



Wildlife, Historic & Desert Tour





SWAKOPMUND

Wildlife, Historic & Desert Tour

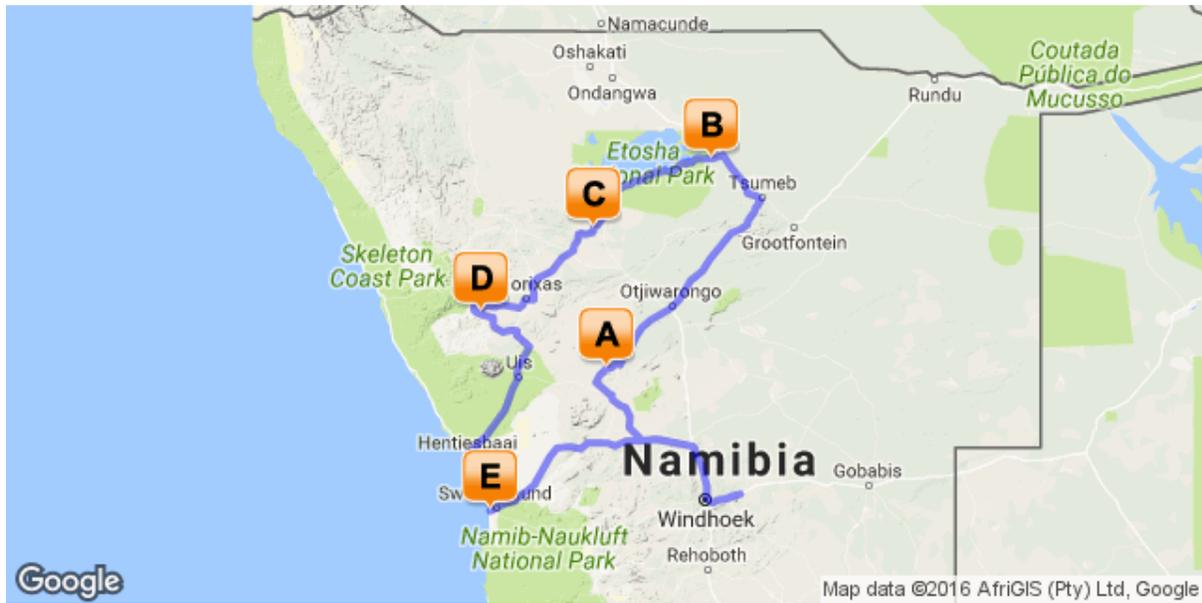
Erongo - Etosha National Park - Etosha National Park - Damaraland - Swakopmund

11 Days / 10 Nights

0 Persons

Date of Issue: 24 October 2016

12 July 2016 - 22 July 2016



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Overview

The destinations are part of our Namibia's highlight destinations and presents Namibia from its most beautiful side. It especially shows the meaning why we call Namibia the land of contrasts.

Immenhof Safaris - Let your African Safari dream become a living memory.

*Note: This Safari can be offered as a Fly-In Safari as well.

Accommodation	Destination	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Immenhof Guest Farm	Erongo	2	D, B&B	1x Single Room
Mushara Lodge	Etosha National Park	2	D, B&B	1x Single Room
Okutala Etosha Lodge	Etosha National Park	1	D, B&B	1x Single Room
Mowani Mountain Camp	Damaraland	2	FB+	1x Single Room
Hansa Hotel	Swakopmund	3	B&B	1x Single Room

Key

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB+: Dinner, bed, breakfast, lunch and activities daily

Day 1: Immenhof Guest Farm, Erongo (Tue, 12 July)

Erongo

The Erongo Region is one of the largest of the 13 regions found in Namibia and received its name for the majestic Erongo Massif that dominates the area around Karibib, Omaruru and Usakos. The region reaches up to the Atlantic Ocean and includes the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, its northern boundary ending at the Ugab River where the Skeleton Coast National Park begins its stretch to Angola.

Overnight: Immenhof Guest Farm [View iBrochure](#)

Immenhof is ideally situated between Windhoek or Swakopmund and the Etosha National Park, in the lovely Omaruru region. We offer comfortable accommodation, delicious food and a multitude of activities, like farm drives with game viewing, singing rocks and rock paintings. The von Seydlitz family and their team will make your stay a memorable one! We also offer scenic flights and day tours to any destination in Namibia and fly in safaris throughout Namibia with our 2 Cessna 210 aircraft. Our specialty: day tours to the Ovahima tribe. We speak Herero - the language of the Ovahimba. Immenhof – it's luxury for your soul!



Farm Tour

Farm tours start in the mornings after breakfast or in the afternoon and can be linked to a sundowner at one of our many wonderful natural settings, mostly on top of big granite monoliths. The farm tours are aimed at giving the visitor an impression of the farm's history, flora and fauna, and the different landscapes of the surrounding area. Ancient rock paintings dating back an estimated 1500 years give an idea of the cultures that initially inhabited this area, thought to be one of the many hunter-gatherer tribes which dominated southern Africa in the past. The singing rocks are of archeological importance to Namibia since only three of such sites have been discovered in Namibia. They too give an excellent idea of hunter-gatherer life in this area. Rock engravings on granite are scarce in this part of the country and provide a good enlisting of animal species that were found in this area in the early days.

A wide variety of game species can be encountered from the majestic eland to the little Damara dik-dik. The central region of Namibia boasts a wide variety of bird species, many of which can be spotted on Immenhof. Please remember to take along adequate protection against the sun (hat and sun screen at all times!) Drinks are available throughout the drives.

Nature Walks

Nature walks can be arranged in the mornings or late afternoons. These walks are very informative as your guide will take time to explain a lot of details on our vegetation and animal life, often with game and a lot of birds to be seen, as mornings are usually the time for everyone to be out and about!

Scenic Flights

Damaraland

We depart from Immenhof and fly towards the Brandberg, Namibia's highest peak. From there we fly north of the Brandberg along the Ugab River and over the majestic lava formations to Ugab mouth in the Atlantic Ocean. Here, we turn north and fly along the Skeleton coast over shipwrecks and a seal colony to Uniab mouth. We fly east along the Uniab to the Agab fountain and from there over the impressive Vingerklip formations to Immenhof.

1 Hour Erongo Scenic

We depart from Immenhof flying over the majestic Erongo crater. From there we head to the Spitzkoppe, a solitary crystalline chalk formation. Passing the western side of the Erongo crater over beautiful Granite formations, we fly back to Immenhof.

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 2: Immenhof Guest Farm, Erongo (Wed, 13 July)

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Horse Riding

Horse riding is a relaxing experience as our guides take you on a scenic ride through the surroundings with ample game viewing opportunity. No riding experience is required – ask any one of us to get you started.

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 3: **Mushara Lodge, Etosha National Park (Thu, 14 July)**

Etosha National Park

If your looking for some wildlife on your Namibian holiday then **Etosha National Park** is the place. From desert to savanna to woodlands, Etosha's landscape is varied and jam-packed with wildlife. It's defining and, at 5000 square kilometre's, its largest feature is the Etosha Pan which for most of the year is a bleak expanse of white; shimmering with mirages and the distant shapes of animals seeking the vital water found on the fringes of the pan.

The many natural springs scattered throughout Etosha attract a cross section of African wildlife from the diminutive – and endemic – Damara Dik Dik to the magnificent elephant. Of the 114 mammal species found in the park, several are rare and endangered, such as the black rhino and black faced impala while big cats such as lion, cheetah and leopard are all present and on the hunt! *Etosha National Park* is also a bird watchers paradise with over 340 species present many of them migratory.

There are a number of private game reserves adjacent to the Etosha National Park. These include Ongava Private Game Reserve and Onguma Private Game Reserve, only 10 minutes drive from the National Park's gates and close to fly-in airstrips. The distinct advantage of staying at one of these reserves is the ability to partake in night game drives as well as bush walks with trained guides. Accommodation is luxurious and exclusive compared the semi-government owned properties within the park's gates and offers the discerning some of the most luxurious lodging in Namibia.

Overnight: Mushara Lodge

On the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park not far from the Von Lindequist gate sits **Mushara Lodge** an ideal accommodation for travelers wanting to explore the park. The lodge is made up of ten spacious chalets, one family unit, a triple room and two single rooms. There's a small library with a selection of reading material, a well stocked bar and wine cellar, a lounge with a large fireplace for those chilly Namibian evenings. There's even a curio shop featuring local crafts. There's a traditional African decor theme throughout the lodge which is modernised with some newer works of art.

The chalets themselves are arranged in a horseshoe shape around the swimming pool. Each chalet is quite large and you won't be pushed for space, there's air-conditioning, mosquito nets, a mini bar, safe as well as a tea and coffee station. The bathrooms are all en-suite with a seperate toilet area. While all the rooms have a shower only the triple room and the family chalet have both a bath and a shower.



Etosha East

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. The Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km². The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.

Etosha Game Drive

On our game drives guests experience fascinating perspectives of wildlife in Etosha. Our vehicles, designed for any weather condition, are spacious and comfortable and offer 360 degree unobstructed views from elevated seats. We receive up-to-date information on game movement and therefore have a high success rate for spotting game.

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 4: Mushara Lodge, Etosha National Park (Fri, 15 July)

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 5: Okutala Etosha Lodge, Etosha National Park (Sat, 16 July)

Etosha National Park

See Above

Day Itinerary

1. Endangered Species Tour

This excursion introduces our guests to the African Elephant and White Rhinoceros. On a short drive to the enclosures of our 4 young elephants and 4 white rhinos our guests are educated on the rehabilitation of these individual animals. Guests are given the opportunity to observe and photograph these iconic animals. Our talks also focus on the general behavior, conservation and poaching issues regarding these species.

2. Animal Feeding Tour

View the Leopard, Cheetah, Hyena, Rhino and Elephant on unforgettable feeding tours.

Overnight: Okutala Etosha Lodge

This beautiful and stylish lodge facility can host a maximum of 24 exclusive guests. The lodge has a total of 11 en-suite double rooms:

In addition to spectacular rooms, Okutala Etosha Lodge offers a warm welcome, a relaxing atmosphere, a cool refreshing pool, a spectacular view on our large waterhole that can be viewed from the Lapa Deck, a restaurant with a bar as well as a bar at the Lapa, a Kiosk that sells Okutala merchandise, a laundry service and Internet at the Restaurant and Lapa areas.



Etosha Pan

Aeons ago, Etosha Pan was the bed of a vast lake; today what remains is a glittering, silvery-green salt pan that stretches across roughly 5000 square kilometres. Etosha is protected by the Etosha Pan National Park surrounded by savannah plains and woodlands supporting large herds of elephants. When dry, the pan sustains little life except for the algae that gives it its distinctive colour, and migratory birds that use it as a pit stop, but with heavy rain it becomes a shallow lake where flamingos breed, pelicans wade and feed, and a variety of mammal species come to quench their thirst, including leopards, lions, white rhinos, hunting dogs and antelopes.

Etosha West

The area and vegetation is very different to the south-eastern and eastern part of the park and the Hartmann's Mountain Zebra can be found here.

In this area and with a more undulating landscape, it makes for a very different wildlife experience. White dust and clay which makes up the Etosha Pan turns to a reddish brown soil during this time which may lead you to believe you have entered an entirely new park when you visit.

Included

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 6: Mowani Mountain Camp, Damaraland (Sun, 17 July)

Damaraland

Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. The major attractions are Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the Petrified Forest.

Damaraland

Damaraland stretches in the north-west of Namibia south of the Kaokoveld between the Erongo and the Etosha Pan. The name Damaraland is now in general use, although it comes from the apartheid era with its homelands policy. Administratively Damaraland is part of the Kunene region.

The majority of the people living in Damaraland are still the Damara who are - together with the San (Bushmen) - the oldest inhabitants of Namibia. Their language is a Khoisan dialect and also related to the languages of the Namas and the San. The Damara are the poorest people in Namibia. Their economic base is goat breeding. Large parts of Damaraland are overgrazed.

Damaraland all in all is a very scarcely populated, barren, arid and wild area. The drive through the area reveals to the visitor grandiose landscapes with rugged mountains and wide rocky plains. One hardly ever meets people or settlements. But, mainly in the western part, one can encounter rhinos and desert elephants in the wild.

The dusty district capital of Khorixas has a petrol station, some stores, a rest camp and a lodge. Some 100 kilometres west of the town lay the main attraction of Damaraland: the prehistoric rock engravings of Twyfelfontein. The site with its more than 2500 engravings which probably originate from San people was proclaimed a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. Another highlight in Damaraland is the Ugab Terraces and the Vingerklip Mountain on the way from Khorixas to Outjo.

Day Itinerary

Activities

Climb into an open-air vehicle and experience the rush of Africa. Mowani's local guides share with their guests an intimate knowledge and respect for the land that they have built up over a lifetime. With new insight into local traditions, you will come to fully appreciate the geology, botany and wildlife of the area. Local villagers are welcoming and keen to share their experiences.

- Visits to Twyfelfontein (click to read up more), with its wealth of ancient rock engravings, and the wonders of the Organ Pipes are within easy driving distance of Mowani/Kipwe. (+/- 2 hours in the afternoon)
- Elephant and Dune drives (+/- 4-6 hours in the morning) to explore the area with your knowledgeable guide - searching for the rare desert adapted Elephants
- Nature walks in the areas surrounding the camp to explore the smaller details of the bush up close and personal
- Lounging by the pool, or relaxing on your private deck is also a wonderful way to enjoy the spectacular surroundings.

