



NAMIBIA UNEARTHED

Venture into a vast landscape of shimmering salt pans, red dunes, glittering oceans and haunting coastlines where the sunsets are unforgettable and the wildlife abundant.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, Namibia



13 days Call for a quote pp



Private

Journey Overview

Venture into a vast landscape of shimmering salt pans, red dunes, glittering oceans and haunting coastlines where the sunsets are unforgettable and the wildlife abundant. This is Namibia, home to one of the oldest, most pristine and rugged landscapes on the planet — the Namib desert — and some of the continent's finest game reserves. With specialist guiding throughout, you'll obtain an intimate understanding of the country's ecology and wildlife, its ancient cultures and its otherworldly landscapes. Photography enthusiasts can look forward to rare scenes of nature and mesmerising tribal portraits in one of the most unique places on earth.

Journey Highlights

- Climb some of the planet's highest free-standing sand dunes at Sossusvlei
- Spend the night in a star bed gazing at one of the clearest skies in the world
- Look for desert-adapted wildlife including the elusive desert elephant at Damaraland
- Admire extraordinary rock art at the UNESCO World Heritage site, Twyfelfontein
- Game drive along the edge of the saltpan in the Etosha National Park visiting the many waterholes where you can often see herds animals congregating
- Enjoy a cruise on Walvis Bay looking for Marine life with a Namibian braai for lunch with local oysters



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Windhoek

Arrive into Windhoek to a warm Namibian welcome and transfer privately to your lodge. Begin your Namibian safari with a game drive to explore the private conservancy. Perched on a rocky ridge over 123,000 acres of rolling plains and wildlife, Habitas Namibia offers understated luxury with sweeping panoramic views of the landscape.

Habitas Namibia / Meals: D

Day 2: Windhoek - Sossusvlei

Take a shared light aircraft to majestic Sossusvlei in the Namib desert where the Little Kulala lodge awaits. This afternoon, see the desert come alive on guided nature walks and drives, e-bikes, or low-impact quad bikes. Finish the day with a cooling dip in the private plunge pool followed by sundowners and dining under the stars.

Little Kulala / Meals: BLD

Day 3: Sossusvlei

Rise early and venture into the remote and dramatic Namib Naukluft National Park to capture the dunes while the light is soft. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world, and as the sun rises, photo-worthy shadows highlight the undulating curves. Listen in as your local guide imparts ancient knowledge of the desert, and the unexpected wildlife and plants that have adapted to its harsh conditions. If you're feeling active, climb the 300-metre red dunes and gaze upon the famed Namib Sand Sea World Heritage site, Dead Vlei.

Once you have explored the dunes, enjoy a relaxing picnic breakfast under the shade of a camel thorn tree, and look out for herds of oryx running across the sands. 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. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure, or you may like to enjoy another guided excursion in the reserve.

Little Kulala / Meals: BLD

Day 4: Sossusvlei - Swakopmund

Fly to Swakopmund. With its half-timbered German architecture, seaside promenades and pervasive Gemütlichkeit, Swakopmund can feel like a holiday town along Germany's North Sea and Baltic coasts. On arrival, transfer privately to your seaside hotel. This afternoon head out on a short city tour and appreciate the quirky architecture, the Woermann House, Atlas House, and the Lutheran church, and a stroll around the city centre.

Strand Hotel / Meals: B

Day 5: Swakopmund

This morning transfer to nearby Walvis Bay and set out on a catamaran cruise in search of iconic marine life — whale, dolphin, Mola Mola, leatherback turtle and seal. Sail to Pelican Point with its landmark lighthouse and 60,000 resident Cape fur seals — one may even jump aboard the boat. Keep an eye out for larger mammals, such as the southern right and humpback whale, the grey whale and the pygmy right whale. Dolphins are easiest to spot from August to October, and whales from July to November.

Jump off onto the beach, where a sumptuous Beach Braai (barbeque) awaits. Feast on Namibian crayfish, freshly shucked oysters and beef fillet as you enjoy views across the ocean. This afternoon, explore Sandwich Harbour and UNESCO World Heritage site Namib Sand Sea on an exhilarating 4x4 excursion before returning back to Swakopmund.

Strand Hotel / Meals: BL

Day 6: Swakopmund - Damaraland

Today fly north and inland to wonderful and diverse Damaraland to visit a local Himba settlement. The Himba are one of the last Namibian tribes with proud customs and traditions. Gain a humbling insight into their extraordinary unchanged way of life. Settle in for a night of delicious dining at Onduli Ridge, so named after the area's resident giraffe. Tonight, perhaps roll your king bed out onto the deck and fall asleep under the watchful gaze of the solar system.

