

EXPLORE!

Family Namibian Adventure
13 days

Namibia - Trip code FNW

Family Namibian Adventure

We explore the dramatic canyons, towering sand dunes and magnificent wildlife parks of the Namib landscape as well as get the chance to meet the San Bushman, learning about their culture and way of life. There is a cooking lesson in the wilderness and we have a 'living desert' excursion. Staying in a range of lodges, chalets and guesthouses along the route, we track elephant, rhino and lion through the Etosha National Park. As well as visiting a cheetah conservation centre, we explore Swakopmund where we kayak along the Atlantic coast and cycle around the town.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Sossusvlei** - The world's highest sand dunes.
- ★ **Etosha** - Abundant wildlife from comfortable lodges within the park.
- ★ **Damaraland** - Ancient Bushmen rock art and the Himba people.
- ★ **Swakopmund** - A charming coastal town where we kayak and cycle

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip in Windhoek

Arrive Windhoek and check into hotel. Windhoek architecture is styled on a German design, a lasting reminder of Namibia's early colonial history. There is some free time today for sightseeing with the opportunity to visit the National Museum.



Accommodation: Hotel Thule (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Drive to Erindi Private Game Reserve and afternoon game drive

The Erindi area used to be a cattle farm and unfortunately its cattle caused some damage to the natural vegetation. However, Gert Joubert and his nephew Paul bought the farm and started to phase out cattle farming and replaced this with numerous species of wildlife and in 2007, it was approved as a nature conservation venture. Over the years Erindi has successfully transformed itself into an eco-tourism and conservation venture with specific programs established to rehabilitate both the land and animals that live in the reserve which include wildebeest, elephant, springbok, lion and even aardvark and monitor lizards. This afternoon, the included game drive roams through the reserve with a qualified and knowledgeable guide in the comfort of an open 4x4 vehicle.

A note about the roads in Namibia:

Namibia is a vast country covering with ever changing landscapes, whilst the driving distances are significant, the country has historically had a long standing reputation for good quality roads making Namibia an ideal destination to explore by road.

The majority of roads in Namibia are gravel which requires a continuous programme of grading to eliminate corrugation and potholes. Over the past 12 months Namibian roads have been causing concern, many of the roads to popular tourist sites in Namibia are in poor condition, affecting even the toughest overland vehicles and impacting travel times.

In September 2017 the Namibian government secured additional funding to address the deteriorating road situation and reintroduce essential grading of gravel roads. Explore in partnership with our local partners are reviewing the situation and will amend itineraries if necessary, it is our expectation that our 2018 programme will run as planned, allowing us to showcase the very best of this beautiful part of the world. In the meantime please be aware that travel times may be longer and road conditions

bumpier than usual.



Accommodation: Erindi Game Reserve Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 3 - Travel to the famous Etosha National Park via the Cheetah Conservation Fund

A long but highly rewarding travelling day today. We drive north 430km to the world renowned Etosha National Park today, visiting the Cheetah Conservation Fund en route. Namibia has the largest population of wild cheetahs in the world and today at the CCF we'll spend time learning about the world's fastest land animal (which can reach speeds of up to 112 km) and meet a few of the residents. This is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and our visit allows us to understand more about these beautiful cats.

Etosha is the country's prime wildlife location and home to the largest variety of mammals and birds in Namibia. Etosha means the 'great white area' which refers to the large dried pan in the middle of the park. It is believed that the pan was formed over 100 million years ago and is 130 km's long and up to 50 kms wide (the pan covers almost a quarter of the entire park) and can even be seen from space! Reaching our base in the afternoon for a dusk game drive, we check-in for two nights in Namutoni which is one of only three rest camps in the park.



Accommodation: Namutoni Rest Camp (or similar)



Standard Cabins



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 4 - Game drives in Etosha National Park, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard

Etosha National Park is an immense saline desert, and our game drives take us from dense bush to large open plains where animals roam freely. We travel along the network of gravel roads that criss-cross the park, visiting viewpoints and the permanent waterholes around which animals congregate. We hopefully will see four of the Big 5 that live in the area. Elephants and lions are common in the park, while the elusive leopard hides in densely vegetated areas but it is the endangered black rhinos, which draw the most interest. The numerous waterholes scattered around the park are probably among the best places in the world to see this precious animal along with the plains which are home to large herds of springbok and zebra, all of which give a wonderful backdrop to game viewing in a unique place.



Accommodation: Namutoni Rest Camp (or similar)



Standard Cabins



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Drive to Omaruru to enjoy the local art scene

Leaving Etosha behind, we drive 280 km south to Omaruru through ever changing landscapes.

In the Otjijhero language of the local Herero people, the name Omaruru means 'bitter milk', probably because the local cows ate a local bush with gave their milk a slightly bitter taste. The Herero migrated from east African arriving in Namibia about 350 years ago. Traditionally, Omaruru has been an important centre for the Herero people for trading cattle and game but in the last decade, the town has now also become a haven for artists. The afternoon is left free to visit the local museum or the Sand Dragon restaurant (art centre and restaurant).



Accommodation: Omaruru Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6 - Visit a living museum of the San Bushmen

We visit a living museum today which explains how the San Bushmen people have lived off the land for many years as well as explaining their culture, rock paintings and how they used to hunt. They were driven out of this area a long time ago but the museum, which is entirely run by the San Bushmen themselves, gives them the opportunity to make a living by showing visitors their ancestral history and way of life, giving an interesting insight into the their hunter-gatherer culture and traditions. There is a demonstration given by the San Bushmen on how they used to hunt and we walk alongside them as they explain and show these techniques.



Accommodation: Omaruru Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 7 - Drive to the Atlantic coast and Swakopmund via the granite peaks of Spitzkoppe and Cape Seal Reserve

Today we travel to the coast via Spitzkoppe, a group of bare granite peaks located between Usakos and Swakopmund in the Namib Desert. The granite is more than 120 million years old and the highest outcrop dramatically rises 1,784 meters above the flat surrounding plains. we also visit the world's largest breeding colony of Cape fur seals when we stop at Cape Seal Reserve along the

coast. We can walk along the edge of the colony and learn more about these captivating creatures and the intriguing history of Cape Cross.



Accommodation: Rossmund Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 8 - Kayak in Walvis Bay with afternoon free for optionals

We spend the morning kayaking around Walvis Bay (no experience required) which is a natural deep water harbour protected by the Pelican Point peninsula along the Skeleton Coast. As you kayak along the bay, you will see the sand dunes, birdlife and even an artificial island made from bird poo! If you are lucky, we may also have sighting of dolphins and seals that feed off the cool Benguela nutrient rich current, as well as flamingos or pelicans. The afternoon is free to relax on the beach or try out the numerous activities in Swakopmund such dolphin, seal and whale cruise and mountain biking.



Accommodation: Rossmund Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Cycle trip of the town with free afternoon

This morning we cycle around Swakopmund which takes you around the streets of that contain Swakopmund's historic buildings and landmarks giving a flavour of why the town is a favourite place to visit and why it is considered to be one of the best-preserved colonial towns in Africa. The afternoon is left free to relax by the pool or discover the area further.



Accommodation: Rossmund Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Discover desert wildlife and its mysteries with an expert guide

We leave Swakopmund this morning and travel by the dunes outside Swakopmund. The local desert guide will show the hidden life in this apparently barren landscape with animals that are endemic to Namibia including the sidewinder (Peringuey's adder), the

Palmato gecko with its transparent skin and beautiful colours as well as track the large Namaqua chameleon. We find out how the area's plants and small animals survive in this harsh climate including how they find water. Along the way, the guide explains the variety of dune colours and weather permitting, you will experience a 'roaring' dune as the sand actually produces sound!. We continue into the desert to our chalet accommodation where the Explore Leader teaches the group how to cook a meal in the desert.



