

NAMIBIA ADVENTURE

Go Beyond Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 1

Windhoek - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Windhoek

Namibia may be considered 'Africa for beginners', but what a glorious place to start. Range among towering dunes, voyage on life-filled sea and safari through spectacular wilderness in a land that promises spectacular adventure.

- Explore Sossusvlei
- Cruise around Walvis Bay
- See the Twyfelfontein Rock Engravings
- Visit a Himba Village
- Safari through Etosha National Park

TOUR MAP



NAMIBIA ADVENTURE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward with unique culture, interactions with local people the experiences of a lifetime.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Namibia Adventure' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing steep sand dunes.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- Be prepared for long travel days on gravel roads

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 12 days in duration including international flights or 10 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to our reservations team.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Windhoek and end the tour on Day 11 in Windhoek. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Windhoek Meals: D

Fly overnight to Windhoek, Namibia's capital city. On arrival, you will be met and transferred for 45 minutes to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to relax or explore your surroundings.



Destination Information

Windhoek - The capital and largest city of Namibia, surrounded by hills. It is well known for its well-preserved German colonial architecture, vibrant markets and as the gateway to Namibia's vast deserts and wildlife parks.

Day 3: Travel to Sossusvlei Meals: B, L, D



This morning, you'll embark on a guided drive-through tour of Windhoek, the beautiful capital of Namibia. As you explore, you'll discover the diverse facets of Africa's culture, landscapes, and traditions. Windhoek showcases a fascinating mix of historic and modern architecture, with highlights like the Alte Feste, an old fortress, the 1896 Christ Church, and the contemporary Supreme Court. You will then head towards the famous Sossusvlei region, driving approximately five and a half hours, through stunning landscapes along gravel roads. Upon arrival you have time to relax before experiencing a spectacular dune dinner in the heart of the desert.

Destination Information

Alte Feste – A historic fortress built in 1890, is one of Windhoek's oldest structures. It served as a German military headquarters during colonial times and now houses a museum showcasing Namibia's history and culture.

Christ Church - a prominent landmark in Windhoek, Namibia, stands as a testament to the city's German heritage. Completed in 1907, its striking neo-Romanesque architecture dominates the skyline, a symbol of both religious faith and colonial influence.

Day 4: Discover Sossusvlei Meals: B, L, D



This morning is an early start, at approximately 6am, so you can enter Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise when temperatures are mild and dune contrasts are striking. Visit Sossusvlei, a salt-clay pan surrounded by towering orange dunes.

Visit Dune 45, the world's most photographed dune, before taking a gradual round-trip 2.6-kilometre guided walk of Dead Vlei, where you will enjoy a picnic lunch. For the adventurous, climb Big Daddy Dune.

After lunch explore Sesriem Canyon, a 30-metre-deep gorge created by the Tsauchab River over 5 million years ago. A walk in the canyon leads you to a pool upstream to enjoy a swim at the end of the day.

Destination Information

Namib-Naukluft Park – A vast desert reserve known for its stunning landscapes, including towering sand dunes, rugged mountains, and salt pans. It encompasses diverse environments, from the iconic red dunes of Sossusvlei to the stark beauty of the Naukluft Mountains.

Dune 45 - One of the most iconic and photographed sand dunes, standing around 170 metres tall, it is renowned for its striking orange colour and sweeping, sculpted curves. Its prominence and dramatic landscape make it a popular spot for capturing sunrise photos and enjoying panoramic views of the surrounding dunes.

Day 5: Depart for Swakopmund Meals: B, L



Travel to the coastal gem of Swakopmund, where the desert meets the ocean, enjoying a packed lunch on the way. If time allows, visit the Welwitschia Mirabilis, a plant featured on Swakopmund's coat of arms. On arrival in Swakopmund, founded in 1892 and once the key port of German Southwest Africa, embark on a city tour of this seaside resort, exploring and learning about its history.

Please note: Today will involve travelling for approximately 6 hours with stops enroute for lunch and to stretch your legs. Western-style toilet facilities may not be available in all areas. We recommend being prepared for more traditional or basic options.

Destination Information

Swakopmund – a charming coastal town in Namibia, where the desert meets the Atlantic Ocean. Known for its well-preserved German colonial architecture, it offers a blend of historical charm and modern amenities. Popular for its vibrant seaside promenade, adventure activities, and unique landscapes, Swakopmund serves as a gateway to both desert and ocean experiences.

Day 6: Explore Swakopmund

Meals: B, L



This morning, travel to Walvis Bay to embark on a marine educational sailing excursion in search of the Marine Big 5: whales, dolphins, mola mola, leatherback turtles, and seals. Savour a hot cup of tea or coffee as your route takes you past oyster farms towards Pelican Point, home to a lighthouse and 60,000 Cape Fur Seals. Enjoy fresh oysters with sparkling wine, savoury snacks, and desserts while cruising by intriguing ships and oil rigs.

