

NAMIBIA

by 4x4

21 Days

07-27 March 2024

Accommodation based

Namibia's landscapes are breath-taking and diverse, as is it's wildlife, making it a true paradise for adventurers and nature enthusiasts alike. On this three week self drive adventure you will follow the best of Namibia's "backroads". This will include tar, plenty of dirt, some sand and rough tracks. At the end of your adventurous day you will rest in hand selected lodges and hotels.



Self Drive Adventures
GUIDED TAGALONG TOURS WORLD WIDE

www.selfdriveadventures.com



The Route

Highlights Include...

Waterberg Plateau: 50 km long and 16 km wide - we'll search for white Rhino that we are almost guaranteed to locate with a local guide.

Etosha National Park: Etosha's waterholes provide some of the best game viewing in Africa.

Palmwag Concession: Supports nearly 70% of the world's largest free roaming population of black rhinos.

Damaraland: A rugged and remote region characterized by rocky landscapes, ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein, and the chance to encounter desert-adapted elephants and rhinos.

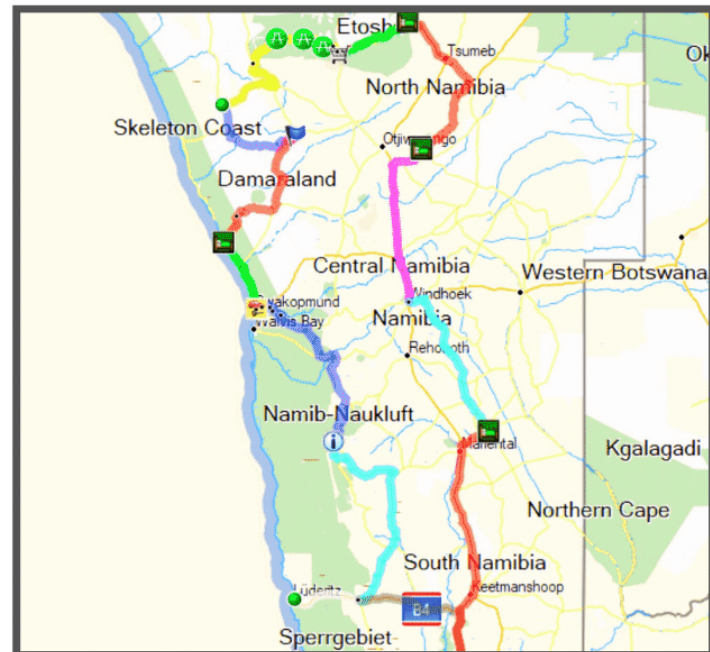
Skeleton Coast: A desolate coastline known for its shipwrecks and seal colony at Cape Cross - one of the largest seal colonies in the world.

Swakopmund: A charming coastal city that blends German colonial architecture with activities like quad biking with a nature historian or searching for the "small five" in the Namib Desert.

Sossusvlei and Deadvlei: These iconic landscapes within the Namib-Naukluft National Park feature towering red sand dunes and a surreal white clay pan dotted with ancient dead camel thorn trees.

Kolmanskop Ghost Town & Lüderitz: Explore the abandoned diamond mining town near Lüderitz, now filled with sand, offering a glimpse into its past grandeur.

Fish River Canyon: The second largest canyon in the world, this geological marvel offers dramatic landscapes.



Please Note:

Proposed route is approx. 3,700km.

Guide decides on final route as per current conditions on day of travel.



The Itinerary

[Click Here](#) to see more information on the accommodation throughout the adventure.

