

Namibia Self Drive

12 days | Starts/Ends: Windhoek



With the adventure capital Swakopmund, the wildlife of Etosha National Park, the stunning Sossusvlei dunes and the Himba Village at Kamanjab - this self drive holiday takes in the best of Namibia. Combine tremendous wildlife, culture and natural wonders on this exciting self drive tour of Namibia which includes car hire and accommodation and allows you to enjoy your own private Namibian adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Windhoek - Namibia's vibrant capital
- Okonjima Game Reserve - option to visit the Cheetah Project
- Etosha National Park - home to 4 of the 'Big Five'
- Spitzkoppe - Beautiful group of granite mountains famous for Bushman rock art
- Swakopmund - quaint German colonial town on the coast of Namibia
- Sossusvlei - stunning sand dunes including Dune 45

What's Included

- 11 nights standard/superior accommodation (alternative hotels available upon request)
- 11 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- 12 days car hire - Avis Group B vehicle (VW Polo or similar) with Premium insurance cover. Vehicle upgrade available

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Drinks and items of a personal nature

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Windhoek

On arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport in Namibia's capital, Windhoek, please proceed to the Avis Car Hire depot to collect your hire car and drive to your accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is yours to spend at leisure.

Windhoek is the bustling capital of Namibia, located in a picturesque valley bordered by the Eros Mountains and the Auas mountains. The influence of the German colonial rule is still evident in the city, which has a unique blend of colonial and modern architecture. The city centre can be easily navigated on foot and places of interest include the Namibia's National Museum, the Ink Palace and historic Christ Church.

Accommodation: Vondelhof Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathroom, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

Overnight - Windhoek

Day 2 : Okonjima Game Reserve

Windhoek – Okonjima Game Reserve. After breakfast leave Windhoek and drive north to your first destination, Okonjima Game Reserve in the Otjozondjupa Region. Okonjima is nestled among the Omboroko Mountains and roughly translated means 'Place of the baboons'. In the afternoon you have the option to visit the Cheetah Project and learn more about these endangered animals.

Distance: 250 km

Departure: 08h00

Accommodation: Okonjima Plains Camp or similar (rooms with e-suite bathroom)

Overnight - Okonjima (B, D)

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Days 3-5 : Etosha NP



Okonjima Game Reserve - Etosha National Park. On day 3 travel on to Etosha which was Namibia's first conservation area and is one of the world's finest game parks, home to many rare and endangered species. The Etosha Pan dominates the park which is usually dry, but fills with water briefly in the summer months, attracting pelicans and flamingos in particular. Periannual springs attract a variety of game and birds throughout the year, including the endangered black rhino and the endemic black face impala.

Your accommodation is just outside Etosha National Park. You will be able to embark on optional game drives through the park hopefully spotting a variety of wildlife during your stay. The resorts also offer fabulous floodlit waterholes, which provide excellent game viewing at night.

Distance: 250 km

Accommodation: Etosha Okaukeujo or similar (room with en-suite bathroom, swimming pool, bar & restaurant) **Overnight - Etosha National Park (B:3)**

Day 6 : Kamanjab



Etosha National Park - Twyfelfontein. This morning bid farewell to the wild animals of Etosha and head to Kamanjab where you have the opportunity to visit a local Himba village to find out more about their traditions

& lifestyle. Experience the milking ceremony and the smoke bath. Learn about their beliefs around the holy fire, ancestors, and herbal medicine. Continue on to the town of Omaruru where you overnight. Once a mission station, the settlement has great historic significance and has evolved into an artistic hub for local crafts and small industries.

Distance: 320 km

Departure: 08h00

Accommodation: Omaruru Guesthouse or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, restaurant and swimming pool) **Overnight - Omaruru (B)**

Days 7-8 : Swakopmund



Twyfelfontein - Swakopmund. After breakfast continue to Spitzkoppe, an iconic group of curved granite mountains with vivid colours. We suggest embarking on a walk amongst the boulders to view the ancient Bushmen paintings and engravings, where after you continue south west from the dry interior of Namibia to the charming coastal town of Swakopmund. Here you will have the opportunity to partake in a few of the many optional activities that are offered. Alternatively you can just soak up the atmosphere of this little German Town and enjoy its beauty and beaches.

