Airport you will be met by your tour guide and drive through the Capital city to your first night of rest, bringing you closer to the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, formerly known as Bushmanland. Namibia's capital city, Windhoek, nestles among rolling hills, bounded by the Eros Mountains in the east, the Auas Mountains to the south and the Khomas Hochland in the west at an altitude of 1,650 metres. It is a meeting place between Africa and Europe, the old and the modern. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2; Uris Safari Lodge

After an early breakfast we depart from Windhoek, driving north towards Tsumeb where we shall overnight at Uris Safari Lodge. Uris Safari Lodge is located 20 kilometres west of Tsumeb – a remarkable mineral destination. It is a long drive and along the way you will get to see the varying landscapes of Namibia.

Surrounded by the ancient Lake Otjikoto and the famous wildlife conservation area, Etosha National Park, Uris Safari Lodge also attracts tourists en-route to the Kunene, Kaokoland and Southern Angola. For visitors with an interest in gemstones and minerals, Uris Safari Lodge borders a number of historic German and Artesian mines - Alt Bobos, Karavatu, Omeg II, and Uris. They resemble trails "in the footsteps of the diggers" where, over one hundred and twenty years ago, explorers spent their days in the relentless Namibian sunshine hunting precious minerals.

Day3: Nyae Nyae Conservancy

After breakfast we leave for Tsumkwe, the heart of where the Ju/’hoan Bushmen live. Lunch will be enjoyed in camp under an ancient Baobab tree, estimated to be over 2,000 years old. Our camp will be an exclusive site close to one of the Bushman villages where Professor Keeney has conducted significant fieldwork. An introductory talk will be given to prepare you for a healing dance. Following dinner, we participate in the world’s oldest healing ceremony.

We spend four nights at this camp site within the Nyae Nyae Conservancy interacting with the Bushmen.

Day 4: Nyae Nyae Conservancy

After breakfast, you will meet several Bushman n/om-kxaosi (healers or shamans) who discuss their ways of healing. Interviews will be conducted with an opportunity for questions from the group. The n/om-kxaosi will be available for hands-on work with those who want to receive their spirited touch. The evening will provide an open discussion around a campfire and an opportunity to further experience Kalahari ecstatic healing.

Day 5: Nyae Nyae Conservancy

After breakfast, we will go for a bush walk with the villagers. The women will show us what plants are used for medicines and demonstrate how they find food and water. The men will show us how they hunt, set traps, and make fire. After a light lunch, an introductory talk will prepare you for another healing dance.

Day 6: Nyae Nyae Conservancy

After breakfast, several Bushman n/om-kxaosi will further discuss their ways of ecstatic experience and shaking medicine. Interviews will be conducted with esteemed elders with opportunities for questions from the group. They will be available for hands-on healing work. After lunch, we visit the village where you can purchase the crafts they have made. We then exchange our gifts and thank them for sharing their wisdom with us. Following dinner, enjoy an open group discussion around the campfire and another splendid night under the Kalahari stars.

Day 7 & 8: Omaruru Game Lodge

After breakfast we depart Bushmanland and head for Omaruru, a small town situated close to the Erongo Mountains. The lodge has been constructed in a unique architectural way. All the buildings, restaurants, and bungalows are inspired by African huts. The materials used are natural stones with grass roofs, surrounded by a huge garden. The bungalows and restaurants are located next to the water. Our guests can observe the African wildlife directly from the big windows or from the veranda. Our next 2 days will be spent at leisure exploring the area and taking part in a game drive offered by the Lodge.

We will also visit Tikoloshe Afrika, a renowned and vibrant gallery and workshop in the town of Omaruru where visitors can watch award-winning woodcarvers in action.

Day 9: Ai-Aiba Rock Painting Lodge

A short drive after breakfast takes us to the famous Rock Painting Lodge. Near the lodge, numerous pre-historic rock paintings will draw you into the spell of mystic Africa. Visiting rock art on the neighbouring farms, Etemba and Omandumba, will enhance your experience of ancient African culture. Ai-Aiba is an active member of the Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy, an association dedicated to the protection and preservation of the unique fauna and flora, as well as the magnificent granite landscape of the Erongo.

Day 10: Fly out from Windhoek International Airport

After breakfast we leave the Erongo Mountains behind and drive to Windhoek. Lunch will be enjoyed en-route to Windhoek International Airport. We shall arrive approximately at 14h00 at Windhoek International Airport.

Inclusive:

- 9 nights' accommodation as specified on the itinerary, (subject to availability at the time of booking)
- All meals during the camping and lodge sectors unless otherwise stated
- Drinks Day 3 to 6 only (mineral water, local beer, cold drinks & table wines in the evening)

- All park fees
- All accommodation fees
- All Bushman activities as specified
- 1 Game drive at Omaruru Game Lodge
- The services of a professional safari guide with 4x4 safari vehicle throughout the safari
- Competent bush chef & camp hands to help put up camp in advance
- Airport transfers
- Road transfer as per the detailed itinerary

Exclusions:

- All strong beverages
- All drinks for lodge sectors which includes Day 1&2 and Day 7 to 10
- Optional activities
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities and items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Laundry
- All flights

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 batteries.

Scheduled departures: On request