

## 5 Days Sossusvlei & Coast, Sandwich Harbour Guided Safaris

This 5-day safari of amazing desert landscapes departs from Windhoek at 10h00AM returns to Windhoek on Friday afternoons. Accommodation is clean, comfortable and well-located lodges and hotels. It's ideal for those with limited time and who want to combine a visit to Sossusvlei and Swakop. The Namib boasts some of the world's highest dunes with breathtaking views over this sea of sand destination with palm-lined streets, great restaurants, a lovely summer climate and perfect beaches.

### Day 1 (2024)

### Windhoek to Namib Naukluft Park (Sossusvlei)

This morning Mhof Tour and Safaris will collect you from your various accommodation or from the Hosea Kutako International Airport (land before 10h00). You then depart Windhoek in your safari vehicle with your private guide and drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, you proceed to the lodge along the scenic location on your way. You arrive at Dead Valley Lodge in the late afternoon, and you will stay here for two nights whilst you explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune. However, if you prefer, you can just relax and soak in the scenic and tranquil surroundings at Dead Valley Lodge.

#### Sesriem Canyon:

Sesriem Canyon has evolved through centuries of erosion by the Tsauchab River which has incised a narrow gorge about 1.5 km long and 30 meters deep into the surrounding conglomerates, exposing the varying layers of sedimentation deposited over millions of years. The shaded cool depths of the canyon allow pools of water to gather during the rainy season and remain for much of the year round. These pools were a vital source of water for early settlers who drew water for their livestock by knotting six (ses) lengths of rawhide thongs (riems) together, hence the canyon and surrounding area became known as Sesriem.



### Dead Valley Lodge:

Dead Valley lodge opened in July 2019 and is situated inside the Namib Naukluft Park, in-between the park gate at Sesriem and Elim Dune. It is therefore next to the road leading down to the world-famous Sossusvlei Dunes and "Deadvlei". The lodge offers 20 free standing, climate-controlled luxury tented chalets, each with adjoining bathroom and a panoramic view of the Namib Desert with towering red sand dunes, rugged mountain ranges and arid desert savannahs. The lodge restaurant serves delicious Namibian style meals, and guests can also relax in the picturesque bar by the swimming pool while looking out over the local desert scenery towards Elim Dune.



**Overnight: Dead Valley Lodge**

**Meal Basis: Lunch, Dinner  
+ PM Sundowner Drive**

**Day 2 (2024)**

**Namib Naukluft Park (Sossusvlei)**

This morning you will be waken up very early for a fascinated excursion with your guide in the Namib Naukluft National Park, normally setting off before sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft and shadows that you can notice the towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world and your guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and its myriad of attractive creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs. Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and surrounding dune fields. You then return to Dead Valley Lodge in the early afternoon and the late afternoon can be spent to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards if you haven't already done it on previous day. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

### Sossusvlei:

This most frequently visited section of the massive 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> Namib Naukluft National Park has become known as Sossusvlei, famous for its towering apricot coloured sand dunes which can be reached by following the Tsauchab River valley. Sossusvlei itself is actually a clay pan set amidst these star shaped dunes which stand up to 300 meters above the surrounding plains, ranking them among the tallest dunes on earth. The deathly white clay pan contrasts against the orange sands and forms the endpoint of the ephemeral Tsauchab River, within the interior of the Great Sand Sea. The river course rises south of the Naukluft Mountains in the Great Escarpment. It penetrates the sand sea for some 55 km before it finally peters out at Sossusvlei, about the same distance from the Atlantic Ocean. Until the encroaching dunes blocked its course around 60,000 years ago, the Tsauchab River once reached the sea; as ephemeral rivers still do in the northern half of the Namib.



Sand-locked pans to the west show where the river previously flowed to before dunes shifted its endpoint to where it currently gathers at Sossusvlei. Roughly once a decade rainfall over the catchment area is sufficient to bring the river down in flood and fill the pan. On such occasions the mirror images of dunes and camel thorn trees around the pan are reflected in the water. Sossusvlei is the biggest of four pans in the vicinity. Another, famous for its gnarled and ghostly camel thorn trees, is Deadvlei which can be reached on foot over 1 km of sand. Deadvlei's striking camel thorn trees, dead for want of water, still stand erect as they once grew. They survived until about 900 years ago when the sand sea finally blocked the river from occasionally flooding the pan.

### Sossusvlei(Big Daddy Dune)



### Deadvlei



**Overnight: Dead Valley Lodge**

**Meal Basis: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
+ AM Sossusvlei Excursion + PM Nature Drive**





## Day 3 (2024)

## Namib Naukluft Park (Sossusvlei) to Swakopmund

The fascinating drive today takes you northwest through awesome and ever-changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will meet the coast at the port town of Walvis Bay and then continue north to Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air for your next two nights. There will be time this afternoon to explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot, before heading off for dinner at a popular restaurant which specializes in locally harvested seafood.

