

Desert Dune Safari 2018
A Wilderness Exploration – 9 nights /10 days
This Exploration runs between May and mid-November

Windhoek International Airport

You will be met by your Explorations guide and begin your journey by driving through the Khomas Hochland mountains and down into the dune-filled Sossusvlei region, a driving time of approximately five to six hours (330 kilometres / 205 miles). En route, we enjoy a lunch.

Days 1 – 2: Kulala Desert Lodge, Kulala Wilderness Reserve

Explore the famous red dunes of Sossusvlei and our 37 000-hectare private reserve where you will discover life in one of the world's oldest and most arid deserts.

Days 3 – 4: Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

This morning we transfer by light aircraft to Swakopmund Airport. Discover the town of Swakopmund and bed down in the historic Hansa Hotel that forms part of city's architectural culture.

Boat Cruise

On Day 4, we explore the ice-blue Atlantic coast on a boat cruise (weather permitting) as well as the imposing Sandwich Harbour dune fields by 4x4. The adventure is rounded off with a private seafood lunch before driving back to Walvis Bay.

Day 5: Terrace Bay Lodge, Skeleton Coast National Park

We continue our journey by road for approximately 380 kilometres / 236 miles up the legendary Skeleton Coast (named for the numerous ships the treacherous shores have claimed over the years). You can expect to see the fascinating lichen plains at Wlotskasbaken, remains of the *Zelia* shipwreck near Henties Bay and the *SW Seal* shipwreck near Ugabmund. We also take in the ghostly remains of mining operations near Toscanini. Driving time is about five hours, excluding any stops.

Days 6 – 7: Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Palmwag Concession

We continue through Skeleton Coast National Park to the Möwe Bay Museum and then stop and admire the remains of the *Suiderkus* shipwreck. Other attractions are the Klein Oase and Auses Springs hidden in the dunes, an intriguing "roaring" dune and spectacular desert scenery combined with whatever desert-adapted wildlife presents itself. The distance to camp is only 140 kilometres / 86 miles, however, given the gravel roads the driving time is approximately 5 hours.

A land of rugged scenery, this remote part of Namibia is inhabited by plant and animal life that has adapted superbly to the harsh environment of mountains, vast plains, dunes and dry riverbeds.

Days 8 – 9: Desert Rhino Camp, Palmwag Concession

Another exciting day on the road to Desert Rhino Camp through the rugged, rocky and mountainous Palmwag Concession brings with it the opportunity of seeing giraffe, oryx and springbok.

The speciality of the area is its stable population of the endangered desert-adapted black rhino (the largest concentration in the world outside a national park), which are monitored and protected by the Save the Rhino Trust.

Day 10: Wilderness Air

We bid farewell to our adventure as we road transfer to the Doro Nawas Airstrip for return flight to Windhoek.

Recommended Add-ons:

At extra cost, continue onwards to Serra Cafema, a luxury desert retreat on the Kunene River, or to Ongava Game Reserve and explore Etosha National Park.

EXPLORATION OVERVIEW

Desert Dune Safari – 9 nights / 10 days A Wilderness Exploration

Your journey: Namibia is a land of stunning landscapes, endless skies, barren deserts, rugged mountains and spectacular wildlife. This Exploration explores some of the most remote areas of this fascinating land; areas that have been rarely explored by others, making this a true journey of discovery. Like any trip to Namibia, the dunes of Sossusvlei are not to be missed and we therefore begin our journey here. We continue to Swakopmund to take in the amazing marine life just offshore, then on to the secluded and dramatic coastline of the Skeleton Coast littered with historic remnants of shipwrecks and the rugged and rocky landscape of Palmwag where the last free-roaming black rhino rove. The activities provide a wide range of differing experiences, from a dolphin cruise with private beach lunch, to tracking rhino and climbing the Namib's great dunes. Most of the journey is by road which can be lengthy and bumpy (due to Namibia's roads being mainly gravel). But well-timed stops at local highlights, refreshments, snacks and lunches (where appropriate) all help to ensure optimal comfort. A highlight is meeting the native people of Namibia, many of whom work in the camps, while others you will have a chance to meet along the road, such as local fishermen and vendors. The flight between Sossusvlei and Swakopmund and the flight out of Doro Nawas are by light aircraft, affording sensational views of the Namib Desert and the starkly scenic North West region.

Your guide: Our Explorations are led by highly skilled and qualified professional guides with an incredible passion for the natural regions in which they work and a vast knowledge of the natural world, history and culture of Namibia. Sharing the adventure and guiding you on this journey of discovery is both a profession and a personal hobby. Many of our guides are also skilled photographers and can assist you in taking away amazing wildlife photographs. Your guide will host you for the duration of safari, providing you with a consistent, detailed interpretation that is shaped to your specific interests.

