

2 week self-drive itinerary



Overview

Namibia is a vast country, even by African standards, covering an area approximately four times the size of the United Kingdom but with a population of a mere 2 million - one of the lowest densities in the world. This trip gives an opportunity to view wildlife in their natural habitat, see how injured or orphaned big cats are rehabilitated back into the wild, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein, provides a choice of water, land or dune-based activity options and a sunrise excursion into the colourful Namibian desert.

Trip Highlights

- Game viewing in Etosha National Park with expert guide
- See how Big Cats are rehabilitated back into the wild
- See the ancient rock art of the San people
- Kayak alongside dolphins and seals off the coast
- Catch the desert at sunrise as the red & orange hues change

Tailor Made trips

We detail below a sample itinerary: note that we can change the location, duration, order and add in other destinations such as the Skeleton Coast, a Spa & Game Ranch or Cape Town.

Prices

The prices given below are a guide: costs will depend on the lowest airfares available at the time of quotation, the type of accommodation and seasonal price variations. Air fares are generally cheaper the earlier the booking: airlines sell their least expensive seats first when releasing fares. Accommodation costs will depend on the grading: the location of the property, room size and type (eg if there is a view), quality of furnishings and linen, ratio of staff to customers and quality of food will all impact on the amount charged. Let us know a budget and we can research the best accommodation available for you.

Why Book With Us?

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Namibia, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. When you book, we 'flesh out' your itinerary with suggestions for things to do in each area, and will provide maps and directions to each destination with your final paperwork.

We have on-the-ground services by way of ground handlers, who meet with all our clients to go over their itinerary and provide a mobile phone pre-programmed with all accommodation numbers and a cool box. They also provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us.

Included in all self drive holidays to Namibia, we provide emergency roadside medical evacuation and treatment, intended to avoid delays of up to four hours before international insurers authorise the launch of a medi-rescue



vehicle, plane or helicopter at roadside emergencies.

We comply fully with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to *Native Escapes* in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709.

We have testimonials on our website: visit <http://www.nativescapes.com/aboutus.html> for more information.

Day 1

Overnight flight to Windhoek via Johannesburg from London.

Day 2

Arrive Windhoek and transfer into town to our Ground Handler's office for a briefing to go over your itinerary. Your car hire will be delivered here and our ground handlers will be able to answer any queries.

You will then drive to your accommodation tonight we have a selection of 4 star guesthouses we use which offer high level of comfort and hospitality, conveniently located in the city. Your vehicle will be delivered to your accommodation this afternoon.

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Days 3 - 5

You leave Windhoek to drive to the Africat Foundation for a 2 night stay on a fully inclusive basis. (Drive time approx 3 hours from Windhoek). You can join in the afternoon activity, which normally starts at 16.00 and is usually tracking leopard in the immense reserve. After dinner you will also be offered the opportunity to visit a night hide where many nocturnal animals, including porcupine, honey badger and leopard are frequently sighted.

The Africat Foundation is dedicated to the conservation, management and rehabilitation of leopard and cheetah. Over 13.5 years, the Foundation has rescued more than 870 cats, of which 86.7% have been released back into the wild. Activities include cheetah tracking on foot, leopard viewing from a hide or from game viewing vehicles, a visit to the cheetah project for an insight into the welfare work of the Africat Foundation, watching game activity from the hide, and taking a self-guided walk along a nature trail.

Day 4

Today will be spent on activities at the Africat Foundation.

Days 5 - 7

After a morning activity and brunch, continue your journey northwards towards Etosha National Park and your next accommodation, where you will stay for 2 nights including dinner and breakfast.

We have a selection of accommodations we can use in this area according to budget: we tend to recommend small lodges with en suite tent accommodation or chalet style which focus on good hospitality, comfort and food. (We tend to steer clear of coach-stop based accommodations).

Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest game viewing parks, the availability of water holes in Etosha means that the potential for viewing game (including lion, cheetah, elephants, water buffalo, rhinos, giraffe, springboks, zebras amongst others) is greater than some of Africa's other parks where days may be spent searching for wildlife. The Park is dominated by the vast Etosha salt pan, and water holes are joined by a network of well maintained gravel roads. You will need to pay park entry fees of approximately N\$80 per person per day and N\$10 per vehicle. Care should be taken to be back in the rest camp before sunset when the Park gates close.

Day 6

Spend today exploring the eastern side of Etosha National Park. Care should be taken to be back in the rest camp before sunset when the Park gates close. Pick up a map at the gate entrance and head for any of the numerous waterholes where wildlife activity is likely to be concentrated.

Days 7 - 8

Spend today making your way slowly across the Park to the Southern Andersson Gate. You may like to stop at the central, Halali camp for lunch before continuing later this afternoon. You are headed for one of the accommodation establishments just outside the gate for a 1 night stay on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis. There is a range of accommodation we use according to budget level, location and reputation for providing good quality comfort and hospitality.

Days 8 - 9

This morning, you head into Damaraland. (Drive time approx 4 hours). This area is a desert wilderness and is sparsely populated by the Damara people who share their land with a range of wildlife including the Desert adapted Elephant, Rhinoceros, Giraffe, Springbok, Zebra, Oryx, and Ostrich. Its unique geological formations include petrified forests, ancient petroglyph-engraved sandstone slabs and volcanic mounds.

