

## UNTAMED NAMIBIA

13 Days

Windhoek to Windhoek

### LIVE THIS!

Explore Namibia and experience our diverse cultures in the regions whilst visiting the highlights of the country. Whether it is taking a walk and stretching your legs in some awesome landscapes and environments, or following a 4x4 trail off the beaten track through majestic geological formations or seeing wildlife up close and personal – this tour gets to touch Namibia under its skin. Meet people and follow their way of traditional living and learn about the survival strategies of the last few remaining nomadic tribes. Combined with the traditional highlights, Etosha's wildlife kingdom, the ever changing landscapes and the world's highest dunes at Sossusvlei, this is a safari into the heart of Namibia, its people, its wildlife and its land.

<b>Classification</b>	Explorer										
<b>Pax</b>	2 – 12 guests										
<b>Vehicle</b>	4WD Land Cruiser or 4WD Truck										
<b>Languages</b>	Bilingual English / German										
<b>Driver / Tour Guide</b>	Services of registered driver guide throughout tour										
<b>Included</b>	<b>Meals:</b> All meals as specified in the itinerary 12 Breakfasts <b>Entrance Fees:</b> Etosha National Park; Himba Village; Twyfelfontein; Living Museum of the Damara; Namib Naukluft National Park Portages Still Mineral Water on bus Activities as specified Accommodation as specified Tourism levy & Government Taxes where applicable 24hrs Medical Evacuation Insurance										
<b>Excluded</b>	All International / Domestic Flights & taxes Visas Travel & Personal accident insurance Personal Expenses Excursions / Activities not specified Gratuities										
<b>Optional Extras</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dinner supplement (<i>Day 1-8, 11 &amp; 12</i>), (Dinner is not included in Swakopmund)</li><li>- Activity package (Classic version):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Namib Desert nature drive</li><li>- Catamaran/marine cruise</li><li>- Etosha open safari vehicle game drive</li></ul></li><li>- Additional Excursions / Activities on request</li></ul>										
<b>Departure Dates</b>											
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
7, 21	5	9	13	6	10	8	12	3, 17, 31	14, 28	11, 25	9, 23

- Same day flight departures out of Windhoek International are only possible after 19h00

### More Than Just A Journey....

We have a sense of Africa rooted deep in our own lives and experiences and our purpose is to share this with our guests. Namibia has abundant wildlife in our National Parks as well as large tracts of land which lie unfenced for wildlife to traverse freely. With its diverse cultures Namibia is a melting pot of sights, sounds, aromas, tastes and emotions, just waiting to be experienced!

The vast size of Namibia is predominantly connected and accessible through gravel roads, which make traveling a fascinating yet time consuming aspect of your journey. This tour is operated on a very comprehensive fleet of vehicles that are specially designed and custom built to mechanically suit these demanding road conditions, both in their configuration as well as their sturdy construction. This adds to the durability and reliability of our fleet, but also to the comfort while on safari. Our vehicles are fitted with airflow-cooling systems, sliding windows and/or pop-up roof and an audio/microphone system enhancing guests' safari enjoyment.

A safari often stands or falls with the guide and we appreciate that a good guide can make a great safari excellent. Our guides, mostly Namibian citizens, are hand-picked for their passion with a profound respect, interest and understanding for the country and its people. To offer you our guest the typical Namibian flair and experience we encourage flexibility and their personal involvement in showcasing Namibia's tradition during safaris.

#### **Day 1 / Wednesday**

##### **OTJIHAVERA MOUNTAINS**

After arriving at the Airport or collection at your pre booked hotel in Windhoek we travel the short distance towards the foot of the Otjihavera Mountains on the outskirts of Okahandja. On this local Namibian farm we have the optional opportunity to experience our first afternoon game drive and typical African sundowner. The farm offers rich bird life and there are 11 different animal species to see; eland, kudu, oryx, springbok and giraffes to name just a few. Take time to absorb this natural habitat whilst taking photos or just listening while our ranger describes the various fauna, flora and birdlife of the farm. Typical African sundowner drinks and snacks will be enjoyed during the spectacular sunset. (*Dinner is not included*)

##### **The Elegant Farmstead**

#### **Day 2 / Thursday**

##### **ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

Departing Okahandja we travel north through extensive cattle farming areas and bush land to the **Etosha National Park**, famous for its abundant wildlife scattered throughout the park and especially densely populated at the waterholes. In the afternoon after we have reached our camp located on the outside of the National Park, should time allow guests can still optionally book a guided game drive in open game viewing vehicles. The park is home to 4 of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino as well as numerous antelope species. The Park was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist. At the lodge enjoy the unique and local flair of proud Namibian cuisine.

##### **Mokuti Etosha Lodge or Shikamasha Etosha Camp - Breakfast**

#### **Day 3 / Friday**

##### **ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the **Etosha National Park**, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. Despite the size of the Etosha National Park, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to visitors. Game viewing in the park is largely focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, in excess of 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx, eland, as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. An extensive network of roads link the over 30 water holes allowing the visitor an opportunity to do a real game viewing safari over the stretch of the park as each different area will provide different encounters. We will take the entire day to traverse the park looking for exciting animal encounters – stopping en-route for something to eat (not included). Late afternoon we will exit the park for our accommodation for the evening.

##### **Mondjila Safari Camp - Breakfast**

#### **Day 4 / Saturday**

##### **ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in the Etosha National Park. We may encounter animal species we have not seen the previous day and look forward to any new surprises at the different waterholes visited. The Etosha Pan dominates the park. This salt pan desert, which is nearly completely enclosed by the park and is lined by numerous watering holes, is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km in places. During Etosha's notorious dry spells the pan is a deathly place, lying parched and cracked under the molten African sun. It is claimed that game viewing is best during the dry spells as animals will then congregate closer to water. But even in the rainy season the park remains an abundant wildlife haven. You then have the pleasure of experiencing the rebirth of life as the young foals, cubs and chicks are seen frolicking with their parents and the sprouting new green shrubs and grasses create a pleasing green oasis. In the afternoon we travel back to our lodge, where we enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure. It is also possible to optionally book a game drive with an open game drive vehicle rather than travelling in the closed vehicle.

##### **Mondjila Safari Camp - Breakfast**

#### **Day 5 / Sunday**

##### **KAOKOLAND**

This morning we have our last opportunity to explore the western parts of the park and exit through the Galton gate on the most western border of the Etosha National Park. In the late afternoon we reach Opuwo, the "capital" of **Kaokoveld**. Kaokoveld is home to some of the last true untouched wilderness areas in Africa. Our lodge is set high on a hill that allows

us a magnificent view over the far reaching landscape. Opuwo is a contrast of people that have remained true to their traditions and cultures and those that have embraced western culture, living in harmony side by side.

#### **Opuwo Country Lodge – Breakfast**

#### **Day 6 / Monday**

##### **KAOKOLAND**

Today we enjoy a slow paced day with an excursion to a local **village of the Himba tribe**, where we experience an authentic introduction into the Ovahimba culture. Our guide will guide us through their traditions, culture and taboos. The Himba have managed to maintain much of their traditional lifestyle, perhaps owing to the fact that the land they inhabit is extremely harsh and unyielding and therefore it has rarely been coveted by the colonialists and commercial farmers. Today the Himba live as they have for centuries as proud cattle farmers. During your visit the Himba demonstrate important parts of their traditions including daily life, food production, craftsmanship and singing and dancing. You will learn and see details of their homestead, the holy fire, their religious beliefs and the importance of livestock. You are more than welcome to join in at the activities. Hereafter we will explore the surrounding area before returning to our lodge to relax at the sparkling pool, looking at our pictures and reliving the moments or just contemplate the awesome environment from our perch on top of the mountain.

#### **Opuwo Country Lodge - Breakfast**

#### **Day 7 / Tuesday**

##### **DAMARALAND**

After an early breakfast we travel south through the Joubert Pass and Sesfontein (*weather and road conditions permitting*) into **Damaraland**, one of the least populated areas on earth with majestic mountain formations, similar to the formations experienced in the Alps. The area exhibits neither fences nor boundaries in its vast, stony desert landscape. It is marked by endless vistas across stark plains, ancient valleys and mountain massifs which bind the traveller closer to nature. It's also the home of the elusive desert elephant and free roaming rhino population. After we arrive at our lodge, we have the afternoon at leisure to stretch our legs and explore this unique and remote area on walking trails.

#### **Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar - Breakfast**

#### **Day 8 / Wednesday**

##### **DAMARALAND**

Accompanied by a local Damara guide we visit **Twyfelfontein**, a UNESCO world heritage site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2.500 pictures some 6.000 years ago! The reddish sandstone boulders seem to glow in the fierce heat, yet ancient Bushman and Damara sheltered from enemy and spied on game from these surreal rock formations. Thereafter we visit a **Living museum of the Damara** to learn about how these people lived in the past, their beliefs, traditions and customs. Returning to our lodge we drive off the main roads traversing dry riverbeds and rugged off-road trails in search of the elusive desert elephant and other desert adapted game. En route your guide will stop and serve a light lunch of some refreshments and snacks.

#### **Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar - Breakfast**

#### **Day 9 / Thursday**

##### **SWAKOPMUND**

Departing Damaraland we travel past the **Brandberg**, Namibia's highest mountain and home to the famous "White Lady" rock painting (2.579m) a spiritual site of great significance to the San (Bushman) tribes. We proceed via less travelled dirt roads passing through the Messum Crater with its giant Welwitschia plants onwards towards the Atlantic Ocean along the Skeleton coastline. The route is an unusual one and will allow you to explore areas of Namibia seen by very few travellers. Reaching the coast, we head south to Swakopmund where the rest of the day is spent at leisure.

With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a popular holiday destination in Namibia. Its pleasant summer climate and long stretched beaches attract anglers and surfers from all over Southern Africa. For the international guest, Swakopmund is a bohemian mix of German architecture and African rhythms, a laid back attitude with adrenalin activities, misty mornings and desert heat. It is colourful, it is vibrant, but most of all, it is pure fun.

