



# TRAVELTIMES

### NAMIB DESERT SWAKOPMUND AND SKELETON COAST DAMARALAND ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK WINDHOEK KAOKOVELD

## FAST FACTS

Did You Know?

### How to Spend it

Namibian biltong

Himba bracelet



### Food



### In Numbers

Population: 2.3 million

80% of the country is made up of desert.

The Namib Desert is the world's oldest desert and has been arid for more than **55 million** years.

Namibia is the world's **5th** largest

2 spectacular deserts can be found in Namibia; the Kalahari and the Namib.

Namibia is bordered by 4 countries: South Africa, Zambia, Botswana and Angola.

2nd lowest population density in the world.

### Care of the Land, Wildlife and People

In Namibia, proceeds generated from the sale of solar lamps, at &Beyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge's Safari Shop, support a nearby Orphanage through a "feeding scheme in the desert". Additionally, we collaborate with like-minded travel partners, whose ethos also extends to the preservation of Africa's wild areas and its vibrant people; such as Wolwedans, who are committed to the conservation of the Namib Desert and its surrounding communities. Another such example is the AfriCat Foundation, first-hand the vital efforts of the foundation and gain valuable insight into carnivore conservation.



### Caught on Film



## LEGENDARY LANDSCAPES

#### **NAMIB DESERT**

The Namib Desert is a world of vast spaces, endless horizons, dramatic desert scapes and jagged mountain heights. One of the oldest, driest and most pristine areas on earth, the Namib Desert plays host to the largest private nature reserve in Southern Africa, the NamibRand Nature Reserve, which spans 180 000 hectares (445 000 acres) of unspoiled desert wilderness. The spectacular dunes at Sossusvlei, arrayed in magnificent hues of orange, tower over a vast, dry pan. Over 230 metres (750 feet) high and constantly shaped by the wind, these breathtaking dunes are among the highest in the world.



Namibia's western coast plays host to an array of popular destinations - most notably, Swakopmund and the Skeleton Coast. The charming town of Swakopmund retains a strong German flavour - from its cobbled streets and picturesque buildings to typical German restaurants and pubs. Further along the coastline is the atmospheric Skeleton Coast, named after the many ships that sank here over the past few centuries. The rusted remains of wrecked ships are often surrounded by swirling mists, and make for moody and dramatic visuals. The Skeleton Coast is home to the flourishing Cape Cross seal colony — one of the largest breeding colonies of Cape fur seals.

#### **DAMARALAND**

The breath-taking mountainous region of Damaraland is home to an assortment of desert-adapted wildlife such as elephant, rhino, zebra and lion, which eke out an existence in this near-barren landscape. A not-to-be-missed attraction is the picturesque Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, which is home to thousands of ancient rock paintings - most notably the White Lady. The rocky outcrops of Twyfelfontein feature exceptional Bushmen engravings, which are considered to be some of the best preserved etchings on the continent. Visit the Petrified Forest, which dates back millions of years and offers a haunting landscape of gigantic fossilised trees.

#### **ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

Etosha is one of Africa's great wildlife parks and Namibia's prime wilderness conservation area. Spanning a vast 22 300 square kilometres (8 610 square miles), it consists mostly of grassy plains around a huge salt pan, which becomes a beautiful lake after heavy rains and attracts large flocks of pink candy-floss-coloured flamingo. Etosha hosts a vast array of animals, including the Big Five, as well as giraffe, and rare and unusual species like the black-faced impala, Hartmann's mountain zebra or the smallest antelope in the world, the Damara dikdik.

#### **WINDHOEK**

Namibia's capital, Windhoek is a bustling metropolis that is unexpectedly neat and orderly, though this is perhaps less surprising when one considers it was a German territory for many years. This is the main port of call for most tourists, and all travellers pass through the city at least once. Situated in a pretty valley, Windhoek boasts buildings very much in the German architectural style. The German presence can be strongly felt in the food, restaurants – and, of course, the beer. The Namibian beer is said to be the best in Africa and is brewed in Windhoek.