Close by, the World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein is one of the most extensive rock-art galleries on the continent, most likely made by the San Bushmen hunters who left their marks on the surrounding rocks some 6000 years ago. The rock art is situated along two circular routes which can be followed with a local guide. (Breakfast and Dinner included).

You stay for 1 night in carefully selected accommodation usually en suite tented with fabulous views and a range of activities on offer: including tracking desert adapted elephant, nature walks, and sundowner drives. Many clients opt to spend 2 nights in this area.

Days 9 - 11

You drive on this morning further down the coast to Swakopmund: a fascinating and intriguing resort town, complete with German half wooden architecture, monuments, historic buildings, well maintained gardens and palm lined avenues, coffee bars and great seafood restaurants.

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The town is full of activity options: choices include a dolphin & seal cruise, scenic flights over the Skeleton Coast and desert, an excursion to visit a Himba Tribe, eco-sensitive quad biking or sandboarding down the dunes, taking a camel safari, deep sea fishing, hot air ballooning over the desert, horseriding, kayaking or perhaps simply taking a walk along miles of deserted beaches and watching flamingos, pelicans, coromants and other birds at the river mouth.

Days 11- 13

This morning, you drive into the Namib Desert, perhaps stopping to explore Sesreim Canyon, where centuries of erosion have incised a narrow gorge about 1km in length. The area provides great photography opportunities. (Drive time 5-6 hours). The area has a range of accommodations we use we tend to prefer accommodations situated close to the National Park gates for convenience on the early morning excursion into the dunes.

The Namib known as 'The Living Desert' is a world of vast space, endless horizons, dramatic desertscapes and jagged mountain heights. These dunes which are constantly changing shape with the wind - reach the height of a 70 storey skyscraper and are part of one of the world's oldest ecosystems. The colourful quartz sand in the early morning provides hues of creams, oranges, reds and violets: a photographers dream.

Day 13

This morning, you drive back towards Windhoek your final night is back in Windhoek, at a centrally located Guesthouse, where you can indulge in last minute shopping or city sightseeing.

Day 14

Today, you return to Windhoek International Airport for your overnight flight back to London.

Day 15

Arrive London

Guide Costs £2,590.00 - £4,375.00 per person

3,110.00 Euros - 5,165.00 Euros per person

Indicative price includes return economy flights from London, accommodation, transfers, and meals as described. Costs vary according to the standard of accommodation required.

Includes:

Return flights from London as stipulated.
Twin accommodation
Meals as specified in the itinerary
Transfer from Windhoek airport to Windhoek on day 1
Vehicle hire (Toyota 4x4 or similar)

Excludes

All items of a personal nature
Entrance fees to the National Parks
Meals other than those specified in the itinerary
Gratuities (this is not compulsory - a guideline is guides US10.00 and gen staff US5.00 per guest per day)

Car Hire Includes

Car Hire : **Group W vehicle**

Toyota 4x4 Double Cab or similar. Radio/tape or CD player, manual, air-conditioning, power steering.

The car will be delivered to your first overnight stay, or you will collect it at the Europcar Airport desk. We have requested the car with Classic Plus Super Cover Insurance which is the best insurance you can get in Namibia. Please note the driver or any authorized co-driver must produce a valid unendorsed driver's license at the time of rental. The driving license needs to be in English. If not, an International driver's license will be required. Here are some rough guidelines on Europcar rentals:

Direct payments - on collecting your car you will be asked to give a credit card, please note that debit cards are not accepted. This is to cover the fuel deposit (refundable on returning the car full of fuel), additional driver fees + any other services or fees such as baby seats, claim handling fee etc. Further details on the inclusions and outlines are listed below. Please note that these are GUIDELINES ONLY and you must refer to your Europcar contract for specific details.

Your car hire includes super collision damage and theft loss waivers (SCDW & STLW), unlimited kilometres, VAT, stamp duty, airport surcharge, national and regional maps, personal accident insurance (PAI), windscreen damage, tyre, rib & hubcap damage and contract fee.

Your car hire excludes a refundable deposit of **Rand/N\$1000**, additional driver fee of **Rand/N\$220** per driver, young driver surcharge of **Rand/N\$155** per day per driver (age 18-20 with a full licence for at least 2 years), **Rand/N\$450** per rental for a baby seat, **Rand/N\$220** traffic fine handling fee, **Rand/N\$550** claim handling fee, water & under-carriage damage.

Please take care to examine your vehicle and all tyres, including the spare, before signing it off on arrival. It is also ESSENTIAL that you read the Europcar Contract extremely carefully. Be aware of all the inclusions and exclusions in your contract.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below). You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication. You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas

Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals. All visitors require a passport valid for at least six months after the period of their intended stay, and documents for return or onward travel. Passports should have at least two unused pages for endorsements by the Namibian Immigration Service. It is advisable to carry copies of your passport, flight tickets, visa/s and any other important information in case the originals are stolen or mislaid.

Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.

Health

The [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int/en/) (http://www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended by the [Centres for Disease Control & Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

As part of the Terms and Conditions of your safari with Native Escapes it is **essential** that you have comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

Money

Currency is the Namibian dollar which is linked to the South African rand. The South African Rand is also legal tender in Namibia at a rate of 1:1. Current exchange rates can be found at www.xe.com.