1

Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia and be transferred to your hotel. The international airport is 40 km east of Windhoek. Afternoon briefing followed by a welcome dinner at the famous "Joe's Beer House". Dinner included



2

Windhoek

Transfer to collect our cars and purchase a few provisions for the road. Your car will have "picnic" gear and fridges so you can cater for your own lunches along the journey. There could be time to explore Windhoek, which is a cosmopolitan city with an abundance of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation. City centre sights include: the Alte Feste (Old Fortress) museum; Christuskirche (Christ Church), consecrated in 1910; Tintenpalast (built in 1912/1913 as the seat of the colonial government and nicknamed Ink Palace), the massive Independence Memorial Museum and the imposing contemporary building of the Supreme Court. Breakfast included



3

Windhoek to Waterberg Plateau

We head north east to Waterberg, the Water Mountain. It is named for the many springs on its slopes and its flat topped plateau is about 50 km long and 16 km wide. The highlight of the afternoon is a rhino-tracking guided safari. You are almost "guaranteed" to see these white rhino up close. Breakfast & dinner included



4

Waterberg to Onguma

Onguma Nature Reserve, is next to Fisher's Pan on the eastern border of Etosha National Park. It is an opportunity to experience Africa's beauty and diversity at its best. The more than 34,000 hectare reserve is home to black rhino, various antelope, giraffe, zebra, lion, cheetah, leopard and over 300 bird species.

Breakfast included



5

Onguma to Etosha

We will drive across the Etosha National Park from the Eastern side to Okaukeujo Waterhole. Along the way we may see a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. Popular activities include: enjoying an open 4x4 safari with an expert guide, half day or full day drives with the option of a picnic lunch with wine on the full day game drive. Accommodation tonight is right near the waterhole where game wanders in and out all day and night.

Breakfast included



6

Etosha

Day at your leisure. Venture out on your own and game view at your own pace or select an optional game viewing experience with a local guide. Relaxing by the waterhole is also a great way to spend the day as your chalet is close by.

Breakfast included



7

Etosha to Palmwag

We will leave early to explore the remainder of Etosha National Park exiting from the western Galton Gate before continuing on to Palmwag located among tall Makalani palm trees on the banks of the seasonal Uniab River. The availability of water often lures elephants closer to the lodge. Palmwag manages the concession area around the lodge, a vast nature park of 5,500 km² which boasts the largest predator populations outside Etosha National Park and most of the world's free-roaming Black rhino. There are also healthy numbers of the legendary desert-adapted elephant as well as mountain zebra, giraffe, springbok, kudu and more.

Breakfast included



8

Palmwag

Free day to explore in the Palmwag concession in your own 4x4 or take an optional game drive with a local guide.

Breakfast included



9

Palmwag to Damaraland

Our morning drive will take us into Damaraland. This vast, arid landscape is among the most beautiful regions in Namibia and famous for a huge open-air gallery of prehistoric rock engravings. Optional visit to the local community and the Living Museum of the Damara. Breakfast included



10

Damaraland to Cape Cross

On our way to the Skeleton Coast we will cross through the Messum Crater which was formed by the impact of a meteorite or asteroid millions of years ago. It is estimated to be around 130 million years old, dating back to the Early Cretaceous period. Its diameter is 22km making it one of the larger impact craters on Earth. Our destination is Cape Cross an historic area that was landed on by the Portuguese in 1486, and they erected a stone cross here in honour of the Portuguese King. Cape Cross best known for its extraordinary breeding colony of Cape fur seals and has been made a reserve. Optional visit to the seal colony. Breakfast & dinner included.



11

Cape Cross to Swakopmund

The Skeleton Coast is known for its hauntingly beautiful and desolate landscapes, as well as its collection of shipwrecks scattered along its shores. These shipwrecks are a testament to the treacherous conditions and navigational challenges posed by this unforgiving coastline. We will stop in to see one of the wrecks as we travel parallel to the coast towards our final destination of Swakopmund. Breakfast included



12

Swakopmund

The mix of Namibian influences with picturesque buildings from the German colonial era, palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, the laid-back holiday atmosphere plus the cool sea breeze make Swakopmund one of the most attractive places in the country. It's the perfect place for a rest day.

There are many optional activities which include quadbikes in the dunes with a nature historian, seeking out the "small five" in the desert, visiting the local museums or strolling the streets. Specialist shops sell hand-made leather work, art & crafts, hand-woven carpets and wall hangings, hand-embroidered bed and table linen and other items proudly made in Namibia. Superb jewellery, designed and crafted with local gemstones by master goldsmiths, are another special feature of Swakopmund.

