

NAMIBIA ACTIVE – HIKING SAFARI



25 April to 08 May 2020

29 August to 11 September 2020

for 4 – 10 participants

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Windhoek

Arrival at Windhoek International Airport. There we will be met by our tour guide and driven to Windhoek.

In the afternoon we explore the historic and cultural highlights of Namibian capital during a city tour. We visit buildings like the Christ Church, Tintenpalast (German for Ink Palace – the house of parliament) and "Alte Feste" where the German colonial past is clearly visible. We enjoy dinner at the well-known Joe's Beerhouse.

(Travel time: approx. 45 min.)

Guesthouse Casa Piccolo (BB)

Day 2

Drive to Naukluft Mountains

Today's journey takes you to the Naukluft Mountains via Rehoboth, Klein Aub and Büllsport.

The Naukluft Mountains are part of the high rising escarpment which marks the western edge of the interior highlands of Namibia. The flat, plateau like top of the mountain complex is separated from the adjacent highland plateau to the south by impressive near vertical cliffs, while in the north west and west its

highest peaks loom almost a thousand meters above the plains of the Namib.

After we have settled in we might want to go on a first relaxed trail to explore this unique landscape and to prepare ourselves for the adventure awaiting us the next day.

(Travel time: approx. 5 hrs, walking time: approx. 1-2 hrs)

Naukluft Camp (DBB)



Day 3

Naukluft Mountains

It's a hiking day today! Relaxed and well equipped we leave for a hike in the Namib Naukluft Park, right after the early breakfast. Our well-marked trail leads through deep gorges, over barren mountain ridges and wide-open plains. The Naukluft is a huge water reservoir that absorbs the precious rainwater and feeds the numerous freshwater pools at its foot. The vegetation at the edge of the pools is lush and a paradise for wild animals and a dazzling bird life. The view from the plateau is breath-taking. We are very close to nature and discover many little wonders on our way. After the challenge of this day we enjoy the well-deserved dinner and look forward to our bed.

(walking time: approx. 7 bis 8 hrs)

Naukluft Camp (DBB)

Day 4

Visit to Sossusvlei

Today we get up before sunrise. Our route towards Sesriem runs along the Naukluft and Tsaris mountains. We experience a dream landscape, which gives us an idea of what the day ahead has to offer. From Sesriem it is about 65 kilometres to dive into the deep sand of the UNESCO world cultural heritage - the sea of dunes!



After a short stop at the edge of the Sossusvlei's our hike into the Dead Vlei begins. The dead trees there belong to the most popular photo motives Namibia has to offer. In the background is "Big Daddy", with 300 meters one of the highest sand dunes in the world. We reward ourselves with a delicious breakfast in the shade of a camel thorn tree in the great outdoors. Before we leave the park, we visit the Sesriem Canyon. Afterwards the journey continues north to Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge. We relax at the swimming pool "With a View". If you feel like it, you can do a hike around the local mountain before sunset (optional).

(Travel time: approx. 5 hrs, walking time: approx. 3 hrs, incl. local mountain at Rostock)

Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge (BB)

Day 5

Drive to the Atlantic coast

At sunrise the guide says: Rise and shine! Well supplied with breakfast package and drinking water we descend into the Gaub-Canyon. We follow the dry riverbed and enjoy a relaxed hike through an area in the river valley that is highly interesting for geologists. Breakfast is enjoyed in the shade of a rock overhang and in the middle of small pools, which will be filled with water for a long time after good rainfalls.

Afterwards we drive through the central Namib Desert, across the Gaub Canyon and then the Kuiseb Canyon. The chance to see mountain and steppe zebra is great. Also, ostriches, springboks and oryx antelopes are at home here. We go for a hike at Blutkuppe, a granite

island mountain in the middle of the desert. We climb a hill and have a wonderful view of the Namib Desert. In this beautiful environment our lunch tastes especially good, and we are well prepared for the last leg to Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast.



Dinner will be enjoyed in a restaurant by the sea. Full of the many impressions of the day we will certainly sleep well. The cool sea air and the sound of the Atlantic accompany us into our dreams.

