



SKELETON COAST CONCESSION AREA SAFARI (RESEARCH CAMP)



INFO SHEET

BACKGROUND

This itinerary represents a tailor made visit to the exclusive Skeleton Coast Park Concession Area for guided and fly-in Safaris, using the Skeleton Coast Research Camp. The safari requires a minimum 4 guests in a private group and there are daily flight departures (availability dependant) from Windhoek (Eros), Swakopmund, Twyfelfontein and Palmwag. This safari can be tailored to suit the requirements of individual guests, and additional nights can easily be added on (the below pricing is based on 2 nights). Please enquire with us on how best to include this into any of your FIT fly-in, self drive and guided safaris.

DEPARTURE DAYS

Daily

PLACES OF DEPARTURE

Windhoek (Eros) – 2.5 hour flight, Swakopmund – 2 hour flight, Twyfelfontein – 45 minute flight & Palmwag – 30 minute flight

PLACE OF ARRIVAL

Puros (and then a 2 hour scenic drive to the camp) – clients must fly in (NO SELF DRIVE TO PUROS).

MINIMUM PAX

Rates are based on a minimum of 4 (four) guests travelling (rates for 2 guests below).

THE AREA

This camp is built within the private concession of the Skeleton Coast National Park. The concession stretches from south of the Hoarusib River to Cape Fria in the north and covers the width of the 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. The cold Benguela current sweeping up from the Antarctic allows little moisture to be picked up from it by the prevailing onshore winds, hence the very low rainfall and the desert conditions. This cold current is also highly oxygenated, nutrient rich resulting in a plankton and krill heaven that forms the basis of the food chain for the teeming marine life along this coast.

THE CAMP

Skeleton Coast Research Camp comprises 6 canvas wrapped safari tents (wooden structures on decks with canvas wrapped around and canvas roofs with huge shade nets over them) nestled between granite rocks. Surrounded by pure wilderness, this camp is truly remote. This is one of the most inhospitable but hauntingly beautiful places on the planet: desolate and uninhabited. It has everything, from roaring sand dunes, windswept plains, towering canyons and salt pans to seal colonies. Full-day explorations in 4x4 vehicles will take all these in, picnicking on the way. Included are cultural visits to the remote villages of the Himba people.

The camp is outfitted with necessary comforts and equipment, essential elements to the old and relaxed manner of early explorers.

The style of accommodation in the private camp takes you back to the era of Africa's exploration. Pure linens of heavy cottons, en suite bathroom (dual flush toilet with running water in shower) all add to the atmosphere, while comforts and amenities are elegantly provided.

This camp aims to bring the guest closer to nature, by means of a lively camp fire, hurricane lanterns, wide-ranging activities and a warm atmosphere complimenting the comfort and added luxury. The camp is specifically outfitted to ensure that old-style camping feel with a clear emphasis on necessary and stylish comfortable interiors, creating a peerless wilderness experience.



SPECIAL INTERESTS & WEATHER CONDITIONS

Each group may have different interests, i.e. photography, botany, ornithology etc. The below itinerary will be flexible enough to accommodate this, and to allow the guides to concentrate on the interests of their guests.

Activities are influenced by weather conditions, and we will endeavour to arrange an itinerary, which maximizes optimum weather conditions in each area.

ACTIVITIES & WILDLIFE

Because of the uniqueness and vastness of this area, most activities are done in 4x4 vehicles that are closed to the elements. All vehicles have pop-top roofs and sliding windows to enjoy the fine weather. There is however plenty of opportunity to walk and stretch the legs too.

Activities include usually full day nature drives with a picnic lunch, returning to camp in the evening, and only sometimes include half day nature drives returning to camp for lunch and venturing out again in the afternoon. Excursions may include visits to the clay castles of the Hoarusib River, Rocky Point, the roaring dunes, lichen fields, seal colonies, Himba villages, and secret water seeps that attract game like Oryx, Springbok, Giraffe, Ostrich, Brown Hyena, Jackal and other smaller mammals.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the shortage of water at the Skeleton Coast, laundry facilities are NOT available. Please make sure that you have enough clothes to last for the duration of your trip to the Skeleton Coast.



ITINERARY FOR THE SKELETON COAST FLY IN SAFARI

THE SKELETON COAST SAFARI

This safari has daily departures based on 2 or 4 guests travelling. The scenic flight from Windhoek, Swakopmund, Twyfelfontein or Palmwag to one of the most inhospitable and desolate, but hauntingly beautiful places in Namibia is an awesome experience in itself. Life on the Skeleton Coast is an ongoing struggle for survival, a coast of mammal skeletons, shipwreck sites, roaring dunes, windswept plains, seal colonies and wild desolation.

DAY 1

This morning we fly (from Windhoek, Swakopmund, Twyfelfontein or Palmwag) into Puros in north western Namibia. Upon landing here, we are met by our guide from the Skeleton Coast Research Camp. We then depart in a 4x4 vehicle and head for camp via a 2 hour scenic drive, either arriving in camp in time for lunch, or having a picnic lunch en route. The afternoon is spent on a further 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!

DAY 2 & 3 (ADDITIONAL DAY)

After breakfast, we 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 we traverse are vast and excursions vary somewhat depending on weather, season, animal movements etc. Areas we 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. Our 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.

DAY 4 (ADDITIONAL DAY – DEPARTURE DAY)

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we depart on a 2 hour scenic drive back to Puros. Here we board our departing light aircraft flight to Windhoek, Swakopmund, Twyfelfontein or Palmwag.

RATE INDICATION

**(VALID 1 MARCH – 31 OCTOBER 2010)
BASED ON 4 PAX TRAVELLING**

3 days / 2 nights (ex Windhoek and Swakopmund)

£2,570.00 per person fully inclusive (including flights between Windhoek/Swakopmund and Puros return)

Additional nights

£720.00 per person sharing per additional night

Flight cost reduction when flying from Twyfelfontein or Palmwag instead of Windhoek/Swakopmund

£300.00 per person per leg

**(VALID 1 MARCH – 31 OCTOBER 2010)
BASED ON 2 PAX TRAVELLING**

3 days / 2 nights (ex Twyfelfontein)

£3,700.00 per person fully inclusive (including flights between Twyfelfontein and Puros return)

Additional nights

£720.00 per person sharing per additional night

*The air holiday shown is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.
Our ATOL number is ATOL 9709. Please see our booking conditions for more information.*