### Swakopmund:

Swakopmund resembles a small, German coastal resort nestled between the desert and the sea. It boasts a charming combination of German colonial architecture blended with modern hotels, shops, restaurants, museums, craft centres, galleries and cafés. Swakopmund had its beginnings as a landing station in 1892 when the German Imperial Navy erected beacons on the site. Settlers followed and made attempts to create a harbour town by constructing a concrete Mole and then an iron jetty - which attempts were ultimately unsuccessful. The advent of World War one halted developments, and the town sank into decline until half a century later when infrastructure improved and an asphalt road opened between Windhoek and Swakopmund. This made reaching the previously isolated town quicker and easier and it prospered once again to become Namibia's premier resort town. Although the sea is normally cold for swimming there are pleasant beaches and the cooler climate is refreshing after time spent in the desert.



### Quad Biking:



### Cornerstone Guesthouse:

Cornerstone Guesthouse is a small, private and peaceful bed & breakfast located in a quiet corner of Swakopmund. With an easy walk to Swakopmund's seafont, Palm Beach and the newly renovated National Marine Aquarium, you'll be minutes away from vibrant café's, restaurants, lively pubs, and a variety of interesting shops and markets in the town.

**Overnight: Cornerstone Guesthouse**

**Meal Basis: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
+ PM 1 Hour Quad Biking Tour**

**Day 4 (2024)**

**Swakopmund**

This morning you will be off to Walvisbay for your boat cruise to check in on time. Your guide will accompany you once there is space available. You will be drop of at the waterfront after having the most awesome sightings for the marine wildlife. You might be lucky to spot the humpback whale. You will enjoy Oysters, Sparkling wine, trademark platters with delicious snack and local brewed Namibia beer. You will return to the waterfront.

Whereby you will meet with your local guide for Sandwich Harbour. He will then collect you upon your arrival at waterfront after the morning boat cruise and will take you on breathtaking 4x4 ride towards the Sandwich Harbour to explore the stunning view on this tour. This drive will take you on magnificent scenic drive along the Walvis Bay Lagoon and the salt mines. If you are lucky you might spot some flamingos. You return to waterfront and meet with your private guide and you return to Swakopmund from Walvisbay after one of the remarkable activities and long day. You will freshen up for your dinner and the dinner is had at any of the local restaurants which your guide will choose.



### Catamaran Boat Cruise:

We set sail daily from the Walvisbay Waterfront. Most of the visitors to Namibia travel to see exquisite landscapes and majestic wildlife. Yet, few ever consider Namibia's maritime wildlife as part of their game safaris. At Catamaran Charters we change all that. On our educational dolphin and seal cruises, guests get front row seats to watch seals being boisterous and stand a good chance to be introduced to the eccentric –looking great white pelican and that is only the beginning. You will have an excellent chance of seeing at least one of the more common members of the Marine Big 5 as we are often accosted by Bottlenose, Heaviside and Dusky dolphins who look to satisfy their curiosity. The unconventional mola or sunfish is a highlight for many of our guests and we have had regular sightings of equally impressive leatherback Turtles. How better to round off a perfect morning with Oysters and Sparkling wine, followed by our trademark platters with savoury snacks, coffee/tea and cakes while we leisurely sail the South – Atlantic Namibian coastline. Since all four our catamarans are sailing catamarans, we enjoy letting guests enjoy the true experience of sailing. We frequently switch off the engines and hoist the sails – conditions permitting – and encourage guest to partake in the sailing experience by helping to rig the lines and setting the sails.





### **Sandwich Harbour Tour:**

Sand and sea, ocean and ancient sand dunes . . . if you are looking for a beyond epic adventure, our Sandwich Harbour Tour with 4x4 Experience is just for you! Begin your day, or end your day with a +-6-hour, beautiful expedition! We offer both AM and PM tours, where our experienced guides and equipped 4x4's will take you through the stunning dune landscape of Sandwich Harbour. With huge sand dunes and the Atlantic Ocean at your feet, you will have epic photo ops and magical memories to take home - Often described as 'one of my most amazing experiences ever!'



**Overnight: Cornerstone Guesthouse**

**Meal Basis: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**+ AM Catamaran Dolphin Boat Cruise & PM Sandwich Harbour Tour**

**Day 5 (2024)**

**Departure**

Today, on our return to Windhoek, we will pass by the marble and gold mines and visit Namibia's largest craft market in Okahandja, the administrative centre of the Herero people. You will be dropped off at your accommodation in Windhoek just after lunch.

