

Big Cat Conservation, Game Viewing and Skeleton Coast



Overview

This privately guided overland trip is a unique and special safari in terms of the amazing experience it offers in some of the most scenic and remote areas of Namibia that very few people have a chance to enjoy.

Trip Highlights

- Unique accommodation offering contrasting views of Namibia's varied scenery
- Tracking desert adapted black rhino and desert adapted Elephants in Damaraland
- See the ancient rock art of the Damara people
- Game viewing in Etosha National Park with expert guide

Day 1:

Overnight flight to Windhoek via Frankfurt or Johannesburg

Day 2

Arrive Windhoek where you will be met and transferred into town. Prior to checking into your accommodation, you will be taken on a short city tour. Dinner tonight is had at one of Windhoek's famous restaurants. (Dinner included)

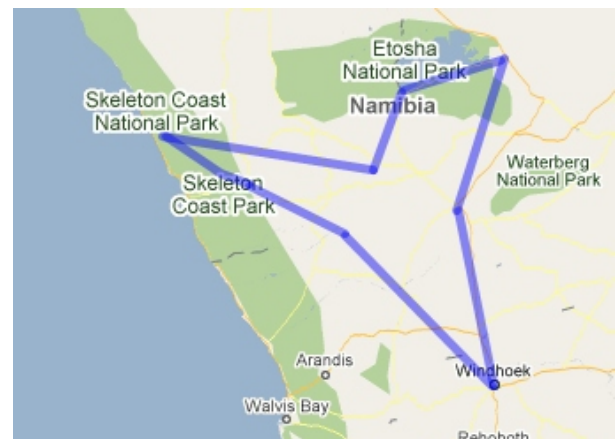
Day 3

Today you are collected by your guide and commence your Namibia safari in your private safari vehicle. You head north, for a 2 night stay on a fully inclusive basis at the Africat Foundation. (Drive time approx 3 hours). You can join in the afternoon activity, which 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. (Full board and guided activities included)

Day 4

After an early morning activity and breakfast, you continue north to the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park where you will stay for 2 nights at a charming lodge, located just 10 km from Etosha's eastern von Lindequist Gate. Using the lodge as your comfortable base for the next two nights, your guide will take you on game drives within the eastern section of Etosha



National Park at your leisure, starting with a game drive this afternoon if time allows.

Game-viewing in Etosha centers around the numerous springs and waterholes where several different species can often be seen at one time. The Park boasts some 114 mammal and over 340 bird species. Wildlife that one might see includes elephant, lion, giraffe, wildebeest, eland, kudu, gemsbok (oryx), zebra, rhino, cheetah, leopard, hyena, honey badger and warthog, as well as the endemic black faced impala. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 5:

A full day of exciting game viewing within the eastern section of Etosha National Park today, on game drives with your guide and return to the lodge for your second night stay. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 6:

Depart after breakfast to enter into Etosha's eastern Gate and game drive your way across to the southwest section of Etosha National Park where you will stay overnight located beside one of the most frequented waterholes within the Park. The drive across Etosha takes much of the day, stopping off at waterholes and interesting game sightings along the way. You will take a break halfway at Halali Resort to stretch your legs and have lunch and you are also welcome to take a refreshing dip in their swimming pool if appeals.

This evening, you will be able to enjoy the sunset over the resort's excellent waterhole which will be floodlit throughout the night so you can relax in comfort whilst watching game come and go. Buffet dinner will be served in the Resort restaurant. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

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Day 7

After breakfast, you continue west across Etosha National Park to reach your next Lodge. Your guide will have a special permit which allows you access through Western Etosha, an expansive section of the Park that is closed to general tourist traffic for research and rehabilitation of game. Our permit gives you the opportunity to experience the different landscapes, vegetation and game species that inhabit the western side of the Park, including game such as Hartmann's mountain zebra which cannot be found elsewhere in Etosha.

During your two night stay at the next lodge, you will be able to explore the concession on guided game and night drives in specially modified open 4x4 game viewing vehicles, starting with an afternoon game drive followed by a night drive after dinner this evening. The night drive is highly recommended as it offers a good chance of seeing nocturnal animals such as spring hares, armadillo, Cape and bat-eared foxes, armadillo and genets. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 8

Today you can enjoy guided activities within the Private Concession where you are staying, with time to also relax and soak in your peaceful bush surroundings and watch game come and go from the nearby waterhole hide. Activities begin with an informative guided nature walk before breakfast during which a local guide will show you the smaller inhabitants of the Concession and explain medicinal uses of plants and other fascinating traditions. You then return to the lodge for breakfast and later in the morning you may like to spend an hour or two at the waterhole hide when it is at its busiest. You will then have time to relax after lunch, before you head out on an afternoon game drive, followed by dinner and a night drive. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 9

This morning you depart and head due south to Twyfelfontein into the heart of Damaraland; home to breathtaking scenery, Petrified Forest, Twyfelfontein rock engravings, Burnt Mountain, Organ Pipes and the elusive desert adapted elephant. Damaraland is typified by displays of colour, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation. The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. En route to camp you visit the Petrified Forest, arriving at camp in time for lunch.

