Wildlife & Dunes of Namibia



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Namibia	4	3143kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Exceptional wildlife, photogenic deserts, and beautiful coastline makes Namibia a must-see destination for first-timers or returning visitors. Stand atop sky-high sand dunes in the Namib Desert, seek out big game with an Etosha National Park safari, and keep your eyes peeled for whales, dolphins, seals, turtles, and sunfish during a boat trip in beautiful Walvis Bay. Equally standout is the granite landscape of the Erongo mountain range for a wealth of bird life, reptiles, mammals, and plants that are endemic or near endemic. Most fascinating of all are the unique cultures which you will experience meeting the Damara people, the San, and the Himba tribe.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Experiencing the Sossusvlei dunes in the Namib Desert
- Spotting pelicans and flamingos at Walvis Bay Lagoon
- Taking a boat ride from Swakopmund in search of the 'Marine Big 5'
- Watching the sun set over the Erongo Mountains
- Admiring ancient rock art at Twyfelfontein
- Enjoying game drives at Etosha National Park
- Meeting local tribes and learning about their history, traditions and daily life
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 14 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Local Tour Manager who leads walks and sightseeing
- Game drives led by experienced safari leaders
- 14 nights' touring accommodation across Namibia
- 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 14 dinners
- All tips, sightseeing and national park entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- All in-destination transport
- Return flights from London including baggage and transfers

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 **Depart the UK**

Our with-flights guests depart the UK on an overnight flight to Windhoek.

Day 2 **Arrive in Windhoek**

We arrive in Windhoek and are joined by our without-flight guests. We'll enjoy an afternoon city tour of Windhoek, the vibrant heart of Namibia. Discover the unique blend of tradition and modernity that makes this a must-see destination. Later, we'll enjoy dinner at Windhoek's famous restaurant, Joe's Beerhouse. With an extensive menu catering for all tastes and classic and signature cocktails including non-alcoholic Joe's is a great place for your welcome dinner.

Day 3 **Namib Desert**

After breakfast we'll travel into the majestic Namib Desert which means "place where there is nothing". This is the world's oldest desert stretching along the Atlantic coast of Namibia, Angola and South Africa. Despite its name the desert rich with biodiversity, ancient cultures and incredible moving seas of red sands that form mega-dunes. On arrival at our eco-friendly Lodge settle into your cabin and then take a stroll to the tops of dunes to see the vastness of the desert. Make your way to the wide central deck and enjoy a sundowner while watching the sunset before a delicious dinner is served.

Day 4 **Namib Desert**

Begin the day with an early morning walk along the hiking trails at Namib Desert Lodge, exploring the remarkable desert landscape on foot while the air is still cool. The trails wind through the surrounding Namib Desert scenery, offering opportunities to appreciate the ancient, fossilised dunes, distinctive desert vegetation and the remarkable adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive in this arid environment.

Take time to observe the subtle details of the landscape, from the textures and colours of the ancient sandstone formations to the hardy vegetation scattered across the desert terrain. The peaceful surroundings and changing morning light offer excellent opportunities for photography and a closer appreciation of Namibia's unique desert ecosystem. Later in the day, head out on a guided sundowner drive through Gondwana Namib Park. Discover the striking contrast between the ancient fossilised dunes and the younger red dunes rising above the plateau, while learning more about the area's fascinating geology, desert-adapted wildlife and natural environment.

As the sun begins to set, watch the landscape transform into warm shades of red, rust and gold. Enjoy refreshments and a light snack while taking in the spectacular desert scenery before returning to the lodge for the evening.

Day 5 Sossusvlei

An early start gets us on the road for our all day excursion to Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon. Sossusvlei is a salt and clay pan surrounded by towering red dunes. Dead Vlei (dead marsh) is a stark white clay pan dotted with dead camel thorn trees that are 600 years old. The dark skeletons rising out of the white pan with the surrounding red dunes and bright blue skies create a surreal atmosphere and is a photographer's dream.
Depending on our arrival time, there may be an opportunity to enjoy a farm and nature drive, offering insight into life on a Namibian farm and its approach to sustainable farming and nature conservation. Alternatively, relax at the guestfarm and enjoy the tranquil surroundings before dinner.

