

# ANGOLA-NAMIBIA

*Conservation Guided 4x4 Safari*

**30 Days**

**04 Aug - 02 Sep 2027**

**Camping Based  
Guided 4x4 Adventure  
Angola | Namibia**

Forget mobile bars, Wi-Fi, and even Starlink. We're venturing deep into Angola's raw, uncompromising wilderness. No towns, no shops, no water sources—just you, your 4x4, and the vast, untamed landscape.

We invite you to be one of the few to explore a truly forgotten corner of Africa on our Conservation 4x4 expedition. Now under the expert stewardship of African Parks, this stunning Southern African wilderness is on the cusp of discovery. You have a unique opportunity to experience this unspoiled gem before the word gets out. If you're looking for a pioneering adventure, this is it.

This journey cuts across the stunning plains of Northern Namibia and deep into Angola's Iona National Park. Iona is not just remote; it is the ultimate frontier, offering a logistically challenging, vast, and untouched wilderness reserved only for experienced adventurers. More than a trip, this is a commitment: you will gain unparalleled access to this incredible environment while participating in essential conservation activities with African Parks.



**Self Drive  
ADVENTURES**  
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[www.selfdriveadventures.com](http://www.selfdriveadventures.com)



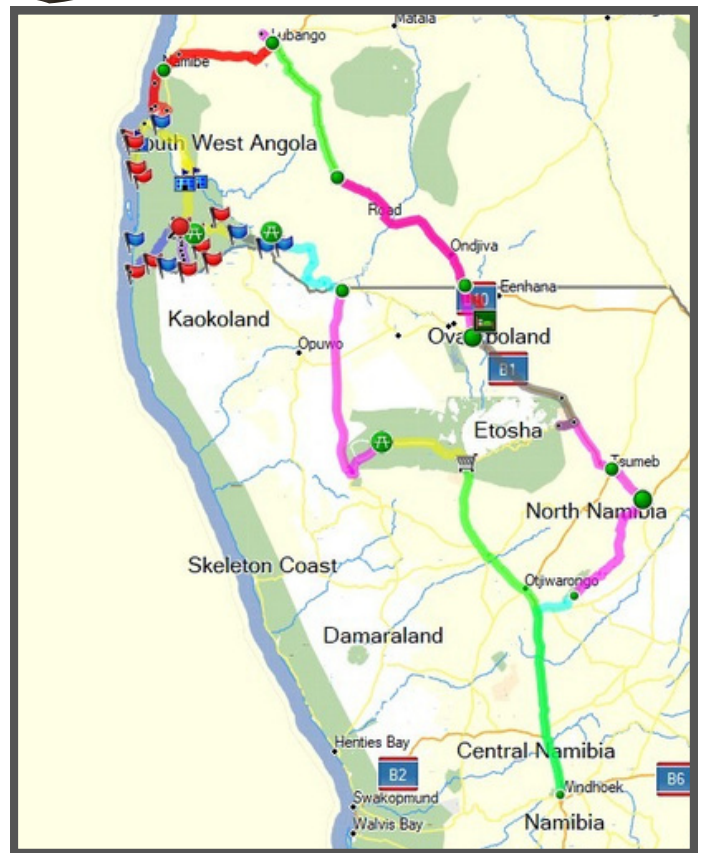
*Highlights*

The Key highlight is Iona National Park Adventure (8-9 Nights):

- Engage in activities with **African Parks** and meet the **park management, conservation, community and ranger teams**.
- Traverse **sand dunes** and the **shipwreck coast**.
- Visit the remote **Kunene River Mouth** and camp on the river border.
- Learn about **community conservation projects** within the park.

## Other highlights along the journey:

- **Rhino Tracking:** Track rhinos in the **Waterberg Wilderness**.
- **Etosha:** Experience the **Etosha National Park** for major wildlife sightings, including black rhino, lion, and various antelope.
- **Scenic Drives & Photography:** Witness the **Tundavala Viewpoint** for stunning views. Drive the legendary, thrilling **Serra da Leba Pass**.
- **Desert Landscapes:** Explore the colossal red sandstone formations in the **Colinas Canyon/Valley of the Spirits**.



**Please Note:** Proposed route is approx. 4,000km. Guide decides on final route as per current conditions on day of travel.

**Please Note:** All participants need to be flexible in the case the route or arrangements are changed at any time. Conservation activities with African Parks may only be confirmed a few days prior to arrival.



