

# Namibia Photography Safari



## Highlights

It's not difficult to see why Namibia's landscape and wildlife have featured in countless images in the media: The land is eerily, uniquely beautiful, the light can be otherworldly, and the flora and fauna are second to none. Point a camera anywhere in this land and you'd have something eye-catching; with a keen eye, good equipment, and a bit of luck on your side, you'll end up with the shots of a lifetime.

Namibia is a place of magnificent natural beauty, with huge spaces where human activity has left no imprint, the shapes and patterns of the land a visual testament to the powerful natural forces that have shaped them. Vulcanism and erosion, the continual action of sun and wind, have moulded and carved this place into a world like no other. Add to this the country's hundreds of native animal and plant species, including big game such as eland, zebra, lions and elephants, and the fact that the relative scarcity of waterholes guarantees that each one will draw crowds of animals, and you have a recipe for some of the finest Nature photography in the world.

This tour includes a visit to Sossusvlei, where wind and time have heaped sand into a great erg, or sand sea, containing the highest dunes in the world. At the nearby Deadvlei, you'll find yourself confronted in the flesh with iconic images of stark black tree-trunks set against huge orange dunes beneath a deep blue sky. You'll visit Spitzkoppe, the "Namibian Matterhorn", a deeply fissured ancient granite outcrop rising 700m above the desert plain, and Brandberg, the highest mountain in Namibia, rising from its broad red granite dome, the exposed magma chamber of an ancient volcanic system. The trip also includes a two-day exploration of the area around Okaukuejo, a camp in Etosha National Park next to a waterhole that's floodlit at night, offering unrivalled opportunities to take amazing shots of wildlife.

## Is it for me?

If you're a keen photographer, you'll know that there are some locations that seem to overflow with images just waiting to pour into a waiting lens. Namibia is just such a place; this really is a photographer's paradise. If you are serious about Nature photography, this trip takes you through some of the most unforgettable country in the world, with the specific purpose of allowing you the time to take photos to your heart's content, and with an emphasis on making the most of the best lighting conditions. As you'll be camping, you'll have to be prepared for less than five-star luxury, but this trip is all about experiencing the place, and capturing that experience.

## Accommodation

You'll be camping out on every night of this trip, always in established campsites that offer basic amenities such as water and established fireplaces, and sometimes, where necessary, such as at Okaukuejo, a protective gate-and-fence structure that serves at night to keep the game on one side and you on the other! Food varies from campfire-cooked meals to expedition fare (for packed lunches when on the move) to the traditional Braai- the Namibian barbecue, and arguably the best way to enjoy the taste of game! -The diet is balanced, tasty and nutritious.

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** You'll be transferred straight from the airport to Namib Naukluft Park; on the way you'll get your first glimpse of this vast and beautiful country. After a quick stop at Solitaire, the journey continues to Sesriem,

Prices from  
**2,265** GBP (9 days) per person

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gateway to Sossusvlei, which boasts the highest dunes in the world. After reaching the campsite where you'll spend the night, you'll take a short drive to the Sesriem Canyons.

**Day 2:** You'll rise early to reach Sossus and Dead Vlei at sunrise to make the most of the light. In the afternoon you can walk to Witberg for some wildlife photo opportunities. The evening again lights the dunes perfectly for photography before another night at Sesriem camp.

**Day 3:** In the morning you'll pack up camp and drive to Spitskoppe, the Namibian Matterhorn, with lunch en route. This huge granitic outcrop changes colour as the sun sets in the west, providing for more stunning photography. You'll camp at Spitskoppe.

**Day 4:** You can rise early to capture the first light at Spitskoppe. The afternoon will be spent inspecting and exploring the different Bushmen paintings in the area. The last part of the day is again solely for photos, before camping at Spitskoppe for another night.

**Day 5:** This morning you'll head for Damaraland, stopping at Uis to replenish supplies before heading to Brandberg, the highest mountain in Namibia. You'll stay at Ugab Wilderness camp.

**Day 6:** Today you'll explore the wilderness of Damaraland. We travel north towards the Doros Crater and its associated mountains. You'll arrive just after lunch, search for a suitable campsite and then start exploring the area. You'll Camp at Doros River.

**Day 7:** Rise early to catch the beauty of the desert dawn. You'll drive further North past Twyfelfontein, a world heritage site, and then on towards Etosha National Park. You'll arrive just before sunset, head straight for Okaukuejo and prepare camp.

**Day 8:** You'll leave camp as soon as the gates to the park open to use the soft morning sunlight when photographing game in their natural environment. The rest of the day will be used visiting different waterholes. As the afternoon approaches, you can choose where to head to catch the last of the sun's rays for more photos. Camp at Okaukuejo for another night.

**Day 9:** Last day! One more morning's light, then you'll pack up camp and head back to Windhoek. On the way, we will have a stop at the Okahandja Wood carvers, and you will be given the opportunity to buy some memorabilia.

## Details

### Getting there

You need to get to Hosea Kutako Airport, Windhoek. There are flights from most major UK airports.

### Price includes

Tour is all-inclusive when camping. Vehicles, guides, tents, food are all included in the tour price.

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

9 days

### Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed