

## Diverse Namibia

### Windhoek International Airport

You will be met by your Explorations guide and begin your journey by driving (340 kilometres / 211 miles) through the Khomas Hochland mountains and down into the iconic Sossusvlei region, a driving time of approximately five hours.

## Diverse Namibia

### Day 1 – 2: Kulala Adventurer Camp, Sossusvlei

Explore the iconic red dunes and be awed by the desert-adapted wildlife surviving in one of the world's oldest and most arid deserts.

### Day 3 – 4 Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

Depart camp early and drive through the snaking roads of the Kuiseb Canyon and out onto the expansive gravel plains, eventually arriving in Walvis Bay before moving north into the quaint town of Swakopmund, a drive of about 5 – 6 hours (approximately 370 km / 230 miles).

Discover the town of Swakopmund and bed down in an iconic hotel that forms part of city's architectural culture.

### “Dolphin and Seal” Cruise

On Day 4, we explore the ice-blue Atlantic coast with a “Dolphin and Seal” catamaran cruise from Walvis Bay (weather permitting).

### Day 5 – 7: Damaraland Adventurer Camp, Damaraland

We continue our journey by road 320 kilometres (200 miles) and approximately 8-hour drive to Damaraland, west of the Brandberg Mountain, stopping for lunch at Ugab Save the Rhino Trust Camp. This area boasts the largest concentration of black rhino anywhere on the planet outside a national park.

The area boasts a varied assortment of desert-adapted wildlife and incredible geological formations.

### Day 8 – 9: Ongava Tented Camp, Ongava Game Reserve (Etosha)

We drive approximately 330km (205 miles and a 5-hour drive) to Ongava Game Reserve on the boundary of Etosha National Park.

Etosha remains the highest density wildlife area within Namibia, its fame justly acknowledged. We explore here, as well as the Ongava Game Reserve.

**Day 10:** Driving 420 kilometres (260 miles) south, we return to Windhoek at 13h00 and bid farewell to our adventure.

## EXPLORATION OVERVIEW

### Diverse Namibia – 9 nights / 10 days

#### A Wilderness Exploration

**Your journey:** Diverse Namibia is an active, exciting adventure, exploring the iconic areas of this vast country – its dunes, desert, plains and superb wildlife – enhanced by exclusive accommodation in private reserves and concessions. On this adventure you will take in the soaring red dunes of Sossusvlei, the life-filled blue Atlantic Ocean, the desert and denizens of Damaraland, and the dense plains game and predators of Etosha National Park. Throughout the Exploration are interspersed activities such as scenic walks and visiting the spectacular ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein – altogether, a true Namibian adventure with a range of activities impossible to beat!

**Your guide:** Explorations are led by highly skilled and qualified professional guides with an incredible passion for the natural regions they work in. Sharing the adventure and guiding you on this journey of discovery combined with their vast knowledge of the natural world, history and culture are their professions and 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.

**Did you know?**

- This active and exciting adventure will give you access to the wilderness and wildlife highlights of northern Namibia. The diverse mix of locations, habitats and experiences will showcase Namibia's iconic species and scenes.
- We drive (along lesser known paths) through huge private concessions and reserves.
- Your exclusive accommodation along the route is mostly in private areas away from the more crowded public areas.
- Wilderness' private access gate to Sossusvlei allows for early access in the morning – thereby improving photographic opportunities.
- We track the rare desert-adapted elephant following ancient paths to their freshwater springs.

**Days 1-2:**



**Kulala Adventurer Camp, Sossusvlei  
Wilderness Explorations**

Set on 37 000 hectares of land near the spectacular sights of Sossusvlei, the private Kulala Wilderness Reserve is home to Kulala Adventurer Camp. The camp, comprising of 5 "maxi" dome tents under the shade, is perfect for taking in the Reserve's expansive vistas and stark beauty and enjoys views into the Namib Naukluft National Park. Dining under the star-filled Namibian skies and watching a rose-red sunset punctuated by the cacophony of barking geckos are a few highlights, as is spending unrushed quality time at the towering dunes of Sossusvlei, known for their red colouring in the early morning sunlight, accessed through our private gate which is closer to the dunes than the main park entry gate.

**Did you know?**

- Desert-adapted wildlife such as ostrich, springbok and gemsbok can be seen on the reserve, as well as smaller creatures like bat-eared fox, black-backed jackal and Cape fox.
- Other activities include day and night scenic drives and walks.

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

**Supplier Ref #:**

**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, under-floor heating, a safe, bathrobes, a telephone and internet connection.
- All suites and some rooms have air-conditioning.
- Breakfast and an a 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]**

**Supplier Ref #:**

### **'Dolphin and Seal' Catamaran Cruise**

#### **Highlights**

- This catamaran cruise (weather permitting) provides a wonderful opportunity to explore this beautiful bay and coastline.
- Learn about the oysters cultivated in the bay.
- Spot wildlife from the boat including dolphins, seals, birdlife and perhaps even turtles and whales, depending on the season.
- Taste some of fantastic seafood delicacies of the area.