**Your adventure price includes a AUD1,000 per person contribution that directly supports African Parks' operations in Iona National Park.**



# The Itinerary

1

## Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. You will be met on arrival and 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 & accommodation included



2

## Windhoek

Transfer to collect our 4x4s and purchase provisions for the road. Your car will be fully camping equipped. There could be time to explore Windhoek, which is a cosmopolitan city with an abundance of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation. Breakfast & accommodation included



3

## Windhoek to Waterberg Plateau

We'll head northeast toward the Waterberg—literally "Water Mountain"—an impressive flat-topped plateau spanning 50 km long by 16 km wide, named for its abundant natural springs. The afternoon's main event is a guided rhino-tracking safari, where an up-close encounter with majestic white rhinos is virtually guaranteed. Camping, shared amenities



4

## Waterberg to Onguma

We travel north to Onguma Nature Reserve, bordered by Fisher's Pan on the eastern edge of Etosha National Park. Spanning over 34,000 hectares, this sanctuary offers a front-row seat to Africa's wild beauty. It is home to an incredible array of wildlife, including black rhinos, lions, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, zebras, diverse antelope, and more than 300 bird species. Camping, with ensuite amenities – 2 nights



5

## Explore Etosha

From our base at Onguma, a short drive brings us through the eastern gate of Etosha National Park. Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore this legendary wilderness, where you'll have the chance to spot lions, giraffes, elephants, both black and white rhinos, and vast herds of plains game. National Park entry fees paid directly at the park



6

## Onguma to Ondangwa

Continuing our journey north, we'll camp near the town of Ondangwa at the Ongula Homestead Lodge campsite. By staying here, you directly support sustainable community development and local empowerment initiatives. Camping, with shared amenities, traditional dinner included



7

## Into Angola

After crossing the border into Angola at Santa Clara, we'll make our way to tonight's wild campsite. The atmosphere shifts instantly as motorbikes and tuk-tuks take over the roads, and you adapt to driving on the right side of the road in a right-hand-drive vehicle—a smooth transition thanks to courteous drivers and quiet (but potholed) tarmac. Wild camping, no amenities



8

## Lubango

Sitting high at over 1,700 meters, Lubango enjoys a cool mountain climate surrounded by lush, spectacular highland scenery. If time allows, we'll drive 40 km round-trip to the iconic Tundavala Viewpoint to witness sheer cliffs dropping nearly 1,000 meters into the vast plains—delivering unforgettable visual drama and world-class photo opportunities.

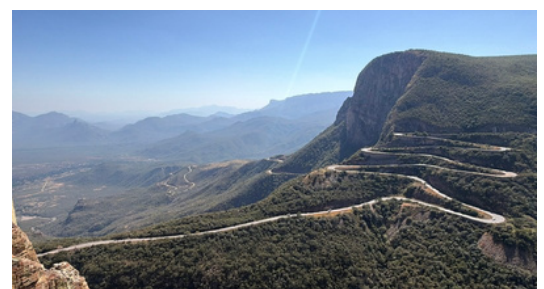
Accommodation in a twin/double room on a B&B basis



9

## Towards the West Coast

The Serra da Leba Pass connects Angola's high Central Plateau to the coastal Namibe Desert, making the trip from Lubango to Namibe one of the country's most iconic drives. The road plummets over 1,000 meters in roughly 25 kilometers, transitioning rapidly from an altitude of 1,845 meters down to near sea level. Wild camping or campsite on coast depending on conditions





10

## Curoca Canyon

After stocking up on final provisions and enjoying a fresh seafood lunch on the Namibe waterfront, we journey inland toward Colinas Canyon. Here, amidst towering walls of rich red, fiery orange, and pale yellow sandstone, we'll set up our wild camp for an unforgettable night under the stars.

Wild camping

11-12

## Iona Dunes

Today, we cross the threshold into one of the continent's last true wildernesses—a remote national park rarely seen by travelers. Skirting the Atlantic coast before turning inland, our expert guide will lead us on an unforgettable, two-day journey through the uncharted dune fields. Wild camping



13-14

## Omauha



Leaving the dune system we'll spend two nights at the private farm of Omauha. Nestled on the fringes of Iona National Park, Omauha is a surreal landscape where rolling gravel plains meet rugged granite outcrops and ancient desert flora. Here, in one of Africa's most isolated corners, you'll experience true off-grid solitude. What a superb location for a rest day. Standard room with ensuite

## Time to be flexible as we explore Iona National Park

Due to track, weather, and conservation scheduling, flexibility is essential as we explore Iona National Park before returning to the border.

Situated in southwestern Angola, Iona (15,150 km<sup>2</sup>) forms the northern tip of the ancient Namib Desert and joins Namibia's Skeleton Coast to create one of the world's largest transfrontier conservation areas. First established as a protected area in 1937, four decades of conflict severely impacted its wildlife. Today, peace has restored the park: returning local communities share the land with recovering populations of zebra, oryx, springbok, cheetah, leopard, and brown hyaena among its iconic red dunes and ancient Welwitschia plants.

