



NAMIBIA DESERT DISCOVERY

Namibia will enthrall both return safari enthusiasts, and newcomers, with its fantastic and unique wildlife experiences and spectacular landscapes providing exceptional photographic opportunities.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, Namibia



12 days from AU\$25,725 pp



Private

Journey Overview

An exceptional experience awaits in Namibia. This is a land of vast and spectacular landscapes, of giant dunes, mountains, savannah, and possibly the oldest desert on earth. It's a destination that will enthrall the return safari enthusiast with its fantastic and unique wildlife experiences, and exceptional photographic opportunities. An excellent range of unique accommodation options, from boutique hotels to luxury tented camps and remote lodges, is sure to impress the discerning traveller.

Journey Highlights

- Admire otherworldly landscapes and important ecosystems
- Seek out rare wildlife on guided safari activities
- Spend time in a Himba settlement on an encounter with Namibia's last semi-nomadic tribe
- Explore the spectacular dunes of Sossusvlei and the extraordinary Dead Vlei landscape



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Windhoek

Arrive into the Windhoek International to a warm A&K welcome and transfer to your elegant luxury lodge situated in a private conservancy approximately half an hour from the airport. Begin your Namibian safari with a game drive to explore the 9,000-hectare reserve.

Zannier Omaanda | Meals: D

Day 2: Windhoek - Ongava Game Reserve

This morning you are transferred back to the airport for your private charter flight north to the Ongava Reserve which borders Etosha National Park. Etosha National Park is Namibia's premier wildlife destination and one of Africa's largest game reserves. In the dry season large herds of wildlife congregate around the waterholes and the endless plains offer breathtaking vistas.

Arrive at your exclusive safari camp in time for lunch. Perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking a waterhole, Anderssons at Ongava is known for its panoramic vistas of the surrounding savannah and its exclusivity.

This afternoon head into the Ongava reserve for your first game drive. Spanning 30,000 hectares along the southwest border of Etosha National Park, the reserve is home to a wide variety of wildlife including lion, leopard, giraffe, rhino, Hartmann's Mountain zebra, gemsbok (Oryx), kudu, steenbok and much more. The scenery is captivating with large open plains blending into mopane tree woodland areas and granite outcrops.

Anderssons at Ongava | Meals: BLD

Days 3-4: Ongava Game Reserve

Spend two days enjoying day and night drives, visiting hides and walks with experienced guides. Morning game drives into the easily accessible Okaukuejo area of Etosha National Park are rewarding with sightings of lion, elephant, gemsbok, springbok, red hartebeest and white and black rhino. For those who enjoy close wildlife encounters, tracking white rhino on foot in the Ongava Reserve is sure to be a highlight.

There is then time to relax by the pool, or in your suite, whilst your evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole while enjoying dinner.

Anderssons at Ongava / Meals: BLD

Day 5: Ongava Game Reserve - Kunene River

Following an early breakfast and game drive (time permitting), return to the airstrip to board your private charter flight to Serra Cafema Camp in the extreme north-west of Namibia overlooking the Kunene River in the Hartmann Valley. Eight intimate, peaceful canvas chalets offer rustic luxury among the shady trees of the riverbank. This afternoon explore the area with an afternoon nature drive or boat cruise on the Kunene River (water levels permitting).

Serra Cafema / Meals: BLD

Day 6: Kunene River

Spend your day at Serra Cafema enjoying the many activities on offer that revolve around the surrounding Namib Desert sands and the lush oases along the river. A highlight is a guided quad bike excursions through the dunes and walking in the remote mountain and river valleys. There are also visits to a Himba settlement - one of the last truly nomadic people in Africa.

Serra Cafema / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Kunene River - Kaokoland

After an early breakfast and activity (time permitting) return to the airstrip to board your private charter flight to Purros and the luxurious Okahirongo Elephant Lodge, perched on a hill above the banks of the ephemeral Hoarusib River.

Okahirongo Elephant Lodge / Meals: BLD

Days 8-9: Kaokoland

The next two days are spent here in Kaokoland, often described as one of the last truly wild parts of Namibia's Northwest. This is the only place in the world where elephant, black rhino, lion and other African animals live in a desert environment, and there will be many opportunities to seek these animals out. A range of activities are available for you to choose from including scenic drives through the stunning landscape, discovering the local flora and topography, tracking the rare desert elephant and other wildlife, visiting a Himba village, Sundowner cocktails in unforgettable locations, night walks and star gazing.

Okahirongo Elephant Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Kunene River - Namib Desert

Bid farewell to this beautiful lodge following breakfast and board your private charter flight south to Sossusvlei Desert Lodge via Swakopmund.

Arrive at Sossusvlei Desert Lodge in time for a guided excursion on the Reserve. Options include guided nature walks, a dune ecology activity, fat-biking and quad bike excursions.

Sossusvlei Desert Lodge | Meals: BD

Day 11: Namib Desert

This morning rise early for a magical guided excursion into the Namib Naukluft National Park, entering the park gates at sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft, and shadows accentuate their towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world. Your local guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and the fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to its harsh conditions.

Once you have explored the dune fields you can enjoy a relaxing picnic breakfast under the shade of a camel thorn tree. Return to the lodge in the early afternoon for a late lunch, stopping off to view the cool depths of Sesriem Canyon along the way, should time allow. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure or you may like to enjoy another guided excursion in the reserve.

