

# Namibia Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Worldwide Multi-Centre

**Destination:** Namibia

**Trip code:** NAWHW

**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Seek out wildlife in the desert and rock landscapes of the Namib Desert where rich red sand dunes roll up from the floor. Etosha National Park gives you the chance to see an abundance of game in their natural habitat, while the beautiful Walvis Bay provides a haven for the big marine five (Cape fur seal, leatherback turtle, Benguela dolphin, sunfish (common mola) and whales - Southern right and Humpback). Ancient rock art dating back 6,000 years at Twyfelfontein and the Erongo Mountains gives a glimpse into stone age life.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- 12 nights en-suite accommodation, plus 2 nights in wilderness camps
- Full board from dinner on day 2 to breakfast on day 16
- A full holiday programme of walks, sightseeing and game drives led by local guides and a specialist local leader.
- All national park entry fees, and transport.
- Tips

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the mighty Sossusvlei dunes in the Namib Desert
- See pelicans and flamingos at Walvis Bay Lagoon
- Take a boat ride from Swakopmund and search for the marine 'big five'
- Walk through the 'Boulder Forest' in the Erongo Mountains
- See ancient rock art at Twyfelfontein
- Enjoy game drives in Etosha National Park



## ITINERARY

### Day 1 - 2: Outward Flight & Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek (1nt) after our overnight flight, followed by a city tour and dinner at Joe's Beerhouse.

### Day 3 - 4: Namib Naukluft National Park

After further time in Windhoek we'll set off for our 3 hour drive to the Namib desert. This is a vast stretch of land and the world's oldest desert. This spectacular landscape is home to flora and fauna which don't exist anywhere else in the world, which can be appreciated on our sundowner drive. We spend 2 nights at Sossusvlei (1 lodge, 1 wilderness camp) in Sossusvlei.

The following morning we can walk on the impressive sand dunes and visit the Sesriem Canyon.

### Day 5: Namib Desert

Drive through spectacular scenery to our next overnight accommodation, the Rostock Ritz lodge (1nt). Relax by the pool and watch the sun go down, or join the guide for another 2 hour sundowner drive. Here you're likely to see mountain zebra, ostrich as well as oryx.

## **Day 6 - 7: Swakopmund**

Take a pre-breakfast walk on the plains in search of wildlife, before driving to the coast for time at Swakopmund (2nts). Enjoy a night dune experience to see the night time creatures which inhabit the dunes.

The next day we visit Walvis Bay Lagoon and join one of the catamarans for a marine cruise, with opportunities to see dolphins, whales, turtles, seals and Mola Mola (sunfish).

## **Day 8 - 9: Erongo Mountains**

Drive to the Erongo mountain region for 2 nights (1 lodge, 1 camp). We'll walk up through the Boulder Forest and enjoy a morning hike in this stunning region followed by an afternoon walk to visit rock formations and thousand year old rock paintings. Enjoy a traditional braai at the wilderness camp.

The next day we'll walk the circular Kudu trail; a great walk for seeing giraffe, springbok and eagles.

## **Day 10 - 11: Damaraland**

Our longest drive takes us to Twyfelfontein; a World heritage site, boasting one of Africa's richest concentrations of ancient rock art. We'll also visit the Damara Living Museum and a petrified forest before arriving at your lodge (Huab lodge) for 2 nights. Enjoy a sunrise walk with a further optional walk after breakfast and take a game drive in search of desert elephant.

## **Day 12 - 14: Etosha National Park**

We travel to the Etosha National Park (2nts). We have a couple of days for game drives through one of the best wildlife viewing areas in the world. Hopefully you'll be lucky and see elephant, cheetah, giraffe, wildebeest, rhino as well as a whole host of springbok and gemsbok. Our final night here is at Mokuti Lodge (1nt) on the eastern edge of the park.