(Travel time: approx. 4-5 hrs, walking time: approx. 3-4 hrs)

Swakopmund Plaza Hotel (BB)

Day 6

Catamaran Tour

Early in the morning we drive to Walvis Bay and undertake a very interesting "Dolphin & Seal Cruise" with the catamaran. By boat we get very close to animals like seals and dolphins and see many different bird species like pelicans, white-breasted cormorants, terns and flamingos.

In the afternoon we have time to look around Swakopmund. In the centre there are nice little shops and cafés. A visit to the museum is worthwhile, here the history and the different cultures of Namibia are presented very vividly. The aquarium and the snake park are within walking distance. In the aquarium we get a lot of information about the sea inhabitants at the west coast of Namibia. In the snake park we can enjoy the beauty of the reptiles in Namibia without any danger.

(Travel time: approx. 1 hr)

Swakopmund Plaza Hotel (BB)

Day 7

Drive to the Erongo Mountains

Passing the Spitzkoppe, which is also called the "Matterhorn" of Namibia, the journey heads directly into the impressive scenery of the Erongo mountains. On the way you will visit the Ju/'Hoansi Bushmen, who

give us deep insights into their everyday lives. The focus is on the original way of life and pre-colonial culture in the traditionally built village. After a cosy picnic lunch, we are well strengthened for our walk in the afternoon, which leads us through bizarre rock formations and past ancient rock paintings.

In the red golden light of the setting sun we set up our tents and enjoy the evening under the African starry sky while barbequing.

(Travel time: approx. 3.5 hrs, walking time: approx. 3- 4 hrs)

Erongo Rocks Campsite (FB)



Day 8

Drive to Damaraland

Our journey continues in the direction of Khorixas to the surroundings of Twyfelfontein. An exclusive experience awaits us in one of Namibia's most impressive landscapes. In the afternoon we hike through remote valleys where, after good rainfall, small herds of rare mountain zebra and giraffes can be seen. The fascinating geology gives us an insight into the time of the late Carboniferous to early Jurassic age, when the supercontinent Gondwana broke apart.

Taking some time, we explore the flora that has uniquely adapted to this arid environment. Our guide will explain the peculiarities of the different Commiphora, Aloe and Acacia species.

We camp in a secluded valley in untouched nature and enjoy the peace and quiet and an outdoor barbecue. Tired from our adventure today, we slip into our sleeping bags.

The Milky Way stretches over us. Without the influence of disturbing light sources, we experience an indescribably beautiful starry sky.

(Travel time: approx. 3 hrs, walking time: approx. 3- 4 hrs)

Campsite in Damaraland (FB)



Day 9

Walking along an eroded river valley in search of the Huab River

We wake to the smell of coffee, the first rays of sun sprawling across the vast red sandstone landscape that surrounds us. After a fine breakfast, our guide leads us towards the dry riverbed of the Huab River. The ephemeral rivers of north-western Namibia are considered the linear oasis of the Namib Desert, dry for most of the year but often in full flood during the rainy season, bringing huge amounts of water toward the Atlantic Ocean. Water means life and these rivers are a permanent haven of nutritious vegetation and reliable ground water for a large variety of wild animals.

After a tasty picnic under a large camel thorn or white acacia tree we are strengthened and explore this special environment with our tour guide. On a game drive through the deep river sand we may be lucky enough to spot the rare desert adapted elephants. The pods of the trees are very tasty and attract many animals. Back at camp we enjoy the sunset with a drink and afterwards we are surprised with a fine dinner at the campfire.

(Travel time: approx. 3 hrs, walking time: approx. 5- 7 hrs)

Campsite in Damaraland (FB)

Day 10

Visit Twyfelfontein & proceed to Etosha National Park

While our camp is dismantled we enjoy the cool morning hours during our hike through valleys and smooth ridges towards Twyfelfontein where we visit the world-famous rock engravings. Twyfelfontein was appointed as a World Heritage Site in 2007, which we visit on a small guided tour. The name Twyfelfontein is Afrikaans and, means "dubious spring". A local guide leads us to the engravings, and we learn interesting details about the natives of Namibia, their habits and living conditions. We then make a detour to the Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes, which are just around

the corner. Here, about 130 million years ago, when South America separated from southern Africa, glowing hot magma invaded upon underground rocks. After millions of years of erosion, these rocks have now come to the fore.

