

# EXPLORE!

## Namibia Lodge Safari + Garden Route

NAMIBIA - TRIP CODE NLS

WILDLIFE



### Why book this trip?

Explore Namibia's dramatic canyons, towering sand dunes and magnificent wildlife parks before journeying along South Africa's most famed road trip; The Garden Route. Track elephants, rhinos and lions in Namibia's Etosha National Park before spending time with African penguin colonies and sipping world-renowned wines in South Africa.

- **Sossusvlei** - Explore the world's highest sand dunes
- **National Parks** - Search for wildlife and explore the scenery in Etosha, Waterberg, Addo and Tsitsikamma
- **Cape Town** - Discover an iconic, vibrant city surrounded by mountains and sea



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
 Breakfast: 22  
 Lunch: 9  
 Dinner: 6



**TRIP STAFF**  
 Explore Tour  
 Leader  
 Driver(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
 On Foot  
 Truck



**ACCOMMODATION**  
 5 nights  
 comfortable cabins  
 10 nights  
 comfortable hotel  
 5 nights  
 comfortable lodge  
 1 nights simple  
 lodge  
 1 nights premium  
 lodge



**TRIP PACE:**  
 Full on



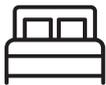
**GROUP SIZE:**  
 10 - 16

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Join tour Windhoek

Arrive Windhoek and check into hotel. There is some free time today for sightseeing in the Namibian capital, with an opportunity to visit the National Museum or perhaps a half day Katatura Township tour.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
 Hotel Safari (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE**

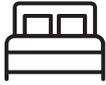


**MEALS PROVIDED: NONE**

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## DAY 2 - Drive through Namib Desert to Sesriem

Departing Windhoek we spend the day driving south-west into the Namib Desert, to the edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park and our lodge near Sesriem. The Namib is the oldest desert on earth, distinguished as being home to some of the strangest flora and fauna on the continent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hammerstein Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

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## DAY 3 - Exploring the highest sand dunes in the world in Sossusvlei

Today we drive into the Namib-Naukluft National Park and travel down the Tsauchab Valley to Sossusvlei to watch the sun cast its shadows over the red dunes. Sossusvlei has some of the world's most spectacular sand dunes. 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 water courses which flow in from the Tsauchab river. Here springbok and ostrich are often seen. We'll also explore the cool passageways of the Sesriem Canyon on foot. The canyon is small but very picturesque - many plants grow in the shade and shelter offered by the canyon, and water pools attract several species of birds and animals. Sesriem means 'six thongs'; which refers to the six lengths of rawhide rope (from a wagon) 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.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hammerstein Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

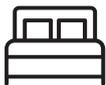


MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

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#### **DAY 4 - Drive to Swakopmund via Walvis Bay**

Travelling via Solitaire and through the Kuiseb Canyon, we then pass awe-inspiring landscapes as we head across the Namib gravel flats to Walvis Bay. Here a large spit forms a natural deep-sea harbour that attracted the first navigators in the late 1400's. The shallows, located where the spit joins the mainland, are home to a diverse collection of birds, the most spectacular being flamingos and pelicans that feed here seasonally. It's a short drive from here to the coastal town of Swakopmund.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Amanpuri Travellers Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



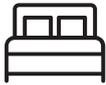
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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#### **DAY 5 - Swakopmund, Explore the colonial town or time for optional activities**

Swakopmund is one of the world's best examples of German colonial architecture, and served as the German's port into what was then, German South West Africa. Like any port town has a colourful past. Today, there may be time to visit the town's excellent museum, or visit a local township, participate in one of the numerous activities on offer, or just relax! This evening you have the chance to watch the sunset at the nearby coastal dune belt.