Accommodation: Soft Adventure Camp (or similar)



Simple Tented Camp



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 11 - Exploring Sossusvlei Dunes and Sesriem Canyon

Today, we drive into the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the largest nature reserve in Africa and travel down the Tsauchab Valley to Sossusvlei to watch the sun rise and cast its shadows over the red dunes. Sossusvlei has some of the world's most spectacular and highest sand dunes, including the incredibly photogenic 'Dune 45'. The area itself is a vast depression or clay pan towered over by sand dunes up to 300m high. In the early morning, the first rays of the sun light up the dunes with a deep orange glow - a photographer's delight. It is a wild, beautiful and romantic spot with sparse vegetation edging a few watercourses that flow in from the Tsauchab River. We'll also explore the cool passageways of the Sesriem Canyon on foot. A deep slash in the earth, the picturesque canyon is approximately 1km long and its shade offers shelter to numerous plants, while its water pools attract several species of birds and animals. Sesriem means 'six thongs'. This refers to the six lengths of rawhide rope needed to make a line long enough to lower from the rim of the gorge to the stream below, in order to haul up a bucket of water in days gone by.



Accommodation: Soft Adventure Camp (or similar)



Simple Tented Camp



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 12 - Drive to Windhoek with an afternoon city excursion

A long journey ahead of us as we spend the morning driving 335km northeast through the Namib Desert and back to the capital, Windhoek, where we have a city excursion to discover the capital further including the historic landmark and Lutheran church of Christuskirche and Parliament Gardens as well as the streets of Mondesa Township with the opportunity to meet local tribes (Ovambo, Herero and Nama) and visit the market, local music and cuisine.



Accommodation: Hotel Thule (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Swimming pool available





DAY 13 - Trip ends after breakfast

Trip ends after breakfast in Windhoek



Family information

A note about the roads in Namibia:

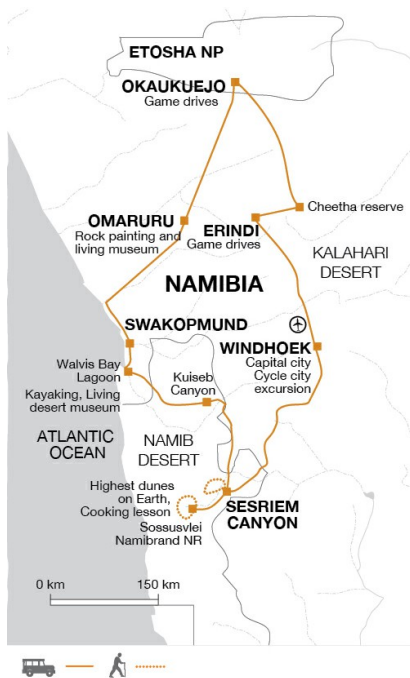
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Minimum age

11



Why book this trip

This adventure is perfect for families who want to discover an African country that is off the beaten track. The trip offers a fascinating journey through Namibia offering inspiring landscape of the oldest desert on the planet. The Namib Desert and Skeleton Coast are worth a visit by themselves and by combining this with a living desert our and National parks, this is an incredible adventure.

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What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 12
Lunch: 6
Dinner: 5



Transport

On Foot
Truck



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

2 nights standard cabins
2 nights standard guesthouse
2 nights standard hotel
1 nights premium lodge
3 nights standard lodge
2 nights simple tented camp

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

+1

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Christian

Language

English, Afrikaans, German

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Swakopmund - optional Township Tour (R 545.00) or Dolphin, Seal & Whale Cruise (R 725)

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight, however a warm fleece and sweater/thick shirts are essential, as nights (and daytime) can be very cold, especially from May to September, and game drives tend to take place at dawn and dusk. Brightly coloured clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

Footwear

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

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

A soft bag or holdall/kitbag (or rucksack with detachable frame). There are no porters on this trip to carry luggage.

Equipment

Bring a torch, water bottle, sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. We also recommend you bring a swimming costume.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest £25 per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

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

£15

Dinner price

£20

Beer price

£1.5

Water price

£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

On Foot, Truck

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 information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits)²

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.

Namibia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. Certain airlines require two consecutive blank pages in your passport for the entry stamp. Please check with your airlines in advance. 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 transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. 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.

Non refundable permits

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.