Distance: 310 km

Departure: 08h00

Accommodation: The Stiltz or similar (standard bungalows with en-suite bathrooms)

*We can book optional activities in Swakopmund upon request. **Overnight - Swakopmund (B:2)**

Days 9-10 : Sossusvlei



Swakopmund - Sossusvlei. An early morning start takes you from Swakopmund south through Walvis Bay on your way to the Namib Naukluft National Park, which is considered to be the oldest desert in the world. On the way there why not make a stop at the small settlement of Solitaire where you will have a chance to sample their world renowned Apple Crumble – only served without cream! That evening you have the opportunity to embark on a wild cat walk at the lodge.

The next morning it is advisable to wake up early in order to visit the world's highest sand dunes at Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. At sunrise and sunset these dunes, which can reach heights of over 300m, are absolutely spectacular and provide for a fantastic photo opportunity. With luck, there may even be water in the vlei (lake). We also recommend a stop to view the Sesriem Canyon, which was carved millions of years ago by the Tsauchab River.

Distance: 400 km

Departure: 07h00

Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge or similar (Rooms with en-suite bathrooms, bar, restaurant and swimming pool) **Overnight - Sesriem (B:2)**

Day 11 : Return to Windhoek



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Sossusvlei - Windhoek. Today you leave the desert behind you and travel back to Windhoek, through the beautiful countryside. Once you arrive the rest of the afternoon can be spent at leisure and dinner can be enjoyed in one of the many fabulous restaurants in the city.

Distance: 360 km
Departure: 08h00

Accommodation: Vondelhof Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathroom, swimming pool, bar & restaurant)

Overnight - Windhoek (B)

Day 12 : Windhoek

This morning after breakfast, drive to Windhoek International Airport to drop off your hire car in time for your departure flight. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Vondelhof Guest House

Vondelhof Guesthouse is a small and informal retreat offering highly-personalised service. The rooms are spacious, comfortable and decorated with an African touch.



Okonjima Plains Camp

Set amidst plains and rolling hills, the Okonjima Plains Camp provides a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with tasteful accommodation and great photographic opportunities for the big cats in the area. The focal point of the Plains Camp is the large main area that houses a welcoming dining

area and several sitting areas spread out over two levels. Known as 'the Barn' for its resemblance to a farm barn, it's the ideal place to meet fellow travellers and enjoy the views from the floor-to-ceiling windows. The spacious rooms are beautifully designed with splashes of colour and African artwork with woollen rugs and mats, large windows, ceiling fans and a private veranda.



Okaukuejo Resort

With a popular waterhole for game viewing and a range of luxury chalets and standard rooms Okaukuejo Resort is the perfect place for relaxing and game viewing. Guest rooms range from Bush Chalets to Premium Waterhole chalets (which overlook the animals' drinking place). Evenings are a great time to relax at the waterhole and watch the amazing wild life come down for their evening drinks - you could even take your own beverage and join in with the drinking. Okaukuejo is accessed from the southern entrance of the park and is about 17km in.



Omaruru Guest House

In the quaint town of Omaruru, the Omaruru Guest House offers comfortable accommodation and a friendly service. Guest rooms are stylish with hard wood flooring and excellent modern amenities. The guest house boasts from a refreshing outdoor pool, on site restaurant and complimentary Wi-Fi. At the front of the property you can find the Bambu Wellness Boutique Spa - a perfect stop for some pampering when in the desert!



The Stiltz

Unique in so many aspects, the Stiltz is one of Swakopmund's best properties. Each private wooden bungalow sits on stilts looking out towards the Atlantic Ocean or towards the beautiful sand dunes. The bungalows are comfortable and eco friendly and the resort has recently been awarded two flowers for environmental awareness. Being so close to the town of Swakopmund means guests can easily take advantage of all the town has to offer including all the adrenaline-pumping activities as well as the superb selection of restaurants and bars.