## **Day 15: Waterberg Region**

Visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund at Otjiwarongo before arriving at our final lodge at Otjiwa. Optional game drive or rhino tracking or join your guide for a walk around the local dam to spot wildlife and birdlife.

## **Day 16 - 17: Windhoek & Return Flight**

Return to Windhoek for our lunchtime flight to UK.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **Safari Court Hotel, Windhoek - Namibia**

One of the most well-known 4-star hotels in Namibia, it caters for the holiday maker, the family, the businessman and conference delegate alike. 215 luxuriously appointed rooms, and guests also have the free use of the hotel sauna and steamroom. Spa treatments available on request.

### **Namib Desert Lodge, Namib - Namibia**

The main building and the chalets of Namib Desert Lodge are spread out along the foot of the fossilised dunes of the ancient Namib desert. A comfortable stay is guaranteed by 65 en suite rooms with air conditioning. A restaurant and bar, an inviting terrace with views of the fossilised dunes and two swimming pools beckon you to linger and relax. Oryx antelope and springbok make frequent appearances at the illuminated watering hole.

## **Namib Dune Star Camp, Namib - Namibia**

Escape from the world. Enjoy the vast desert wilderness and magnificent night skies. 9 wooden chalets offer comfortable accommodation, with the dining room and bar in a central chalet with far reaching views. After the dunes have transformed to gold and the distant mountains glow purple, it's time to wheel beds onto balconies for a night under the glittering sky of the Namib. An early morning walk will take you back to the Namib Desert Lodge.

## **Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge & Spa, Namib - Namibia**

The Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge, located on a 12,000-hectare property on the edge of the Namib Desert, consists of unique, semi-subterranean rock "igloos" aesthetically integrated with the natural surroundings. Accommodation consists of 16 fully equipped standard double rooms and 3 suites with views over the desert. There is a pleasant dining room, bar and reception area. Relax by the outdoor swimming pool or enjoy the sundowner drive operated by the lodge.

## **Beach Hotel, Swakpomund - Namibia**

Beach Hotel Swakpomund is just 50m from the Atlantic Ocean. Facilities on site include a restaurant, gym, roof terrace and swimming pool. Rooms are furnished with minibar, tea/coffee making facilities, safe, TV and Wi-Fi available throughout.

## **Hohenstein Lodge, Erongo - Namibia**

The Hohenstein Lodge is located at the foot of the Hohenstein, the highest peak of the Erongo mountains. The Hohenstein Lodge offers accommodation in 14 spacious rooms with en-suite shower/WC and in-room safe. A shady terrace belongs to each room. Facilities: Reception and restaurant are located in the main building which is connected by comfortably paved walkways with swimming pool and bungalows.

## **Etemba Wilderness Camp, Erongo - Namibia**

The legendary Etemba. Even the drive to the lodge is a unique experience, leading through one of the most beautiful landscapes of Namibia, the Erongo mountains in the north west. Charming sandy meadows, wild canyons, mighty dry rivers, bizarre rock formations and granite boulders, Namibia's national monument with rock and cave paintings, home of the threatened black rhino are just some of the catchwords of the area. The tented camp offers twin bedded tented accommodation with proper beds and duvets. Each tent has its own outdoor private flush toilet and shower area (cold showers). There is a separate facilities block with hot outdoor showers and indoor toilets. The evening meal at this accommodation will be a traditional braai (BBQ).

## **Huab Lodge, Damaraland - Namibia**

Huab Lodge lies in an 8,000 hectare nature reserve of pristine wilderness on the Huab River in Damaraland, Namibia. Breathtaking mountainous scenery, naturally occurring wild creatures and perfect peace and balmy weather combine to make this a place to recover from the stresses of your day-to-day lives and for total relaxation. Huab Lodge was created in 1993 using local materials and already then the focus on environmental considerations making use of solar energy and taking care with waste products found approving recognition. The spacious 45qm bungalows have large private patios and are tastefully furnished. They include a separate en-suite toilet, two hand-wash basins, even the shower has a view. Due to the small intimate nature of this lodge, the owners, managers and staff and all guests will sit together and have meals at one sitting.

## **Etosha Safari Lodge, Etosha National Park - Namibia**

Guests rave about the view: the restaurant and chalets, situated on a hillock, offer magnificent views of the African bush savannah. All of the 65 double room chalets have air conditioners and mosquito nets, and a choice of three swimming pools between them. Apart from the restaurant and bar there is a wooden platform

for sundowners high above the Mopani bush.

## **Mokuti Lodge, Etosha National Park - Namibia**

Upon arrival, guests are welcomed by a cool, green, tropical oasis. Charming thatched buildings and two sparkling pools nestle among the vast indigenous gardens give credence to the name "Mokuti", which in Ovambo means "In the forest". Mokuti Etosha Lodge promises guests a warm Namibian welcome, and a stay during which they will be hosted in a relaxed, uncomplicated manner. This intimate lodge has 90 rooms and 16 luxury rooms. Recently refurbished, they are all air conditioned and come equipped with satellite TV, a mini-fridge, safe, free Internet Wi-Fi access, tea/coffee-making facilities and en-suite bathrooms with showers. Mokuti Etosha Lodge offers the Tambuti Dining Room & Marula Bar, the Pool Bar & Terrace and the only open air African Boma in the area. Meals are typical Namibian feasts, featuring many local products and the famous local choices of both beef and game, all lovingly prepared according to home-style recipes.

## **Otjwa Lodge, Waterberg Region - Namibia**

Set amidst the unspoilt beauty of Namibia's oldest game farm, Otjiwa Safari Lodge is the ultimate holiday destination for those in search of an authentic African experience that meets the very best in international tourism standards. All the chalets overlook the water hole, and offer spacious bedrooms with traditional African decor, and large modern bathrooms with shower. True Namibian hospitality and personal service go without saying.

## **USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION**

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### **Weather & Seasonality**

We travel to Namibia in their winter months, the dry season. Namibia generally experiences over 300 days of sunshine per year, so it's generally warm, dry and pleasant. It can get cold at night, and at the coast towards August, September you might experience some coastal fog.

### **Joining Instructions (With Flights)**

This flight route transits through Johannesburg. Your bags should be checked through to Windhoek, and you do not have to collect them in Johannesburg. On arrival in Jo'burg, please follow the signs for international departures which leave from Terminal A. Your flight tickets may say Terminal B: ignore this. On arrival at Windhoek, please proceed to the arrivals hall once you have passed through passport control, customs and baggage reclaim. Your HF Holidays leader or local leader will assemble the group in the arrivals hall - look out for the HF Holidays' sign

### **Joining Instructions (Without Flights)**

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives.

If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group.

If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel (at additional cost), please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)20 8732 1271 to enquire about availability and make arrangements.

## What To Bring

### Essential Equipment

As you'll be carrying your own luggage at airports and between your transport and hotels we recommend you try to keep your luggage to a minimum. These items are a general suggestion of what to pack for an active outdoor and walking holiday; depending on your destination, you may need more of some things and less – or none! – of others. You'll know best what you prefer to wear when out walking or while taking part in other outdoor activities.

- Please ensure you have access to emergency funds should you need them; carrying a credit card is probably the most convenient method.
- Passport (and copies); booking confirmation; insurance cover note; HF Holidays' registration form.
- Walking boots (worn in), with good ankle support and spare bootlaces
- Walking socks
- Walking sandals
- Lightweight fleece, waterproof trousers and jacket
- Shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts
- Long trousers and long-sleeved lightcoloured shirts with collars to protect from the sun. Your clothing should ideally be pre-treated with insect repellent and in-built sun protection (available from specialist clothing stores such as Rohan, Cotswold Outdoor).
- Warm fleece, scarf/buff hat and gloves
- Torch
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for evenings and sightseeing
- Sun protection – sun hat, sunglasses, high factor sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle – at least 2-litre capacity
- Lightweight survival bag
- Small/medium rucksack (30 litre) and a liner or cover to keep contents dry
- Insect repellent
- Universal travel plug
- Personal first aid kit including: personal medication, tissues, plasters, blister kit, painkillers, antiseptic wipes, Imodium, rehydration sachets
- camera;
- umbrella;
- binoculars;
- Trekking poles (especially if you find these useful for descents); camera; umbrella; binoculars; high energy food bars. Please note that the HF

