

EXPLORE!



DISCOUNTED

Namibia Camping Safari

NAMIBIA - TRIP CODE NC

DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

Travel across the vast Namibian deserts and through national parks in a customised overlanding truck on this true African adventure. From searching for wildlife in Etosha National Park to climbing some of the largest sand dunes in the world, this trip covers Namibia's highlights.

- **Etosha National Park** - Search for leopard, lion, elephants and Africa's endangered black rhino
- **Sossusvlei** - Explore some the world's largest sand dunes and clay pans of Namib-Naukluft
- **National Park Camping in the wilderness** - Sleep under canvas; a wild, Namibian experience



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 11
Lunch: 8
Dinner: 7



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)



TRANSPORT
4WD
On Foot
Truck



ACCOMMODATION
7 nights simple
camping
2 nights standard
hotel
2 nights standard
lodge



TRIP PACE:
Full on



GROUP SIZE:
10 - 16

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Windhoek

Arrive in Namibia's capital, Windhoek and check into the hotel. Depending on your flight arrival there is free time today for sightseeing, with an opportunity to visit the National Museum or perhaps a half day Katatura Township tour before an evening welcome meeting.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Safari (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Walking safari to Waterberg Plateau viewpoint or choose to go on a game drive

Early this morning we leave Windhoek to drive to Waterberg Plateau Park. Throughout this trip we'll travel in overlanding trucks that are perfectly equipped for Namibia's bumpy roads! These large vehicles are custom-designed with lots of space, sufficient luggage storage and hardy tyres to ensure comfort even in Namibia's wildest environments.

Waterberg Plateau National Park is mountainous and resembles something from The Lost World with lush vegetation and thick woodland which remains well protected by the natural topography. This afternoon there will be the chance to go on a 90-minute hike along the well-marked trails up to the plateau which offers panoramic views of the park below while searching for the elusive Damara Dik-Dik and a variety of birds. Alternatively, there will be the option to book a game drive in search of the park's rhino, giraffe and leopard.

Tonight we'll camp in the foothills of the plateau and the crew cook up the first dinner of our camping experience. Throughout the trip, the evening meals will vary depending on the time of arrival at camp but all leaders and crew have their own specialties! Examples include barbecues, pastas, stews, beer can chicken and potjies - a traditional meal cooked in a three-legged black pot. Fresh produce is bought every few days in the larger towns and some crews have been known to bake bread and cake in the fire with two gas burners and a fire!

Please note: Although the vehicles are a great match for the terrain, Namibia's roads in the more rural areas can be very bumpy and many are merely gravel tracks so tyre blow-outs can happen! The crew are all trained and equipped to deal with such situations when they occur.



ACCOMMODATION:

Waterberg Plateau Park Campsite (or similar)



Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 3 - Visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund; game drive in Etosha National Park

We leave Waterberg this morning to begin our journey to Etosha National Park, but first we'll visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) at Otjiwarongo. The CCF is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in research of cheetahs and their ecosystems. The extensive visitor's centre encourages visitors to learn more about these elusive cats and the efforts being made to protect them. While our local guide gets lunch prepared, a member of the CCF team will talk us through how the centre works on a guided tour, including the education centre, museum, clinic, creamery (where fresh, homemade feta cheese is produced) as well providing the chance to meet the resident cheetahs, dogs and livestock that live at the centre.

Today we'll have a picnic lunch before continuing to Etosha National Park. Picnic lunches will vary throughout the trip as the crew always try to make something a little different each day; sandwiches, a

selection of cold meats and cheeses, or sometimes a pasta or couscous salad are some examples.

Etosha National Park is arguably one of Africa's finest safari spots, where we'll have our first game drive in our overland truck on the way to this evening's camp. Home to four of the Big Five (there are no buffalo but they can be found at Waterberg Plateau!), Etosha's geology makes it a unique setting for a safari as it's made up of a mix of thick vegetation and dry, barren salt pans. During the drier, winter months between April and October our campsite is perfectly positioned to be able to pull up a chair with a glass of wine and watch rhino, elephant and great herds of springbok at the nearby waterhole. In Namibia's summer months, the campsite offers fantastic views but the watering holes are quiet as there is plenty of water in the veld for the wildlife.



ACCOMMODATION:
Okaukuejo Campsite (or similar)

Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 4 - Safari across Etosha's dramatic salt pan in search of wildlife

An early start kicks off a full day of safari. Covering over 12,400 square miles, Etosha is home to 114 species of animals, including elephant, black rhino, leopard, cheetah and lion and over 300 bird species. Today is flexible depending on what sightings have occurred in the park most recently and we'll take a picnic lunch to make the most of our safari time.

The park's terrain ranges from dense bush to large open plains where animals can be seen roaming against the hazy backdrop or congregating around one of the waterholes.

We return to our camp this evening to enjoy another night under a starlit sky, with only sounds of the wild and light from the campfire.



