

# NamibiaOkavangoSafari



**NRNS12W: 12-night package – Southern Namibia + Okavango Delta + Chobe**

## Day 1

You will be met at **Windhoek Airport** and transferred by shuttle through the ever-changing landscapes to the great **Namib Desert** - a 5-hour drive through dramatically beautiful scenery.

The terrain becomes more arid as you travel past the Naukluft Massif towards **Sossusvlei**, whose great mountains of sand are a monument to the extreme forces of nature.

Check in to your desert lodge in the great **Namib Desert**.

## Day 2

On today's full day excursion to Sossusvlei, an early start is imperative as this is not only the coolest part of the day but the best for photography, as you travel by 4x4 vehicle into the famous **Sossusvlei**, a clay pan surrounded by some of the highest sand dunes in the world – an endless sea of reddish sand stretching all the way to the distant horizon.

Its monumental star shaped sand dunes, some up to 1,000 ft (325m) when measured from the base, were formed by strong multi-directional winds. The warm tints of sand ranging from apricot to orange, red and maroon, contrast vividly with the stark white surface of the clay pans at their base. This provides photographers with a spectacular display of images to capture.

Climbing one of these dunes affords the energetic traveller with an unforgettable experience of endless vistas across a sea of dunes.

Time will also be taken to explore the impressive conglomerate gorges of the **Sesriem Canyon**, with its rock pools fed by the Tsauchab. The erosion of many centuries has resulted in a narrow gorge, which in rainy season sometimes fills the rock pools. The name Sesriem is derived from the six "rieme" (leather thongs) that early pioneers used to draw water from these pools.

### Day 3

Today you will be transferred by shuttle to the charming seaside town of **Swakopmund**, a scenic 4-hour drive through the Namib Desert, with several stops to enjoy the desert landscape.

**Swakopmund** is Namibia's premier holiday resort, with easy access to the sand dunes and activities of the Namib Desert. Situated on the **Atlantic Coast** where the cold Benguela Current sweeps up from Antarctica, no moisture is released into the prevailing onshore winds – hence the very low rainfall and desert conditions of Namibia. However the cold current is highly oxygenated, resulting in teeming marine life. Fog is common in the early mornings and late afternoons, giving life to the desert-adapted flora and fauna of the region.

Check in to your hotel, settle in and relax on the shores of the **Atlantic Ocean**.

### Day 4

Today enjoy a 3-hour **Marine Cruise** from the harbour in neighbouring **Walvis Bay**. We start with a cruise around the harbour, where you will see abundant marine bird life, including large flocks of flamingos, pelicans and terns. Continue to the seal colony at **Pelican Point**, where schools of dolphins and seals are year-round residents and migrating whales can be seen in season (August to October).

Balance of day free to explore **Swakopmund** on foot.

### Day 5

Transfer by shuttle back to **Windhoek** today.

Balance of day free to explore the capital city of Namibia with its charming German architecture on foot, or relax by the hotel swimming pool under warm Namibian sun.

### Day 6

Transfer to **Windhoek Airport** for your 2-hour flight to **Maun** in Botswana.

After passing through customs formalities in Maun, connect with your light aircraft for your 30-minute flight to your small luxury safari camp situated in the heart of the permanent **Okavango Delta**.

Check in to your lodge and settle in and relax in this pristine water wilderness under spectacular blue African skies

*Please note that only soft sports bags are allowed on light aircraft flights with a strictly enforced 12kg (20lb) luggage limit, with surplus luggage stored by prior arrangement*

## Day 7

The seasonal **Okavango Delta** is flooded annually by the great **Okavango River**, which flows inland from Angola into the vast **Kalahari Desert** – never finding the sea but instead forming a great inland delta, whose waters are absorbed by the dry Kalahari Desert, making it one of the great natural wonders of the world and an amazing water wilderness and wetlands ecosystem.

Comprising 6,000 square miles of crystal clear channels, serene lagoons and a myriad of islands, the **Okavango Delta** is a natural oasis in the middle of the Kalahari for a vast variety of wildlife and birds of all descriptions.

Activities at your lodge centre on game viewing and bird watching expeditions, all conducted by experienced resident naturalist guides and included in your package. These include exploring the delta by mekoro canoe and river craft, as well as guided nature walks on the islands of the delta to track some of the larger species that inhabit this water wilderness such as buffalos, hippos and elephants.

Optional angling for ferocious tiger fish and wild bream is available at an extra charge. In the evening relax around a blazing fire, before dining in the boma under balmy African skies.