Please note: The running order of days 5, 6 and 7 is subject to change depending on accommodation locations. All listed highlights and activities will still be included and your Explore Leader will provide a detailed briefing to the group about the running order, driving distances and any necessary changes to what's described in the trip notes.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Amanpuri Travellers Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 6 - Drive via Cape Cross Seal Colony to Damaraland**

Travelling north towards the Atlantic coast we visit the memorable Cape Cross Seal Colony where between 80,000 and 100,000 Cape fur seals bask in the sun or swim playfully in the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The seals are natural indicators of fish stocks in the ocean. If the fish stocks are healthy, then the seal numbers are high. If the fish stocks are poor, then the seal numbers will be low. The seals are quite big, an average male weighing in at anything up to 187kg (501 lbs.). The females give birth to a single pup around late November to early December. After our visit we head inland, towards the majestic Brandberg Mountain (2,573m and the highest point in Namibia) and stopping at the Brandberg White Lady Paintings. These famous San Bushman paintings can be found throughout the Brandberg Mountain area and are a spectacle to behold. To reach the rock paintings we will walk via mostly flat terrain between rock formations and it will take us approximately 1 hour to reach. Do remember to wear comfortable walking footwear and have a hat, suntan lotion and plenty of water with you today.

Please note: Depending on your accommodation location, the rock art seen will either be the Brandberg White Lady or Twyfelfontein rock art. Both of these sites are of important, cultural significance in Namibia and are examples of ancient Bushmen rock art. Your Explore Leader will advise on arrival about the running order and which rock art site will be visited.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Uis White Lady Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**

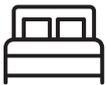


SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

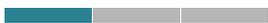


### **DAY 7 - Visit Himba Village; drive towards Etosha National Park**

This morning we have the privilege to meet the Himba people and learn about their traditions and way of life. The Himba are the last semi-nomadic herders in Namibia and their simple lifestyle has remained unchanged for generations as these people have preferred their traditional life style to modernization. They have become iconic for using a characteristic red paste made of butter, fat and red ochre that they apply to their body and which serves an aesthetic purpose in beautifying their body as well as protecting them from the scorching sun. We interact with these friendly and proud people before continuing our journey to the edge of Etosha National Park, arguably one of the finest national parks in Africa.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Toshari Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Lodge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

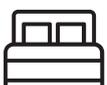


MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

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### **DAY 8 - Game drives in Etosha National Park**

This morning we enter Etosha National park for an early morning game drive. Etosha is an immense, saline desert, covering over 12,400 square miles, and the habitat for 114 species of animals and 340 species of birds. It has been described as the best game reserve on the African continent. Our programme of game drives will depend entirely on the interests of the group, and is left as flexible as possible. We should see elephant, rhino and hopefully lion. The terrain ranges from dense bush to large open plains where animals roam freely. We drive along the network of gravel roads that criss-cross the Park, visiting the various viewpoints and the permanent waterholes around which animals congregate. There is something enigmatic in the vast silent greywhite pan that covers the reserve.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Halali Rest Camp (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Cabins**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

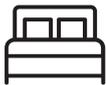


MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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### **DAY 9 - Game drives in Etosha National Park**

We continue with game drives today. Numerous waterholes and underground springs attract large herds of animals including springbok, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe. At its very heart is the Etosha Pan, which geologists believe was formed some 12 million years ago from an inland lake about the size of Holland. Shrunken to its present dried-up size, it is now a gigantic depression in the ground - flat, saline and silvery, a mysterious place of mirages and dust-laden images.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Halali Rest Camp (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Cabins**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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### **DAY 10 - Visit Cheetah Conservation foundation; Waterberg Plateau Park**

We leave Etosha and travel via the Cheetah Conservation Foundation at Otjiwarongo to the Waterberg Plateau Park. The CCF is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and their eco-systems with an extensive visitor's centre which encourages visitors to learn more about these beautiful cats and the efforts being made to save them. Later we will continue to the Waterberg Plateau. The Waterberg is a sandstone mountain which rises over 200m from the surrounding plains and is Namibia's only mountain game park. There are various trails to walk along searching for the elusive Damara Dik-Dik and a good variety of birds.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Waterberg Restcamp Bungalows (or similar)

Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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### DAY 11 - Morning walks or optional game drives; head to Windhoek

This morning you could choose to explore some of the walking trails on offer or take an optional game drive in the national park. We will then head south and return to Windhoek. We have the chance to stop off en route in Okhandja and visit the local craft market.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Safari (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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### DAY 12 - Tour ends Windhoek

Today we will leave Windhoek and fly to Cape Town, the Mother City that is flanked by the Atlantic Ocean and Twelve Apostles mountain range. Depending on the flight arrival time, you may choose to enjoy some free time with a bite to eat in the relaxed Kloof Street area alongside Capetonians or explore the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in the sunshine.