Seeking to conserve this extraordinary landscape, in December 2019 the Angolan Government partnered with African Parks to manage Iona and ensure its long-term ecological, social, and economic sustainability, for both its wildlife and its people. Plans to restore species previously lost to the landscape began with the reintroduction of Angolan giraffe in 2023 and 2024. Although increasing numbers of people and livestock have placed pressure on the ecosystem in recent years, continuous positive community engagement is contributing to successful community integration into sustainable management practices in the park.



# Approximate Itinerary Only for days 15 -23

## 15 HQ visit & Gruta do Leao

Spend the morning at African Parks HQ in Pediva for an exclusive tour and overview of current conservation and park management efforts. Afterwards, journey into the heart of the park to spend the night at Gruta do Leão—a truly one-of-a-kind retreat famous for its dramatic, sculpted sandstone overhangs and cavern-like rock formations. Tented accommodation with ensuite dinner, breakfast, beer wine and soft drinks included



## 16 Cunene River Mouth

Join the conservation team for a morning activity, then cross sweeping gravel plains toward the remote Cunene Mouth. This coast is defined by the Benguela Upwelling, a marine phenomenon that makes these waters among the richest on Earth. Wild camp



## 17-18 Iona South

Two days spent tracing the Cunene inland from its Atlantic delta to Tchinhungua camp. We'll experience a dramatic transition from coastal dunes and wetland oases to a lush river ribbon of palms. Further inland, this verdant oasis gives way to sweeping gravel plains, ancient Welwitschia plants, and rugged granite inselbergs. Wild camping



## 19-20 Cambeno - Iona

We wrap up our journey through Iona National Park with a deep dive into the region's rich cultural heritage. Over our final two days, we'll meet with the African Parks Community Liaison team and travel to the Cambeno area to spend time with the local Himba people and visit the community school in the village of Iona. Our route takes us through the remote eastern reaches of the park—a timeless wilderness populated predominantly by Himba pastoralists and their traditional livestock herds. Wild camping



## 21-23 Remote tracks to the border

Over the next three days, we navigate slow, remote, and rugged rocky tracks as we bid farewell to Iona National Park and journey back toward the border. Along the way, we plan to spend one or two tranquil nights wild camping along the banks of the Cunene River, framed by its iconic Makalani palm trees. Wild camping





24-25

## Ruacana

After completing our border crossing, we'll settle in for a two-night stay at Ruacana. Enjoy a well-earned rest day along the banks of the Kunene River—the natural border between Angola and Namibia. While the famous Ruacana Falls won't be in full flow at this time of year, we'll still pop in to take in the impressive gorge view.  
Camping, shared amenities

26-28

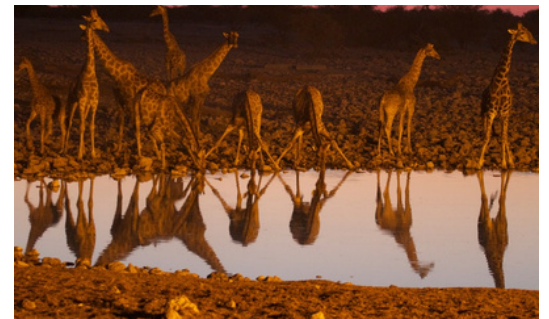
## Etosha National Park

We will enter the park from the western side this time and travel east with 3 days to explore the western and central parts of the park. The Hartmann's Mountain Zebra is an iconic species of the rugged, mountainous terrain that dominates the western side of Etosha.

During our 3 night stay we will spend one night at Olifantsrus campsite and two nights at the Okaukuejo campsite famous for its spectacular, floodlit waterhole. You can sit on benches near the waterhole, often with a drink, and watch a constant parade of animals from sunset until sunrise. This makes for a unique safari experience where the wildlife comes to you. Okaukuejo is perhaps most famous for the extremely reliable sightings of the endangered Black Rhino, which often visit the waterhole nightly. Many travelers consider it the single best place on the continent to see this elusive animal.

This waterhole is widely considered one of the best places in all of Africa for guaranteed, close-up, 24/7 wildlife viewing, often without even leaving the camp area.

Camping, shared amenities – 3 nights  
Accommodation upgrades pending availability  
National Park entry fees paid directly at the park



27-28

## Windhoek

South back to Windhoek, where we will drop off the 4x4s pack up and enjoy a farewell dinner. Transfer to airport in the morning.

Accommodation in a twin/double standard room on a B&B basis for 1 night, Farewell dinner included



# Prices, Dates....

## Dates...

28 Days

04 Aug - 02 Sep 2027

Camping Based

## Prices...

AUD15,780\* per person -

Price includes AUD1,000 per person contribution directly to Iona National Park conservation activities.

- 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

\*Prices assume a minimum of 3 vehicles and a maximum of 5 vehicles (plus support vehicles). 2027 pricing only, 2028 pricing will be available in early 2027 approximately in April. Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see booking form for all terms and conditions.