Highlights

- The very different areas of Sossusvlei, Skeleton Coast and Palmwag Concession are explored in depth.
- The ultimate Skeleton Coast experience including remains of shipwrecks, Cape fur seal colonies and other desert-adapted wildlife.
- Accommodation includes a range of camps in private areas.
- Exceptionally varied activities, including day and night, sea and land-based wildlife viewing, as well as flying, driving, and boating.
- Other unique excursions include rhino tracking, motorboat trip at Walvis Bay (including extension to Sandwich Harbour, and seafood lunch.
- We travel by land when the journey is enhanced; otherwise travelling is done by air.

Days 1 – 2



Kulala Desert Lodge – Kulala Wilderness Reserve Wilderness Safaris – Adventures Camp

As the perfect gateway to the impressive sights of Sossusvlei, Kulala Desert Lodge is a favourite among Wilderness travellers. Magnificent views of dunes, mountains and vast open plains will be the setting of your stay. The camp comprises 23 en-suite thatched and canvas 'kualalas' each with a veranda for you to enjoy the outstanding scenery. On balmy nights, sleep under the clear night skies on your rooftop and awaken to the rising sun. By day, enjoy our activities or spot desert-adapted wildlife from our lounge and dining area overlooking a waterhole. To escape the midday heat a cooling plunge pool provides the ideal sanctuary.

Did you know?

- Kulala Desert Lodge is in the private Kulala Wilderness Reserve, the result of a rehabilitation project by Wilderness Safaris that aimed to return this land, previously used for farming, to its former natural aspect.
- Sossusvlei is situated within the Namib Desert, the oldest desert in the world, characterised by huge dunes and flat valley floors.
- To showcase this vast and impressive landscape, we offer nature drives, walking, quad biking, horse riding and ballooning (last three at extra cost).
- You can witness sparsely distributed desert-adapted wildlife such as ostrich, springbok, oryx, spotted and brown hyaena, and bat-eared fox.
- One of the many fascinating bird species, the dune lark, has its entire global distribution limited to the area.

Included: All meals, daily activities, laundry and drinks (excluding premium import brands)

Days 3 – 4



Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

Namibia's oldest hotel, and consistently one of the best, the Hansa has retained its 100-year-old charm while providing present-day service and comfort. Our bedrooms are spacious and tastefully appointed, with a blend of modern luxury and antique décor. Interesting photographs from the past adorn the walls along the carpeted passages. Although we are located in the centre of town giving you access to most of the local amenities, even our street-facing bedrooms are surprisingly quiet. A short walk will bring you to the heated Olympic-sized indoor public swimming pool, the museum, lighthouse and Kristall Galerie, as well as several good restaurants if you wish to try an alternative to the Hansa's tasty fare.

Did you know?

- We have 48 twin/double rooms, 6 family units and 3 luxury suites and an executive suite, each with an en-suite bathroom with separate bath and shower, tea and coffee facilities, bottled mineral water, a 15-channel television, underfloor heating, a safe, bathrobes, a telephone and internet connection.
- All suites and some rooms have air-conditioning.
- Breakfast and an à la carte dinner are served in our dining room.
- You can have lunch al fresco on our terrace overlooking the inner garden.
- Our rates include accommodation and Continental or English breakfast buffet and newspapers.
- Discounted parking is available.

Included: Bed, breakfast and one dinner [excludes dinner on the second night].

Day 4

Marine Desert Adventure

Highlights

- Capture the breathtaking views of Walvis Bay from the ocean and look out for the Atlantic's magnificent sea creatures.
- Explore the awe-inspiring Sandwich Harbour area of the Namib-Naukluft Park in a 4x4.
- Enjoy sumptuous oysters of the region while picnicking on a deserted beach or in the desert.

The day starts at 09h00 with a marine cruise, exploring Walvis Bay Harbour, old boat wrecks, and the chance of spotting life such as pelicans, dolphins and seals, and even whales and turtles in season. At around 11h30, your skipper will drop you off on a deserted beach at the jetty of Pelican Point, where your Sandwich Harbour 4x4 guide will meet you with a Land Rover. You will be taken on an excursion to see the Kuiseb River Delta, the salt pans and the wetlands just north of the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon with the possibility of seeing their famed flamingos in one of southern Africa's richest and unique wetlands. If vehicles cannot make it there due to tides, there is time to walk the four or five kilometres. Alternatively, you will get a chance to see the Lagoon area from one of the many beautiful lookout spots. En route, a light meal with snacks and salads, as well as oysters – some of the best in the world – and sparkling wine, are dished up. On the return drive, more giant dunes are crossed, including the big roaring dunes. You will arrive in Walvis Bay at approximately 16h30 after a fantastic day out.

Day 5



Terrace Bay Lodge – Skeleton Coast National Park

Terrace Bay Lodge is situated in the Skeleton Coast National Park in north-west Namibia. As the only accommodation in the Park itself, Terrace Bay is a popular destination in a remote location. This rustic rest camp has 20 comfortable en-suite rooms and a family chalet, while the bar and restaurant are convivial areas in which to meet fellow guests and discuss the exciting day's happenings. This is also a destination for the angling crowd as the chances of catching a variety of fish here are amongst the best on Namibia's coastline. Please note that whilst accommodation is clean, functional and comfortable, it is not a luxury lodge comparable to Wilderness Safaris camps.