This evening, meet the rest of your group and your Explore Leader for the duration of the South Africa section.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Lady Hamilton Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



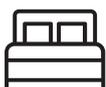
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 13 - Explore Cape Peninsula National Park**

Our full day trip to Cape Peninsula will begin with a scenic drive via the white-sand beaches of Fish Hoek, stopping to explore the small but important naval base of Simon's Town. Later, we arrive at Cape of Good Hope, allegedly named due to the optimism once felt by arriving colonial sailors having successfully navigated the Cape and discovering a sea route to the East. We'll take an hour-long walk within the national park to Cape Point and the lighthouse, keeping an eye out for resident baboons, tortoises, otters and seabirds along the way. The trail is well marked, slightly rocky in places, and boasts diverse flora with many colourful flowers.

We'll return to Cape Town via Hout Bay, an attractive fishing port once bordered by dense forest, hence its name, which translates as 'Wood Bay'. Here, we have the option of taking a short boat trip out to Seal Island - home to 1,000 Cape fur seals and guarded by the impressive, towering Sentinel Mountain. Alternatively, explore on dry land to see Hout Bay's active tuna, snoek and crayfish industry and find out why the town prides itself on offering some of the best fish and chips in the world.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Lady Hamilton Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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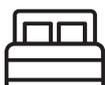
### **DAY 14 - Free day in Cape Town; evening in Stellenbosch**

Today is left free for you to explore under your own steam. Consider climbing Table Mountain, on foot or by cable car, for the breath taking views over the Apostles, the Atlantic and the city below. The walk up to the viewpoint takes between three to four hours and is accompanied by our Explore Leader.

Alternatively, an aerial cable car runs frequently to and from the summit, where a network of trails criss-cross the plateau and provide a variety of vantage points. Or you may prefer to take a trip to the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, which claims to be the most beautiful garden in Africa and is devoted to conservation of the Cape's indigenous species.

With prior booking, you can visit the infamous Robben Island, the former prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated. There are departures at 9am, 11am and 1pm. A Robben Island visit and Table Mountain hike can be completed in the same day. If you'd like to do both, we recommend the 9am departure for Robben Island. For information on how to book this, please see the optional activities section or visit [www.robben-island.org.za](http://www.robben-island.org.za). Your Explore Leader will be able to give further local advice and recommendations on the optional activities.

Late this afternoon, we'll leave Cape Town and head to the scenic winelands of Stellenbosch where you can relax with a sundowner on the terrace. Our hotel has a restaurant and there are a small selection of eateries just a short walk away. Please note: Table Mountain's cableway is closed for two weeks at the end of July for maintenance.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Stellenbosch Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



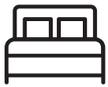
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 15 - Free day in Stellenbosch to visit a vineyard

Stellenbosch is world famous for its wine and today is a perfect opportunity to visit one or two vineyards for a tasting. Many are set within spectacular gardens and farmland, and offer the opportunity to have lunch and a stroll. A guided tour of Stellenbosch Town is also an option and a great way to learn about the many cultures that have come together to make Stellenbosch what it is today. One of the oldest of the colonial settlements, this charming town is made up of wide, oak lined streets and white washed, Cape Dutch architecture. There are many cafes, bars and delis to choose from for lunch and most pride themselves on using local produce.