Afterwards we drive to the "Petrified Forest", where we are reminded of what happened here geologically 280 million years ago.

Via Khorixas and Outjo we continue to the Etosha National Park. Toshari Lodge is located outside the park before the Anderson Gate. After the drive we enjoy the invitingly cool pool. Situated on a hill, we have a wonderful view over the African bush landscape.

(Travel time: approx. 3.5 hrs, walking time: approx. 3 hrs)

Toshari Lodge (DBB)



Day 11

Etosha National Park

Today our guide takes us on game drive in the park. The Etosha National Park is one of the biggest game reserves in the world and is considered one of the finest game parks in Africa. Along the way we see wildlife such as giraffes, kudu, zebra, oryx antelope, black-faced impala, wildebeest, springbok, ostrich and with a little luck elephants and lions at the various water holes. Huge herds of plains game remind us to drive slowly. Before sunset we leave the park and drive back to our lodge.

(Travel time: depending on the route of the game drive)

Toshari Lodge (DBB)

Day 12

To Waterberg

In the morning we leave the wildlife of Etosha Park and drive to the Waterberg. The Waterberg is known for its particularly diverse flora, its rare animal species, and its magnificent scenery. The Waterberg Wilderness Lodge is beautifully situated on the farm Otjosongombe on the southern banks of the mountain. From the

tastefully furnished rooms we can enjoy a magnificent view. In the afternoon we shall take one of the numerous walking trails to explore the flora of the area on our way to a fountain.

(Travel time: approx. 3 hrs, walking time: approx. 2 - 3 hrs)

Waterberg Wilderness Lodge (DBB)



Day 13

Drive to Windhoek

Today we take a hike to the high plateau of the Waterberg, where we see almost all trees and shrubs that exist in Namibia. Up here, there are also some animals such as kudu, buffalo and even rhino (rarely seen). The view from the plateau to the endless plains of the savanna is breath-taking. Then we drive to Okahandja, where we visit the local wooden craft market. Then it goes to Okapuka, just outside Windhoek. The farm is 120 square kilometers with many game species such as rhino, sable antelope, eland, giraffe, wildebeest, kudu and springbok. We can relax by the pool, let the last day recap and take a rest before the long flight tomorrow. In the late afternoon we enjoy our last game drive.

(Travel time: approx. 3.5 hrs, walking time: approx. 3-4 hrs)

Okapuka Lodge (DBB)

Day 14

Departure

Unfortunately, our Namibia holiday comes to an end. We drive to Windhoek, where we get a few impressions of Namibia's capital and may still be able to do some last-minute shopping (depending on the time of departure). Then we drive to the airport, where we will board the home bound plane.

(Travel time: approx. 1.5 hrs)

Tour dates 2020 (from/to Windhoek):

25 April 2020 to 08 May 2020

29 August 2020 to 11 September 2020

Price from/to Windhoek:**Per person sharing ZAR 52'500**

(approx. CHF 3'645 or about EUR 3'285)*

Single supplement ZAR 7'500

(approx. CHF 520 or about EUR 470)*

* with exchange rate on 24 July 2019

Participants minimum 4 and maximum 10

Included

Meals and accommodations as stated (or similar)

Mineral water

Snacks for the walking trails

Activities as stated

Professional Tour guide in 4x4-Landcruiser or VW

Crafter/Combi

Park entrance fees

Fuel

BB = overnight with bed and breakfast

DBB = overnight with dinner, bed and breakfast

FB = full board

Excluded

Flights

Tips

Own drinks

Meals not mentioned

activities not included in the above program

Please note

Accommodations are subject to change.

Tour Operator in Namibia

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