

## Desert, Rhino Tracking, Game Drives and Big Cat Conservation (Fly-in)



### Overview

This fly-in trip combines all the highlights of a trip to Namibia with a unique opportunity to track desert adapted black rhino, and see how big cats are rehabilitated back into the wild. The trip includes game drives where you may view the Big Five in their natural habitat, and includes a sunrise excursion into the colourful Namibian desert. Namibia's scenery is starkly varied, and the itinerary takes in the contrasts in landscapes. Whilst accommodation at the Rhino Camp is rustic but comfortable, the remainder of the itinerary is in luxury lodges and permanent luxury tented accommodation, and the itinerary features some of the best lodges in Namibia. The fly-in element of the trip allows for more time on game drives and doing activities and the flights provide a different perspective on the scenery. The small aircraft used is for private use and piloted by a fully trained guide.

### Trip Highlights

- Visit the dunes of Sossusvlei and catch the desert at sunrise as the red & orange hues change
- Stay in the Desert and experience the real getting-away-from-it-all feeling
- 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 how Big Cats are rehabilitated back into the wild

### DAY 1:

Fly from London (overnight)

### DAY 2: Arrival in Windhoek

You will be met at Windhoek International Airport (or at the designated joining point in the city), and transferred to your luxury hotel overlooking the City. The afternoon is spent on a guided city tour. Nestling among rolling hills, Namibia's capital is the place where old meets new. In the main street, well-preserved German colonial buildings contrast with modern architecture, and Herero women in their traditional Victorian dresses mingle with people in the latest fashions. Total driving time today 45 mins. (Breakfast included)

### DAY 3: Windhoek to Sossusvlei

Depart this morning for the desert in a private light aircraft for Sossusvlei, arriving at your lodge accommodation in time for lunch. This afternoon, you may want to part take in one of the many activities on offer, such as guided walks in the desert to a cave where bushman paintings have been discovered, nature drives in open vehicles, or quad biking through the dunes at sunset. The lodge features a sophisticated observatory where guests are entertained by field guides sharing their knowledge of the cosmos. (Full Board, most drinks and activities above included)

*With only ten stone-and-glass desert villas scattered along the edge of the mountains overlooking the dune sea, the lodge gives personalized service in a magnificent setting. Villas are air conditioned with mini bar, outside terrace and (optional) outside shower.*

### DAY 4 Sossusvlei to Namib Desert

Sunrise over the Namib desert is a spectacle: the shadows cast on the Dunes as the sun appears over the horizon makes for an eerie but beautiful setting.



A picnic breakfast is taken under a tree before also exploring the Sesreim Canyon. This afternoon, you are transferred on a short flight to a lodge in the Namib Desert. This afternoon, you may choose to take a nature drive or relax by the pool or on your verandah watching Oryx at the waterhole beyond.

*Accommodation for the next 2 nights is at a 20 bed Lodge perched on top of a dunes plateau overlooking panoramic vistas in all direction, capturing the desert in an intimate and memorable way. The building style is a combination of wooden poles and large canvas blinds/windows that open up to the desert beyond. Each of the nine spacious chalets with en suite bathroom leads on the private veranda and stretches of untouched sand.*

### DAY 5 Namib Desert

Today is spent exploring the Namib Nature Reserve in an open 4X4 vehicle. The landscape here is stark and the colours vivid: miles of untouched sand stretch into dunes: wildlife you may spot includes Gemsbok, Mountain and Plains Zebra, Springbok, Red Hartebeest, Spotted Hyena and African Wildcats. Lunch is taken in the desert and guests arrive back at the camp during the mid afternoon.

### DAY 6: Namib Desert to Damaraland (via Swakopmund)

After breakfast you depart for Swakopmund in your private light aircraft. The

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flight provides for great scenery over the sand sea and along the coast to Walvis Bay, where you join a marine cruise off the coast. Close encounters with marine birds, seals and dolphins are common: a light finger lunch and glass of sparkling wine is served on board. After, you fly on to Damaraland, one of the most scenic areas in Namibia. This afternoon, you may choose to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Twyfelfontein where your guide will supplement the local guides' narrative. The desert climate has actually protected these ancient rock paintings depicting wildlife, animal spoor and abstract motifs, and they are clear and fascinating. The day is capped off with a sundowner overlooking the Aba Huab Valley.