Or a more active option is to visit Jonkershoek Nature Reserve for a 2.5 hour walking excursion. Easy, scenic walking trails run through an important conservation area of indigenous forest, home to over 1,100 plant species, as well as a number of reptile and mammal species including the elusive leopard.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Stellenbosch Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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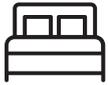
## DAY 16 - Travel to Hermanus via Stony Point's African Penguin Colony

This morning will be an earlier start as we make our way to Hermanus. A 90 minute drive takes us to the Betty's Bay area where we will have an included visit to Stony Point Nature Reserve. This reserve sits on the site of a historic whaling station and has a quiet, undiscovered feel, offering excellent penguin viewing without the crowds. The boardwalks can be followed over the craggy outcrops to see the resident seabirds up close without disturbing them. Although humans are not allowed to wander beyond the boardwalks, it does not always stop the penguins joining the trail and setting a slow walking pace!

After a lunch break at Betty's Bay, we'll continue to our apartment-style accommodation in central Hermanus. This afternoon will be free to explore the coastal town. From July to November, Hermanus offers some of the world's best shore-based whale watching, with good opportunity to spot southern right, Bryde's and humpback whales. Although there is a good chance of seeing the whales from the water's edge in town, you may prefer to follow the coastal path to a better vantage point or join a boat trip excursion for a closer view. At other times of year, you may choose to spend the day exploring the

galleries and museums in Hermanus, which are easy to discover on foot. Or if you developed a taste for South African wine while in Stellenbosch, then Hemel-en-Aarde wine valley (Heaven and Earth Valley) is just a stone's throw away, and offers a selection of wineries with views over the town and coast below.

This evening will be at your leisure. There is a variety of traditional South African and seafood restaurants lining the streets.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Windsor Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 17 - Visit Cape Agulhas. Spend the night on the banks of the Breede River**

We'll stand on the southernmost point of the African continent this morning and see where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Indian Ocean in a white crash of waves. Now marked by a stone plaque, the 'Cape of Storms' was once a point of grave danger to European navigators and to the site of various evidential shipwrecks. We'll have some free time to explore here and get some lunch.

We'll continue towards Swellendam this afternoon, leaving the main road to follow a gravel track to our river camp, where rustic, wooden a-frame huts line the banks of the Breede River. This accommodation offers a real break from reality and a chance to enjoy the surrounding nature. You can chat with the friendly team - many of which come from the nearby town - at the bar or around this evening's camp fire for an insight into their life on the Western Cape. Or find a relaxing spot along the riverbank to enjoy the peace and quiet. This evening a traditional, bush-style dinner will be served before a campfire under the starry sky (weather-dependent).



ACCOMMODATION:  
Round the Bend Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Cabins**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

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### **DAY 18 - Opportunity for rafting on the Breede River. Drive to Oudtshoorn**

This morning, if weather allows, there will be an option to try your hand at rafting along the Breede River in two-person inflatable rafts. The grade changes according to the water levels but generally rafting does not exceed grade two and all abilities are welcome. Alternatively, enjoy a coffee by the water's edge or a take a walk around the surrounding countryside of the Western Cape.

There'll be time for lunch in the historic town of Swellendam. This town is small by most standards but is one of the oldest districts in South Africa. Rich in colonial history as an old trading post, the town has well-preserved examples of Cape Dutch architecture. Later this afternoon we'll make our way to Oudtshoorn, where we will be staying in a family-run property close to the centre of town. Depending on our arrival time you can use the pool and all rooms have outdoor seating to make the most of the afternoon sun. This evening is free to walk into town for dinner or perhaps have a barbeque in one of the outdoor eating areas.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Kleinplaas Resort (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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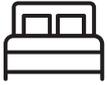
### **DAY 19 - Visit Cango Caves and take in the views at Knysna Heads**

We start today by exploring the huge limestone caverns of the Cango Caves. These caves are an underground network of extraordinary structures, millions of years old. The combination of dripping rainwater and limestone has led to the creation of ancient stalactites, stalagmites and mighty rock columns. Allegedly, a local European farmer first discovered the caves late in the 18th century; however, there is research that proves the caves to have been used by man as far back as the Early Stone Age.

