

Abercrombie & Kent



## NAMIBIA: DUNES & DESERT SAFARI - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2024)

Venture into a unique desert wilderness of  
desolate beauty and surprising vitality.

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Small Group Journeys, Marco Polo Small Group Journeys



Namibia, Africa



12 days from AU\$35,125 pp



12 Guests

## Journey Overview

Venture into a unique desert wilderness of desolate beauty and surprising vitality, discovering Namibia at its most compelling. Encounter rare wildlife in Etosha National Park and marvel at otherworldly landscapes, including the iconic dunes of Sossusvlei, on a journey that introduces you to the indigenous Himba tribe and takes you far off the beaten path into the truly remote and breathtaking Skeleton Coast.

### Journey Highlights

- Stay in African desert lodges set in four genuinely remote locations, accessing them with ease on private chartered flights
- Track diverse, desert-adapted wildlife in the Onguma Private Game Reserve as well as Etosha National Park, Namibia's premier game-viewing destination
- Explore the Purros Conservancy, a rarely glimpsed realm of desert-adapted elephant, giraffe and springbok
- Experience authentic interactions with residents of a Himba village for in-depth, personal insights into Namibia's last traditional tribe
- Go off the beaten path in Skeleton Coast National Park, an isolated coastal desert unlike any other in the world
- Walk among the spectacular dunes of Sossusvlei, a salt-and-clay pan surrounded by towering dunes



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Windhoek | Namibia**

Arrive in Windhoek, Namibia and transfer to your luxury permanent camp set on a private wildlife reserve in the countryside surrounding Windhoek. Later, enjoy a sunset safari drive followed by a Scenic Sundowner cocktail and welcome dinner.

***Habitas Namibia | Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Onguma Private Game Reserve | Amazing Game**

Board a private aircraft for a flight to the 84,000-acre Onguma Game Reserve. Upon arrival, settle into your luxury lodge before setting out on an afternoon game drive around the private reserve. Watch for any of the hundreds of species of birds in the region as well as an astonishing variety of game, including lion, black and white rhino, elephant and giraffe. Return to your comfortable camp set near a waterhole.

***Onguma The Fort | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Onguma Private Game Reserve | Etosha's Gems**

Today, experience a guided morning game drive into the Etosha National Park to view more of the wide variety of game and bird species roaming terrain that includes grasslands and salt pan. Return to your lodge for lunch followed by time to relax at the refreshing infinity edge swimming pool. Then, head out again for a sunset drive, perhaps sighting cheetah, gemsbok or a flock of flamingo.

***Onguma The Fort | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 4: Purros Conservancy | Into The Beyond**

Fly by private charter to your next destination, a luxury lodge in the Purros Conservancy. Often described as one of the last truly wild areas in the northwest of Namibia, the conservancy is roamed by desert-dwelling elephant. Arrive in the late afternoon with time to relax at your tranquil lodge before dinner. Your magnificent lodge sits atop the banks of the Hoarusib Riverbed, affording an impeccably appointed base for your adventures.

***Okahirongo Elephant Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 5: Purros Conservancy | Meet The Himba**

Head out on an early morning drive through a stunning wilderness secluded far off the beaten track, keeping an eye out for distinctive plant life, strange rock formations and rare desert-adapted elephant. This afternoon, head out to meet members of the last nomadic tribe of Namibia, the Himba. Revel in this authentic opportunity to learn about the customs and traditions of this very proud nation, mingling with tribal members sporting ochre-red braided hair and costumes of hides and beads, and gaining insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine.

***Okahirongo Elephant Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Skeleton Coast National Park | Ghostly Remains**

Board a private charter flight to Skeleton Coast National Park, a hauntingly beautiful dunescape dotted with the bones of beached whales, seals and shipwrecks. Upon landing, transfer to your lodge, where you relax amid views of Damaraland's dunes and the Atlantic Ocean. Then, experience the phenomenon of "singing sand" at the Roaring Dunes before returning to the lodge for dinner.

***Shipwreck Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner***

### **Day 7: Skeleton Coast National Park | Into The Dunes**

Today, embark on an ATV adventure through the dunes of the Skeleton Coast. Then, try your hand at duneboarding or explore the Hoarusib River and the Clay Castles, a striking geological formation. Cap your day off with a Scenic Sundowner cocktail overlooking the Atlantic.

***Shipwreck Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Swakopmund | Coastal Colonial Enclave**

After a scenic drive along the coast, board your private charter flight to the city of Swakopmund, a former German colonial enclave of seaside promenades, half-timbered homes and wind-swept beaches. Upon landing, transfer to your hotel for lunch. Then, embark on a city tour featuring the town's historic lighthouse and railway station. Tonight, enjoy an evening at leisure.

***Strand Hotel Swakopmund | Meals: BL***

### **Day 9: Sossusvlei | Above A Haunted Landscape**

This morning, Ride Like a Local with a private cruise of Walvis Bay, keeping an eye out for pelican, seal, dolphin and whale. Come ashore for your Chef's Table experience, a private traditional barbecue set on the sands of a local beach. Then, fly by private charter to Sossusvlei, taking in a bird's-eye view of the dune sea, a landscape dotted with shipwrecks and salt pans. Upon arrival, continue overland to your luxurious camp nestled on a private concession of the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

***Kwessi Dunes | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 10: Sossusvlei | Climbing "Big Daddy"**

Today, explore Sossusvlei, a place of stark yet undeniable beauty. The salt-and-clay pan is surrounded by towering dunes that, together with the sky, comprise the palette of burnt oranges and vivid blues so distinctive to the region. After an opportunity to climb "Big Daddy" — the tallest of the dunes — return to your lodge for an afternoon at leisure.

***Kwessi Dunes | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 11: Sossusvlei | Guided Desert Explorations**

Rise early for a full day exploring with your choice of a guided nature walk, ATV trail ride or scenic drive of the NamibRand Nature Reserve. Observe the area's unique desert-adapted plants and wildlife, and learn about the efforts to conserve its distinctive ecology. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner with your fellow guests.

***Kwessi Dunes | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 12: Depart Windhoek**

Return by light aircraft to Windhoek, where you connect with your departing flight.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

### Included with every Marco Polo Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

### Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

## Map



## Accommodation

### 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.

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

**Aug 31, 2024 - Sep 11, 2024**

| Price                | Single Supplement | Internal Air (From) | Availability          |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>AU\$35,125 pp</b> | AU\$14,300        | Included            | Call for Availability |

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