This afternoon your guide will take you to visit the nearby attractions and geological sites of Twyfelfontein rock engravings (recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes. You will also explore the ephemeral Aba Huab Riverbed in search of desert adapted game, including desert adapted elephant if they are in the area. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 10

This morning can again be spent exploring the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab Riverbeds in search of desert adapted game, including desert adapted elephant if they are in the area. You then head for Palmwag, where you enjoy a light lunch and possibly a refreshing swim. You then enter the Etendeka Concession and make your way to the Mountain Camp via game drive. Here you will stay for two nights here, a remote and homely wilderness camp located within the heart of the Etendeka Concession. During your stay your hosts and their local guides will introduce you to this fascinating area and impart their encyclopedic knowledge of all of its wildlife, large and small, on guided walks and scenic nature drives. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 11

Today you can enjoy guided activities within the Etendeka Concession, with time to also put your feet up and absorb the vastness and tranquility of the area from the comfort of your tent or the open air living area.

Activities include a morning guided nature walk with a local guide who will give you an insight to the unique flora and fauna found in this area, a self-guided walking trail to a scenic lookout and a memorable scenic nature drive. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)



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Day 12

Today's exciting drive takes you completely off the beaten track and into remote areas of the Kunene Region as you follow tracks and ephemeral river courses to reach Hoanib River Camp. You will rise and depart Etendeka early to game drive your way out of the Etendeka Concession to the true wilderness of the private Palmwag Concession, an expansive wildlife area that boasts a variety of game roaming freely in search of water and food. You may also come across inhabited or abandoned Himba settlements along the way, as the nomadic Himba tribes people traverse this wilderness area with their livestock. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 13

Full day of scenic nature drives and walks with your guide at your leisure to explore this remarkable wilderness area and to search for desert adapted wildlife, including elephants, rhino and giraffe. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 14

This morning you depart through some extremely dry and desolate landscapes, before entering the Skeleton Coast Research Camp. You then depart in a 4x4 vehicle and head for camp via a 2 hour scenic drive. The afternoon is spent on an introduction to the desert environs of the region, which includes a drive through dry riverbeds, gravel plains, natural springs and dunes, concluding with sundowners on the rugged coast near the loneliest grave in the world! You arrive at camp in the late afternoon.

This camp is built within the private concession of the Skeleton Coast National Park. This National Park was Diamond district No. 3 before being proclaimed. Due to restricted access very few people have visited this enchantingly desolate and windswept piece of paradise.

Covering about a third of Namibia's coastline, the legendary Skeleton Coast Park stretches 500km. The attraction of the remote Skeleton Coast Park lies essentially in the colour, changing moods and untouched profile of its landscape. Its aura of mystery and impenetrability is due to the many shipwrecks, dense coastal fogs and cold sea breeze by the cold Benguela Current. The landscape in the park ranges from sweeping vistas of windswept dunes to rugged canyons with walls of richly coloured volcanic rock and extensive mountain ranges. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 15

After breakfast, you depart on the selected excursion for the day taking in the highlights of this harsh environment. Activities are usually full day nature drives with a picnic lunch, returning to camp in the evening. The areas you traverse are vast and excursions vary somewhat depending on weather, season, animal movements etc. Areas you may visit include the clay castles of the Hoarusib River, Rocky Point, seal colonies, cultural Himba villages, natural fresh water springs, lichen fields, roaring dunes and more. Your guide also provides an in-depth look at the specially adapted reptiles, birds, insects and plants that have evolved over the ages to survive in this seemingly inhospitable place. Return to camp at sunset for dinner. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 16

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, you depart on a 2 hour scenic drive back to Puros (lunchpacks en route). Here you board your departing light aircraft flight to Windhoek International Airport. You arrive in time for your international flight home and this is also the official end of your Remote Namibia Safari. (Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 17

Arrive London

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 South Africa, 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 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. Our vehicle hire costs are based on no excess insurance charges: items such as windscreen and tyre damage are included, and we are clear on the exclusion charges which are payable locally.

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.

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.