Holidays' leader reserves the right to refuse to take any guest on a walk should they consider that a lack of suitable clothing/footwear may affect safety

### Safety On Your Holiday

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance 14 | Call 020 8732 1250 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk](http://hfholidays.co.uk) details. You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders must consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol,

antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 112. Please then call our emergency number (see page 11) and let us know there is a problem

## Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements. We will do our best to accommodate you.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

## Vaccinations & Health

Travellers should be up to date with routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK. These vaccinations include for example measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and diphtheria-tetanus-polio vaccine.

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see if any health precautions are needed. The following websites provide a wealth of information on travelling and health: [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) [www.traveldoctor.co.uk](http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk) Please also check regarding anti-malarial tablets as Namibia is a malaria active zone.

It is recommended for most travellers to have:

- Hepatitis A
- Tetanus
- Typhoid.

Some travellers may require or should consider:

- Cholera
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies
- Tuberculosis.

## Passports & Visas

### Passports

Your passport should be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of entry into Namibia and have at least 1 completely blank page for Namibian immigration to use.

UK, US, Canadian, and Australian citizens do not need a visa to enter Namibia for periods of less than 90 days; however, before leaving the immigration desk in the airport arrivals hall, check that you have been given permission to stay in Namibia for the duration of your intended visit up to the maximum allowable of 90 days and that you have been given a correctly dated entry stamp by Namibian Immigration officials, as this will be checked on departure.

You should carry identification with you at all times; unless you need to have your passport with you for immigration purposes or passing through security checkpoints, leave it in your hotel safe and carry a photocopy for ID.

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## Luggage

### Luggage

Baggage allowance 1 piece checked-in luggage (max 23kg). Please check details of your airline's baggage allowance, as shown on your e-ticket. Remember to also check any connecting flights you may have booked.

## Lost Or Damaged Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately. You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

## Local Currency

Namibia uses the Namibian Dollar (NAD, N\$) which is linked on a one to one exchange with the South African Rand (ZAR). Rand is legal tender in Namibia, but the N\$ cannot be used in South Africa. If you wish to purchase currency before arriving in Namibia, it is easiest to buy Rand as the Namibian Dollar is seldom available in banks outside of Namibia.

Banks are found in most towns and are generally open from 9am to 3.30pm on weekdays and 8.30 to 11am on Saturdays; they are closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as traveller's cheques. You can also obtain cash from many ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres.

Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

## Tipping

Tips have been included in your holiday price for key services such as local guides/ driver/restaurants.

Any additional tips are at your own discretion.

## Local Time

GMT/UTC +2 hours

Please take note that the National council has recently (Sep 17) passed the Namibian Time Bill which means that in future Namibia will not have a summer & winter time.

## Electricity

220/240v, 3 point round pin adaptor is required.



## ATM Availability

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from many of the ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

## Suggested Reading & Maps

- Lonely Planet, Botswana & Namibia (2013)
- Timothy Eyre, Sun, Sea, Sand and Fog: Two weeks in Namibia, (2014)
- Henno Martin, The Sheltering Desert (2002)

Although you won't need them, if you'd like any maps of the destination, you can obtain some in advance from The Map Shop: [www.themapshop.co.uk](http://www.themapshop.co.uk)

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## PEACE OF MIND

### ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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