ACCOMMODATION:
Okaukuejo Campsite (or similar)

Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 5 - Meet the people of the Himba tribes; drive to Toshari

One last game drive this morning will be followed by a picnic lunch in Etosha National Park before we leave to visit a traditional Himba community.

The Himba people are indigenous to northern Namibia and Southern Angola, and are a semi-nomadic tribe. Their simple lifestyle has remained unchanged for generations and many still wear traditional animal skin coverings and headdresses. The women of the communities often cover themselves in a paste made of butter, fat and red ochre to protect themselves from the sun and mosquito bites, as well as being a traditional form of beautifying. We'll have a guided tour with a trained Himba guide who will explain the many different Himba customs, such as which milestones are depicted through a woman's choice of hairstyle, as well as the significance of smoke and fire ceremonies and what a traditional home looks like. We are keen to highlight that this is a cultural exchange and the two Himba communities we visit in Namibia are working hard to protect their simple way of life. The community kindly requests that no gifts of any sort are given to the children, extra tips should not be given and that all rubbish is taken away so they continue carefully sharing their story without damaging their culture.

Later this afternoon we'll make our way to Toshari Lodge, where we'll be setting up in the private campsite. Our tents will be pitched in the shade of mopane trees and depending on the time of the year, may have time for a dip in the lodge's pool or a drink at the bar.



ACCOMMODATION:
Toshari Campsite (or similar)

Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



DAY 6 - Visit the Brandberg White Lady rock-art

A half-day drive takes brings us to our next campsite that sits in the shadows of Brandberg Mountain, Namibia's highest peak reaching 2,573m. On arrival we'll have a picnic lunch before we set off on a hike to see one of the most iconic examples of rock art in Namibia, The White Lady.

The White Lady is the most well-known example of rock art in the region but it's estimated to be just one of approximately 45,000 in the area and is thought to date back 2,000 years. To reach the rock paintings we will walk along mostly flat terrain between rock formations for approximately one hour each way. As the region can get very warm, comfortable walking footwear, a hat, suntan lotion and plenty of water is essential.

Camp will be set-up in the grounds of the private Brandberg White Lady lodge, so when we return, depending on the time of year, there may be time for a quick swim, a cold beer at the bar, or just a chance to relax in the late afternoon sun.



ACCOMMODATION:
Brandberg White Lady Campsite (or similar)

Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 7 - Drive to the colonial city of Swakopmund via Cape Cross Seal Reserve

Travelling west towards the Atlantic coast, our first stop today will be an encounter with thousands of Cape fur seals at Cape Cross. This headland is protected as the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, and offers the opportunity to see these charming marine mammals in abundance either lying in the sunshine or swimming in the surrounding waters. The number of seals found on the cape depends on how healthy the fish population is at the time but tends to remain between 80,000 - 100,000 at any one time.

This evening we'll arrive in Swakopmund to see its surreal German architecture. Here we can enjoy the comfort of a proper bed in the small lodge that is a our home for the next two nights.





ACCOMMODATION:
Villa Wiese (or similar)



Grade: Standard Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Free day to explore Swakopmund or search for dolphins on a boat excursion

Today is free to relax and explore Swakopmund. Once a busy port town, Swakopmund played an important role in what was once German South West Africa and is rich in infamous colonial history. Pinned between the vast Namib Desert and the thrashing Atlantic Sea, Swakopmund has the look of a European holiday town where you can enjoy a good German beer or choose to go on a boat trip in search of dolphins.



ACCOMMODATION:
Villa Wiese (or similar)



Grade: Standard Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - See the flamingos and pelicans at Walvis Bay Lagoon; arrive in Sesriem

We'll depart for Sesriem this morning travelling via the tiny desert town of Solitaire and along the Kuiseb River Canyon. A stop at Walvis Bay Lagoon will offer the chance to see the largest flock of blush-pink lesser and greater flamingos in Southern Africa, as well as Damara terns, pelicans and avocets. During the summer months of October to April approximately 150,000 migratory birds can also be seen in the area, offering exciting photo opportunities and bird sightings.

We'll continue our journey this afternoon to arrive in Sesriem, an isolated desert hamlet and the gateway to the Sossusvlei region of Namib-Naukluft National Park. Our campsite this evening is a simple affair but

is a prime spot from which to explore the dunes. The camping pitches are on sand under huge camelthorn trees giving a real desert camping experience including a natural morning alarm clock of barking geckos. Once camp is set up, there will be time for a shower or to have a beer before dinner and an evening around the campfire.



ACCOMMODATION:
Sesriem Campsite (or similar)



Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 10 - Explore some of the world's tallest sand dunes including Big Daddy

Today we see an other-worldly side to Namibia in the Namib-Naukluft National Park where barren salt pans, dotted with blackened, scorched trees, cover the landscape between huge sand dunes. We'll visit both the Sossusvlei and Deadvlei regions, visiting the largest sand dune in the area fondly called Big daddy standing at 325 metres tall and we will walk in the Sesriem Gorge later this afternoon. Carved over 15 million years ago by the once powerful Tsauchab River, the gorge exposes the multiple layers of rock and sands along the scenic walking trails.