## Day 8

Depart **Okavango Delta** for your 1-hour light aircraft flight to **Chobe**.

You will be met at **Kasane Airport** and transferred 15-minutes to your luxury game lodge overlooking the great **Chobe River**.

Check in to your safari lodge, settle in and relax in Botswana's premier wildlife reserve – surrounded by vast endless landscapes, open plains, baobab trees and the abundant river-based wildlife of **Chobe National Park**.

In the late afternoon enjoy an open-top game drive in this famous national park and wildlife conservation area.

## Day 9

**Chobe National Park** is set on the banks of the perennial **Chobe River**, overlooking the fertile flood plains of both **Botswana** and **Namibia** across the river.

It is home to vast herds of buffalo and elephant, as well as numerous other species which roam in profusion and diversity. During the dry season, vast elephant herds migrate from both south and north to congregate in their thousands along the Chobe River – the largest concentration of elephants in the whole of Africa!

Land-based game drives are conducted twice a day (early morning and late afternoon) by experienced lodge rangers in open-top safari vehicles. River-based game viewing is also offered in small shallow draft boats to give a completely different wildlife perspective, as well as river walks and walking safaris. Optional angling for ferocious tiger fish and wild bream is also available.

Each evening relax on the outdoor terrace whilst watching a spectacular sunset over the river.

## Day 10

Enjoy a final early morning game drive in **Chobe National Park** before breakfast.

Then transfer 1-hour by road and ferry across the Botswana border at **Kasane**, where after completing immigration formalities you will continue to **Livingstone** in Zambia and on to your **Victoria Falls** hotel on the banks of the Zambezi River.

Check in, settle-in and relax whilst you catch your first glimpses of the magnificent **Smoke That Thunders** first discovered by Dr. David Livingstone and still one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. The flow of water over the Victoria Falls is greatest during the wet months (February to June) but the falls are a magnificent sight at any time of year.

## Day 11

Today explore on foot the mighty **Victoria Falls**, situated close to your hotel and offering magnificent views.

Later relax by the swimming pool and enjoy the many pleasures of your hotel.

In the late afternoon enjoy a **Sunset Cruise** on the **Zambesi River** to see hippos, crocodiles and the abundant bird life.

## Day 12

At leisure to explore **Victoria Falls**.

Adrenalin seekers can participate in many adventure activities, such as canoeing in the gentler rapids above the falls; white water rafting in the turbulent gorge below the falls (grade 5) or watch bungi jumping from Victoria Falls Bridge! There is also an interesting local craft market.

Alternatively participate in one of the many local activities, such as a helicopter flight over the falls or an elephant-back safari.

## Day 13

Return transfer to **Livingstone Airport** for your flight home.

## **ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **SOSSUSVLEI**

- ❑ 2 nights accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Sossusvlei & Sesriem Canyon
- ❑ English breakfasts daily
- ❑ Dinners daily

### **SWAKOPMUND**

- ❑ 2 nights accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Marine Cruise
- ❑ English breakfast daily

### **WINDHOEK**

- ❑ 1 nights accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ English breakfast

### **OKAVANGO DELTA**

- ❑ 2 nights accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ 2 game viewing activities per day
- ❑ All game park fees and local taxes
- ❑ Full Board daily
- ❑ Laundry daily
- ❑ Refreshments, local spirits and wines

### **CHOBE GAME RESERVE**

- ❑ 2 nights accommodation, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ All game viewing activities
- ❑ All game park fees and local taxes
- ❑ Full Board daily

### **VICTORIA FALLS**

- ❑ 3 nights accommodation at Victoria Falls, with en-suite facilities
- ❑ Zambezi River sundowner cruise
- ❑ English breakfasts daily

### **WHAT IS INCLUDED:**

All ground transfers in air-conditioned vehicles  
Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, except where specified  
Activities specified in itinerary, including transfers and entrance charges

### **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

International & domestic flights (quoted separately)  
Lunches & dinners (unless specified)  
Drinks & refreshments  
Tips for porters and restaurants  
Telephone calls & other incidental personal expenditure  
Visa fees & airport departure taxes, in countries where these apply  
e.g. Zambia: currently US\$25 per person  
*Please ensure you take the necessary US dollars in small denominations, as change is not always available*

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Malaria tablets are recommended for Botswana & Zambia  
All activities are subject to prevailing weather conditions