Return to the Waterfront around noon, where your Sandwich Harbour 4x4 guide will be waiting for your afternoon excursion. On the way stop briefly at Walvis Bay Lagoon to view large flocks of Greater and Lesser Flamingos before continuing to the Walvis Bay salt pans, where 50 million tons of seawater are processed into 700,000 tons of high-quality salt.

Pass through the Kuiseb River Delta toward Sandwich Harbour, reaching a lookout point on a high dune for stunning views of the protected Sandwich Harbour Lagoon.

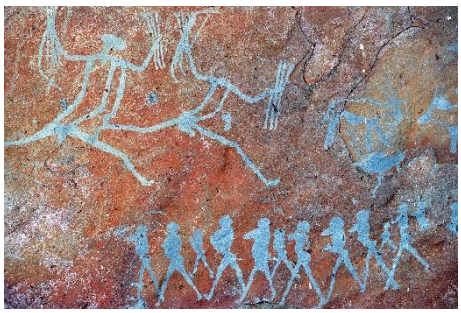
Destination Information

Walvis Bay – A bustling port town on the Atlantic coast, renowned for its thriving marine life and picturesque lagoon. The town serves as a gateway to the dramatic landscapes of the Namib Desert and is known for its birdwatching opportunities, including large flocks of flamingos.

Kuiseb River Delta - Where the seasonal Kuiseb River meets the arid sands of the Namib Desert. This delta creates a unique oasis of life, with its shifting sand dunes, rocky outcrops, and seasonal wetlands that support diverse flora and fauna.

Sandwich Harbour - Stunning natural area where the desert meets the ocean. It features dramatic landscapes with towering dunes that slope into a protected lagoon, creating a striking contrast between sand and sea. Known for its breathtaking views and rich birdlife, Sandwich Harbour offers a unique and serene escape amidst its rugged, unspoiled beauty.

Day 7: Travel to Damaraland Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast, continue your journey into the Damaraland region, arriving at Twyfelfontein, one of Namibia's most remarkable cultural and archaeological sites.

Set in a striking semi-desert landscape, Twyfelfontein is home to one of Africa's largest collections of ancient rock engravings, created by the San people thousands of years ago. The site contains hundreds of carvings and paintings depicting animals, hunting scenes, and spiritual symbols, offering a powerful glimpse into early human life in the region.

Beyond its cultural significance, the surrounding area is known for its dramatic scenery and adapted desert wildlife, including mountain zebra, springbok, oryx, kudu, and the famous desert-adapted elephants that roam the dry river valleys.

Please note: Visiting Twyfelfontein involves walking over uneven, rocky terrain in an open desert environment. While the paths are manageable, some sections may require careful footing. Comfortable walking shoes are essential, and it is strongly recommended to bring a sun hat and plenty of water. Regular stops will be made to allow for rest and interpretation by your guide.

Destination Information

Twyfelfontein – A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Namibia's Damaraland region, known for its extensive collection of ancient rock engravings created by the San people thousands of years ago. Set in a striking desert landscape, the site features hundreds of petroglyphs depicting animals and symbolic scenes that reflect early spiritual and hunting traditions.

Day 8: Travel to Etosha Region Meals: B, L, D



Today, travel to the Etosha region, a wildlife sanctuary ready for discovery. The park is home to over 144 animal species, ranging from common to rare. Along the way, visit a Himba village, where you'll immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and traditions of the Himba people. Known for their semi-nomadic lifestyle and distinctive customs, the Himba offer a glimpse into their unique dress, rituals, and communal life. Afterward, head to your lodge for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon.

Please note: Always ask for permission before taking photos. In many cultures, including the Himba, photography can be seen as intrusive if done without consent.

Destination Information

Etosha National Park – Namibia's largest game reserve, spans approximately 22,270 square kilometres. Renowned for its vast salt pans and diverse wildlife, the park is home to many animal species including elephants, lions, and rhinos. Its expansive landscapes offer exceptional game viewing and stunning scenery.

Himba Tribe - An indigenous group in northern Namibia, known for their semi-nomadic lifestyle and distinctive customs. They are recognized for their elaborate traditional dress, adorned with intricate jewelry and red ochre body paint. The Himba maintain rich cultural practices, including unique rituals and communal living, reflecting their deep connection to their ancestral heritage and the natural environment.

