

Discover Namibia Self Drive

9 days | Starts/Ends: Windhoek



PRIVATE SELF DRIVE TOUR: Get behind the wheel and discover the best of Namibia on this 9-day self-drive tour. See the iconic sand dunes of Sossusvlei, unwind in the German colonial town of Swakopmund, and head out on safari in search of lions and elephants in Etosha National Park. Hike the Waterberg Plateau, explore Windhoek and souvenir shop in Okahandja.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Windhoek – begin your self-drive adventure in Namibia's small but charming capital, and opt for a guided city tour
- Sossusvlei – take in the famous red sand dunes of the Namib Desert and opt to join an excursion to climb the dunes and hike to nearby Deadvlei
- Deadvlei – join an optional 2.6km hike to marvel at the barren clay pan, which is home to a surprising diversity of life
- Swakopmund – spend two days relaxing in the former German

colonial town – known as Namibia's adventure capital

- Etosha National Park – search for lions, elephants, rhinos and more on a self-drive safari or optional guided game drive in Namibia's premier national park
- Waterberg Plateau National Park – explore the park's scenic walking trails, spot antelope and take in the views of Kalahari plains

What's Included

- 8 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- 8 nights 3-4 star accommodation in lodges and hotels
- 9 days car hire – Group P (Renault Duster DCI AWD Manual or similar) – upgrades available on request
- **Car hire inclusions:** Contract fee, Theft & Collision Damage Waiver, Personal Accident Insurance, Unlimited Mileage, Carbon Emissions Tax, Damage due to Sandblasting, Tyre & Rim Damage, Hubcaps, Windscreen, Airport Surcharge, Tourism Levy, Vat @ 15% Carbon Emissions Tax
- Meet and greet at Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas

- **Car hire exclusions:** Rental Deposit, Additional Driver Fee, Young Driver Surcharge per day per driver, Traffic Fine Handling Fee, Claim Handling Fee, Assessor's Fee, Water & Under-Carriage damage to Vehicles, GPS Unit, Toll Fees & Fuel, After Hours charges
- Optional activities – we recommend these are pre booked, please let us know at time of booking which activities you would like to include
- All entrance and park fees

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Namibia!



Upon arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport, you will be met by a local representative who will escort you to the car rental kiosk for the collection of your rental vehicle.

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AUS	1300 855 684	SA 0800 990 337
NZ	0800 44 77 69	

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Please note the following will be required on collection of the vehicle:

- Credit Card To Cover Additional Services /Liability (this must be in the lead driver name and a deposit will be taken at the start of the rental to cover any additional charges incurred during the rental. An authorization hold will be placed)
- Home Address And Telephone Number
- Passport and International flight ticket
- Local Contact Details
- Valid endorsed driver's license

When all the vehicle collection procedures are completed, self-drive to The Olive Grove Guesthouse in Windhoek, where you will spend the night. Depending on the time of your arrival, you may wish to join an optional 3-hour city tour of Windhoek. There's also an optional dinner at Joe's Beerhouse, a popular local restaurant.

Drive time: Approx. 40 mins - 45 kms

Accommodation: Olive Grove Guesthouse or similar

Overnight - Windhoek

Day 2 : Sesriem

After a scrumptious breakfast and checkout procedures, head southwest to Sossusvlei.

Situated in the Namib-Naukluft National Park, Africa's largest conservation area, Sossusvlei is characterized by its monumental rust-red dunes and white salt pans. The dunes in Sossusvlei are some of the highest in the world. The tallest dune, renowned as Big Daddy, is 325 metres and overlooks the Deadvlei, a white pan filled with the dark fossils of camelthorn trees. The more famous and most photographed Dune 45 is 80 metres tall.

On arrival at the lodge this afternoon, you can opt to relax by the pool and unwind after a long drive. Alternatively, embark on an optional sundowner or nature drive departing late afternoon. This drive is done within the lodge's

private concession and takes you out to a panoramic location where sundowner drinks will be served as you relax and watch the spectacular sunset. Dinner will be served at the lodge.

Drive time: Approx. 5 hrs - 365 kms

Accommodation: Sossusvlei Lodge or similar

Overnight - Sesriem (B, D)

Day 3 : Exploring Sossusvlei & Namib-Naukluft National Park



Enjoy breakfast at the lodge and the day at leisure. The below optional activities are available for enjoyment at the lodge.

