



12 DAYS self-drive Holiday

Designed by: Terra Nova Tours www.terra-nova.com.na

NAMIBIA



Namibia - is one of the world's last true wilderness areas. It is the fifth largest country in Africa, encompassing 826,680 square kilometers (larger than France and Great Britain combined) yet it supports a meagre population of around 1.8 million people. Consequently, it is famed for its vast landscapes that are devoid of people, limitless horizons, wonderful game parks, interesting fauna and flora, sunny weather and tranquil starry nights. Its staggering geology boasts the world's highest sand dunes, one of the world's oldest deserts, and the second largest canyon. Last but not least Namibia offers the adventurer a wide range of activities such as hiking, parachuting, micro-lighting, hot-air ballooning, dune skiing, wild river rafting, lake diving, horse riding, and abseiling to name a few.



Etosha's silvery pan and surrounding plains in the north of the country teem with game, making Etosha National Park one of the world's greatest wildlife viewing venues. Damaraland desert-adapted elephant and endangered black rhino roam freely and can be tracked on foot and in open 4WDs. Flying along the Skeleton Coast you will find roaring dunes, hundred-thousand-strong seal colonies, mysterious shipwrecks, intriguing desert-adapted plants and animals, and flocks of pelicans and flamingos; whilst the enormous and empty Namib Desert and the giant sand dunes of Sossusvlei dominate the landscape to the south. Climbing a dune at Sossusvlei to watch the sunrise it's easy to see why Namibia is a photographer's dream. The dunes are enchanting, totally unspoilt, and best of all, you have them to yourself.



There are three main ways to explore Namibia - by light aircraft, being driven by a guide or exploring on a self-drive trip. Namibia is the ultimate country for flying safaris and seeing the country's spectacular scenery from the air is a breathtaking experience.

A choice of both guided and self-drive safaris is also available using reliable and air-conditioned vehicles travelling on Namibia's well-maintained road network. For guided safaris, you will be driven by a qualified guide, or if you are a little more adventurous you can self-drive around the country.



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Day 1 – Arrival / N/a'ankuse Lodge



Day 1

Arrival at the International Airport in Windhoek. Here you will be met by your Terra Nova Representative. He or she will assist you with your luggage and will accompany you to your waiting air-conditioned rental car.

Your journey starts. Today you will only drive a short distance, so you have enough time to recover and relax from your overseas flight.



You will check in at the N/a'ankuse Lodge. This special lodge offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a tranquil break where you can unwind and relax surrounded by African wildlife. The lodge is perfectly located to start your trip to Namibia.

The lodge is crafted from ecologically clean material including solid logs and glass to complement N/a'ankusê's beautiful wilderness setting. Here, guests will find six luxurious, individual chalets and a tranquil dining area with stunning views, bar and swimming pool.



Marlice van Vuuren, one of Namibia's most well known conservationist, together with her husband Dr. Rudie van Vuuren and their pharmacist friend Chris Heunis started N/a'an ku sê Lodge & Wildlife Sanctuary in 2007. Jan Verburg, their Dutch partner was the main funder of the lodge.

By visiting their unique lodge or taking part in a carnivore feeding tour you can help make a difference in conservation. All revenue from the lodge, which is a registered charity in Namibia, goes directly to benefit our work with wildlife conservation, our Lifeline Clinic for Bushman in Epukiro and the people from the Bushman community we employ.



Enjoy sumptuous meals, enjoy the beautiful pool and experience unforgettable carnivore feeding tours, impressive game viewing and sundowner excursions to witness the magnificent African sunset.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at N/a'ankuse Lodge

www.ecotourism-namibia.com

Distance: approx. 70km – approx. 45 minutes



Day 2 – Kalahari Anib Lodge



Day 2

You have breakfast at the Lodge and will drive to the south of Namibia into the Kalahari.

The **Kalahari** conjures up visions of ancient red dunes, the Bushman (San) and black-maned lions. It's very different to the Namib, as it is not a desert in the strict sense of the word. It receives more rain than a true desert. However, the sand sheet that covers the Kalahari has virtually no surface water. Vast areas of the Kalahari are covered by red sand, accumulated in longitudinal or linear dunes that trend parallel to the prevailing wind. They are generally straight and very long, with sharp crests. An outstanding feature of the Kalahari dunes is their extraordinary red color, which is due to a thin film of red iron oxide that coats each grain of sand.

You will check in at the **Kalahari Anib Lodge**. In the midst of the red dunes of the Kalahari in eastern Namibia the lodge seems like a plush green oasis: the accommodation facilities, built from Kalahari-red brick, are grouped around a spacious courtyard with palm trees and acacias, a succulent garden and a large swimming pool.

There are 36 well-appointed rooms with a private veranda opening onto the courtyard. For individual guests 19 rooms are available in chalets which are slightly set apart and afford views of the savannah scenery – there is also a separate swimming pool.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Kalahari Anib Lodge

www.gondwana-collection.com

Distance: approx. 250km – 3 hours of driving

Day 3 – Sesriem / Sossusvlei



Day 3

You will enjoy breakfast at the Anib Lodge and will continue your journey. You will drive via Marienthal and Maltahöhe to Sesriem and Sossusvlei. You pass the Tsaris Mountains and will arrive at the Desert Camp in the afternoon.

The **Desert Camp** consists of 20 luxurious self-catering bungalows with canvas roofs, which are arranged around the main building. Each bungalow has a private bathroom, a shaded porch and a small kitchenette. The tasteful interior design reflects the colors of the Namib Desert. The main building houses the reception, a bar, a swimming pool and 2 communal bomas. The camp is only about 5km from the Sossusvlei Lodge.

Guests can use the restaurants and facilities of the Sossusvlei Lodge as well.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Desert Camp

www.desertcamp.com

Distance: approx. 370km – 4,5 hours driving time



Day 4 – Rostock Ritz



Day 4

In the early morning you will depart for the Sossusvlei excursion before sunrise.

World-famous **Sossusvlei** is an enormous clay pan, flanked by the famous red sand dunes that stand out starkly against the blue sky. These dunes have developed over millions of years, the wind continuously transforming the contours of this red sand sea. The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are often referred to as the highest dunes in the world.



You will stop at the foot of one of the dunes and you are invited to climb to the upper ridge of one of the dunes.

After passing the 2x4 parking area, the real 4x4 driving begins, through the thick dune sand. We then take a walk into the dramatically scenic "Dead Vlei". The 'vlei' itself only fills after rare heavy rainfall when, in a complete turn-around, it becomes a spectacular turquoise lake.



After your walk, you will enjoy your breakfast pack at the foot of the dunes.

Late morning you will reach the **Sesriem Canyon**. The 1km-long, 30m-deep Sesriem Canyon, 4km south of the Sesriem headquarters, was carved by the Tsauchab River through the 15-million-old deposits of sand and gravel conglomerate. There are two pleasant walks: you can hike upstream to the brackish pool at its head or 2.5km downstream to its lower end. Note the natural sphinx-like formation on the northern flank near the canyon mouth.

After visiting the Sesriem Canyon you will drive to the **Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge**.



The Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge invites you to experience the Namib Desert combined with memorable hospitality, personalized service and soul reaching tranquility. 40 guests can be accommodated in 20 traditional African styles round buildings with en-suite facilities. Each building is naturally integrated in the natural surroundings offering unlimited views across the Namib. An excellent choice for the ultimate African holiday.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge

www.rostock-ritz-desert-lodge.com

Distance: approx. 80km – approx. 1 - 1.5 hours of driving



Day 5 and 6 – Swakopmund



Day 5

After breakfast your journey continues to the coast. You will drive via Ghaub and the Kuiseb Canyon to Swakopmund.

Swakopmund was founded two years after Windhoek in 1892, by Captain Curt von Francois and became the main harbour of South West Africa. The town's German architecture dates back to this period. Street names serve as reminders of former colonial rulers and administrators, while German is still widely spoken. Typical German cakes and confectionary can be enjoyed in the town's cafés, while the shops are stocked with a mouth-watering selection of cold meat. Today, Swakopmund is a luxury seaside resort much enjoyed by the inhabitants of the capital.



Today you will check in at the **Cornerstone Guesthouse**. The Cornerstone Guesthouse is a small, private and peaceful bed and breakfast an easy walk to the sea and the town centre of Swakopmund on Namibia's fascinating Skeleton Coast. Occupying a quiet corner of Swakopmund's old town near the marine museum and the old brewery, Cornerstone Guesthouse offers the charm and intimacy of a family-run B&B combined with the modern amenities of a luxury hotel. Within a few minutes from the guest house you can walk to beaches, cafés, restaurants, lively pubs, Swakopmund tourist attractions and a variety of interesting shops and markets in the town.