Onduli Ridge / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Damaraland

After breakfast scour the river valleys in a 4x4 searching for game. Your guide will share their intimate knowledge while local villagers welcome you. One of the most underrated wildlife-watching areas, and one of Namibia's last 'unofficial' wildlife regions, this area is home to critically endangered black rhino, desert-adapted lion and elephant, as well as endemic gemsbok, zebra, giraffe and spotted hyena. Next brace for an extraordinary viewing at Twyfelfontein. Hidden in the rocky clefts of Damaraland is UNESCO World Heritage site Twyfelfontein, which contains the largest concentrations of petroglyphs in Africa. There's even a petrified forest nearby, as well as palm-fringed, oasis-like valleys. The impressive rock art galleries depict a vast array of wild animals and footprints. This evening, enjoy sundowners as you toast to another spectacular Namibian sunset.

Onduli Ridge / Meals: BLD

Day 8: Damaraland - Ongava Game Reserve

This morning, meet your driver guide who will transfer you by road to the privately owned Ongava Game Reserve adjoining Etosha National Park — Namibia's premier wildlife destination.

Embark on a guided afternoon nature drive on the Ongava Reserve. The massive conservancy offers visitors the perfect escape into the Namibian bush with fascinating insights into the research projects and conservancy efforts that are helping to preserve the area's iconic species. After your game drive, settle into your luxurious accommodation.

Anderssons at Ongava / Meals: BLD

Day 9: Ongava Game Reserve - Onguma Game Reserve

Set off early for a full-day game drive through Etosha National Park exploring refreshing waterholes along the way and stopping enroute for a picnic lunch. Large herds of game concentrate around the waterholes in the dry season, while summer's sporadic rainfall produces a profusion of new life, with prancing baby springbok and comical young wildebeest.

This afternoon, arrive at the Onguma Private Game Reserve and the exclusive Onguma Camp Kala offering panoramic views over a busy waterhole with game viewing from every angle. Then, perhaps relax in your woodfired hot-tub surrounded by the haunting sounds of the desert.

Onguma Camp Kala / Meals: BLD

Day 10: Onguma Game Reserve

Today explore the eastern side of Etosha with a morning game drive, which is expertly guided to find the very best vantage points for sightings and photography. The pan provides a great silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages in an area of semi-arid savannah and thornscrub. There are close to 114 species, including black-faced impala, and the endangered black and white rhino.

The Onguma Private Reserve boasts over thirty different animal species including kudu, giraffe, eland, oryx, hartebeest, zebra, and impala, as well as predators such as lion, cheetah and leopard. There are also more than 300 bird species and during the Namibian summer months the reserve becomes a bird-watcher's paradise with thousands of species migrating to the wetlands.

Onguma Camp Kala / Meals: BLD

Day 11: Onguma Game Reserve - Okonjima Nature Reserve

Your journey heads south by road this morning to Okonjima Nature Reserve and Okonjima Bush Camp. Okonjima Nature Reserve is home to the Africat Foundation whose mission has been to try and ensure the survival of Namibia's predators in their natural habitat. Okonjima is one of the premier places to witness endangered species like the aardvark, pangolin and brown hyaena in the wild while being educated about conservation.

On arrival, your guide from Okonjima will discuss your program for the next two days. There are numerous activities to choose from including leopard tracking, an endangered species nature drive, game drives and a visit to the AfricCat Carnivore Care Centre where you will learn how the AfriCat Foundation was born. You may also enjoy exhilarating night drives, rhino tracking on foot and pangolin tracking on foot (additional cost applies).

Settle into your safari chalet amidst the pristine wilderness. Take some time to learn about the leopard research and conservation efforts, or simply relax in your luxurious tented room, and lose yourself in the wilderness that surrounds you.

Okonjima Luxury Bush Camp / Meals: BLD

Day 12: Okonjima Nature Reserve

Spend the day exploring the reserve with your choice of activities.

Okonjima Luxury Bush Camp / Meals: BLD

Day 13: Depart Windhoek

Transfer back to Windhoek International Airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Okonjima Bush Camp, Okonjima Nature Reserve



Okonjima's Luxury Bush Camp situated on the edge of the expansive wilderness of Okonjima Nature Reserve offers an unforgettable immersive safari experience. The eight exclusive African-style chalets enjoy complete privacy and panoramic views, blending in with a combination of earthy, ochre walls and khaki-green canvas, under a thatched roof. For that little extra luxury, the singular Junior Suite boasts incredible African wilderness views, a private ensuite, a fireplace for those ambient evenings, and a bath tub to soak away the day of adventure. Take a dip in the secluded swimming pool, admiring the breathtaking bush landscapes before the onsite chefs tantalise your tastebuds with a flavourful dishes built on local produce, served alongside truly welcoming African hospitality.

Out on daily game drives, be enthralled by leopard and cheetah sightings as you explore the natural beauty of the African bush. With many waterholes near to camp, guests are sure to be left in awe with up-close, intimate sightings of endemic wildlife. Those feeling particularly adventurous can head out of a mountain biking exploration, and bird watchers will rejoice in the variety of local species the frequent the area.

Okonjima is home to the AfriCat Foundation, an organisation whose mission is to ensure a future for the large carnivores of Namibia. You can choose to witness some of the projects such as the Cheetah Rehabilitation Project at

work, during your stay at Okonjima.

Why we like it

- Home of the Africat Foundation
- 8 thatched, African-style chalets with open lounge and sala completely equipped with a lounge area including mini-bar, 2 couches and a coffee/tea station for that early morning 'cuppa'
- Experience a day in the life of the bushmen
- Secluded swimming pool, outside and inside fire place and an independent kitchen, restaurant and bar

Onguma Camp Kala



The intimate four-suite camp in Onguma Nature Reserve is the perfect choice for an exclusive-use stay with family and friends. This luxury lodge provides a home-from-home feeling along with a few extra touches from butler service to your own private plunge pool.

Each of the spacious air-conditioned suites has a wood-fired hot tub and cooling plunge pool. Follow the walkway to your own shaded sala with a king-size outdoor day bed – perfectly placed for an armchair safari where you can sleep out under the stars.

The whole camp, distinctive with its conical mud-plastered central tower, is elevated on wooden stilts which blend into the natural surroundings and link all the suites. From its lofty position, wildlife spotting is a highlight from the lounge to the cocktail bar – there are many prime spots to enjoy the comings and goings.

The dining area has an open chef's kitchen and all-day pantry plus fire pit to gather for a sundowner. For guests who want to be more active there is a fully equipped gym, while those who want to relax can enjoy a massage in the spa room or practice yoga on the deck.

Daily safari drives take you deeper into Onguma Reserve and there are opportunities to get off your vehicle and explore with your expert guide. Photographers can use the Onkolo hide, a concealed space at water level to capture images of visiting zebra or springbok.

You can also venture to Etosha, one of Africa's largest national parks, where you can seek out more of Namibia's diverse wildlife alongside your guide. The park is known for its gushing springs and roaming herds of elephants.

Why we like it

- Perfect exclusive-use retreat with only four guest suites
- Extensive and exclusive space to explore
- Wildlife from elephant to zebra is drawn to the watering hole day and night
- Discreet home away from home which includes butler service and wood fired hot tub
- Ideal base for a safari to Etosha National Park
- Our top tip: if you want to sleep under the stars and feel at one with nature, take advantage of the Dream Cruiser at Onguma Camp Kala, a converted truck with a bed placed on top

Anderssens at Ongava, Etosha National Park



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

The Anderssens 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.

Little Kulala Camp, Kulala Wilderness Reserve



Kulala means 'to sleep' and what better place to drift off, under a sky littered with thousands of stars. Little Kulala is a wonderful property furnished with exquisite fixtures and fittings, each of the eleven thatched villas are set amongst 21,000 hectares of the private Kulala Wilderness Reserve.

Private plunge pools, bleached decks and rooftop 'skybeds' ensure a romantic, exclusive stay. Game drives and walks aim to share with you the solitude and beauty of the Namib Desert. Desert adapted wildlife such as ostrich, gemsbok may be seen by day and aardwolf and bat-eared fox by night. For the ultimate way to witness the sheer vastness of Namibia a morning hot air balloon ride can be arranged. (Closed 15 January - 15 February).

Why we like it

- Little Kulala is the nearest property to the entry gate of the Sossusvlei dunes, ensuring that guests are some of the first people into the park in the morning
- Contemporary in style with creams and glass allowing the desert landscape to remain the focal point
- Sleep out under the stars on your very own rooftop "skybeds"
- Activities include nature drives into the desert
- Little Kulala is the perfect choice for a luxury desert retreat

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