Day 6 Swakopmund

After breakfast, enjoy a guided Bullshead Hike at BüllsPort Guestfarm, taking in the rugged mountain scenery and spectacular views of the surrounding Naukluft landscape. After the hike, we depart for the charming coastal town of Swakopmund, where we will spend the next two nights.
Along the way, we pass through the dramatic Swakop River Valley moonscape, an extraordinary landscape of eroded hills and rocky formations shaped over millions of years by erosion and changing climatic conditions. The unusual terrain creates an almost lunar appearance and offers wonderful opportunities for photography.
Upon arrival in Swakopmund, check into the hotel and enjoy some free time to explore the town at your own pace. Known for its distinctive German colonial architecture, coastal atmosphere and seaside promenades, Swakopmund offers a fascinating blend of history and modern Namibian life.
In the evening, we head out for dinner at one of Swakopmund's local restaurants before returning to the hotel for the night.

Day 7 Walvis Bay Lagoon

Morning Dolphin and Seal Marine Cruise. Keep watch for dolphins, seals and a variety of marine life, with the chance of sightings such as whales, mola mola and leatherback turtles depending on the season. While enjoying tea and coffee on board, cruise past oyster farms to Pelican Point, known for its lighthouse and large colony of Cape fur seals. Afterwards, we visit the Walvis Bay Lagoon, one of southern Africa's most important coastal wetlands and a haven for flamingos and other birdlife. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day 8 Erongo Mountains Day 1

This morning, we leave the coast behind and journey into the striking landscapes of Damaraland. En route, visit a local Himba community to gain insight into their traditions and way of life. In the afternoon, we explore the area and drive into the
Ugab River, which is an ephemeral river, with its subterranean water which surface as pools in places offer important water resources for different animal species of this area, such as the elusive desert-adapted elephants.

Day 9 Erongo Mountains Day 2

Depart early this morning for Brandberg Mountain and hike to the famous White Lady rock painting. After the excursion, continue deeper into Damaraland, arriving at your lodge in the late afternoon.
The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 10 Damaraland Day 1

Visit Namibia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to the largest concentration of rock engravings in Africa, with more than 2,500 petroglyphs depicting animals, human figures and mysterious footprints. You will also stop at the Damara Living Museum for insight into local culture and traditions.

Day 11 Damaraland Day 2

After a breakfast, we depart and visit the Tsubis Petrified Forest. We continue our journey to our next destination and enjoy a guided afternoon walk on arrival. In the evening, we enjoy a scorpion night walk with our guide.

Day 12 Etosha National Park Day 1

This morning, continue your journey to the renowned Etosha National Park. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 13 Etosha National Park Day 2

Full Day in Etosha National Park with our own guide and private vehicles. Once we pass the park gates, we will be on the watch for wildlife, stopping whenever they are close - we may even have to stop while they cross the road in front of us - wildlife has the right of way! Stop at one of the park restaurants for lunch (not included) and enjoy sharing photographs from the safari. Return to the lodge and relax

Day 14 Otjiwarongo Day 1

After breakfast we depart for Otjiwarongo in the Waterberg region. On the way we visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund. The CCF works to develop best practices that benefit the entire ecosystem upon which the cheetah depends. This beautiful big cat is under threat of extinction in the wild. Once widespread in Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and into central India they now only inhabit 10% of their original range. We will see the CCFs Ambassador Cheetahs while learning about the programs that address the concerns for wildlife populations and the human communities that share the landscape. Settle into your chalet overlooking a waterhole at our lodge for the next two nights.

Day 15 Otjiwarongo Day 2

Today is set aside for optional activities, which may include a morning walk or rhino tracking. In the afternoon, enjoy an included guided walk. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and free time today there are optional activities and in the afternoon enjoy a guided walk around the Otjiwa reserve. The lodge's expert guides know this area like the back of their hands. From the smallest insects to 4 legged wildlife, you will learn all about Namibia's natural world and enjoy walking in the wild.