Breakfast included



13

Swakopmund to Sesriem

Travelling south we will reach Sesriem Canyon. This deep chasm carved through the rocks by water is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather (sesriem – six things tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)

Breakfast included



14

Sossusvlei day trip

Sossusvlei is a famous and iconic destination located within the Namib-Naukluft National Park. It is renowned for its mesmerizing and otherworldly landscapes, characterised by towering red sand dunes, vast salt pans, and unique desert vegetation. These are the largest free standing dunes in the world with "big Daddy" the largest at 305m. These dunes get their striking red colour from the iron oxide in the sand. It is the most visited place in Namibia and you will understand why when you visit. It is a 65km drive from our lodge at Sesriem.

Breakfast included



15

Sesriem to Aus

We will travel scenic backroads to Aus, a small town located in southern Namibia. It is known for its historical significance and the presence of wild horses. These horses, often referred to as the "Aus wild horses" or the "Namib Desert horses," are a unique and iconic feature of the region.

Breakfast included



16

Luderitz day trip

From our hotel we'll take a day drive to Lüderitz, a charming coastal town located in the southwestern part of Namibia, along the Atlantic Ocean. It is known for its unique blend of German colonial architecture, stunning coastal landscapes, and a rich history. Just a short drive from Lüderitz is the famous Kolmanskop Ghost Town. This abandoned diamond mining town, with its sand-filled buildings and eerie atmosphere, is a popular tourist attraction and a photographer's paradise.

Breakfast included



17

Aus to Fish River Canyon

Almost at the border with South Africa is the Fish River Canyon. It is the most impressive natural wonder in southern Namibia and the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon in the USA.

Breakfast included



18

Fish River Canyon day trip

The Fish River Canyon is the result of millions of years of erosion by the Fish River, which has carved a deep and meandering gorge through the rocky terrain. It measures approximately 160 kilometres in length, up to 27 kilometres in width, and in some places, over 550 metres deep. It's a short drive from our lodge and there are other activities that can be enjoyed here including walks from the lodge located in a remote and scenic area, surrounded by the dramatic landscapes of southern Namibia. Breakfast included



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Fish River to Kalahari Farmhouse

The Kalahari Basin covers most of Botswana and large parts of Namibia and South Africa. The name Kalahari means 'the great thirst' and describes the world's largest continuous area of sand. It is an exceptionally beautiful semi-desert. In Namibia it is characterised by low red dunes, acacia trees and wispy, mostly golden grass. Breakfast included



20

Kalahari Farmhouse to Windhoek

After breakfast, we start our final drive back to Windhoek and return our 4x4s in time to get organised to depart tomorrow. Breakfast and farewell dinner included



21

Depart

Transfer to airport for departure flights. Breakfast included

Itinerary is subject to change. The final route may change due to weather, road conditions, decisions by authorities or the local guide.

Pre & Post Tour Accommodation...

If you'd like arrive a day or two early to acclimatise and get over a long flight or stay longer, we can arrange additional nights in the same hotel. Prices to be advised closer to the date.





Prices, Dates....

Prices...

AUD10,830* per person

- Prices are based on 2 people per 4x4 on a double/twin share basis
- 3rd & 4th passenger: we can provide pricing if you have more than 2 people per 4x4

*The prices above are 2024 tour dates only. Prices assume a minimum of 5 vehicles and a maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see booking form for all terms and conditions. If we do not have the 5 vehicle minimum the tour can still operate with a small group supplement.

Inclusions...

Arrival and departure transfers, accommodation, vehicle hire including unlimited kilometres, premium cover, contract fee, unlimited additional drivers, tyre and glass damage and zero excess (Ford Ranger, Isuzu D-Max or similar), picnic equipment (fridge, table, chairs, cutlery, cups etc), two-way radio, all accommodation on a twin/double basis, daily breakfast, 4 dinners, support vehicle escort and staff, activities as listed in the itinerary. The first aid equipment is in the escort car, as is all recovery equipment.

Exclusions...