Sossusvlei & Deadvlei Excursion:

Depart early in one of the lodge's all-terrain URI game-viewer vehicles so as to enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is still mild and when the dune contrasts are at their best. Regular stops are made on the spectacular 60 kilometre drive through the dune corridor down to the Vlei to gain information or take in the vistas. At Dune 45, make a stop to view the world's most photographed dune. Further along, a gradual 2,6 km round-trip guided walk up to Dead Vlei is a must for healthy visitors. The more energetic have the opportunity to climb to the upper ridge of Big Daddy Dune, one of the highest dunes in this area! Spend time exploring Sossusvlei before returning to the Lodge approximately 5½ hours later in time for lunch (lunch not included)

Quad Buggy Nature Trail: The quad buggy is a wonderful and different way

to experience the spectacular local surroundings. Depart from the Lodge late afternoon for a slow nature drive on the lodge's private reserve. Enjoy breath-taking views over the Desert grass plains with occasional photo stops where knowledgeable guides explain the Desert fauna and flora. Go higher up to the foothills to watch a spectacular sunset whilst enjoying non-alcoholic sundowner drinks before heading back to the lodge just before dark.

Sesriem Canyon Excursion: Explore the remarkable depths of Sesriem Canyon. Experienced guides will share the history behind this magnificent natural canyon carved by the Tsauchab River.

Scenic Flights / Helicopter Flights /

Hot Air Balloon: Either of these three options offer an opportunity to experience the Desert beauty from a bird's eye view.

Accommodation: Sossusvlei Lodge or similar

Overnight - Sesriem (B, D)

Days 4-5 : Swakopmund free time



After breakfast and checkout on day 4, self-drive from the Namib Desert to Swakopmund. The drive from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund is quite scenic and fairly simple. Take the C19 to Solitaire, then take the C14 straight to Swakopmund.

Set on the coast west of Namibia, Swakopmund is fondly known for its colonial charm and relaxed

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atmosphere. Here, a plethora of activities from quad-biking or sand-boarding on the dunes to Catamaran cruises on the lagoon while enjoying oysters and champagne awaits you.

Day 5 is at leisure, and you can join some of the optional excursions available:

Full-Day 4x4 Sandwich Harbour (Half Day option available): Sandwich Harbour is where the Namib Desert meets the ocean. On this excursion, you will enjoy a short break at the Walvis Bay Lagoon to see masses of flamingos. The trip continues to the Kuiseb river delta, a dry riverbed where the occasional springbok may still be seen. You will then proceed across exquisite dunes to get to Sandwich Harbour. If weather and tides permit, the tour goes to the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon, one of Southern Africa's richest and unique wetlands.

Half Day Living Desert Tour: This is a unique 4x4 drive adventure into the scenic desert dunes outside of Swakopmund that offers outstanding scenic photography and an insight into the special creatures which thrive in seemingly impossible arid conditions.

Full Day Marine Cruise & 4x4 Sandwich Harbour Combo: The Marine Dune Day gives you the ultimate combination of a leisure cruise on the Atlantic Ocean and a 4x4 ride in the breathtaking Sandwich Harbour Area of the Namib Naukluft Park. The day starts with a Marine Cruise with Catamaran Charters in the morning at 09:00 (check-in at 08:30 at the Walvis Bay Waterfront).

Full-Day Kayak & Sandwich Harbour Combo: This day trip allows you to combine two of the most popular activities available at the Namibian coast: Kayaking on the Walvis Bay Lagoon and a 4x4 excursion to Sandwich Harbour. Kayaking Tour: You will be transported from Walvis Bay to

Pelican Point at 07:45. Your morning is spent kayaking amongst the Cape fur seals.

Moonlandscape Sundowner: The moonscape is a totally barren, undulating, rocky desert that was formed by the valleys of the Swakop River. Millions of years ago the river carved deep canyons into the granite rock, producing breathtaking geolandscape. It truly is an unspoilt precious place, a true reminder of the wonder that is nature. It's an easy drive that offers a sense of adventure and taste of the Namib Desert. See amazing views from this unique location full of beauty while relishing in the golden hour before the incredible Namibian night sky opens up its starry splendour.

Day 4 Drive time: Approx. 5 hrs - 365 kms

Accommodation: The Delight or similar **Overnight - Swakopmund (B:2)**

Days 6-7 : Etosha National Park



Depart Swakopmund and travel towards Etosha National Park, situated in the northwest of Namibia.

Arguably Namibia's most spectacular wildlife sanctuary, Etosha National Park spans just over 20,000 km. Its name which means Great White Place is derived from the salt pan around which the national park is centered. Home to 114 mammal species, almost 340 bird species, 110 reptile species, 16 amphibian species, and even one species of fish, you are set to enjoy some of the best wildlife viewing Namibia has to offer.

