



Journeys: Wonders of Namibia

10 days, Windhoek to Windhoek

Trip code DNENG

What's included

- Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Mondesa Township Walk, Swakopmund
- Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Cheetah Conservation Experience, Otjiwarongo

- Your Discover Moment: Swakopmund
- Sandwich Harbour & Skeleton Coast Excursion
- Arrival transfer
- Full-day open-vehicle wildlife safari drive
- Sossusvlei desert excursion
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities
- Desert excursion with a local

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing August 2nd, 2024 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Windhoek

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer is included. After the evening welcome meeting sit down for an included group dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Windhoek Country Club Resort (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Airport Transfer

Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport - Windhoek

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. Check for the meeting time on the welcome note at the hotel. After introductions, your Expedition Leader will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

Set off from the Namibian capital towards Sesriem, the gateway to jaw-dropping Namib-Naukluft National Park. Drive past red-hued deserts, stark camel thorn trees, and dramatic curved dunes while keeping an eye out for the astonishing creatures that call these arid lands home—the oryx, springbok, jackal, hyena, and more. Settle in to our lodge and relax poolside, watching a fiery crimson sunset over the desert.

Enjoy postcard perfect desert scenery around Sesriem and Sossusvlei - vast deserts of reds and orange, stark camel thorn trees and towering dunes with dramatic curved ridges. Also keep an eye out for the surprising amount of wildlife that call this area home such as oryx, springbok, jackal, ground squirrel and hyena.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Sossusvlei Lodge (or similar)

Lodge



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Windhoek - Sesriem

5h-6h

340km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



Optional Activities - Day 2

Sossusvlei Sundowner & Nature Drive

Sossusvlei Lodge

455NAD

Depart from the lodge in the late afternoon for a leisurely drive on the private reserve located on the property of Sossusvlei. Enjoy the lengthening shadows as your guide drives you out to a panoramic view point for sundowner drinks as the sky lights up with the twilight colors.

Embark on a thrilling excursion into one of Africa's largest national parks. Explore the Namib desert, the oldest desert in the world; and venture to the massive dunes at Sossusvlei and the white clay pan of Deadvlei. Capture dramatic images of dead camel thorn trees against a backdrop of orange dunes and a crisp blue sky. Then visit the Sesriem Canyon, a natural gorge carved out by the Tsauchab River over millions of years.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Sossusvlei Lodge (or similar) Lodge

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Sesriem

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Sossusvlei Dunes Visit Namib Desert

The area is famous for its high, red sand dunes. The most accessible of the larger dunes is Dune 45, aptly named because it is 45km from Sesriem. The group will have a chance to walk up this towering sand hill for epic views from the top. Then visit Deadvlei, a clay and salt pan surrounded by the dunes with older dried-up trees sticking out, making it a spectacularly beautiful sight with a remote and isolated feel.

Keep your eyes peeled for the strange dark, circular patches that may pepper the dunes. They are called "fairy circles" and scientists are still not sure of their origins. Theories range from animal dust baths to poisons leaked from plants, or traces of meteor showers, proving there's still so much to learn about the Namib Desert; the oldest in the world. For more fun facts about the landscape check out this in-depth article, "Namib Desert: Ever Changing Dunes" on the National Geographic's website.

Deadvlei Visit

Sossusvlei

1h30m

Venture out into Deadvlei. These drylands boast incredible contrasts of black dead trees amidst the white clay soil, surrounded by red sand dunes reaching up to 300 meters high. We don't want to spoil too much; go and see this unique site for yourselves - it's a must for any traveller to Namibia.

Sesriem Canyon Visit

Namib Desert

Enjoy a short stop at Sesriem Canyon, a small canyon typical of the area. The Tsauchab River flows through the canyon every five to ten years, and this creates the nearby salt and clay pan of Sossusvlei.

4x4

Namib Desert

Roads? Where this rough-and-ready vehicle's going, we don't need roads.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Sossusvlei Sundowner & Nature Drive

Sossusvlei Lodge

455NAD

Depart from the lodge in the late afternoon for a leisurely drive on the private reserve located on the property of Sossusvlei. Enjoy the lengthening shadows as your guide drives you out to a panoramic view point for sundowner drinks as the sky lights up with the twilight colors.

Continue by road through changing desert landscapes towards the coastal city of Swakopmund. Look out for roaming zebra, kudu, springbok, and oryx on the way and stop at a local bakery renowned for its delicious homemade apple pies. Enjoy one of these tasty, fresh baked treats before the group gathers with our local guide for the bushman walk through the desert. Along the walk, learn about the survival strategies of bushmen who lived in this inhospitable area thousands of years ago and search for the smaller wildlife that has managed to survive here, such as snakes, geckos, spiders, and an array of insects. Continue on to Swakopmund later in the day for free time, or join an orientation walk. Dinner will be at your leisure with options in town and at the hotel.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Hansa Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Sesriem - Swakopmund

8h-8h30m

375km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Living Desert Walk

Swakopmund

2h

Set off on foot into the desert with an expert guide who will point out signs of plant and animal life while emphasizing the survival strategies of the local Bushmen that called this harsh landscape home.

Rise early for breakfast at the hotel. Our local guide will meet the group there before beginning our excursion to Sandwich Harbour and the Skeleton Coast. Travel on scenic roads to Walvis Bay while our guide provides background information on the Namib Desert landscape and wildlife. After stopping at a few different viewpoints the group will enter Namib Naukluft Park, and depending on the tide, drive along the beach to Sandwich Harbour. Enjoy a deeper immersion into this ever shifting environment on an exhilarating 4x4 ride through the towering dunes. Stop for lunch along the route at a private location in the park to fully appreciate the desert meeting the ocean.

This afternoon, take a tour of Mondesa township with a local guide, learning about its people and history. Visit the local market for an introduction to traditional foods such as wild spinach, mopane worms, and dried sardines or kapenta. Stop by an arts and crafts shop; chat with the locals; and round off the day with dinner and a performance at a cozy family-run establishment.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Hansa Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Sandwich Harbour & Skeleton Coast Excursion

Swakopmund

6h

Travel along scenic roads to Walvis Bay and arrive at the nearby salt pans and pink lakes for photographs of the unique environment. Drive along the beach at the high tide waterline passing seals and birdlife. Along this route the guide will conduct a mini living desert tour in the lower Kuiseb Delta, searching for the small five; geckos, sidewinder snakes, chameleons, scorpions, and toktokkies. Learn more about the Namib Desert from our guide as the group drives to the entrance of Naukluft Park, where we might see oryx, springbuck, and ostrich. In

the park, if the tide allows we will drive along the beach towards Sandwich Harbour. If it's high tide, the drive will be through the dunes above the ocean. Pause at various viewpoints like Kodak Viewpoint and admire the wonder of desert meeting the ocean—a truly remarkable sight. Cap off the experience with a thrilling 4x4 ride through the towering dunes and stop en route to enjoy lunch at a private location. Search for more wildlife as the group exits the park returning to Swakopmund.

ACTIVITY

Visit the community of Mondesa Township with an expert resident guide. Learn about its daily life, history and traditions through an immersive experience with the welcoming people that live here. Visit its lively market for an introduction to traditional foods like wild spinach, mopane worms, and dried kapenta fish. Also visit an arts-and-crafts shop that helps train the township's youth in traditional crafts. Drop by a shebeen (tavern) to enjoy a favourite drink, and meet some local residents. Finally, continue on to a nearby family run establishment for dinner and local entertainment.

Day 6

Swakopmund

Enjoy a free morning in Swakopmund, getting a taste of the town's unique Afro-German culture; or opt to try different activities like, sandboarding in the Namib desert, sea kayaking, or a fat tire bike tour of Old City Swakopmund. In the evening, come together as a group for an included dinner at the hotel.

