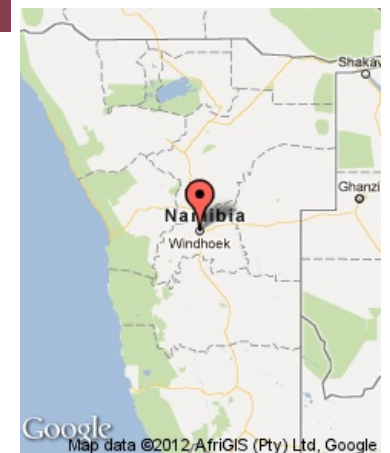


Northern Rivers Safari in Namibia



Highlights

Northern Namibia is a place of spectacular scenery, extraordinary wildlife, and ancient culture. Fed by the Okavango River, it supports a wealth of wild plant and animal life that make this one of the most extraordinary safari locations in Africa. Take a full two weeks to meander through this fascinating place and drink in its unique splendour!

A land of vibrant contrasts: arid deserts and lush river basins, vast emptiness and thronged oases, a place teeming with geological marvels and natural spectacles, Namibia's Northern region is bordered by a long stretch of the huge Okavango river, which feeds the annually-flooding delta in Botswana. This is a place rich with experiences for the traveller in search of beauty and excitement: a large part of the region is National park land, home to many species of game animals, who rely on the water brought by the river to survive in what is otherwise a dry and challenging part of the world in which to live.

Your safari will take you to and through Etosha National Park- one of the largest and most spectacular of Africa's game reserves, supporting an abundant population of wildlife due to a series of permanent waterholes that dot the shallow pan at its heart. You'll get plenty of chances to see the animals, including right up close at the Okaukuejo camp, where the nearby waterhole is floodlit at night.

You'll see Epupa Falls, Namibia's highest waterfall, on Kunene river, and later, on the massive Okavango river, you'll even have a chance to cage dive with crocodiles and hippos at Ngepi! There are cultural delights on this trip, too- visits to villages along the way where you can buy handmade goods, and Tsumkwe, capital of Bushmanland, home of the San people, oldest inhabitants of this region.

Is it for me?

This is definitely a trip for those who like adventure, and lots of it. An epic fortnight-long safari to some of the wildest, most beautiful country in Africa, a continent not short on wonders, that is guaranteed to leave a glowing impression. This is a trip to shake you up, to make you feel alive. From deserts to rivers, and (during the wet season) a flooded delta thronged with life, you'll be continually confronted with vibrant new experiences: the itinerary presented below doesn't even begin to do the trip justice, since it's had to be rather heavily abbreviated due to lack of space!

Accommodation

On this long and varied safari, you'll spend eight nights in lodges and five nights camping beneath the stars. The lodges vary from large, luxurious waystations to smaller, more down-to-Earth, yet still very comfortable places, which however offer a charm and character all their own. Camping is always at established campsites, which offer some basic facilities (including running water, washing places and, of course, toilets) to make the stay more comfortable without impinging on the direct experience of the open country. Food varies from traditional Namibian Braai -meat cooked over charcoal in a barbecue manner- to hearty evening campfire fare made all the more tasty by its being enjoyed beneath the African night sky. Vegetarians note: like South Africa, Namibia is a nation of meat lovers!

Itinerary

Day 1: Windhoek - Waterberg Plateau Park (325 Km)

Prices from
3,625 GBP (14 days) per person

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From Windhoek you'll head north towards the Waterberg Plateau Park for a rest at the foot of this beautiful cliff.

Day 2: Waterberg - Okaukuejo (Etosha National Park) (290 Km)

Today you'll travel to Etosha National Park. The day draws to a close at Okakuejo camp. Wildlife at the floodlit watering hole will be your entertainers for the night.

Day 3: Okaukuejo - Kavita Lion Lodge, via Otjivasandu (138 Km)

You'll head west towards Otjovasando and possibly see springbok, zebra, blue gnu, oryx, giraffe, kudu and even lion. Meals are served outdoors under a thatched Lapa and the evening is greeted with a well-deserved sundowner around a fire.

Day 4: Hobatere- Opuwa-Epupa Falls (390 Km)

Today you'll travel north-west to Opuwa, the capital of the Himba-pastoralists, then on to Kaoka Otavi before heading to Kunene River, the first of the five northern rivers visited during this safari. You'll camp on the river's edge not far from the highest waterfall in Namibia, the Epupa Falls.

Day 5: Epupa and area (100 Km)

Today you'll explore the edges of the Kunene River and some Himba villages further inland. There is leisure time to explore the vegetation along the river or try fishing.

Day 6: Epupa-Ruacana-Hippo Pool Campsite (143 Km)

You'll follow the southern bank of the Kunene River to Ruacana and visit Namibia's only hydro-electric power scheme, beside another amazing waterfall, spending the night at the Hippo Pool Campsite, a short distance downriver.

Day 7: Ruacana-Onguma Bush Camp (470 Km)

You'll follow the river from Ruacana to Onguma passing through Ovamboland, passing seasonal floodplains, white sands, shebeens and Makalani Palms. Onguma is a private game reserve bordering the Etosha National Park.

Day 8: Onguma-Hakusembe River Lodge (417 Km)

You'll head north towards the mighty Okavango River. Your destination is Hakusembe River Lodge on the banks of the river.

Day 9: Hakusembe-Ngepi (220 Km)

Your destination for the day is the famous Popa Falls on the Okavango River. After lunch, we head to Ngepi, the only place in the world where you can experience crocodile and hippo cage diving!

Day 10: Ngepi-Mahango Game Reserve (100 Km)

Today you'll drive to the nearby Mahango Game Reserve. Elephant, Hippo, Crocodiles, Roan and many other species can and will be observed. After lunch is leisure time on the riverbank.

Day 11: Ngepi - Khaudum Camp (150 Km)

You'll travel to the Khaudum Game Reserve, a true wilderness, to view some of the "dry rivers" of Namibia, with the chance to see more animals along the way.

Day 12: Khaudum Camp-Sikereti (100 Km)

Soutwards through the wilderness. You'll camp in the Nhoma Omaramba, in a camp known as Sikereti.

Day 13: Sikereti-Roy's Camp (340 Km)

Today you'll continue on to Tsumkwe, at the heart of Bushmen land. Here, it will be possible to buy memorabilia all handmade by Bushmen/San craftsmen. Camp at Roy's Camp again.

Day 14: Roy's Camp-Windhoek (552 Km)

Details

Getting there

You need to get to Windhoek. There are flights from most major UK airports.

Price includes

Tour as described, including meals, transport, guides, accommodation, meals as specified.

Price details

Price quoted above is per person based on two sharing. Discounts are available for larger groups.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 weeks

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