When all check-in procedures are completed at the lodge, enjoy some leisurely time either at the lodge's viewing deck or the pool while soaking the serene surrounds of the African wilderness.

On day 7 you can spend the whole day exploring the national park, either on a self-drive basis or an optional guided game drive. Starting your game viewing early morning will allow you to catch the predators while they are still active.

The many waterholes around the park provide strategic opportunities for incredible game viewing and phenomenal photographic moments. Some of the wildlife that could be spotted include elephants, leopards, black and white rhinos, lions, cheetahs, jackals, giraffes, kudu, and many more. Enjoy an optional picnic at one of the fenced picnic spots within the park, which can be pre-arranged.

Please note: Entrance fee is up to N\$80 per person & N\$10 per vehicle (subject to change without prior notice).

After a day of coming up and close with some wild animals, head back to the lodge where you will enjoy a leisurely evening.

Day 6 Drive time: Approx. 5 hrs - 495 kms

Accommodation: Etosha Safari Lodge or similar.

Overnight - Etosha National Park (B:2)

Day 8 : Waterberg Plateau National Park



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After breakfast and checkout, self-drive from Etosha to Waterberg, a lush, green, water-rich area with an abundance of birds and small antelopes which can often be seen on the walking trails.

The plateau which gives the park its name is a particularly prominent feature, elevated high above the plains of the Kalahari of Eastern Namibia. It is made up of compressed sandstone formed some 180 - 200 million years ago.

On arrival at the lodge, you can enjoy some of the below optional activities.

Walking Trails: Guided and unguided walking trails are available. These lead up the Small Waterberg or to the Omumborombonga Forest. The trails are as long as you want them – but in general between 1.5 and 3 hours.

Wellness: The Lodge offers a range of Wellness Treatments. These range from Aromatherapy and deep tissue to hand and feet massages.

The evening is at leisure.

Drive time: Approx. 2.5 hrs - 223 kms

Accommodation: Waterberg Guest Farm

Overnight - Waterberg (B)

Day 9 : Return to Windhoek

Rise early to ensure there's enough time for that last walk up the plateau before departing for Windhoek.

After breakfast and checkout, self-drive via Okahandja where you can stop at the large craft market for last-minute gift shopping before arriving at Hosea Kutako International Airport for your onward flight. Upon arrival at the airport, make your way through to the vehicle hire kiosk to drop off your vehicle, where the standard check-in and inspection will be done.

Thereafter continue through to the check-in counter for your onward travels, taking home with you many happy memories of your holiday.

Drive time: Approx. 4 hrs - 350kms (B)

ACCOMMODATION

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

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

Olive Grove Guesthouse

The Olive Grove is a small, tastefully decorated hotel with elegant and spacious rooms, each with a large veranda sporting tables and chairs for al fresco dining. The lounge area is ideal for travellers who want to relax in style after a long day of exploring. Meals are expertly prepared by the hotel's chef. There is also a plunge pool for a quick dip to cool off. The hotel is situated close to the Windhoek city centre in a quiet, peaceful area.



Sossusvlei Lodge

The Delight

Less than a 10-minute walk from the beach, The Delight is a bright and modern property in the heart of Swakopmund. Rooms are modern, spacious, air-conditioned, and include flat-screen TVs, coffee machines, and ensuite bathrooms. Some rooms also include balconies. There's an onsite restaurant serving a delicious daily breakfast, bar and Wi-Fi is available for a nominal fee.



Etosha Safari Lodge

Etosha Safari Lodge is perched on a hill, with stunning views of the area. Each of the gorgeous chalets is equipped with its own small veranda and is beautifully decorated on the inside with light, bright colours. The exposed stonework on the outside is a stunning, authentic touch and the large windows bath the room in natural light. There are three outdoor pool within the complex as well as a restaurant with an alfresco dining area and bar. The Anderson Gate into Etosha National Park is only 9 km away.



Waterberg Guest Farm

Scenically located at the foot of the magnificent Waterberg Plateau, Waterberg Guest Farm is a delightful place to stay in the area, housing nine individual bush chalets featuring an ensuite bathroom, tea and coffee making facilities, a fan, and a safe. There's an outdoor pool with comfortable Lapa seating and a garden, whilst dining is at the onsite restaurant and bar. Guests can also go and see the animals on this still-functioning cattle farm. Plus of course, there's the native wildlife which also inhabits the area, from leopards to eland and kudu antelope. Wi-Fi is free and available in communal areas.

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BEFORE YOU GO

Namibia Country Guide

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 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.

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.

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