Airfares return to Namibia (approx. AUD2,500-3,000 from Australia economy fare), fuel (approx. AUD1,700 per car), fuel deposit (approx. AUD250 block on credit card), national park entry fees (which are usually part of the price of optional activities), alcoholic drinks, meals not included in the itinerary approx. AUD15 to AUD30 per meal depending on location, local tips, travel insurance, activities over and above those detailed in the itinerary, visas (if required), immunisations (if required) and any personal expenses.

Dates...

21 Days

07-27 March, 2024

Accommodation Based



Other Information

Accommodation...

Accommodation ranges from comfortable and simple to quite luxurious. All accommodation has private amenities. The lodges and hotels have been hand chosen for location and access to the route on the itinerary. [Click Here](#) to see accommodation.

Driving Ability & Conditions...

The skills required are a driver's license and some 4x4 experience or rough gravel track driving recommended.

The route is planned largely avoiding main roads, however, there will be some tar as well as plenty of dirt, gravel, some sand and rough tracks.

Vehicles...

The standard vehicle used for this tour is a 4 door 4x4 Ford Ranger or Isuzu D-Max or similar. Mostly likely automatic. The cars will be equipped with equipment so that you can self cater for lunches. There will be a fridge and picnic equipment (table, chairs, cutlery, plates, gas bottle and spin off top with pots and pans etc).

Activity Level...

This trip is not physically demanding as any walking activity is usually optional. There are walks available from 1-2km to longer and a trekking pole is recommended if you have some difficulty on rough terrain or stairs.

Convoy Size...

The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is 5, unless a small group surcharge is added, and the maximum is 7. This excludes support vehicles. Most vehicles tend to have just two guests, however, up to four can be accommodated. The convoy does travel together for most of the journey, so you need to be willing to be flexible to fit in with the determined start time each day, stops for breaks etc. We try to allow breaks for photos, toilet stops, sightseeing, activities, wildlife viewing, lunch, morning and afternoon tea. In some places part of the day may be "free" where we will give a certain meeting point to regroup.



Food & Drinks...

Meals included are daily breakfasts and 4 dinners. You will self cater for lunches and you can stock the vehicle with most of the items you would normally have access to at home. The shopping in Windhoek is particularly good and we will have other opportunities to restock along the way. Dinner will be available in the lodges and hotels or at restaurants in towns like Swakopmund. Most of the lodges will have a "buffet" dinner and some will have "a la carte" menus.

Weather...

March is Autumn in Namibia. Like everywhere in the world it is hard to predict exactly what the weather will be. It is the end of the wet season moving into the dry season, so there may be the occasional shower. We would expect the average daytime temperatures of 27-30°C and around 15°C at night (or colder on the coast depending on the wind direction).

Guide & Support Team...

On this adventure you will be guided by Self Drive Adventures founders Mike Boyd and Linda Schlencker. The decision of Self Drive Adventures is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any person participating in the trip.

Amenities & Toilet Breaks...

All accommodation has private bathroom facilities. There will be times when a toilet is not available during the day and we will stop for a "bush toilet" where there may be cover of trees or bushes for privacy.

Wildlife...

The wildlife ("game") will be in pockets along the route. The main game viewing areas are Etosha, Waterberg Plateau and Palmwag Concession.

Flights...

Before booking flights and other arrangements it is your responsibility to confirm with us that we have the minimum number of cars required for this adventure to depart.

Risks & Health...

By participating you acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. To visit Namibia there are no mandatory vaccinations, however, you should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.



FAN MAIL

You won't be disappointed



We have travelled to many interesting places in the world but nothing has ever compared with our holiday with "Self Drive Adventures". We love 4x4 driving, we love camping, we love having adventures in the outdoors and that's exactly what our holiday offered. The added bonus was the fact that we saw animals by the hundreds, visited villages and schools as well as having the opportunity to meet and mix with the locals. It ticked every box. Linda and Mike organised everything with professionalism, nothing was ever any trouble and their knowledge of the country was outstanding. We would highly recommend an African "Self Drive Adventure" as your next holiday destination, you won't be disappointed.

Bob & Liz, Sydney Australia



www.selfdriveadventures.com



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