## **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES - please enquire for supplements**

### **WINDHOEK**

**Windhoek City Tour** – orientation tour of this charming German town (half day)

**Golf** – 18-holes at Windhoek Country Club, with shared cart      **Golf club hire**

**Lion Reserve at Okapuka** – watch the lions being fed at this private game reserve, including lunch in winter or dinner in summer (half day)

**Township Tour** – experience the vibrancy of the Namibian people in the Old Location, Katatura, Single Quarters and Penduka (a woman's development programme). Also visit a shebeen and Cuca shop (half day)

### **SOSSUSVLEI**

**Astronomy** – view the stars of the Southern Sky through a telescope in the desert

**Nature Walks** – to view the specially adapted flora and fauna of the Namib Desert

**Desert Excursion** – 4x4 land rover excursion into the fascinating Namib Desert to uncover some of its many secrets

**Hot Air Balloon Ride** – pre-dawn departure for 1-hour flight over the spectacular sand dunes of Sossusvlei, followed by champagne breakfast (weather permitting)

## SWAKOPMUND

**Marine Cruise** – an introduction to the marine life of the Namibian Coast, starting with a ski boat harbour cruise and continuing to the large seal colony at Pelican Point where schools of dolphin are regularly seen. Sparkling wine and oysters incl (3-hours)

**Catamaran Sundowner Cruise** – in Swakopmund harbour

**Namib Desert Tour** – a fascinating excursion into the Namib to view its roaring sand dunes and unique desert-adapted plants, birds, insects and reptiles (half day)

**Quad Biking** – exciting four-wheeled motorbike ride through the shifting sand dunes of the Namib Desert

**Golf** – 18-holes on Rossmund's desert course, with shared cart **Golf club hire**

**Deep Sea Game Fishing** – pre-dawn departure for a full day of deep sea shark or game fishing (catch & release). Includes all tackle and light lunch (weather permitting)

**Horse Riding** – along the beach at Swakopmund **Camel Rides** in the desert

**Sand Boarding** – down some of the largest sand dunes in the world

**Wind Surfing, Kite Surfing or Sea Kayaking** (lessons available)

**Foofie Slide** – an exciting adventure activity in the sand dunes

**Bird Watching** – pelagic bird watching holidays, with specialist birding guides

**Sandwich Island 4x4 excursion** – full day excursion by land rover across the Kuiseb Delta & sand dunes of the Namib, including 3-mile (5-km) walk each way to Sandwich Harbour, a former German whaling station now swallowed by the desert .

**Sandwich Harbour** – scenic light aircraft flight over the forbidden diamond area to Sandwich Harbour and back to Swakopmund (morning or sunset)

**Sandwich Harbour & Sesriem** – light aircraft flight as above, continuing to fly over Sesriem Canyon and the sand dunes of Sossusvlei (am)

**Sossusvlei** – light aircraft flight as above, with landing at Sesriem and 4x4 overland excursion to the sand dunes of Sossusvlei (full day)

**Fish River Canyon & Sossusvlei** – light aircraft flight to Sossusvlei landing for lunch and then continue with a low-level flight through the Fish River Canyon, with return via Sandwich Harbour (full day)

**Fish River Canyon & Luderitz** – light aircraft flight with a low-level flight through the Fish River Canyon, before landing in Luderitz for a guided city tour and visit to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, with return via Sandwich Harbour (full day)

**Skeleton Coast** – light aircraft flight over one of the world's loneliest and most treacherous shorelines, across the Spitzkoppe Mountains and Brandberg returning via Cape Cross to Swakopmund (mornings)

**Skeleton Coast & Cape Cross** – light aircraft flight as above, with landing at Cape Cross Seal Reserve for lunch (half day)

**Ovahimba Tribe** – light aircraft flight with low-level flying over Skeleton Coast and Cape Cross, with visit to Ovahimba tribe with translator incl lunch (full day)

## VICTORIA FALLS

**Zambesi Sunset Cruise** – scenic cruise above the falls to view crocodiles, hippos and bird life (2 hours)

**Helicopter Ride** – 15 min flight over the Victoria Falls; or 30 min flight over falls and game park (weather permitting)

**Elephant-back Safari** – a unique opportunity to interact with the “gentle giants” of Africa. Ride lasts 1-hour with total interaction time of 3-hours

**White River Rafting** – in the turbulent Zambezi gorge below the Victoria Falls: grade 5 (half day or full day - same price, as option to exit half way down the gorge)

**Abseiling or Gorge Swing** – in the Zambezi Gorge (half-day or full day)