Explore the town's unique mix of German and African culture and opt to visit curio shops, the museum and restaurants. Optional activities include sandboarding.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Hansa Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Optional Activities - Day 6

Fat Tire Bike Tours

Swakopmund

480NAD

Discover the beauty of Namibia's landscapes on a fat tire bike tour, from a scenic ride through the world's oldest desert to the historic streets of Swakopmund. Whether you choose to partake in a thrilling adventure or take your time exploring the desert's unique flora and fauna, this is a unique way to journey through one of the most breathtaking regions of Namibia.

Sea Kayaking

Swakopmund

800NAD

Experience the beauty of the Namibian's Coast visiting the Bird Island near Swakopmund and admiring the ocean nature beauty. Keep an eye out for playful seals as your guide offers information about the area.

Sandboarding in the Namib Desert

Swakopmund

700NAD

Head out into the desert, grab a board, and surf the sand dunes. Choose to lie down headfirst, or stand up, surfer-style.

Day 7

Swakopmund/Etosha National Park Area

Depart from Swakopmund right after breakfast and travel towards Etosha National Park, arguably Namibia's most spectacular wildlife sanctuary. Stop in Outjo for a refreshing break in this charming town before continuing your journey to Etosha National Park. Opt to enjoy lunch at one of the local cafes or restaurants, savor a taste of Namibian hospitality, and stretch those legs. Continue onwards to our lodge, located outside of the park and spend the evening at leisure, or on an optional wildlife drive in the surrounding area.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Etosha Village (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Swakopmund - Etosha National Park

7h30m-9h

610km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Outjo

Along the way to Etosha from Swakopmund, the group will make a pit stop in the quaint town of Outjo. There will be enough time here for you to grab some lunch on your own. The local bakery/cafe is known for its cozy atmosphere and homemade dishes.

Etosha National Park Area

Spend a full day on safari in Etosha National Park, where open grasslands converge on a massive salt pan. Etosha harbours some of the largest populations of lions, elephants, and other endangered species, so keep your camera on the ready as you explore in your open vehicle. Enjoy lunch at one of the park's rest areas, where you can also take a swim; and sit back and watch all manner of creatures—including hundreds of species of birds—flock to the nearby watering hole.

After the vast desert, Etosha National Park, offers a contrast of wide open grasslands, a massive salt pan that covers 4731km² and tall camel thorn trees intermixed with Mopani trees. With a combination of natural waterholes, and diverse vegetation, wildlife flock to the park. Some of the largest elephants in Africa can be found in areas of thicker vegetation, as well as leopards. Lions, giraffe, ostrich and many antelope species can be found in the grasslands, while birders will love the salt pans which attract flamingos in the rainy season. More than 340 bird species have been counted in Etosha National Park including the European bee-eater, the kori bustard and numerous migratory birds.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Accommodation

Etosha Village (or similar)

Hotel

Today's Activities

Etosha Open Vehicle Wildlife Safari Drive

Etosha National Park

7h-8h

Set off in an open 4x4 safari vehicle with a naturalist guide in search of the stunning wildlife in the park. Wildlife often come to the many watering holes to drink, so keep your eyes peeled for many animals on the move.

Day 9

Etosha National Park Area/ Windhoek

After breakfast, visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund, a global research and education center founded by National Geographic Grantee Dr Laurie Marker. Tour the facility to learn about the important conservation and community outreach work they do to protect the world's fastest land animal, and enjoy a talk by one of the researchers. Then head out on a drive through the grounds to meet some of the center's rescued and rehabilitated cheetahs. Continue to Windhoek for our final evening.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Windhoek Country Club Resort (or similar)

Hotel

Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is a global field research and education facility founded by Dr. Laurie Marker whose research has been supported by National Geographic. Tour the centre and learn about the important conservation and community outreach work they perform as one of the world's leading organizations dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. One of the program's researchers will give us a lecture before we head out on a cheetah drive to view some of these incredible creatures up close in their natural habitat. Conclude the experience by sitting down as a group for lunch on the veranda that overlooks the magnificent Waterberg Plateau.

Private Vehicle

Etosha National Park - Windhoek

5h-6h

415km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 10

Windhoek

Depart at any time.

Meals included

Breakfast

Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your Expedition Leader can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.