Day 16 Departure Day

This morning, depart for Windhoek. Time permitting, stop at the well-known woodcarvers' market in Okahandja or the craft market on Windhoek's main street for some last-minute souvenir shopping before your guide transfers you to the international airport for your onward flight.

Day 17 Arrive UK

With-flight guests arrive back in the UK.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Avani Hotel, Windhoek - Namibia

One of Windhoek's standout landmarks is also one of its most stylish hotels. The Avani Windhoek Hotel & Casino offers comfortable modern rooms to rest and relax in, plus a rooftop pool area complete with a restaurant and bar that serve up outstanding views over the city. Location-wise it's only a few hundred metres from the city's main monuments and attractions, as well as a cluster of shops and a craft market. Room facilities include flat screen TV, minbar, coffee/tea making facilities and Wi-Fi. There is a desk and seats. Bathrooms have a bath/shower.

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 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 appear at the illuminated watering hole. Rooms are set amongst gardens, are air conditioned, have tea/coffee making facilities and verandas' where you can relax and watch the sunset over the grassy plains or the petrified dunes

BüllsPort Lodge

BüllsPort Lodge & Farm is a family-run working guest farm and private nature reserve located in the scenic Naukluft Mountains of central Namibia, south-west of Windhoek on the route to Sossusvlei, it was founded in 1993 and is personally run by the owners, this traditional 3rd-generation farm spans 10,000 hectares. There are 14 farm-style guest rooms with en-suite bathroom, air conditioning, coffee station, WIFI and veranda. The lodge offers home-cooked, family-style dinners and fresh breakfast buffets prepared from homegrown farm produce and freshly baked pastries and breads. There is an outdoor swimming pool and a terrace with self service bar and wonderful views of the Naukluft mountains great for relaxing after an exhilarating days hike.

Swakopmund Plaza Hotel - Namibia

Ideally located in the heart of Swakopmund, this hotel puts you in strolling distance of the town's historic centre and a cluster of shops, bars, and restaurants. Spacious rooms in neutral tones come with little splashes of colour and all the modern comforts and conveniences you'd expect. There is a mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities and free high speed internet. As for facilities, there's a rooftop terrace with views over the coast, plus a small bistro-style restaurant where breakfast is served.

Onjamba Hills Lodge

Onjamba Hills is an off-grid, luxury tented camp nestled among ancient granite boulders (*kopjes*) in the remote Damaraland and Kunene region.

Large Meru style safari tents are embellished with brick en-suite bathrooms with large glass sliding doors for unimpeded views. The camp is fully off-grid, having its own boreholes for water and being powered by solar energy with a back-up generator. Although the camp is powered by solar, water is heated using old-school, traditional "donkies" (geysers heated by fire) adding the sense of uniqueness of the great outdoors and the smell of woodsmoke.

Everything at Ondjamba is about the romance and experience of travel in Africa. Untouched wilderness at your doorstep, with views on the majestic Brandberg, Namibia's highest Mountain, and the ephemeral Ugab riverbed and the granite "kopjes" dotted in the landscape.

The common areas are built using brick, wooden poles, thatch and canvas – all circular structures to fit in aesthetically with the granite boulders in the area. Its architecture lets the structures blend into the surrounding boulders dotted around the area with some even being part of the infrastructure. The highlight however remains the pristine landscape the camp is located in.

Ondjamba Hills offers half-board tented accommodation and is located near the banks of a dried river in the Torra Conservancy, an ideal base to explore this part of the Kunene Region. Each tented stand offers a comfortable glamping experience and is furnished with twin beds with en-suite bathroom, a seating area, and a private deck with outdoor furniture overlooking the stunning surroundings. Large thatched open sided buildings house the lounge , bar and restaurant all with stunning views, and there is an outdoor pool and terrace.

Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

Twyfelfontein Country Lodge is situated conveniently close to the UNESCO world heritage site or ancient rock art and unique geological formations. The lodge is run in partnership with the community with some of the profits going to help support local community projects.

