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Sossuvlei Lodge Safari

Swakopmund - Windhoek

Friday – Sunday (3D/2N)

& Sunday – Tuesday (3D/2N)

A magical trip to one of the most beautiful places on Planet Earth, the centre of the Namib, the oldest desert in the world.



From the coast, we cross the vast gravel plains, traverse high mountain passes and cross the Tropic of Capricorn on our way down to the dune fields of Sossuvlei.

Sunrise in the desert is not to be missed ! We head for Dead Vlei with its stark collection of skeleton trees, then on to the dunes, watching out for wildlife such as oryx and springbok along the way. Climbing a towering dune over 300 metres high is an experience unique to Namibia. Big Daddy, Big Mamma and Dune 45 are all waiting to be conquered - the views are incredible ! Before we go, we visit iconic Solitaire then head up-and-over the Khomas Hochland mountains to our journey's end in Windhoek.

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Trip Highlights:

- Explore the quirky town of Swakopmund
- Climb the iconic dunes at Sossusvlei
- Iconic photo ops at Dead Vlei and Solitaire

Snapshot

- **Starts** : Swakopmund, Fridays / Sundays year round (1115)
- **Ends** : Windhoek, Sunday / Tuesday 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

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



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Itinerary

Day 1 (Friday / Sunday) Swakopmund to near Sesriem (B/L/D)

We have a leisurely start this morning, leaving Swakopmund mid-morning so there's plenty of time for an adrenalin fix or a gentle stroll around town. We head off around 1130, east into the desert. We first cross the Namib gravel plains, large areas of flat and seemingly barren terrain broken up by huge mountain inselbergs. We have two mountain passes to traverse this afternoon, the first is the mighty Kuiseb Pass, and we follow the road from the top of the hills, dropping steeply down into the canyon carved over aeons by the Kuiseb River on its way to the ocean at the port town of Walvis Bay. We climb up from the banks of the river and over the pass, travelling through the mountain peaks and on to the second, smaller canyon of the Gaub River, a tributary of the Kuiseb. We emerge from the mountains onto a flat road, and almost immediately we cross the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5 degrees south. There is a signpost at this auspicious spot, and we stop along the road for photos. Onwards again, we aim to arrive to our destination in the late afternoon in time for a short walk to see the sun dip below the impressive Naukluft Mountains.

Day 2 (Saturday / Monday) Sossusvlei (B/L/D)

Getting into the dune area as early as possible this morning is our aim, and that means a pre-dawn start and breakfast on the go. We will enter the national park as soon as the gate opens at sunrise.



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The best time to photograph the dunes is around sunrise and sunset. This is when you can see towering dunes illuminated a glowing orange, apricot red on one side and swathed in shadow on the other. The depth of field is spectacular at this time of day. From Sesriem, we cover the 60 km into the dunes quickly, then along the ancient Tsauchab River bed for the last 5km leg to Sossusvlei itself. The Tsauchab River is ephemeral; it only flows seasonally and for the most part, the riverbed is dry.

We will visit Dead Vlei, an ancient pan surrounded by dunes, which is strikingly populated with dead, skeletal camel thorn trees. These trees have been a feature of this landscape for over 1000 years !



Sossusvlei is almost surrounded by dunes, just one narrow path kept open by the Tsauchab River. 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 the way we came (there is only one road), stopping at the iconic Dune 45 which you can climb if you still have energy, or sit in the shade at the base if you don't !

Driving back to Sesriem, we take a short excursion to see the Sesriem Canyon. Only four km from Sesriem, 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 follow the riverbed for some way along its journey to Sossusvlei. We head back to our accommodation in the late afternoon.



Day 3 (Sunday / Tuesday) Windhoek (B)

Today is our last day, but excitement is still on the menu. We head back to Solitaire, and our guide will get us a sample of the apple pie that has made this homestead famous.

There is some lovely mountain scenery on our drive back to Windhoek. The road climbs up onto and over Namibia's central plateau, and we return to Windhoek via the small community of BüellsPort and the small town of Rehoboth. We arrive mid-afternoon and will be dropped off at the accommodation of our choice within Windhoek city limits.