Overnight: Mowani Mountain Camp

Mowani Mountain Camp offers luxury tented accommodation with magnificent desert views. Open air en-suite bathrooms and private decks give you great views of Damaraland and the reliability of nearby Twyfelfontein with its San engravings and paintings is contrasted by the elusive desert adapted elephants. The Twyfelfontein conservancy has been protecting the southern most roaming ground of the black rhino and elusive desert elephant. Sustainable eco-tourism and community upliftment is of the utmost importance at Mowani. Guides from the local tribes compliment day-time game drives to track mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, klipspringer and if you are fortunate enough... the leopard! The adventurer in me took over at Mowani. Days were filled with game drives, hot air balloon trips over the Aba-Huab Valley, champagne breakfasts and al fresco meals amidst the dusky landscape beneath Mopani trees.



IncludedFull Board and Activities

Day 7: Mowani Mountain Camp, Damaraland (Mon, 18 July)

IncludedFull Board and Activities

Day 8-11: Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund (Tue, 19 July to Fri, 22 July)

Swakopmund

Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular.

Swakopmund offers fantastic activities, shopping experiences as well as superb Restaurants.

This is a list of activities that I would like to recommend:

Living Desert Tour: This half day tour takes place along the eastern part of the major dune belt which lies between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Here the ecology of the dunes is concentrated on explaining the evolutionary aspects and the uniqueness of these adaptations. The theory part is dealt with in an informal way and the various desert adapted creatures are then searched for and the various interesting adaptations are pointed out to you. The main animals looked for are the Namib Sand diving Lizard, Web-footed Gecko, Namaqua Chameleon, Peringuey's Adder(Sidewinder), Namib Sand Snake, Namib thick-tailed Scorpion, the fog basking Tenebrionid Beetle and several other insects only found along the dune belt. A brief description of the minerals found in the dunes is also explained as well as the formation of the dunes and the importance of the coastal fog to all the living organisms and vegetation found along the dunes. The only birds that may be encountered here depending on rainfall are Tractrac Chat, Red-capped Larks, Gray's Lark, Stark's Lark, Burchell's Courser, Ludwig's Bustard, Rock Kestrel and Rufous-eared Warbler.

Morning Seal and Dolphin Cruise: The Catamarans leave every morning at 08h30 or at 10h00 and weather permitting sail on the lagoon in Walvis Bay. We visit the oyster farms, the wreck at Pelican Point, the lighthouse and the seal colony. We also spend time looking for dolphins, whales, leatherback turtles and Sun fish. A number of tame seals that visit the catamaran and guests can see these animals very close. Also of interest is the large variety of bird life in the Lagoon area.

Rocky Desert Tour (Moonlandscape and Welwitschia): This tour takes you from the Dorob National Park into the northern reaches of the Naukluft Park past the Moon Valley, through the Swakop River Valley and the Welwitschia Plains east of Swakopmund. Millions of years and even more cubic metres of water contributed to the formation of this internationally known tourism attraction, the lunar-like landscape called the Moon Valley. According to geologists, the group of hills was pushed through the earth's surface about 500 million years ago. On misty mornings when the coastal fog penetrates between the hills, the valley can be described as ghostlike, but once the sun's rays emerge, the fog disperse and the lunar landscape reveals itself with the most spectacular colours and contours, making this spectacular moonlike topography a photographer's haven. From here we travel through the Swakop River Valley into the Swakop River. Huge Acacias and Tamarisks fill the riverbed with bright green Salvadora shrubs on the river banks. This linear oasis with water flows beneath the dry surface sand, provide an oasis for several bird species and desert adapted animals. Once on the plains the most notable feature of this area is the presence of the highest concentration of Welwitschia mirabilis plants (Welwitschia) in Namibia. Not only is the Welwitschia endemic to the Namib Desert and semi-desert, it is also taxonomically very distinct, being the only representative in its family, and only one of three species in the order Gnetales.

Full Day Desert Tour: Combination of Living Desert Tour & Rocky Desert Tour.

Overnight: Hansa Hotel

Centrally situated, the hotel serves as the perfect getaway to all tourists amenities which Swakopmund and surrounding areas have to offer, from sand-boarding some of the highest dunes in the world to big game viewing in one of our country's world-known game parks. Surrounded by local tour operators, aviation and safari offices and five minutes from the beach, the Hansa Hotel is perfect for the discerning traveler looking for an adrenaline filled holiday or merely a bit of relaxation.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 11: Departure (Fri, 22 July)
