

NORTHERN NAMIBIA TOUR

06Night / 07Days



This accommodated version introduces you to the Big cats at AfriCat Foundation, Desert Mountains, the coast, the Himba people, ancient rock engravings and the Petrified Forest. All within just a little more than one week. This safari can be combined with our 3-day Namib Desert to make an unforgettable 10-day combination tour.

INFORMATION

Okonjima Nature Reserve

Midway between the spectacular Etosha National Park and the capital city of Windhoek, lies the well-known Okonjima Nature Reserve. The 22 000-ha nature reserve is home to AfriCAT, a carnivore sanctuary, which gives the captive cats a second chance to be released back into the wild and become completely independent hunters in a protected area right in the middle of commercial cattle farmland. Visitors can enjoy a stay at a variety of excellent accommodation options including everything from luxury villas to secluded camping. Enjoy thrilling cat tracking guided safaris, leopard-spotting, off-road night drives and learn about local San culture along the Bushmen trail.

The AfriCat Foundation

The AfriCat Foundation was founded in the early 90's and formally registered as a non-profit organisation in August 1993. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores.

Okonjima - The AfriCat Foundation

Okonjima Nature Reserve in central Namibia is home to The AfriCat Foundation. It has grown significantly since it was established as a welfare organisation in the early 1990s and registered as a non-profit organisation in 1993. Today, AfriCat's mission is the long-term conservation of some of Namibia's large carnivores – such as brown hyaena, leopard and cheetah, all of which can be seen during an environmental education visit to Okonjima.

Etosha East

Located in North-western Namibia, Etosha East is a protected sanctuary in the eastern part of the world-renowned Etosha National Park, known as one of the most accessible game reserves in Southern Africa. Etosha East boasts vast open plains scattered with semi-arid savannah grasslands dotted with watering holes and secluded bush camps. An impressive 5000-square-kilometre Etosha salt pan makes up a large area of the eastern side of the park and can even be seen from space. This remote area teems with abundant wildlife such as lions, elephants, black rhinos and giraffes, as well as a variety of birdlife featuring flamingos, ostriches, eagles, hornbills, and owls.

Otjikoto Lake

Otjikoto Lake is located in Etosha East, Namibia. It has an average depth of 148 feet, and takes up a surface area of 1.3 acres. The lake was used as a dumping ground for war materials during World War I. The majority of the larger pieces of ammunition have been recovered and placed in the Tsumeb Museum, however at least 2 cannons still remain in the lake.

Etosha Game Drive

Game drive through Etosha National Park searching for predators, plains game, reptiles & birds.

Game drives are conducted in custom built safari vehicles with a pop-up roof and large opening windows to maximize photographic opportunities.

Depending on the time of year, these game drives take many different routes, but most often focus around the waterholes where you are most likely to see a variety of wildlife taking the chance to get a drink and swim.

Etosha National Park

Situated in north-western Namibia, the Etosha National Park offers a premier game viewing experience. The park's diverse vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a variety of wildlife. Located in the heart of the park is the Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000 square kilometres. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after seasonal rains, making it the perfect habitat for wildlife. In the dry season, the wildlife is attracted to the perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing. Visitors can look forward to world-class game viewing including a variety of large mammals such as lion, elephant, leopard, rhino, zebra, giraffe, a diversity of birdlife such as flamingos and pelicans.

Etosha South

Located just south of the boundary of Etosha National Park in north-western Namibia, Etosha South makes up the southern region of this wild paradise. Ongava Private Game Reserve shares the southern boundary with Etosha National Park and offers an array of luxury lodges overlooking picturesque landscapes dotted with abundant wildlife. The national park can be accessed via the southern entrance at Andersson's Gate. Visitors can catch a glimpse of a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. Popular activities include: game drives, tracking rhinos on foot, guided nature walks, or watch the sunset over this magnificent landscape.

Palmwag

Palmwag is a nature reserve idyllically located along a palm-lined tributary of the Uniab River. Water is scarce in this area, so the river's presence often lures elephants closer to the camps. Palmwag is situated halfway between Swakopmund and Etosha, and is the ideal base from which to see the sights of the Kunene region or embark on one of the many local hiking trails. The reserve is notable for its unusual species of palm tree, the *hyphaena pertesiana*, and for being home to the largest population of south-western black rhinos in Africa. Animal lovers can also get a peek at leopard, lion, cheetah, mountain zebra, Angolan giraffe, springbok, kudu, and African bush elephant.

Otjikandero Himba Orphanage Village

Otjikandero Himba Orphanage Village is located close to the local Kamanjab cattle farm in Himba Village. The village is inhabited by Himba kids, who are taken care of by volunteer mothers. All the children are raised in the traditional way, although a few of them have been slightly westernised because of the school they attend. Otjikandero Himba Orphanage Village is funded by the money received from tours to the village. Funds are used for medical purposes, food and other basic needs. Tourists will have the opportunity to see the Himba people in their natural environment as well as observe their culture. Excellent photo opportunities are also available.

Brandberg

Situated in north-western Namibia, the Brandberg (Fire Mountain) Massif is Namibia's highest peak, at its zenith, the Königstein (King's Stone), standing at a whopping 2573 metres above sea level. Named for the vivid shade of orange it sometimes turns at sunset, this is undoubtedly the main highlight of the region. The Brandberg has been sacred to the San people for centuries. The Tsisab Ravine at its base is permeated with over 45 000 ancient San rock paintings, including the famous 'White Lady'. Visitors

flock here to view this unique bushman painting, said to be over 2000 years old. Other popular drawcards include its untouched natural beauty and its free roaming wildlife such as mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, and desert elephant.

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Twyfelfontein is a World Heritage Site boasting one of the richest rock art concentrations in Africa. Thousands of tourists come to this site each year to view some 2, 500 Stone Age rock engravings. The area is home to 17 rock art sites, which collectively encompass 212 engraved stone slabs. There are an additional 13 sites displaying rock paintings.

Swakopmund

Set along Namibia's spectacularly scenic coast, the seaside town of Swakopmund is known for its wide-open avenues, colonial architecture, and its surrounding otherworldly desert terrain. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort town, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, adventure options, laid-back atmosphere and cool sea breeze make it a very popular Namibian destination. Visitors can look forward to a number of exciting activities including: quad biking, horse riding, paragliding, fishing, sightseeing and fascinating desert tours.

Cape Cross Seal Colony

This colony of Cape Fur Seals is one of the largest in the world, home to approximately 80 000 to 100 000 of these so-called 'seals', which are in fact a species of sea lion. Day trips to the colony are offered and the seals can be viewed from a walkway at a distance of roughly 200 metres.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Okonjima Plains Camp, Okonjima Nature Reserve

Pickup is between 08:30 and 08:00 within Windhoek city. This first day will take us to Okonjima. It is the home of the AfriCat Foundation, a conservation operation that focuses on the African big cats, particularly the cheetah. This afternoon you will be taken on a tour that will provide us with more insights on this wonderful conservation program the learning will be enhanced by the opportunity of seeing some of the animals.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp – Full Board Basis + AfriCat Foundation Excursion

Okonjima Plains Camp

Plains Camp honours the Hanssen's family cattle-farming heritage with its three-tier accommodation facility of 10 spacious View Rooms, 14 spacious Standard Rooms and six affordable Garden Rooms.

It is family-friendly and wheelchair accessible.

The Plains Camp is 700m from the airstrip within the secluded wilderness area of Okonjima Nature Reserve and has majestic sunset views. Its design honours the Hanssen's family cattle-farming history with its three-tier accommodation facility of 10 large View Rooms, 14 spacious Standard Rooms and six affordable Garden Rooms. It is family-friendly and wheelchair accessible.

Okonjima was a cattle farm since the early 1920s that was bought by Brahman breeders Val (VJ) and Rose Hanssen in



1970. By the time Namibia gained its independence in early 1990, they needed to address increasing livestock losses and growing interest in Namibia as a tourist destination. Three years later their herds of Brahman and Jersey cattle were sold and Okonjima's attention turned to recovering the grass plains and transforming it into a nature reserve, with a primary focus on carnivore conservation through The AfriCat Foundation. Today it's a luxurious African safari destination in the heart of Namibia that's ideal for wildlife photography and famed for its cheetah, brown hyena and leopard sightings.

Day 2: Namutoni Resort, Etosha East

This morning we have an early start, heading towards the Etosha National Park. We travel via Lake Otjikoto, which is in fact Namibia's largest permanent natural lake. Enough time here to rest a little and learn something about the history of this unusual landmark. Having arrived in Namutoni and set camp and familiarized with the surroundings, we make our first game drive during the cool of the afternoon. The game viewing is usually excellent with close views of springboks, zebras, impalas, giraffes, gemsboks and plenty of birds. If we are lucky, we may also have some close encounters with elephants and lions. Back at the resort we may enjoy a glass of wine and experience a fabulous sunset from the tower of the old German fort before dinner at the lodge

Overnight: Namutoni Resort – Full Board Basis + Lake Otjikoto Excursion + Late Afternoon Game Drive + Park Fees

Namutoni Resort

The lodge centres on an old German Fort overlooking the King Nehale waterhole; an elevated decked walkway provides excellent opportunities for enjoying the surrounding scenery, wildlife and the spectacular sunsets. The Fort has been developed into a hub of activity, offering two restaurants, a relaxation lounge, a bar, crafts boutique, curio shop, jewellers and bookstore. Accommodation is provided in comfortable double rooms or bush chalets. Camping is also available.



Day 3: Okaukuejo Resort, Etosha South

This day we spend most of it watching wildlife. A visit to a number of waterholes is high on the cards and we make a stop at the Etosha Pan, the “place of dry water”. The Pan is an extensive flat depression of about 5,000 km². This great, white expanse is a place of shimmering mirages, and seeing large herds of game in this setting makes Etosha a unique experience in Africa. We may stop at Halali middle camp to have lunch and relax before we continue to the southern side of the park and our place of stay at Okaukuejo. After dinner a visit to the floodlit waterhole is strongly recommended as there are good chances to see rhinos and lions come to drink.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Resort – Full Board Basis + Game Drive with your Guide

Okaukuejo Resort

Okaukuejo is located 17 km from the southern entrance of the park, and famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting. Accommodation is provided to suit every need, in premier bush chalets overlooking the waterhole; bush chalets and double rooms; or family chalets. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, shop, swimming pool, kiosk and camping facilities.



Day 4: Palmwag Lodge, Palmwag

We go again as kick start the day with a game drive before leaving the park and drive into the Desert Mountains of the Kaokoveld, one of the last true wildernesses of Southern Africa and home of the Himba people. We shall pay a visit to Otjikandera Himba village where we are going to meet the local inhabitants. A special guide is going to be available for the time we are there, the guide is going to translate for us and introduce us to this “tribe”. We are going to learn about marriage customs, traditional food and we will visit the “holy fire”. Later we proceed to Palmwag where we spend the night.

Overnight: Palmwag Lodge – Full Board Basis + Otjikandera Himba Village Excursion

Palmwag Lodge

Palmwag Lodge & Campsite is situated in the Palmwag Concession next to one of the tributaries of the ephemeral Uniab River in north western Damaraland / Kunene region. The newly renovated lodge and campsite is nestled between huge Makalani palms and Mopane trees.

Palmwag Lodge is situated 500 meters north of the veterinary control gate on the C 43 to Sesfontein. From Kamanjab you can reach Palmwag Lodge on the C 40, 120 kilometres away, and from Khorixas you can reach Palmwag Lodge on the C 39, 160 kilometres away. Palmwag Lodge is an ideal stop over on the way to the Kaokoland, Etosha and the coast.



Palmwag Lodge manages and operates the 582,000-hectare large concession area. Abundant wildlife such as mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, giraffe, lion, desert adapted elephant, the endangered black rhino and many other species occur here. Palmwag Lodge operates a well-maintained gravelled runway for fly in safaris, just a few hundred meters away from the lodge. The runway is 1200 meters long.

Day 5: Brandberg White Lady Lodge, Brandberg

Having completed the morning activities, we drive via the C48 gravel passing by the small town of Bergsig. We see the Petrified Forest and rock engravings on the way to Brandberg. The Brandberg Mountain is an ancient Bushman spiritual site and tonight we will sleep in the shadow of this giant granite monolith.

Overnight: Brandberg White Lady Lodge – Full Board Basis + UNESCO Bushman rock engravings at Twyfelfontein

Brandberg White Lady Lodge

Brandberg White Lady Lodge is named after the San paintings for which the Brandberg became famous. It is a place where you will feel at home and enjoy a true warm-hearted hospitality, "tranquillity" is name of the game. At the Lodge you find a fully licensed restaurant, a well-stocked bar, comfortable lounge and a large pool area. And if you are lucky you might bump into a dessert adapted elephant.



Day 6: Desert Villa Guest House, Swakopmund

We start early to enjoy the cool of the morning. Our first stop is in the small town of Uis, an old mining town and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here rough amethyst, tourmaline and other stones can be found at bargain prices. Having arrived at the coast we drive to Cape Cross and the seal colony with close views of thousands of fur seals. Tonight, we may take the chance to try the excellent restaurants in Swakopmund. The seafood in Swakopmund is superb. Your guide will offer to organize a group meal in a local restaurant for this evening. Participation is recommended but by no means required. Dinner is not included in the price of the safari and will be on the client's own account.

Overnight: Desert Villa Guest House – Breakfast and Lunch + Seal Colony excursion at Cape Cross

Desert Villa Guest House

Desert Villa Guest House is centrally located in Swakopmund, Namibia. It is within walking distance of the town centre, shops and restaurants, as well as the beautiful Swakop River, dunes and the main beach. The villa offers guests 9 spacious rooms, each with a uniquely decorated atmosphere, named after famed deserts of the world. The villa has satellite TV, WI-FI internet access, as well as coffee and tea facilities in the rooms. Laundry service, secure parking and a delicious breakfast is also offered.



Day 7: End of Itinerary

Today we drive to Windhoek Your guide will discuss all possible optional activities with you and offer to make pre-booking in advance, (N.B. all extra activities in Swakopmund are at the client's own expense).

Breakfast and Lunch