The Guesthouse offers bed and breakfast accommodation in five double or twin rooms. The rooms each have a private entrance and patio with table and chairs; inside, the rooms are light, spacious and neat with tile and wood floors, beach house colors and your choice of double or twin beds. All rooms have en suite bathrooms with large solar-assisted showers and modern fittings. Two of the rooms can be converted into a family unit or we can create a family room with a third bed.



The breakfast room at Cornerstone Guest house is large, light and airy. You can sit on the verandah on warm days or inside at individual tables. They offer an inclusive breakfast with a fresh selection of fruits, juices, yoghurts, breads, preserves and eggs and bacon cooked to order. Wash that all down with their freshly brewed coffee or your choice of tea and you'll be ready to explore the attractions of Swakopmund and the Skeleton Coast.

The afternoon guests can spend time on leisure.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast



Overnight at Cornerstone Guesthouse www.cornerstoneguesthouse.com

Distance: approx. 210km - approx. 4 – 5 hours of driving

Day 6

Guests will enjoy breakfast at the Swakopmund Hotel.



This morning you will drive to Walvis Bay. Here you will go on board of a catamaran. The catamaran will take you on a scenic and informative trip through the harbor and across to Pelican Point. Along the way schools of dolphins will escort and play alongside the boats. Witness the large seal colony off Pelican Point and watch out as some large male seals join you on your boat for some entertainment. This coastline is home to some 100.000 Cape Fur Seals and the colony at Pelican point has been known to reach 20.000. With a bit of luck, whales and dolphins can also be spotted. Fresh Namibian Oysters, other snacks, sparkling wine and soft drinks are served on the boat before returning to shore around lunchtime. In the afternoon guests can spend time on leisure.

Overnight at Cornerstone Guesthouse, www.cornerstoneguesthouse.com

Day 7 – Twyfelfontein



Day 7

Today you will drive into the Damaraland.

Damaraland is dispersed with springs and ephemeral rivers that provide streaks of greenery and moisture for wildlife, people and livestock. Its broad spaces are one of Africa's last 'unofficial' wildlife areas, and you can still see zebras, giraffes, antelopes, elephants and even black rhinos ranging outside national parks or protected reserves. The region also features many natural attractions.



The **Twyfelfontein Lodge** is situated in the Uibasen Twyfelfontein Conservancy approximately 5 km from the renowned historical site with some of the best specimens of rock engravings and paintings in South Africa.



The Lodge boasts 57 en-suite double rooms, reception, lounge, curio shop, open dining room, bar and swimming pool. In construction utmost care was taken to reduce the visual impact on the environment and to blend into the mountainside with the use of thatch roofs, natural stone and paint colors toning in with the surrounding rock formations. Other popular attractions in the area include Burned Mountain, the Organ Pipe rock formations, Doros Crater and Petrified Forest. Interesting fauna and flora, like Desert Elephant and Rhinoceros, Welwitschia, Mirabilis and the endemic Herero Chat is likely to be found on a day excursion.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Twyfelfontein Lodge

www.namibialodges.com

Distance: approx. 400km – approx. 5 hours of driving



Day 8 – Etosha National Park



Day 8

You will enjoy breakfast at the Twyfelfontein Lodge and will drive to **Twyfelfontein**. Here you visit the rock engravings. These date back at least 6.000 years to the early Stone Age and were probably the work of ancient San hunters. They were made by cutting through the hard patina covering the local sandstone. In time, this skin reformed over the engravings, protecting them from erosion.



Only a few kilometers far away guests can visit the **Organ Pipes**. They are a 100m stretch of unusual 4m-high dolerite (coarse-grained basalt) columns in a small gorge. While driving through Khorixas you will pass the **Petrified Forest**. This is an area of open veldt scattered with petrified tree trunks up to 34m long and 6m in circumference, which are estimated to be around 260 million years old. Because of the lack of root or branch remnants, it's thought that the trunks were transported to the site in a flood. About 50 individual trees are visible, some half buried in sandstone and many perfectly petrified in silica – complete bark and tree rings.



You continue your journey to the **Etosha National Park**.

Etosha's definitive feature is the Etosha Pan, a vast shallow depression, about 5000 sq km in size. Classified as a saline desert, the expansive white place of dry water is an unusual setting for game and the factor, which sets Etosha apart from other reserves in Africa. On some days the pan is a shimmering sheet of mirages on which the animals appear to be floating on air. A total of 114 animals are represented in the park, including several rare and endangered species such as black rhino and black-faced impala.



The **Etosha Safari Camp** will be your home tonight. It is situated just 10 km south of Andersson Gate on the C 38 between Outjo and Okaukuejo. 50 twin-bedded chalets nestle among mopane trees and impart a feeling of living in the lap of African nature. Each of them is equipped with mosquito gauze, air conditioning and its own bathroom and small veranda. A special attraction is the Oshebeena Bar, styled like a typical little township bar and brimming with African joie de vivre.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp

www.gondwana-collection.com



Distance: approx. 300km – approx. 3 hours of driving

Day 9 and 10 – Etosha National Park



Day 9

You will have breakfast at the Etosha Safari Lodge.

The **game viewing** in Etosha National Park is excellent, the best time being from May to September - the cooler months in Namibia. Visitors to Etosha Game Reserve can expect to see many buck species, elephant, giraffe, rhino and lions. More fortunate visitors will see leopard and cheetah. There is a network of roads linking the three campsites and subsidiary roads lead to various waterholes. You will be enthralled by the magic and peace of the bush. Every sound becomes relevant and every movement will capture your attention. You will be able to view wild animals in their habitat; most of them are just a stone-throw away from the vehicle you are sitting in.



You stay overnight at the **Onguma Bush Camp**.

Onguma Bush Camp, alongside Etosha National Park's other pan, the Fisher Pan, gives independent travelers, explorers and families a chance to choose their own relaxed pace as they explore Etosha.

Onguma offers travelers a chance to see its own 20,000 ha private reserve stocked with predators such as lions, cheetahs and leopards as well as a family of black rhino. Other species that are found on the reserve include kudu, giraffe, eland, hartebeest, zebra and impala. A waterhole below the camp's elevated lapa offers excellent opportunities for sighting game and the many bird species of the area in comfort with a refreshing drink in hand.



Onguma Bush Camp's accommodation consists of 3 en-suite air-conditioned bungalows, 3 twin rooms, and 1 family room. The camp is particularly suited for families who need a base from which to explore Etosha National Park.



Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Onguma Bush Camp

www.onguma.com

Distance: approx. 150km – driving the whole day due to stops here and there



Day 10

Today you will enjoy your day at the Onguma Bush Camp. Enjoy the quietness and relax at the Camp, explore the Etosha Park or take part at a game drive to see the Onguma Game Reserve.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Onguma Bush Camp

www.onguma.com



Day 11 – Waterberg



Day 11

After breakfast you will drive to the Waterberg.

The **Waterberg Plateau** east of Otjiwarongo towers over the surrounding plains, being about 200m higher. The 20km wide and 50km long table mountain massif consists of porous sandstone. Rainwater trickles through the permeable stone and collects on top of an impervious clay layer. Whilst the plateau is arid on top, there is a lot of surface water and strong permanent springs at the foot of the mountain. The vegetation is, therefore, quite lush and green and diverse. One can, for example, find wild fig trees, fire lilies and coral trees. The area is also rich in fauna.

Today you will check in at the Waterberg Camp of the Namibian Wildlife Resorts.

Waterberg Camp is the gateway to the Waterberg Plateau Park.



The Waterberg Camp has recently been re-developed. Accommodation is provided in comfortable premier bush chalets, two and four bed bush chalets and double rooms, all nestled along the base of the Waterberg Plateau cliffs, amongst towering trees.

The restaurant, bar and kiosk are housed in the historic Rasthaus, originally built in 1908 and used as a police post for several years. The open air swimming pool with a view of the Plateau above is the perfect remedy for the weary guest. The Camp also has a shop and a camping site available.



Daily guided drives are offered to the plateau, which is managed as a breeding area for rare and endangered species, including black and white rhinoceros, disease-free buffalo, sable and roan antelope. The natural beauty of the park area can also be explored on foot, by means of guided trails or self-guided trails, as well as a number of short trails from the camp, offering spectacular bird viewing opportunities and a high diversity of interesting flora.

Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Overnight at Waterberg Resort

www.nwr.com.na



Distance: approx. 360km – approx. 4 hours of driving



Day 12 – Windhoek



Day 12

Today you will drive back to the International Airport in Windhoek to check in for your return flight.

Distance: approx. 320km – approx. 4 hours of driving

***** End of an exciting journey! *****