It's a large lodge with 56 rooms built in blocks of four or eight under thatched roofs. Using natural stone, carefully selected paint colours and thatched roofs, its design compliments the sandstone rock formations with minimum visual impact on this picturesque landscape. Magnificent views from the deck over the Huab Valley, desert plains and distant mountains provides for hours of relaxed comfort, peace and tranquillity. The rooms are fairly simple in style, but cool and comfortable each with en suite bathroom, ceiling fans, mosquito nets and safes.The main lodge is nestled against the rocks and houses the dining room, cosy bar, reception area and gift shop. Large spotlights light up the mountains at night providing a majestic atmosphere.

There is a good-sized swimming pool and a deck area where you can relax in the afternoons and the watering hole attracts wildlife from the surrounding area especially at dawn and dusk.

Ugab Terrace Lodge

Perched dramatically on the edge of ancient terraces, Ugab Terrace Lodge offers front-row seats to some of Namibia's most spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Each chalet is perfectly positioned to soak in panoramic valley views, making it a destination as much as a place to stay. After a day of exploring, guests are welcomed with generous portions of hearty Namibian cuisine and warm hospitality. Evenings are peaceful and restorative, with simple yet comfortable rooms designed for a good night's rest. There are bungalows lining both sides of the ridge, with a turquoise pool built into a rock gully in the middle.

The artwork is inspired by the local people, bringing an authentic Namibian feel to the lodge. The bungalows have a rounded roof and inside, the attractive ceiling is made of mopane branches. The white bed linen and curtains are complemented with bright, colourful cushions and curved walls on either side of the room, enclosing a toilet and bathroom.

There is a large glassed-in central area, allowing the wonderful view to permeate. On the large deck outside the main area is the restaurant, lounge and bar, giving views of the Ugab terraces at sunrise and sunset. Why not Enjoy a sundowner while watching the colours change with the setting sun.

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.

Otjiwa 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.

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Safety information

Please 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 and other directions 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.. Please then call our emergency number (sent in your final dispatch) 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 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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

Vaccinations & health information for Namibia

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 or 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

Passport & Visa information for Namibia

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.

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.

Visas

From **1 April 2025** a new visa scheme will come into effect for UK nationals visiting Namibia. The new visas will be available to purchase on arrival at Namibian entry points or can be applied for via a new online portal before travel to Namibia. Please visit the website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/namibia for further information. If you have a different nationality passport please check with the Namibian Government for your entry requirements.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Namibia is a typical desert with warm to hot sunny days year round and chilly early mornings and evenings. Lightweight clothing and layers are advisable to accommodate the differing temperatures. Our tour runs in the dry season when evenings are not the coldest though temperatures can go down to single figures.

Essentials

- Walking shoes that have ankle support and good grip (heavy boots are not necessary)
- Insulated jacket/top for evening when temperatures drop in the desert
- Lightweight clothing for the heat
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Torch (handy for hotel grounds and in the room)
- Water bottle (water is provided throughout the tour)
- Rucksack/day pack
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles (if you prefer using them)
- Swimwear and travel towel (loges have pools)
- Camera/mobile phone

Optional

- Mat (something small to sit on for picnics or rest stops when walking)

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITHOUT FLIGHTS)

Travel independently

If you prefer to book the holiday without flights and make your own travel arrangements you will still be able to make use of the return group transfers between the airport and hotel, which are included in the cost of your holiday. You must contact us on +44 (0)20 3974 8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk at least 8 weeks before your holiday start date to provide your flight details if you wish to join the transfers. If you do not contact us, we will assume you are making independent travel arrangements.

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.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so before you travel.

For more information about healthcare and its costs, please visit: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/

Modest dress

On your trip we advise you to dress modestly and respectfully. Both men and women should aim to cover their shoulders and knees, especially if visiting religious sites or rural areas. Opt for loose-fitting and conservative clothing to show respect for local customs and traditions.

LUGGAGE

Luggage information for Namibia Guided Walking Holiday

Luggage allowance

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/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

Local currency for Namibia

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.

LOCAL TIME

Local time for Namibia

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

Electricity information for Namibia

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

ATM AVAILABILITY

ATM availability for Namibia

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

Suggested reading and maps for Namibia

Suggested reading

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

Maps

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

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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.

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