

Big Cats, Safari and Rhino Tracking - Privately Guided Trip



Overview

This privately guided overland trip gives an opportunity to safari in the fabulous Etosha National Park, and to see how injured or orphaned big cats are rehabilitated back into the wild. Accommodation is in small quality lodges. You have the services of a guide, who will provide lively information along the way on wildlife, local tribal cultures and ancient rock art formations.

Trip Highlights

- Unique accommodation offering contrasting views of Namibia's varied scenery
- Tracking desert adapted black rhino in Damaraland
- See the ancient rock art of the Damara people
- Game viewing in Etosha National Park with expert guide
- See first hand how Big Cats are rehabilitated back into the wild
- Activities include game drives, guided walks and night drives

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)

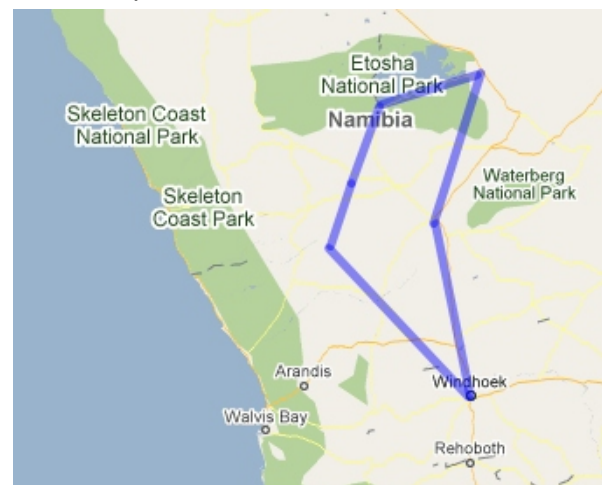
Day 3

Today you are collected by your guide and commence your Namibia safari in your private safari vehicle. You head north-west towards the Erongo Mountains (drive time approx 2 hours). This is a special wilderness area, encircled by the Erongo Mountains, where the desert, mountain, and bushveld ecosystems combine. This is one of Namibia's most diverse and rewarding environments, and the lodge here where you stay tonight provides a fantastic way to experience it. (Dinner, bed and breakfast basis, including guided walks).

The lodge offers a swimming pool and guided walks to local rock art, nature drives, excellent birding and guaranteed relaxation. Guided walks are included each day, in the morning and the afternoon; the camp also offers many self-guided walking trails and nature drives into the 200,000 ha conservation area. Birding is one of the main attractions with 48 different species been sighted in the immediate vicinity, including Black Eagle, Rosy Faced Lovebird & Ruppell's Parrot.

Day 4

This morning, you head with your guide into Damaraland. (Drive time approx 4.5 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.

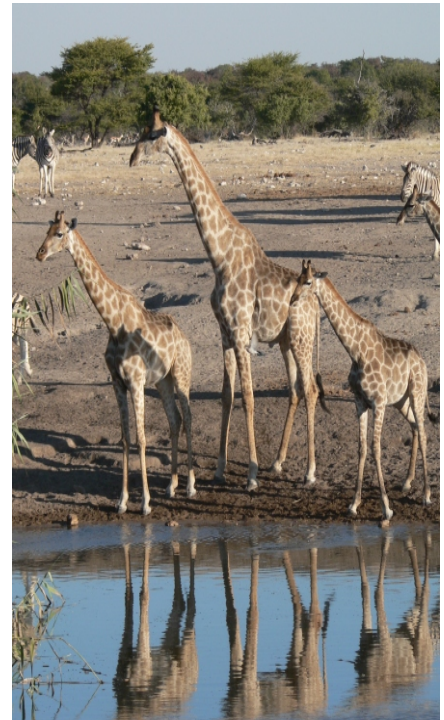


Your accommodation tonight is at an intimate and remote bush lodge with 8 specially-designed rooms which are unique and private, with an outdoor bathroom, thatched roofs and spectacular views over the surrounding area. The Lodge offers guided nature walks around the Twyfelfontein Conservancy, as well as trips to see the Bushman etchings, the mysterious Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain. For a very special experience, an Elephant Nature Drive is a must-do; explore the terrain in search of these elusive desert-dwelling elephants who have adapted to the dry and sandy conditions of northern Namibia.

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.

(Dinner, bed & breakfast included plus elephant tracking / Twyfelfontein tour time allowing)

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Days 5 & 6

This morning, you head further into Damaraland. Your accommodation is at a small lodge for 2 nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis, including rhino tracking. The 12 000 hectare exclusive use area that the lodge encompasses boasts a myriad of Damaraland flora and fauna, with Desert elephant, Black rhino and even lion occasionally ghosting an appearance.

On Day 6, you will go rhino tracking with your private guide after an early breakfast at the lodge. Part of the tracking will take place on foot, with the possibility of between 1 to 3 hours walk at the most. At lunch time there will be a stop near the springs where you can enjoy some refreshments. It's almost a full day activity going along bumpy roads and walking in rocky terrain, so not advisable for the faint-hearted.

(Dinner, bed & breakfast basis and guided rhino tracking excursion included)

Day 7

Today, you continue your journey towards the southern gate of Etosha National Park, arriving at your next lodge in the afternoon (total drive time approx 4 hours) for a 1 night stay on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis. En route you visit Petrified Forest made up of huge trees that turned to stone 280 million years ago 45km west of Khorixas. Broken into segments but aligned, they are clearly recognizable as fallen trees, some as long as 45m and 1.2m in diameter, complete with wood grain and growth rings. It is the biggest accumulation of petrified logs in southern Africa. Floodwaters uprooted the trees elsewhere and carried them to their present position towards the end of an ice age on the Gondwana super continent. The trees were coordinates; early conifers, that are now extinct.

Accommodation is at a Camp inside Etosha National Park, where you stay for 1 night on a bed & breakfast basis. You arrive at here in the early afternoon and take a game drive. (Drive time approx 5 hours).

The camp is famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting: spend the evening relaxing with a drink and your binoculars at one of the seats overlooking the waterhole. Among the regulars are elephants and jackals, while lion and black rhino often visit in the dry season.

Day 8

Today make your way slowly across the magnificent Etosha National Park with your guide. 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 stay for 2 nights at an intimate Bushcamp, on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis including game drives with your private guide. The Bush Camp offers a down to earth en suite tented bush camp experience.

The early evenings see a camp fire lit where guests can exchange stories of the day's wildlife sightings. Dinner, Lunch and breakfast are served on the thatched verandah with the bush being a mere step away. The 16 custom made en-suite tents are built from a combination of canvas and local limestone. With their own 8msq private verandah and roof to floor windows, these rooms are spacious and airy. Each large bathroom has an oversized window and shower looking into the surrounding bush. The brushed cement floors and lime stone walls keep the rooms cool from the afternoon sun with the help from floor fans.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

DAY 8:

After an early breakfast we depart in search of the elusive desert-adapted elephants in an open 4x4 vehicle. We return to the lodge for lunch, and this



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Day 9

Spend today exploring the Etosha National Park with your guide.

Days 10 - 12

Today, you drive east and then south, heading for a 2 night stay on a fully inclusive basis at Okonjima Main Camp. (Drive time approx 4 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 11

Spend today on some of the activities offered at this Big Cats Reserve.

Day 12

After an early morning activity, your guide takes you back to Windhoek Airport, arriving in time for your return flight to London (via Frankfurt or Johannesburg). (Drive time approx 3 hours).

Day 13

Arrive London.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 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 available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings 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. Holiday 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.