We explore the ice-blue Atlantic coast and its incredible marine mammals, from the port towns of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. The cruise takes in the Oyster Platforms, where we learn about the oysters cultivated here – including tasting the delicacies – before moving on to Pelican Point to see the lighthouse, and an area in which three species of dolphins may be encountered, namely the rare endemic Heaviside's dolphin, dusky and Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Aside from spotting diverse pelagic (ocean-going) birds, pelicans, flamingos, and Cape fur seals, the massive sunfish, leatherback turtles, southern right and humpback whales can be seen in season. This activity is rounded off with a private seafood lunch, before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon.

#### **Days 5 - 7:**



### **Damaraland Adventurer Camp, Damaraland Wilderness Explorations**

Damaraland Adventurer Camp is located in a special place in the heart of the rocky desert of Damaraland, an ancient, starkly beautiful landscape. Looking south from camp toward the imposing Brandberg Mountains, Damaraland offers you endless vistas and one of the best wilderness areas in Namibia. Early morning mists, generated by the clash between the icy Atlantic Ocean and the warm desert air of the Skeleton Coast, drift inland along the river valley, providing sustenance to the flora and fauna of the region, hence the high density of wildlife in the area. Accommodation is in 5 "maxi" dome tents pitched on timber platforms that allow for a small viewing deck where you can sit for

hours and contemplate the surrounding beauty. Tucked away in and amongst the sandstone hills, each tent is surprisingly spacious with wooden beds with mattresses and cotton linen. En-suite bathrooms with toilet and shower are located at the back of each tent.

**Did you know?**

- Damaraland boasts a breathtaking assortment of desert-adapted species including one of the highest concentrations of desert elephant and black rhino. Other wildlife includes Hartmann's mountain zebra, kudu, giraffe, gemsbok, and springbok, with occasional cheetah sightings.
- Our activities range from day and night nature walks and viewing the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein (a World Heritage Site) to daytime nature drives, exploring the mountains, hills and ephemeral river beds and springs.

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

**Supplier Ref #:**

**Days 8 - 9:**



**Ongava Tented Camp, Ongava Game Reserve**

Tucked away in the foothills of a dolomite hill, Ongava Tented Camp is one of Namibia's best-kept secrets. You will be captivated by the bustling waterhole in front of camp as wildlife file through to quench their much needed thirst. Your accommodation will be one of the eight delightfully rustic en-suite Meru-style tents, built on a raised wooden deck which stretches out over the wilderness. The stone, canvas and thatched main area, with its relaxed swimming pool completes this intimate camp. Bordering the iconic Etosha National Park and set within its own wilderness haven, you can expect unrivalled game viewing complimented by the tranquillity of a private reserve.

**Did you know?**

- Ongava Game Reserve was formed in 1991, when its shareholders converted four unproductive cattle ranches into a highly productive reserve, now home to large concentrations of wildlife.
- Etosha National Park takes its name from the world-famous Etosha Pan, one of the largest salt pans in the region. Around the pan, the topography ranges from broad swathes of mopane and tall tree canopies of woodland to open plains and dolomite hills.
- Game drives in both reserves will display a wide complement of wildlife including black-faced impala. Their predators, in particular lion, are never far away.
- Ongava is home to one of the largest black and white rhino populations in Namibia thanks to a successful reintroduction programme.
- Bird life is prolific with 340 species recorded.

Website: [www.ongava.com](http://www.ongava.com)

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

**Supplier Ref #:**

### **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, with Adventurer Camps being for the sole use of Wilderness Explorations guests. At the lodges and hotels en route we have the chance to meet other guests.

**An Adventurer camp** (Kulala Adventurer Camp and Damaraland Adventurer Camp): 3metre x3metre (9.84feet x 9.84feet) dome tents (maximum of two guests per tent) on a slightly raised wooden platform, covered in shade cloth, which are semi-permanent. Our dome tents are well ventilated with a mini veranda.

Wooden beds with mattress and crisp linen, duvets and pillows and towels and amenities (soap, shower gel and conditioning shampoo) are provided. In addition, there is a coir mat (inside) and a 12v reading light. The tents are large enough to stand in and move easily. The camps aim to provide simple camping comfort that is serviced. Hurricane lanterns and a good campfire light up the evening camp. Delicious meals are prepared around our campfire by our safari staff, creating a great atmosphere. The dining area is under the stars to ensure the 'camping wilderness' feel. A full dining table, director chairs and bush style stainless steel place settings and drinks glasses are set up to accentuate simple serviced comfort in pure wild areas.

The bathrooms will be en-suite with the entrance to the canvas-wrap open air bathroom (zip door) through the rear of tent. There is an en-suite bathroom with a flush toilet, basin and shower – with hot and cold running water available whenever guests require it.

**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 10h00. 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 met by the guide in the Wilderness Explorations' vehicle from the hotel they stayed at. If they arrive by flight on the day the safari commences, they will be met at the airport.

**International air connections leaving the safari:** Please ensure that your departure flight is booked for after 15h30 from Windhoek. For earlier international departure flights, an additional transfer will be required to arrive for this connection, subject to extra cost.

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

**Camera battery charging facilities:** Please note that a 12V cigarette lighter adaptor will be required (that is compatible with camera make) on this safari for charging batteries while on game drive or transfer drives. 110/ 220V outlets are available at the permanent camps.