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## **Etosha Camping Safari**

**Swakopmund - Windhoek**

**Saturday – Monday (3D/2N)**

A budget-friendly camping safari to famous Etosha National Park, home to abundant wildlife including lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, giraffe, wildebeest, cheetah, hyena and much more.



This 3-day/2night budget camping safari starts in Swakopmund early on a Saturday and ends Monday afternoon in Windhoek. We'll enjoy a scenic drive to world-renowned Etosha National Park where we spend 1 full day plus an afternoon game viewing, searching for predators & prey alike.

Spend your evenings at the floodlit waterhole waiting for animals to come and drink.

Etosha National Park stretches approximately 22,000 sq km and is named after the famed Etosha Pan. Upon leaving Etosha, we make a final stop at the Okahandja craft market for some local souvenirs before we head back to Windhoek at the journey's end of one of our most popular safaris.

\*\* There are also accommodated tours available rather than camping \*\*



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## Snapshot

- **Starts** : Swakopmund, Saturdays year round (0845)
- **Ends** : Windhoek, Monday pm
- **Duration** : 3 days, 2 nights
- **Price** : AUD \$1,150
- **Accommodation**: Twin share tents, shared ablution at the campsite
- **Meals**: 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- **What's included**: English speaking guide, camping equipment (excluding sleeping bag which can be hired), most meals, pick up and drop off at accommodation within Windhoek, National Park entry fees
- **What's not included**: Flights, tips, travel insurance, optional activities, accommodation in Windhoek

**\* A daily shuttle transfer from Windhoek to Swakopmund is available via a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company, departing at 0700 and 1400 daily, costing approx. AUD \$30**

**\* Solo travellers will be matched with another traveller of the same gender on a twin share basis**

**\* This Camping Safari is on a full participation basis, meaning you have to put up and break down your own tent as well as clean your own dishes**

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Saturday) Swakopmund to Etosha

Pick up is 0845 from one of four designated hotels in Swakopmund and once the group has gathered we head on the main scenic road, passing the small town of Outjo, and onwards to Etosha National Park.

We are introduced to the park with a short game drive between the main entrance gate (Anderson Gate) and Okaukuejo Camp with a good chance to spot big game right from the very start. Etosha is huge, just over 22,000 square km and is home to 114 species of mammal, 350 species of bird and 110 species of reptile.

After setting up our campsite, depending on time we will head out for a short late afternoon game drive in search of big game. Elephant, rhino, giraffe and the big cats are often seen in this area. We also look for the smaller species, several types of antelope and gazelle abound, zebra are common and the bird life can be spectacular.



All visitors must be back in camp at sunset, but the 'game show' doesn't stop when the sun goes down. Assessable on foot and only a short walk from our campsite, Okaukuejo is justly famous for its flood-lit waterhole where we are afforded the chance to see all of Etosha's treasures. Big cats, elephant and the whole spectrum of smaller game, but in particular, this is our best chance of getting up close to a black rhino. Namibia is the last stronghold of these critically endangered creatures but here, at Okaukuejo, they are regular visitors.

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### **Day 2 (Sunday) Exploring Etosha**

We have the whole day to explore Etosha and we want to make the most of it. The park gates open at sunrise and after a quick cup of coffee and a snack we will aim to be on our way as the sun breaches the horizon. Early morning is usually a productive time for game viewing and first thing in the morning is a good time to catch big cats returning from the hunt. Today we will meet our local guide at the gates of the park and have a full day of game driving on an open game veiver.

Along the way, we will make a stop at a designated picnic area for a quick breakfast before continuing our game drive en route to the camp at Halali where we will have lunch. There is a small shop with basic merchandise and a few souvenirs and there will also be time for a swim in the pool. There is also time to visit the Halali camp waterhole before we head back out into the park for our afternoon game drive.

On our way back to Okaukuejo we will stop to have a closer look at the Etosha Pan. The name Etosha translates as 'great white space' but this name does not do justice to the immensity of the salt pan. Over 4,700 square km of the dazzling white mineral pan, is so big that it can be seen from space.



Keeping a sharp lookout for game as we wind our way back to Okaukuejo, we aim to arrive back at our just before sunset and just in time for the best hour of the day at the Okaukuejo waterhole.

### **Day 3 (Monday) Etosha to Windhoek**

After breaking camp for the last time, we will game drive to the park exit, hoping to catch sight of some magnificent predators and plains game before heading south to Windhoek, we stop briefly at the small town of Okahandja to refuel our vehicle. This is also where we will

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find Namibia's largest wood carving market. Craftsmen from all over Namibia come here to showcase a wide variety of items both large and small. Here we have the opportunity to collect a truly Namibian souvenir and at the same time to support the local artists and communities.

We aim to be back in Windhoek in the late afternoon and there will be a shuttle service to take you to your accommodation within the Windhoek City limits.

We recommend that departure flights are not scheduled for today.