Sossus Dune Lodge

Built from wood, canvas and thatch in a rustic African village-style layout to blend with its environment, the Sossus Dune Lodge creates an evocative experience. Its location within the Namib-Naukluft National Park allows guests to reach the dunes before sunrise and again in the evening once the crowds have left. Each of the 25 chalets provides views either of the dunes or the surrounding mountains. Wooden walkways link each chalet with the main lodge. It's particularly pretty at night when illuminated with electric lights and lanterns. The lodge features an outdoor swimming pool with loungers and a large, light and airy restaurant and separate lounge and bar area.

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Transport

Avis Car Hire, group B (VW Polo Vivo or similar).

Premium insurance includes: theft and collision damage waiver, personal accident insurance, unlimited mileage, location surcharge, third party liability insurance, general public liability insurance, tourism levy, VAT and claim admin fee, tyre, rim and hubcap damage, windscreen damage/repair, sandblasting damage, water and undercarriage damage.

Excludes: fuel, refundable rental deposit, rental contract fee, one way drop off charges, delivery and collection fees, traffic fine administration fee, additional driver, child safety seats, GPS navigation, additional spare tyre rental and deposit

Option to upgrade your car hire upon request at time of booking.

Meals

Breakfasts and dinner where applicable will be in restaurants at the various accommodation establishments. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements in advance.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject

to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go.

Booking Your Flights

When booking your departure flight you should allow time at the end of your African safari for any unexpected delays. We recommend that you book your onward flight no earlier than 24 hours after the end of your safari. In the case of our longer overland camping safaris (22 days or more) we advise against making any firm arrangements for at least 48 hours after the scheduled departure date. Your tour leader can help to arrange post tour accommodation locally upon request.

Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will be done to accommodate everyone, sometimes the choice available is limited as your cook may be making the best of very limited availability, so some flexibility may be required when encountering something you're not particularly fond of or have chosen not to eat as a lifestyle choice. Should you possess allergies which will result in a medical emergency or a life threatening situation then please ensure you speak to your cook on arrival so you can discuss the options available whilst en-route. This will ensure also that they are fully aware of what you can or cannot eat and make adjustments.

Namibia Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Ireland, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and South African citizens do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days in Namibia.

Very few countries require Namibian visas. Those that do require a visa must obtain it prior to departure. Visas are not issued at Namibia ports of entry, if you arrive without a visa, immigration officials will refuse you entry to Namibia.

The border crossings we use in Namibia include:

Noordoewer (South Africa/Namibia border)
Muhembo (Namibia/Botswana border)

Under 18s Travelling to Namibia

Parents travelling to Namibia with children (under 18) will be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate which lists the child's details and both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted. Uncertified copies of birth certificates will not be accepted.

Where only one parent is accompanying a child, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (eg an affidavit from the other parent or – if applicable – a death certificate) is required and there are other requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents.

If you are travelling with children (under 18) it is essential that you contact your Namibian Embassy for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Namibia from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A & B and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Rabies may also be recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in certain areas of Namibia so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting. A valid Yellow

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Fever vaccination certificate is also required if travelling into Namibia and you have previously been in an infected country.

Currency

The currency of Namibia is the Namibian Dollar (\$NAD) 1 \$NAD = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of \$NAD10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. Coins are in denominations of 5, 10, 50, \$NAD1, \$NAD5.

It is possible to change money and use ATMs in all sizeable towns. Bureau de Changes offer quicker and commission free service but are only found in Swakopmund and Windhoek. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange for cards.

The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and as such the Rand and Namibian dollar can be used interchangeably in Namibia. However Namibian dollars are not accepted in South Africa.

All unused Namibian Dollars need to be exchanged to South African Rand before leaving Namibia. The Rand can then be used in Botswana or South Africa. Namibian Dollars can be changed to Rand at banks and bureau de changes and swapped over in some shops.

Banking hours: 09:00 to 15:30. Some close between 13:00 and 14:00

Time & Voltage

Time Zone - Namibia is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage in Namibia is 220 - 230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

Climate

Namibia's climate is typical of a semi-desert region, with hot days and cool nights. Namibia is blessed with an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. Temperatures are cooler along the coast and on the central plateau. Rainfall is typically low in Namibia and normally only occurs during the summer months from December to March, mostly in

the form of heavy thunderstorms. During the winter months from May to September days are typically warm but temperatures can drop below freezing at night.

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