**Meal Basis: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Bon Voyage**



### Price valid until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Total travelling amount per person sharing: NAD/ZAR 39 765.00  
Total travelling amount per solo traveler: NAD/ZAR 42 120.00

### Price valid until from 01<sup>st</sup> November 2024 until 30 June 2025

Total travelling amount per person sharing: NAD/ZAR 46 677.00  
Total travelling amount per solo traveler: NAD/ZAR 57 839.00

### Price valid until from 01<sup>st</sup> July 2025 until 31 October 2025

Total travelling amount per person sharing: NAD/ZAR 49 552.00  
Total travelling amount per solo traveler: NAD/ZAR 68 583.00

#### INCLUDED/EXCLUDED

##### Includes:

- Accommodations
- Vehicle
- Tour Guide
- Activities & Entrance Fees as stated
- Meals as stated

##### Excludes:

- Local and International flights
- All expenses of a personal nature
- Visa Fees
- Tips and Gratuities
- Personal insurance





### Travel Info

Namibia is situated in the South – Western corner of Africa and is a land of remarkable contrasts. Despite its size (four times the size of Great Britain), It is sparsely populated with an estimated population of 2.1 Million people. The small population is largely due to the arid conditions, with a national average rainfall of 270mm per year.

#### Visa:

It is advisable to double –check visa requirements for your country of origin prior to travelling Visas are valid for up to three months from date of entry.

#### Time Zone:

GMT+2 in the summer (the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in April);  
GMT+1 in the winter (the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in September)

#### Electricity:

220volts AC50hz

#### Mobile Phones:

Mobile communication system is GSM, roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone operators. Coverage is limited areas.

#### Internet:

There are internet cafes situated throughout the country and most hospitality establishments offer an internet service.

#### Shopping:

Windhoek and Swakopmund offer a selection of stylish shops. Local crafts are sold in specialised, shops, as well as at street markets, most shops are open from Monday to Saturday, with selected shops and street markets open daily.

#### Money:

The Namibian Dollar (NAD: symbol N\$) is the country's official currency.it is equivalent to the South African Rand which is also legal tender in Namibia.

#### Currency Exchange:

Traveller's cheques can be exchanged during normal banking hours at any of the commercial banks, or at bureau de change offices.

#### Credit Cards:

American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Check with your credit/debit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available. Credit cards are not usually accepted at petrol station. ATM's for cash withdrawal are readily available in all towns.



#### **Air Travel:**

The National airline is Air Namibia, offering daily flights from Frankfurt to Windhoek. British Airways, South African Airways, Air Berlin and TAAG also fly to Namibia. Flying time from Frankfurt to Windhoek is 11 hours and flying time between Windhoek and Johannesburg/Cape Town is 2 hours. Departure taxes are levied but included in the ticket price.

#### **Air Charter:**

Visitors pressed for time may opt to travel from A to B by air. Planes can be chartered from several reputable charter companies.

#### **Travelling by Road:**

Namibia has approximately 5 450km of well-maintained tarred roads and 37 000km of gravel roads which differ in condition. Vehicles travel on the left-hand side of road. Self-drive visitors should exercise caution when driving on gravel roads. Do not exceed 80km/h.

#### **Car Hire:**

All major international car rentals are represented in Namibia. Vehicles are available at the Airport and Windhoek city centre, as well as some of the other major centres. An International Driving Permit is required.

#### **What to Pack:**

Namibia has typical semi-desert climate with hot days and cool nights. It is therefore advisable to include both summer and winter clothing.

#### **Checklist:**

A small first aid kit, sunglasses, sun protection cream, a hat, moisturizing lotion and lip balm, comfortable walking shoes, a swimsuit, binoculars, toiletries, a small torch, travel insurance documents, and a telephone list (of family/friends/medical practitioner back home to contact in case of emergency) are recommended.

#### **Health:**

Private medical care in major towns and cities is good, especially in Windhoek. There are several private clinics which maintain international standards. Most remote towns have a modest hospital or clinic.

#### **Vaccinations:**

Take the usual precautions and consult your doctor. There are no mandatory vaccinations for travelers from Europe. The risk of contracting malaria is restricted mainly to three northern parts of the country and is usually limited to the wet summer months.

#### **Insurance:**

It is advisable to take out foreign travel health insurance which includes cover for repatriation. When signing for insurance, ensure that the cost for emergency flights within Namibia is covered, as well as repatriation to your home country. Emergency air evacuation is generally reliable if all paperwork is available and in order. Ensure your contract and passport are easily accessible in case of an emergency.



**Weather:**

The Namib Desert coastline is usually cool with a thick coastal fog. The country has summer rainfall. Summer temperatures are high while the nights are cool. Winter nights can be very cold, but days are generally pleasant. In summer (September to April) the average interior temperature ranges from 20-34C during the day. Temperatures above 40C are often recorded in the extreme north and south of the country. The coast has a relatively stable range of 15-25C. In Winter (April-September) temperatures in the interior range from 18-25C during the day and can drop to below freezing at night. day and can drop to below freezing