Did you know?

- Terrace Bay is a fantastic point from which to explore the Uniab River Delta.
- Walking along the beach to view the dramatic coastline is very popular activity.

Included: Dinner, bed and breakfast.

Days 6 – 7



Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp – Palmwag Concession (north) Wilderness Safaris – Classic Camp

Set in the starkly beautiful Palmwag Concession on the border of the legendary Skeleton Coast National Park, Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp offers a unique experience of one of the most remote places on Earth. Eight stylish, well-insulated en-suite tents with shaded outdoor lounges are laid out against a rugged backdrop of hills and overlook a broad valley at the confluence of two tributaries, providing breathtaking vistas over the highly photogenic landscape. A small plunge pool awaits you after summer activities, while a winter lounge provides a cosy respite from the icy Atlantic fog when it settles over the coastal plain.

Did you know?

- Kaokoveld is a land of rugged scenery, a historic coastline, vast plains, and dry riverbeds inhabited by a surprising amount of life.
- Activities on offer include game drives and nature walks.
- Rewarding sightings of desert-adapted elephant, Hartmann's mountain zebra, oryx, giraffe and springbok may be expected on game drives while coastal wildlife sightings might include the elusive brown hyaena and black-backed jackal.
- Birdlife is equally exciting including endemics like bokmakierie.
- The concession is a joint venture with the neighbouring Community-based Conservancies of Anabeb, Torra and Sesfontein.

Included: All meals, daily activities, laundry and drinks (excluding premium import brands)

Days 8 – 9



**Desert Rhino Camp – Kunene – Palmwag Concession (south)
Wilderness Safaris – Classic Camp**

At Desert Rhino Camp, you can take part in a thrilling and exclusive conservation success story. Tracking Africa's unique and endangered desert-adapted black rhino is an unforgettable experience. To set the scene, you will be shown into one of the eight en-suite Meru-style tents elevated off the ground. You can absorb the panoramic views over the rolling, rocky hills beyond from the privacy of your veranda. Full-day excursions are on offer; otherwise, between activities, relax in our tented living area. Evening meals are taken around the fire pit. As a wonderland of unusual plant life, fascinating wildlife and sparse wilderness, Desert Rhino Camp is begging to be explored.

Did you know?

- We work closely with Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) which is almost singlehandedly responsible for the preservation of desert-adapted rhino in the area. A portion of guest revenue goes to SRT.
- The impressive flat-topped Etendeka Mountains dominate the scenery. Dry river-courses like the Uniab River cut through the rocky landscape below, dotted with odd-shaped bottle tree, ancient leadwoods and unique welwitschias.
- Tracking desert-adapted black rhino is the primary activity here, complemented by game drives, walks and relaxing in camp.
- Other wildlife to be seen includes desert-adapted elephant, Hartmann's mountain zebra, giraffe, gemsbok and kudu as well as cheetah, leopard and spotted hyaena.
- Birdlife is varied with endemics such as bokmakierie and Ruppell's korhaan.

Included: All meals, daily activities, laundry and drinks (excluding premium import brands)

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL SAFARI NOTES

Private safari options: Tailored Explorations are available on flexible dates, accommodation and itineraries, for groups of up to eight guests. These are also ideal for families or for small groups from four guests.

Exclusive experience: Most areas in which we travel are private concessions, whilst at the lodges and hotels en route, as well as Wilderness Air light aircraft transfers we have the chance to meet other guests.

International air connection onto the safari: If arrival is planned for the day of the safari's departure, please ensure that this is with the earliest possible international flight arrival, before 07h00. Arrival on a later flight may necessitate additional road or air transfers (as the main group's departure for the first camp/lodge will already have taken place), subject to extra cost.

Please note that if the guest overnights in Windhoek on the night before the safari begins, they will be collected by the guide in the Explorations' vehicle from the hotel they stayed at. If they arrive by flight on the day the safari commences, they will be collected from the airport.

International air connections leaving the safari: Please ensure that your departure flight is booked for after 16h00 from Windhoek. For earlier international departure flights, an additional transfer will be required to arrive for this connection, subject to extra cost.

Routes: To maximise guests' travel time, a variety of travel modes that bring out the best of each area is used: flying in light aircraft charters and overland transfers provide both a bird's-eye view and an in-depth experience of the contrasting landscapes of Namibia.

Flashlights/ torches: Please ensure that a compact LED flashlight is brought on safari, with spare batteries. Head lamps are also useful. Wilderness Explorations does not supply flashlights.

Camera battery charging facilities: 110/ 220V outlets are available at the permanent lodges/hotels.

Dietary requirements and special occasions: Due to remote locality of these camps, please ensure that full dietary requirements and special occasions are advised at the time of your booking confirmation.