# BEYOND COMPARE

		NAMIB DESERT	SWAKOPMUND AND SKELETON COAST	DAMARALAND	ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK	WINDHOEK						
Why we Love it	Highlights	- Known as the "Living Desert", the dunes of the Namib abound with desert- adapted creatures  - Take to the skies for an unforgettable hot air balloon journey over the desert's dramatic landscapes  - Witness the highest dunes in the world at Sossusvlei  - Marvel at the clear night skies on a stargazing adventure		<ul> <li>Embark on a thrilling tracking safari in search of desertadapted elephant and rhino</li> <li>Discover ancient rock paintings – most notably the White Lady</li> <li>View the petrified forest, dating back millions of years</li> <li>Visit a Himba village and learn interesting facts about the Himba people and their way of life</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Discover the famous "white elephants" of Etosha, renowned for taking white clay baths</li> <li>Photograph the large flocks of flamingoes that visit the park after heavy rains</li> <li>Search for the Big Five as well as rare and unusual species like the black-faced impala, Hartmann's mountain zebra or the Damara dikdik</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Namibia's gateway and capital city</li> <li>Renowned for the strong German presence found in the architecture, food, restaurants – and, of course, the beer</li> <li>Discover the heritage and sites on a city tour</li> </ul>						
	International Flights	International flight access into Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek). Direct flights into Windhoek from Johannesburg and Cape Town (South Africa), Lusaka (Zambia) and Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe).										
ire	Domestic Flights	Eros Airport is Windhoek's domestic airport. Light aircraft flights link Windhoek to major tourist areas such as Swakopmund, The Skeleton Coast, Damaraland, Etosha and Namib Desert; and are operated on a scheduled seat-on-plane or private basis.										
Getting There	Gateway Airport	Eros Airport / Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek)	Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek) / Swakopmund Airport	Eros Airport / Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek)	Eros Airport / Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek)	Eros Airport / Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek)						
	Self Drive	Namibia is an ideal self-drive destination, although distances between major centres are considerable. All <b>&amp;Beyond</b> guests begin their self-drive journey in Windhoek, and are given a comprehensive briefing by knowledgeable staff regarding road conditions, suggested sightseeing along the route and other relevant information.										
	\$\$\$	Sossusvlei Lodge Kulala Desert Lodge	Swakopmund Guest- house Hotel Zum Kaiser Strand Hotel		Mokuti Lodge Onguma Etosha Aoba Lodge The Mushara Outpost	Galton House Olive Grove Guest House						
Where to Stay*	SSSS	Wolwedans Lodges and Camps		Camp Kipwe Mowani Mountain Camp Etendeka Mountain Camp	Onguma - The Fort Ongava Lodge	Hotel Heinitzburg Olive Exclusive Boutique Hotel						
	\$\$\$\$\$	Little Kulala &Beyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge	Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp Skeleton Coast Safaris	Damaraland Camp Sorris Sorris Lodge	Ongava Tented Camp Little Ongava							

# ACTIVITIES

		NAMIB DESERT	SWAKOPMUND AND SKELETON COAST	DAMARALAND	ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK	WINDHOEK	BEST KEPT SECRETS		
	Morning & afternoon game drives	0		•	•		Explore Namibia with a private guide throughout		
	Night game drives	0			0		your tailor-made journey. Our expert guides offer		
ARI	Nature walks	0		•	•		a wealth of knowledge on Namibia's best loved		
SAFARI	Photographic safaris	0		•	•		destinations — perfect for families, first-time visitors		
	Elephant & Rhino tracking			•			and repeat guests.		
	Birdwatching	0	•	•	•				
	Catamaran cruise			Set out on a quad bike					
	Hot Air balloon safaris	•					trail through the dunes, led by an experienced		
	Stargazing	•					guide. Enjoy the solitude and majesty of the desert		
ш	Scenic flights	•	•				as the trail winds over the dunes and rocky outcrops. As the day		
ADVENTURE	Horse-riding	•	•				comes to an end, stop to enjoy a chilled sundowner		
DVEN	Sandboarding		•				as a blanket of stars slowly comes to life in the		
A	Shipwreck adventure		•				velvety sky.		
	Hiking	•	•	•					
	Boat cruises		•						
	Quad bike trips	•	•						
	Rock art	•		Venture to the ancient					
CULTURAL	Village visits & community trips	•	•				rock art engravings at the World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein, with		
COL.	History		•			•	an archaeologist.		
	Beerhouse tour					•			
	Lion	•	•	•	•		Embark on a "Living		
LIST	Leopard	•		•	•				
CHECKLIST	Elephant			•	•				
	White rhino				•				
SRIVE	Black rhino	•		•	•				
GAME DRIVE	Cheetah  Small desert animals	•	•		•				
GA	Cape Seals, penguins & marine life		•						

## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
TEMPERATURE HIGH*			84°F	83°F				69°F	75°F	81°F	85°F	87°F	89°F
	TEMPERATURE LOW*	64°F	63°F	61°F	56°F	51°F	44°F	43°F	48°F	55°F	59°F	62°F	63°F
	RAIN FALL*	0.14"	0.13"	0.12"	0.07"	0.02"	0		0	0	0.02"	0.02"	0.09"
	VALUE**	\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$	\$\$
≥	Capture the starry nights skies in the Namib desert						•	•	•	•			
GRAPH	Cloud formations, thunderstorms and softer light - excellent for scenic photography	•	•	•									•
PHOTOGRAPHY	Ideal time to capture the starkly beautiful, red dune silhouettes of Sossusvlei						•	•	•	•	•		
<u> </u>	Photograph the "white elephants" of Etosha					•	•	•	•	•	•		
	Clearest skies for stargazing						•	•	•	•			
	Excellent game-viewing at Etosha as animals congregate around waterholes during the dry season				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
/ITIES	Embark on a Namib dune and desert adventure	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ACTIVITIES	Dry season and comfortable temperatures make this the best time for hiking and nature walks					•	•	•	•				
	Windhoek's vibrant Oktoberfest										•		
	View San Rock Art paintings at Twyfelfontein	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NOI	Opportunity to see many baby animals on safari	•								•	•	•	•
GETAT	Excellent bird wathcing as migratory species arrive	•	•	•	•						•	•	•
WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION	Whale watching season along Namibia's coastline							•	•	•	•	•	
LIFE A	Flamingos congregate at Walvis Bay in Swakopmund						•	•	•	•	•	•	
WILD	Flamingos gather in Etosha	•	•	•								•	•

<sup>\*</sup> Temperature and rainfall based on Windhoek. Source: Accuweather. Climate varies regionally and according to altitude - measured in farenheit and inches.

\*\* The \$ / \$\$ / \$\$\$ references are used to indicate rate variation and are not associated with specific values. Please refer to the FAQ section for more information.

## ITINERARIES



### Enchanting Namibia Safari - 11 days / 10 nights

- 1 night Windhoek
- 2 nights Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert
- 2 nights Swakopmund
- 2 nights Damaraland
- 1 night Central outskirts of Etosha National Park
- 2 nights Eastern outskirts of Etosha National Park



Namibia Dunes & Desert Safari - 4 days / 3 nights

• 3 nights Namib Desert



#### Romantic Namibia Tour & Safari - 10 days / 9 nights

- 1 night Windhoek
- 3 nights Skeleton Coast
- 2 nights Swakopmund
- 3 nights Sossusvlei (Namib Desert)



#### Add to Your Experience . . .

- 4 nights Cape Town (South Africa)
- OR
- 3 nights Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)