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## **Etosha Lodge Safari**

**Windhoek - Swakopmund**

**Tuesday – Thursday (3D/2N)**

**& Thursday – Saturday (3D/2N)**

Search for wildlife on an overnight Etosha safari, then pass through Damaraland & Skeleton Coast before we finish in quirky Swakopmund



Departures on this 3 day adventure are from Windhoek every Tuesday & Thursday, and this itinerary is a fantastic way to quickly "Snapshot" three of Namibia's greatest highlights.

Amazing wildlife opportunities abound in Etosha National Park, lion, leopard, elephant and giraffe, black rhino and eland are all in the mix of possible sightings.

Stunning in every season, beautiful Damaraland delights with its mountains and grassland, trees and riverbeds, desert elephant and desert rhino and its iconic towering pink granite koppies. Himba, Herero & Damara people, often in traditional dress, welcome us to their roadside traditional handicrafts stalls. Reaching the wild and rugged Skeleton Coast, we follow the ocean road into the quirky town of Swakopmund, a great place to relax and recharge.

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## Trip Highlights:

- Safari in Etosha National Park
- Experience Namibia's unique Skeleton Coast
- Experience traditional culture
- Explore the quirky town of Swakopmund

## Snapshot

- **Starts** : Windhoek, Tuesdays / Thursdays year round (0700)
- **Ends** : Swakopmund, Thursday / Saturday pm
- **Duration** : 3 days, 2 nights
- **Accommodation**: Twin-share accommodation at resorts/lodges
- **Price** : AUD \$1,895 per person, twin-share. Single room upgrade on request.
- **Meals**: 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- **What's included**: 2 nights' accommodation, most meals, pick up and drop off within Windhoek, airport shuttles, National Park entry fees English speaking guide, transport in a custom-built safari vehicle, drinking water
- **What's not included**: Flights, tips, travel insurance, optional activities, accomm in Windhoek before/after, drinks and snacks



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## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Tuesday / Thursday) Windhoek to Etosha (L/D)

You will be collected from your accommodation within the Windhoek city limits at 0700 and once the group is together we'll have a short pre-departure meeting before we hit the road.

Heading north from Windhoek, we stop briefly at the small town of Otjiwarongo before continuing to Etosha, and we enjoy a light lunch pack whilst on the move. We enter Etosha National Park and embark on a game drive to our overnight accommodation. There are good chances of spotting many different creatures as we tour through the park, stopping at the various waterholes along the way.

We aim to arrive at our lodge before sunset, allowing time to settle in before dinner at the camp restaurant. The 'game show' in Etosha doesn't stop when the sun goes down. All the Etosha camps have floodlit waterholes for extra game viewing opportunities. The waterhole is located near our accommodation and a visit or two is highly recommended after dark as we can expect many species to visit during the night. This waterhole is renowned for its popularity with elephants and the critically endangered black rhino.



### Day 2 (Wednesday / Friday) Exploring Etosha (B/L/D)

We have the whole day to explore Etosha in an open game viewer vehicle, and we will make the most of it by taking an early breakfast and then getting out there. Early morning is usually a productive time for wildlife viewing, and often a good time to catch big cats returning from the hunt. During the day 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

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of the salt pan. Over 4,700 square km of dazzling white mineral pan, so big that it can be seen from space.



We exit Etosha at the Anderson Gate, close to sunset, and it is just a short drive to our accommodation.

### **Day 3 (Thursday / Saturday) Etosha to Swakopmund (B/L)**

After breakfast, we aim to be on the road by 0730 - we are heading for the Skeleton Coast and we are taking the scenic route ! We first head south on the main road, passing the small town of Outjo, and then continue west, picking up the gravel road as we travel through the area known as Damaraland.

Damaraland is renowned for its stunning scenery, majestic mountains, vast open grasslands and tall koppies (small hills) of rounded pink granite boulders, as well as its expansive landscapes and vast blue skies. We also have the opportunity to meet some of the locals, as there are several places along our route today where we can find informal shops selling locally made, handcrafted souvenirs. Represented here are ladies from the Himba, Herero, and Damara tribes, often wearing their traditional attire.

We continue through the beautiful landscape, making a stop for a light picnic lunch under the shadow of Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg. Rising from the desert floor, this giant monolith is 2,573 m above sea level and is formed of pink-tinged granite. We continue our journey west and soon arrive at the coast and the chilly Atlantic Ocean. The whole coastline of Namibia is known as the Skeleton Coast, and it is easy to see why this barren seaboard is so named, with its forbidding mountains and barren beaches. The wind, the waves and the huge fog banks all conspire to push ships onto the beach. The countless

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mariners who, in olden times, found themselves shipwrecked here faced the stark prospect of no fresh water, no food, no rescue and a slow death by exposure. Their Shipmates who went down with their ship were thought to be the lucky ones.



Heading south on the coast road, our next stop is a more recent shipwreck. 15 km south of the small town of Henties Bay, a fishing trawler, The Zeila, was beached in 2008. She was an old vessel that had been sold for scrap and was under tow at the time. The cable snapped, and, like so many ships before her, she was caught in the swell and currents and ended up stranded. She lies pretty close to the shore and is well-positioned for photos.

We complete the final leg of our journey to Swakopmund, where you will be dropped off at whichever accommodation you have booked. Founded in 1892, Swakopmund is an interesting town to say the least, bounded on 3 sides by the mighty dunes of the Namib Desert and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. There are many examples of colonial German architecture to be seen, and the German language remains widely spoken here.

A daily shuttle transfer from Swakopmund to Windhoek is available via a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company, departing at 0800 and 1500 daily, costing approx. AUD \$30.