## Inclusions...

Arrival and departure transfers, vehicle hire (Toyota Hilux auto or similar), rooftop or ground tent, bedding, linen, towels, fridge, water tank, cooking and camping equipment, spare tyre, vehicle insurance (standard), cross border fees for vehicle, two way radio in vehicle, Iona National Park entry fees, AUD1,000 per person contribution to African Parks operations, camping and accommodation as per itinerary, meals as per itinerary, support vehicle escort and staff.

## Exclusions...

Airfares return to Namibia (approx. AUD2,500-3,000 from Australia economy fare), fuel (approx. AUD1,200 per car), meals other than listed on itinerary (estimate AUD800 per person), cross border fees/taxes approx. AUD40 per person, Namibia Visa approx. AUD130 per person, entry to Etosha Park approx. AUD40 per person, any accommodation upgrades chosen, any vehicle upgrades chosen, optional activities, vehicle excess/security deposit, meals other than listed on itinerary, local tips, travel insurance (medical evacuation insurance highly recommended), visas (if required), vaccinations (if required), any other items of a personal nature and local tips.

## 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.





# Other Information

## Mindset...

Angola has very limited tourism infrastructure. On this adventure, you need to expect some long days of travel, that things may have to change due to weather, fuel supply, flat tyres, recoveries etc. The activities organised with African Parks may need to be confirmed at the last minute due to their operations and staffing. All participants need to remain flexible and be prepared to "go with the flow" and expect the unexpected.

## Accommodation & Campsites...

Mostly camping. You must have multi day camping and 4x4 experience to join the trip. Some nights are in organised camp sites with facilities, but many nights we will be without amenities and mostly bush/wild camping. We do stay in some accommodation on the way and you can upgrade to a lodge at some locations at an additional cost. In campsites with organised facilities these may be quite basic e.g. "long drop" toilet and bush showers which have hot water after the fire gets the water warm. The longest period of time without any shower or toilet amenities will be approximately 7 days.

## Vehicles...

The standard vehicle is fully camping equipped. Exact car specifications may change due to availability but the current supply is of a Hilux King Cab automatic with hard shell roof top tent. There is a 60L fridge/freezer in the canopy and a 35L fridge in the cabin. You can add a safari ground tent if required.



## Driving Ability & Conditions...

The skills required are a driver's license and some 4x4 experience or rough gravel/sand track driving required or minimum of a recent 4x4 driver training course. The route is planned largely avoiding main roads with extensive travel off road and on rarely used tracks, trails, dunes and in river beds.

## *Activity Level...*

This trip will have some long days of driving on rough terrain so a reasonable level of fitness is recommended. Walking activities are optional.

## *Convoy Size...*

The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is 3, unless a small group surcharge is added, and the maximum is 5. This excludes support vehicles. 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...*

Plan your own meals and do your own shopping to stock your vehicle. You will have all your own cooking equipment, fridge etc in your vehicle so you can be self-sufficient. The main "dry stores" provision will be in Windhoek where there are some excellent grocery stores in Angola the provisions in Angola are more limited however the selection of good quite good. The longest time between shops is 14 days.

## *Weather...*

The weather will typically range from cool to cold at night, 3-10 degrees C and from 20—35 degrees C during the day depending on the location. We can expect some windy and misty conditions on along the coast which may make the temperatures seem quite cold. Windhoek Winter mornings can be very cold due to the higher altitude (approx 1,200m).

## *Guide & Support Team...*

You will have a Self Drive Adventures escort for the entire journey. In Angola you will be joined by Africa Parks management and staff at times for the conservation activities. 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.

## *Wildlife...*

The main game viewing areas of the adventure are the Waterberg Plateau, Etosha National Park and Iona National Park. **Expect wildlife sightings in Iona to be limited** as it is a park where game is being re-introduced under the stewardship of African Parks as well as the desert climate.

## *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 remote, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. Yellow Fever certificates are required for this adventure.





# FAN MAIL

*Everything that the blurb promised and then some...*

## *Namibia & Angola 4x4 Conservation*

"The Last Great 4x4 Frontier Awaits.

The trip through Namibia and Angola was everything that the blurb promised and then some.

The organization by Linda (energizer bunny) meant that we did not have to worry about anything. The border crossings were tedious but trouble-free thanks to the preparatory instructions.

Accommodation was well organised and exactly as described.

The initial pick up of the vehicles was done with comprehensive instructions and demonstrations.

Simon, our guide, chose exceptional campsites that were genuinely remote.

The section through Iona National Park and the insight into African Parks and the work they are undertaking was extremely welcome and very informative.

Overall, Angola was a rewarding and distinctive trip. It was not always the easiest destination, but that was part of what made it memorable. The strongest impression I took away was of a country with striking natural beauty, generous people and enormous potential for travellers who are willing to look beyond the obvious routes."

John Pyle