Day 9: Safari through Etosha National Park

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, embark on a full-day safari tour of Etosha National Park in 4x4 vehicles. At the heart of the park lies the Etosha Pan, a vast, shallow depression covering 5,000 square kilometres. Expect to see large mammals such as lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos, zebras, and giraffes, along with various birds like flamingos and pelicans. Enjoy a packed lunch in the park and return to the lodge in the late afternoon.



Destination Information

Etosha National Park – Located in northwestern Namibia, the park offers world-class game viewing amidst its diverse vegetation, ranging from dense bush to open plains. While typically dry and iridescent, the pan fills with water during the rainy season, creating a vital habitat for wildlife. In the dry season, the park's consistent springs and waterholes draw animals, providing excellent game viewing opportunities.

Day 10: Return to Windhoek

Meals: B, L, D

Return to Windhoek, stopping along the way at the AfriCat Foundation, gaining insights into the challenges faced by African predators. After lunch, proceed to Windhoek and visit the Okahandja wood carving market. Okahandja, a historic town with significant Herero heritage and the resting place of many notable leaders, features a prominent market renowned for its intricate wood carvings.



Destination Information

AfriCat Foundation – A non-profit dedicated to conserving Namibia's wildlife, with a focus on large carnivores like cheetahs, leopards, and lions.

Days 11-12: Depart Windhoek Meals: B

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home, arriving the following day.



NAMIBIA ADVENTURE TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Namibia, which is not included in the cost of your tour and is obtained upon arrival. Details will be provided in your final documentation, sent approximately two weeks prior to departure.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN NAMIBIA:

Eating in Namibia can be a delicious adventure! The country's cuisine is influenced by its diverse cultures, including indigenous groups, as well as German and South African influences. Here are some highlights of Namibian food:

Biltong: This is a popular snack in Namibia, similar to beef jerky but typically made from cured and air-dried meat, often seasoned with spices. It's a favorite for its rich, savory flavor and can be made from various types of meat.

Kapana: A street food staple, kapana is grilled beef, often prepared on an open flame and served with a spicy chili sauce and sometimes with pap (a type of maize porridge). It's known for its smoky flavor and is a must-try for meat lovers.

Pap: This is a staple side dish made from maize meal. It has a texture similar to polenta and is often served with meat dishes, stews, or vegetables.

Potjiekos: This is a traditional South African stew cooked in a cast-iron pot over an open flame. It's popular in Namibia too and often contains a mix of meat, vegetables, and spices, slowly simmered to create a hearty, flavorful dish.

Oryx and Springbok: Game meat is common in Namibia, and oryx and springbok are two popular options. They're often prepared in stews or grilled, providing a taste of Namibia's rich wildlife.

Namibian Fish: Due to its coastal location, Namibia has access to fresh fish. The most notable is the kingklip, a type of white fish that's often grilled or fried.

Traditional Dishes: Depending on the region, you might find other traditional dishes, such as the meat-filled pies and bread rolls from German-influenced areas or various indigenous dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients.

Local Beverages: You might also enjoy traditional drinks like *omagongo*, a fermented fruit beverage made from marula or mango, and *rusks*, which are typically enjoyed with coffee or tea.

Overall, Namibian cuisine offers a variety of flavours and textures, reflecting the country's cultural diversity and its rich natural resources.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Namibia. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. It may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in Namibia have generally been improved over recent years, but road conditions, and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

DEVELOPMENT IN NAMIBIA:

Namibia has been undergoing notable development across several sectors, reflecting its commitment to progress and sustainability. Infrastructure development is a significant focus, with projects such as the Trans-Kalahari Highway and enhancements to the port facilities at Walvis Bay improving trade and connectivity. Tourism remains a vital sector, with efforts to promote sustainable practices and eco-friendly lodges preserving the country's unique landscapes. Agricultural development is supported by improved water management and sustainable practices, crucial for food security in arid regions. Environmental conservation efforts are also robust, focusing on protecting wildlife and promoting eco-tourism to preserve the country's natural heritage. Overall, Namibia's development efforts are shaping a foundation for economic stability, improved living standards, and sustainable environmental management.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Namibia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants and restaurant staff, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting Namibia, dressing appropriately enhances both comfort and cultural respect. The country's warm, arid climate calls for lightweight, breathable fabrics like cotton and linen, with casual attire such as shorts and t-shirts being suitable for everyday wear. For outdoor activities and safaris, neutral colours like khaki and beige blend well with the environment, while sun protection items such as wide-brimmed hats, sunglasses, and long sleeves are essential. In urban areas like Windhoek, smart casual attire is appropriate for dining. It's important to dress modestly in traditional or rural areas, opting for conservative clothing to respect local customs. During Namibia's cooler winter months (May – September), a light jacket or sweater is advisable, while a rain jacket may be needed during the rainy season (November - April.)

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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