Later this morning, we'll leave Oudtshoorn and make our way to the coastal town of Knysna. Here, we'll visit Knysna Heads Viewpoint, where two limestone cliffs emerge from the sea side by side, protecting a

peaceful lagoon that runs inland from the sea. The lagoon is popular with tourists and local residents alike and is home to fishermen, water sports enthusiasts and many birds, including herons, kingfishers, African fish eagles and Knysna warblers. We'll have time to enjoy lunch on the waterfront this afternoon and wander around the quaint, little town before we depart on our final journey of the day to Plettenberg Bay.

Our accommodation for the next two nights is a white-washed, seaside resort, set just a five-minute walk down to the unspoilt Keurbooms Beach.



ACCOMMODATION:  
The Dunes Resort (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 20 - Discover Robberg Nature Reserve. Free afternoon in Plettenberg Bay**

Today we'll take a short drive to Robberg Nature Reserve where our Explore Leader will lead a walk along the trails. The hiking here is moderate - it's uneven under foot in places and can be slippery so good walking shoes are advised, but rewards are abundant: brilliant bird viewing, sweeping coastal views and the possibility to spot dolphins and seals playing in the waters below. From July to December, there's also the chance to see southern right whales that come into the calmer and warmer waters to calve and nurse their young.

After working up an appetite, we'll stop for a well-deserved lunch in Plettenberg Bay. After lunch, the afternoon is free with the option to relax on the beach, shop for souvenirs or join a whale-watching or kayaking excursion. We'll return to our accommodation in the late afternoon, when there'll be some free time to relax before dinner - eat in the hotel restaurant, or choose a water-front eatery in Plettenberg Bay, and enjoy local wine alongside fresh seafood.



ACCOMMODATION:  
The Dunes Resort (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



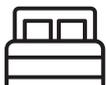
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 21 - Walk, kayak or discover the tree canopy at Tsitsikamma National Park

This morning we leave on a short journey to Tsitsikamma National Park about 45 minutes away. Another hotspot for seasonal whale watching, the national park covers both land and sea, protecting important forest and marine areas and offering stunning coastal views. We'll be staying in the Storms River region where there are numerous well-marked walking trails for varying abilities, as well as the opportunity to explore suspended canopy walkways and zipwires, or to try river kayaking.

Tonight we'll be staying in simple chalets set amongst the trees just minutes from the sea front. Try fresh seafood in the restaurant or cook up a traditional braai for dinner at one of the communal barbeque areas by the water.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Tsitsikamma Coastal Cottages (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Cabins



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 22 - Experience a game drive at Addo Elephant National Park

We leave the Tsitsikamma area this morning for another of South Africa's national parks, stopping for breakfast on the way. Home to more than 600 elephants as well as lion, hyena, cape buffalo and leopard, Addo Elephant National Park is our home for the last night of the trip. On arrival we'll swap into one of the park's safari trucks - perfect for the terrain and for capturing great wildlife shots - for a two-hour

game drive with a park guide. Warthog are abundant here, along with various species of antelope, zebra and of course elephant.

After our game drive there may be time to have a dip in the pool (open November - February) or enjoy the views from your room. Tonight's group meal is included and a visit to the viewing platform that overlooks the night-lit waterhole is a highlight of staying here and provides the opportunity for close-up viewing of the animals.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Addo Elephant Forest Cabins (or similar)

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Grade: Comfortable Cabins



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

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### **DAY 23 - Search for wildlife as the sunrises. Trip ends at Port Elizabeth Airport**

Early risers can take a sunrise game drive with a park guide this morning. Heading out into the bush as the sun slowly peeks over the horizon is a thrilling experience that justifies the early start. The bush is cooler at this time of day, and bathed in majestic lighting - there's increased chance of seeing hyena and cats on the hunt for breakfast, and fewer cars. Our adventure ends after breakfast when we'll all leave together for Port Elizabeth. There will be two drop-off times at the airport: 11am and 1.30pm. Those on an earlier flight will be dropped off at the airport for check-in at 11am, while those with a late afternoon flight will have time for lunch in Port Elizabeth before getting to the airport at 1.30pm.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **Trip information**

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### **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

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## 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 - Living Desert Tour half day tour N\$ 750 - The Living Desert Tour is a unique 4x4 adventure drive through the dunes. The tour takes you from the vegetated, life-rich eastern side of the dunes, right through the dunes to the Atlantic Ocean on the western side (minimum 5 people and weather permitting).