Sossusvlei Desert Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 12: Namib Desert - Depart Windhoek

Board your charter flight this morning for Windhoek Airport where you are met and assisted with check-in for your departure flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Zannier Omaanda



From the lodge, enjoy far-reaching views over the scorched savanna. Choose from 10 enchanting huts with carved-stone interiors and traditional Owambo architectural features, and essential modern amenities. These all boast a relaxing private terrace from which you can drink in the panorama. There is also a fantastic heated infinity pool.

The on-site restaurant offers a great range of traditional Namibian cuisine. Enjoy fresh local produce, meat and tapas-style sharers, as well as delightful three-course dinners. The on-site boma gives you a chance to enjoy the long warm evenings, socialising and connecting around the fire. You can also wind down at the cosy bar or atmospheric spa.

A huge variety of excursions and experiences are offered twice daily. Enjoy safari drives, nature walks, tracking elephant, rhino or leopard, meeting meerkats and many other activities.

Why we like it

- Located in the heart of a wildlife-abundant private reserve
- Connect with Namibia at the on-site boutique and spa
- Spend long evenings at the boma, an ambient social setting
- Heated infinity pool overlooking the beautiful savannah
- The perfect place to reflect on your Namibian adventure

Anderssons at Ongava, Etosha National Park



Focussing on a light environmental footprint and an exceptional experience, Anderssons at Ongava has seven contemporary luxury guest units and one family unit.

The Anderssons at Ongava guest suites are designed as a direct extension of the landscape, with a natural stone buttress that draw guests in, facilitating a deep sense of place. Using natural elements and luxurious touches, the spacious suites reflect the environment, while offering guests a climate-controlled sanctuary in the bush. Each suite has a private viewing deck with a 180-degree panorama to admire their incredible surroundings.

Each guest suite comprises of en-suite facilities with separate toilet, double indoor shower and outdoor shower, double vanity basin, mosquito net, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer and electronic safe. During winter, cosy hot water bottles and extra blankets are provided.

Guests can relax in the expansive lounge area, drinking in gorgeous waterhole views, or take a dip in the infinity pool. Wildlife activities abound, with the opportunity to partake in game drives daily, bird watching, nature walks or visiting the water-level photographic hide for some up-close animal viewing.

A short walk from camp is the Ongava Research Visitor Centre, where guests can gain an in-depth understanding of the reserve's research into the genetics of Ongava's rhino population and conservation planning. Guests can explore the self-guided exhibition area or visit the 36-seat auditorium for interactive presentations and discussions.

Okahirongo Elephant Lodge



Immersed in the great wilderness of Kaokoland, Okahirongo Elephant Lodge has reopened its doors following an extensive refurbishment. With seven suites, a two bedroom private villa and a spectacular infinity pool, this extraordinary lodge may be one of the most unique places you will ever visit. Located in a remote, untouched region of Namibia, few visitors will have witnessed the surreal vistas that await you with rugged mountains, shifting sand dunes and curious rock formations.

This oasis is rendered in an organic architectural style that echoes the topography of the desertscape, with a striking dome reflecting the indigenous Himba culture. The open plan, main areas dazzle guests with stunning views of the vast mountainous landscape. Watch the sun rise over the glistening turquoise infinity pool above the rising hills beyond. With 360 degree views of the breathtaking landscape, take a moment to soak in the stillness.

Each of the seven spacious suites and the two-bedroom private villa has been designed as a sanctuary from the harsh desert environment with soothing tones to inspire relaxation. Find solace on the private shaded terrace and keep an eye on the horizon to spot giraffes, springbok and ostrich strolling by. The serene ambience continues to the ensuite bathrooms where an indoor shower is rendered in bleached-white plaster. In the private villa, large free-standing baths encourage rest and relaxation after a day in the desert.

Welcoming communal spaces blend chic style with relaxed open-air living. In the main lounge, chunky recessed shelves are dressed with white, clay

amphorae, curios and inspiring books, whilst the expansive and numerous social spaces offer panoramic views of the untouched wilderness. With open sides allowing the outside in, immerse yourself in the otherworldly landscape and experience a strong connection of place. After an action packed day in one of the world's oldest desert landscapes, unwind in comfort on the shaded patio.

andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge



Surrounded by dunes and desert mountains, andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge allows you to experience the peaceful stillness of the Namib. This area is untouched by light pollution, providing unparalleled views of the stars, and the resident astronomer is always happy to guide you through the constellations.

The suites are spacious and stylish, with all the homely comforts you need to truly relax. Enjoy your own wood-burning stove and the views from the floor-to-ceiling windows and the skylights in each room. An underground spring sources the lodge pool and clients also have access to a walk-in wine cellar. The food is expertly prepared and served on your private terrace, and the desert picnics are also extremely popular.

There are few opportunities to get so close to nature, and you can make the most of it with guided hikes, nature drives, quad biking adventures and even hot air balloon rides over this wilderness. The Namib Desert is full of sublime sights, and no trip would be complete without seeing the famous Sossusvlei salt pans glisten under the harsh sun.

Why we like it

- Elegant stone and glass villas complete with skylights
- Spectacular location in the Namib Desert
- Explore Sossusvlei and the Sesriem Canyon
- Enjoy stargazing with the resident astronomer
- Activities include quad biking, hikes and nature drives to discover this unique scenery

Abercrombie & Kent

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