*You stay at a luxury mountain camp with 12 permanent en suite safari tents built on raised wooden platforms, each with a canvas verandah and splendid views over the Aba Huab valley perfect for watching the sunset with a drink.*

### DAY 7: Damaraland to Rhino Conservation Camp

This morning is spent in an open 4x4 vehicle in search of the desert adapted elephant. Other desert game is also plentiful and you return to camp for lunch. After lunch you are transferred to the Airstrip and take to the air for a short flight to the Rhino Camp Airstrip, arriving in time for your first bucket shower. The evening is enjoyed around the campfire, with hopefully many stories.

*Few places on the planet can offer this level of privacy and wilderness experience, and the Camp offers a fascinating insight into the ecology and conservation of the area. It has eight large East African-styled "Meru" tents each with an en-suite bathroom comprising hand basin, flush toilet and a classic bucket shower. The tented dining room offers uninterrupted views of the desert and mountains.*

### DAY 8: Rhino Conservation Camp

Today is spent tracking desert adapted black rhino... a truly thrilling experience! This is usually by vehicle until a sighting is made by trackers, then on foot, and is a fascinating up-close experience with these animals. The area boasts the largest concentration of rhino anywhere on the planet outside of a national park, and you will also encounter Elephants as well as large populations of the rare Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Giraffe, Oryx, Springbok

and Kudu.

### DAY 9: Rhino Conservation Camp to Etosha National Park

Today you are transferred back to the airstrip for your flight over Etosha National Park. You arrive at your accommodation in time for lunch and relaxation time before a late afternoon game drive in the Park.

*You stay at a small lodge outside the perimeter of the park in permanent luxury, en suite wooden-structured tents. The lodge is renowned for its cuisine and after dinner guests can relax around the fire.*

### DAY 10: Etosha National Park

Today is spent game viewing in the Etosha National Park. 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, 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. Your guide is experienced and knowledgeable, and this is where guided wildlife viewing comes into its own: a guide's trained eyes can spot wildlife way out on the horizon as well as when submerged in bush close by, and his ability to speak local languages means getting the low-down on where the big game is to be sighted is a given.

### DAY 11: Etosha National Park to Big Cats Conservation Reserve



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Your flight this morning will head south to a game reserve dedicated to the conservation of Big Cats. This afternoon you can take part in a planned activity such as cheetah and leopard tracking. The lodge has a pool and communal lounge, and you may choose to relax there. Total drive time today - approx 4 hours.

*You stay at a beautifully appointed lodge on the reserve; accommodation is in luxury African style chalets. Dinner is in the main lodge area overlooking a waterhole where various antelope may pause for a drink, and afterwards you may choose to sit under the stars around the boma. You will wake up to views of the African bushveld without needing to move from your bed!*

### DAY 12 Big Cats Conservation Reserve

You spend the day at the Big Cats Reserve: you will be able to see the welfare programme in action and perhaps take a bushman walk to learn about tribal culture survival tactics.

### DAY 13 Big Cats Conservation Reserve to Windhoek International Airport

There's an opportunity for another activity at the Big Cats reserve before heading off for Windhoek International Airport where you'll pick up your overnight flight to London.

### DAY 14 Arrive back in the UK.

#### Trip Extension Options

Namibia is an excellent destination for trip extensions: customers could elect to take a few days' break in Cape Town or visit Victoria Falls. Extensions are booked on a tailor made basis: please contact us for more details and a quote.

#### General Information

##### 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.

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 ([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.

Hepatitis A, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)) for travel in Namibia. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

##### Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departure must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

##### Electricity supply

220v, 3pin South African plug. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

##### Money

Currency is the Namibian dollar which is linked to the South African rand. The rand is also legal tender in Namibia at a rate of 1:1.

##### What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing. If travelling in the winter season (April - September), bring warm clothes for Early morning game drives (gloves, hat, fleece).

##### Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in Namibia. Guests may also consider tipping their guide at their discretion.