#### **Swakopmund Plaza Hotel – Breakfast**

#### **Day 10 / Friday**

##### **SWAKOPMUND**

Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the "playground of Namibia", as it has numerous activities ranging from adventure to exploring the fascinating features of the Namib Desert and the animals and plants that occur and survive here. Embrace the relaxed pace of this idyllic coastal town whilst enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many café's. Alternatively explore the undulating dunes and expanses of the desert on a living tour of the life found there, or view this awesome, environment from the air on a scenic flight. Find your inner child and push adrenaline to its limits with extreme

adventures such as skydiving over the desert or quad biking and sand boarding on the dunes. Take time to get the feel of this quaint town with its historic buildings, museums, shopping arcades and beach bar that has transformed into its own personality by the vibrant use of colour and the bohemian lifestyle.

**Swakopmund Plaza Hotel - Breakfast**

#### **Day 11 / Saturday**

##### **NAMIB DESERT**

Today we continue south into the heart of the Namib Desert, the seas of sand of which have also been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our journey takes us via two geologically interesting canyons (Kuseb and Ghaub) and via endless desert plains into the vicinity of Sossusvlei. Our Eco Camp, in harmony with its surroundings, is located in close proximity to Sesriem, the gateway to **Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon**, offering true Namibian hospitality within the magnificent desert vistas.

**The Elegant Eco Desert Camp / Desert Lodge - Breakfast**

#### **Day 12 / Sunday**

##### **SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT**

The morning demands an early start. Entering the Namib Naukluft National Park with sunrise, the first rays of sunlight paint the mountains of sand into a variety of apricot, red and orange, contrasted against a crisp blue skyline, enrapturing our senses, and providing an opportunity to capture this awesome landscape on film. You will be captivated by the surreal **Deadvlei** surrounded by some of the highest dunes on earth and **Sossusvlei**, where the dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these majestic dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath. Thereafter we visit the **Sesriem Canyon**, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert. On our way back to the lodge we stop at the **Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate to taste a selection of wines** produced in this harsh and dry environment. Here you have the option of enjoying a light lunch (*lunch not included*) before returning to our desert hide away to enjoy stunning views of the wide open plains during sunset.

**The Elegant Eco Desert Camp / Desert Lodge - Breakfast**

#### **Day 13 / Monday**

##### **DEPARTURE**

After breakfast we travel back through an ever changing landscape, from white gravel plains, to shrub bush vegetation to bushland savannah, until we reach the capital in the centre of the country. Windhoek is a cosmopolitan melting pot of European architecture with African culture, with a variety of good restaurants to choose from. You will be dropped off at your accommodation of choice, or transferred to the airport for your outward flight.

**Breakfast**

**TOUR SUMMARY:**

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL BASIS	ACTIVITIES	KM
1	The Elegant Farmstead		Afternoon at leisure, optional activities with the lodge	80
2	Mokuti Etosha Lodge or Shikamasha Etosha Game Resort	Breakfast	Travel to Etosha National Park, optional game drive in the afternoon (time permitting) in open vehicles with the lodge	500
3	Mondjila Safari Camp	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide	300
4	Mondjila Safari Camp	Breakfast	Full day Etosha game Drive in tour vehicle with Sense of Africa Guide – or optional game drive in an open game drive vehicle	200
5	Opuwo Country Lodge	Breakfast	Half day Game drive in the Etosha National Park, travel into Kaokoland	400
6	Opuwo Country Lodge	Breakfast	Day excursion visiting a traditional Himba village and the scenery around Opuwo	250
7	Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar	Breakfast	Travel over the Joubert Pass and Sesfontein into the Damaraland	450
8	Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar	Breakfast	Day excursion exploring the vast Damaraland with visits to Twyfelfontein, Living Museum of the Damara and scenic drive through dry riverbeds in search of desert elephants	200
9	Swakopmund Plaza Hotel	Breakfast	Travel off-road past the Brandberg and through the Messum Crater and along the Skeleton coastline towards Swakopmund	300
10	Swakopmund Plaza Hotel	Breakfast	Optional excursions to be enjoyed in and around Swakopmund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Desert Quad biking</li> <li>- Catamaran Cruise</li> <li>- Fat Bike Dune or historic city excursion</li> <li>- Living Desert Tour</li> <li>- Scenic flights</li> </ul>	
11	The Elegant Desert Eco Camp / Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Scenic drive through Ghaub and Kuiseb Canyons to heart of the Namib Desert, optional sundowner drive with the lodge	360
12	The Elegant Desert Eco Camp / Desert Lodge	Breakfast	Excursion to Sossusvlei, visit the surreal Dead Vlei on foot, Sesriem Canyon excursion. Wine tasting at Neuras Wine Estate ( <i>Optional lunch can be booked</i> )	210
13	Return to Windhoek / Departure	Breakfast	Return to Windhoek via the central plateau	310

**Alternative accommodation may be used.**