

ANGOLA-NAMIBIA

Conservation Guided 4x4 Safari

28 Days

05 Jun - 02 Jul 2026

**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 new exploratory 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**
GUIDED TAGALONG TOURS

www.selfdriveadventures.com

Highlights

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

- Engage in activities with African Parks and meet the park management and ranger team.
- Explore red 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.
- **Ruacana Falls:** Visit the impressive Ruacana Falls.
- **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: This is an exploratory tour, it is the first time Self Drive Adventures has operated an adventure in Angola. All participants need to be flexible in the case the route or arrangements are changed at any time.



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, dinner & accommodation 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.

Camping, shared amenities



4 Waterberg to Onguma

We continue north to Onguma Nature Reserve, 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. Camping, with ensuite amenities – 2 nights



5

Explore Etosha

From our base at Onguma, it is a short drive into the Eastern side of Etosha National Park. Day free to explore. You may see a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. National Park entry fees paid directly at the park



6

Buguma to Ondangwa

Still heading north and camping in or close to the town of Ondangwa. Most likely we will stay at the Ongula Homestead Lodge, supporting sustainable development and community empowerment. Camping, with shared amenities



7

Into Angola

We'll cross the Namibia-Angola border at Santa Clara then continue to our wild camp for the night. Wild camping, no amenities



8

Lubango

Lubango sits at a high elevation (over 1,700 meters), leading to a cooler climate. The landscape is more lush and mountainous, giving way to spectacular highland scenery. If there's time we will make the 40km round trip to the Tundavala Viewpoint where cliffs plunge dramatically—sometimes as much as 1,000 meters—to the plains below, offering truly jaw-dropping natural drama and incredible photographic opportunities. Accommodation in a twin/double room on a B&B basis



9

Towards the West Coast

The descent from Lubango through the Serra da Leba Pass to the coast near Namibe (Moçâmedes) is renowned as one of Angola's most scenic and thrilling journeys. It connects the high, fertile Central Plateau to the vast, arid coastal plain of the Namibe Desert. The road spirals down rapidly, dropping over 1,000 meters from a plateau elevation of approximately 1,845 meters to near sea level in just over 25 kilometres.

Wild camping or campsite on coast depending on conditions



Time to be flexible!

Track and weather conditions as well as the timing and location of the conservation activities do not allow us to make concrete plans for the next section of the exploratory. Participants need to be flexible as we explore the Iona National Park and surrounding area before heading back to the border.



10-19

Iona & Surrounding Area

Iona National Park is situated in the south-west corner of Angola and constitutes the northern tip of the Namib Desert, considered to be the oldest desert in the world. Iconic for its red sand dunes, shipwreck coast, and *Welwitschia mirabilis* plants, it is contiguous with Skeleton Coast National Park in Namibia, creating – in conjunction with the Namib Partial Reserve to the north – one of the largest transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) in the world. Together, they cover nearly 50,000 km², of which Iona National Park spans 15,150 km².

With its exceptional biodiversity and remarkable landscapes, Iona was first declared a protected area in 1937, before being designated Iona National Park in 1964. However, four decades of conflict led to the local extinction of many species, including black rhino and elephant, and the flight of local communities to Namibia. With the end of the conflict, communities began returning to the park, where viable populations of zebra, oryx and springbok remained, along with remnant populations of cheetah, leopard and brown hyaena.

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.

We expect to spend approximately 9 nights within the Iona National Park. Activities may include:

- Dune and coastal driving, including shipwrecks, wildlife and birdlife
- Visit to the Kunene River Mouth and estuary in the farthest south western corner of the park
- Meet the African Parks team at their HQ in Pediva, view the operation and have lunch in their canteen
- Talks from African Parks team about their overall approach to conservation and particular plans and current activities within the park
- Walk with the law enforcement team collecting or setting up camera traps
- Camp on the Kunene River – remote border with Namibia
- Visit community projects, villages and school within the park to learn more about the vital connection of communities with conservation



20-21

Remote Route to Border

We'll exit the park via a slow and remote track that includes 2 wild camps as we make our way to the border at Ruacana.



22-23

Ruacana Falls



After navigating the border we'll spend the next two nights in Ruacana with a day free to explore the falls, one of Africa's most magnificent waterfalls, located on the Kunene River, which forms part of the border between Namibia and Angola. Camping, shared amenities

24-26

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....

Prices...

AUD15,495* 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 5 vehicles and a maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). 2026 pricing only, 2027 pricing will be available in early 2026 approximately in April. 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, 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. AUD1,800 per car), meals other than listed on itinerary (estimate AUD800 per person), cross border fees/taxes approx. AUD100 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 which depends on the vehicle category (most commonly ZAR20,000 / Approx AUD1,800 to ZAR30,000 / Approx AUD2,700), 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.

Dates...

28 Days

05 Jun - 02 Jul 2026

2027 dates TBC

Camping Based



Other Information

Exploratory Adventure...

Although thoroughly researched and designed with help from African Parks and our local support team who have travelled to Angola on many occasions, this adventure is an exploratory adventure. 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 camping 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 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.

Vehicles...

The standard vehicles are fully camping equipped. The base model used in pricing is a automatic Toyota Hilux with roof top tent or ground tent. Land cruiser option may be available for an additional fee. Exact car specifications may change due to availability.

◆ DAY



5 Seater

◆ NIGHT



Sleeps 2 persons in 1 rooftop tents

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. Walking distances are unknown due to the exploratory nature of this adventure.

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...

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. Provisions in Angola will be limited but the main "dry stores" provision will be in Windhoek where there are some excellent grocery stores.

Weather...

The weather will typically range from cool to cold at night, 5-10 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.

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.

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. There are no mandatory vaccinations, however, you should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.



FAN MAIL

An epic adventure!

We wanted to safely experience an off-road African safari experience with animals wandering freely through our camps, and were excited to come across Self Drive Adventures. It's the small details like border crossings, money management, personal safety that make or break a trip in our experience.

With Linda's experience in management consulting, we knew her attention to detail would be exactly what would be needed to have an exceptional, multi-country, month long, self drive adventure that would be exactly what we were after. Linda was extremely responsive throughout the booking and trip preparation stages and provided detailed guides on everything we could possibly want such as what to pack, how much money to bring, what to tip, and recipe and shopping list ideas.

Our guide for our month long trip had all the attributes to make for an incredible experience: strong leadership of our 6 car convoy; experience and anticipation so that everything worked as well as it could, including: getting to border crossings before the masses to make for a quick and easy transfer; handling the paperwork for various campsites so we could set up camp after a long day of driving; phenomenal stories of his various adventures, and more.

Our additional animal safari guide had us at "hello" sharing his family history in Botswana, stories growing up in the Okavango Delta and his deep respect for the local culture and love of the animals. He was always up for one more adventure often bending the rules about when to get us back to find a pack of wild dogs, lions or hyena cubs.

Living everyday in the moment focused on where we needed to get to that day, what we were going to make for food, and getting a good night sleep with the animal noises for company was a wonderful detox from everyday urban living especially for the weeks with no cell signal.

We loved it so much we've already signed up for another Self Drive Adventure for next year!

Vicki Shillington & Jim White

www.selfdriveadventures.com



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