Museum N\$ 30; Aquarium N\$ 45; Township tour N\$ 500; Half day dolphin cruise in Walvis Bay N\$ 730.

Etosha NP - Night game drive N\$730.

Waterberg Plateau Park - Game drives N\$ 610 for 4hrs.

Cape Town - Robben Island (3.5 hour tour) R340; Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens R65; Table Mountain cable car - from R293 return /R151 one way

Cape Peninsula - Seal Island boat trip R80; Cape Point Funicular R80 return / R65 one way.

Stellenbosch - Guided tour available R80; Wine tasting R32.

Hermanus - Seasonal Whale watching boat trip R900-R1100 depending on passengers.

Breede River - Rafting (approx 2-3hrs) R425.

Plettenberg Bay - Seasonal Whale watching boat trip R900.; Kayaking R450.

Tsitsikamma NP - Canopy trail R650.

Addo NP - Sunrise game drive R400.

All prices are per person.

## 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.

Due to limited space in the luggage trailer during the South African part of your trip, please only travel with one main piece of luggage and one daypack/ day bag per person.

## 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

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 £45.00 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

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**Transport, Accommodation & Meals****Transport Information**

On Foot, Truck

**Accommodation notes**

Great locations and well appointed accommodation characterise this trip. Namibia has a good tourism infrastructure and generally good service standards. Many of our accommodation options will offer comfortable restcamps with pool, gardens and a bar. In Namibia, the distances between accommodations can be vast and driving times may be affected. Your Explore Leader will give a group briefing about locations, driving times and any alterations to the running order that be necessary. In South Africa accommodation ranges from small, family run guesthouses to river camps and national park owned chalets. They are individual in style, set in great locations, often with nice gardens/grounds and have en-suite facilities. The properties we use give a real taste of traditional South African hospitality and we love supporting these smaller local businesses. In Swellendam, we stay away from the town in a quiet and picturesque setting in the bend of the Breede river. The accommodation is simple, rustic, featuring en-suite facilities and well suited for a natural and peaceful experience.

**Namibia****Food and drink**

Dietary requirements:

It's very important that you let us know of any dietary requirements at least 60 days prior to the departure of your trip because your Leader will pre-plan menus and shop for the majority of the food prior to departure. In Namibia there is very limited availability for specialist food products along the way and leaders will need to pre-advise accommodations of any specific requirements so they can ensure they have options. Please note, without prior notice or if your requirements change while on the trip Explore cannot guarantee all requirements will be catered for.

If you have a specialist diet, including but not limited to vegan, gluten free, lactose intolerant

and/or coeliac, we strongly recommend you bring some snacks with you as options will be limited, particularly in rural parts of Namibia where specialist food products in supermarkets are very limited and restaurants will often have one or two alternative options on their menus. With prior notice our leaders will always ensure there is a meal for you, however, we must stress we cannot guarantee variety or choice.

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## **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**

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\b Travelling with Minors via/to 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.

South Africa: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

New Zealand passport holders do require a visa, please consult your local consulate for full information.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. Please ensure you have the correct multiple entry visa, especially if you are visiting another country on your itinerary and will need

to re-enter South Africa - this includes visiting Swaziland.

All visitors should ensure their passport is machine readable, has a minimum of 6 months validity from your arrival date into the country and has two blank pages when entering and leaving South Africa. The South African Immigration officials will not allow child/ infant pages to be used for this purpose and visitors without the stipulated blank pages will be denied entry.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.<sup>20</sup>

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://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.

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## Additional Information

# Why book this trip

This fascinating journey through Namibia is ideal for those with an interest in the inspiring landscape of the oldest desert on the planet. The Namib Desert and Skeleton Coast are worth a visit by themselves, however when combined with colonial buildings of Namibia and its range of National parks, this is an incredible adventure.

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## Reviews

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AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS