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## **Sossuvlei Camping Safari**

**Windhoek - Swakopmund**

**Wednesday – Friday (3D/2N)**

A budget-friendly camping safari to the stunning dunes of the Namib Desert and the iconic Deadvlei.



This 3-day/2-night budget camping safari into Sossusvlei is perfect for those who enjoy the outdoors. Departing from Windhoek early on a Wednesday, this 3-day tour spends 2 days in the Namib Desert, the oldest desert in the world, before arriving to Swakopmund on the Skeleton Coast on Friday pm. An action-packed itinerary with stops at the Tropic of Capricorn, Big Daddy, Deadvlei, Sossusvlei, Dune 45, Sesriem Canyon and sunset from Elim's dune.

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



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## Trip Highlights:

- Sossusvlei
- Deadvlei
- Big Daddy
- Dune 45
- Sesriem Canyon
- Sunset from Elim's dune

## Snapshot

- **Starts** : Windhoek, Wednesdays year round (0700)
- **Ends** : Swakopmund, Friday 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

**\*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 (Wednesday) Windhoek to Sesriem campsite

You will be collected from your accommodation within the Windhoek city limits at 07:00 and transferred to head quarters for a short pre-departure meeting.

There is some lovely mountain scenery on our drive to Sesriem. The road climbs up onto and over Namibia's central plateau and we stop at the small town of Rehoboth for essential supplies. Back on the road we pass via the small community at BüellsPort from here we continue on through the desert landscape. We aim to arrive at Sesriem around lunchtime and make our campsite under a huge, ancient camelthorn tree from where we can glimpse the towering red dunes of the world's oldest desert. We enjoy a late afternoon picnic-style lunch after setting up camp.

In the late afternoon, there is the option with which to start our time in the world's oldest desert. A short drive will take us to Elim Dune, for the best golden light before sunset. From here, if you would like to, it is a relatively short walk back, through the desert, to our camp.

### Day 2 (Thursday) Sesriem and Sossusvlei

Sunrise in the dunes is the name of the game this morning and that means a pre-dawn start. Our first stop will be at Dune 45 and we cover this first distance in darkness and early morning twilight. We arrive at the top of Dune 45 and climb to a vantage point for sunrise, watching as the colours grow and change with the ever-altering light.



Back to the vehicle for a quick breakfast and we carry on to Sossusvlei, jumping into a 4x4 for the last 5km leg along the ancient Tsauchab Riverbed to Sossusvlei itself. We will visit Dead Vlei, an ancient pan completely surrounded by sand, that is strikingly populated with

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dead, skeletal camelthorn trees. These trees have been a feature of this landscape for over 1000 years. We have time to explore the area on foot and to climb one of the highest dunes in the world, some towering 300 m above us, the views are breathtaking and justly famous.

We drive back to Sesriem for lunch and perhaps a dip in the swimming pool, and in the afternoon we take a short excursion to Sesriem Canyon. Only four km from our campsite, this canyon has been carved out of the landscape by the Tsauchab River. We can easily walk into the riverbed, it is usually much cooler in the canyon and we can follow the river for some way along its journey to Sossusvlei.

### **Day 3 (Friday) Sesriem to Swakopmund**

Departing after an early breakfast we head west into the desert. We first cross the Namib gravel plains, large areas of flat and seemingly barren terrain broken up by huge mountain inselbergs. Our first stop this morning is the tiny town of Solitaire where we can stretch our legs and sample the apple pie that has made this homestead famous. It's a quirky little place with amazing photo opportunities of the old farm vehicles scattered around the grounds.



We cross the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5 south degrees. We have two mountain passes to traverse this morning before we drop steeply down into the canyon carved over eons by the Kuiseb River on its way to the ocean. We climb up from the banks of the river and over the pass, traveling through the mountain peaks. We emerge from the mountains onto a flat road that takes us all the way to the town of Walvis Bay. We have lunch at Walvis Bay lagoon and complete the final leg of our journey into Swakopmund, where you will be dropped off at whichever accommodation you have booked.

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.