Depending on both time and weather, we'll aim to enjoy the changing colours of sunset at Elim Dune, where the tall, sand mound becomes a vibrant orangery red in the sunlight on a backdrop of the Naukluft Mountains. For keen photographers, the changing light at this time of day offers unique photo opportunities.

We will return to camp this evening for dinner.



ACCOMMODATION:
Sesriem Campsite (or similar)



Grade: Simple Camping



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 11 - Return to Namibia's capital, Windhoek



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Safari (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

DAY 12 - Trip ends in Windhoek



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Namibia

Climate

With a staggering 300 days of sunshine each year, Namibia is a year-round destination, although some may prefer to avoid the heat of high summer. The cold Benguela current keeps the Atlantic coast of the Namib Desert cool and rain-free for most of the year, with a thick coastal fog that lends a mysterious edge to the area. January and February are the hottest months, when daytime temperatures in the heart of the Namib can exceed 40°C (104°F), but nights are usually cool. Winter nights can be fairly cold, but days are generally warm and pleasant.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	3 Pin Round	Christian	English, Afrikaans, German

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight and it's all about layers!

Also between May and September, Namibia's winter months, a warm fleece/jumper is essential for nights and early mornings which can get cold and a waterproof/windproof jacket is also recommended.

Please note that brightly coloured clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

Don't forget your swimming costume in case you want to dip in a pool along the way!

Footwear

Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with a good grip, and sandals.

Luggage

15Kg

Equipment

Bring a 2-season sleeping bag between Nov- Mar (temperature 0°C to 5°C) or a 3-4 season sleeping bag between Apr-Oct (temperature -10°C to -5°C), a sleeping bag liner, a towel, a fitted sheet (single sized for the foam mat) and we'd also recommend a travel pillow for camping and any napping during longer drives. Good, thick foam sleeping mats are provided and tents have sewn-in mosquito screening so nets are not required.

For smaller personal items we also recommend a head torch, a reusable water bottle, a sunhat, sunglasses and high factor sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300 mm lens is recommended for photography.

Although many campsites do not have electricity, you will be able to charge personal items in the truck, on our hotel nights and some of lodges where we will be camping offer charging points too.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow £25.00 per person for group tipping.

Namibia

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£15	£20	£1.5	£0.8

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Namibian Dollar. South African Rand is legal tender in Namibia.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

USD are readily exchanged in Namibia and GBP to a lesser extent. Take your money in a combination of ATM cards and cash

Where To Exchange

On arrival.

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Credit Card Acceptance

Limited.

Travellers Cheques

Are difficult to exchange and should be used as back up

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

4WD, On Foot, Truck

Accommodation notes

Namibia has a good tourism infrastructure and service levels overall. Hotels will be simple but clean and welcoming often with a communal area to get refreshments or relax with a book. Our chosen campsites are well set-up and maintained, often with dining areas, barbecues, fire pits, small shop and bar, clean toilets and shower blocks (facilities are shared). Most camping pitches will have a tap for running cold water and a campfire, some of the sites also offer the use of charging points for cameras and phones.

Many of our chosen camping spots are within private lodge grounds with use of the facilities such as the pool, gardens and a bar. Camping is in two person tents, with the Explore leader and driver preparing the meals. One great feature of camping is that it really gives us a sense of being in the African bush as we camp under the starry skies listening to the surrounding wildlife. Everyone in the group will help with camp chores including setting up and taking down of camp and the loading/unloading of equipment. Like many adventures of this type, much of the team spirit and camaraderie is developed through mucking in with the basic camp responsibilities.

The demand for rooms and camping spots in Namibia is very high so our accommodation is subject to change even at short notice. Your Explore Leader will give a group briefing at the start of the trip about locations, driving times and any alterations to the running order that be necessary. Distances between accommodations can be vast and driving times may be affected.

Namibia

Food and drink

Dietary requirements: Most restaurants and hotels in Namibia do not have a wide selection of vegan and vegetarian choices. There is usually a choice of salads and one main vegetarian and/or vegan main dish on the menus, but choice will be limited especially in more remote locations. If you have specific dietary requirements we do recommend for you to bring some food with you.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing

Visa and Passport Information

Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits) and entry into Namibia

Regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via South Africa are in place. The law states that parents and/or guardians are requested by the airline and/or South Africa immigration officers to provide additional documentation for each child they are travelling with. Please refer to the South African House website and your airline for full requirements.

Please refer to the FCO website for information on travelling with minors to Namibia:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/namibia/entry-requirements>

Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

UK passport holders will need a minimum of 1 blank page in your passport for your permission to stay stamp acquired on arrival. Other nationalities should consult their embassy or consular office.

When travelling via South Africa a machine readable passport is required.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have

selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Namibia

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Please note that all travellers aged over 9 months old that have travelled from or have transitted via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission, will need to present a Yellow Fever certificate at

immigration/borders in Namibia for inspection. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



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PROMISE**



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