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Etosha & Swakopmund Lodge Safari Tuesday – Friday (4D/3N)

Visit 3 of Namibia's greatest highlights during this 4-day adventure!



Our journey starts in Windhoek before we make our way to the famous Etosha National Park, one of the largest and finest national parks in the whole of Africa. Here we get to experience some amazing wildlife opportunities, with lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes, rhino and much more all expected sightings.

After 2 nights in Etosha we start making our way down to the Skeleton Coast, making stops at the beautiful Damaraland with its towering pink granite koppies. Stunning in every season, this region of mountains and grassland, trees and riverbeds, desert elephant and desert rhino is simply breathtaking.

We meet some of the locals as we travel through Damaraland as Himba, Herero & Damara people, often in traditional dress, welcome us to their makeshift roadside stalls where they sell traditional handcrafts to the passing traffic. Onwards to the west, passing under the shadow of Namibia's highest mountain The Brandberg, we make our way down to the Atlantic Ocean.

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Reaching the wild and rugged Skeleton Coast, we follow the ocean road into the unusual and quirky town of Swakopmund. Renowned as the adrenaline capital of Namibia, there are some amazing experiences on offer in Swakopmund, but it is also a place where you can relax and recharge.

Nearby Walvis Bay Lagoon, an internationally recognised wetland, is renowned for its birdlife and in particular flamingos, which are usually here in abundance – an awesome sight! On Friday, we head back to Windhoek where our journey ends.



Trip Highlights:

- Spot the “Big 5” on safari in Etosha National Park
- Experience Namibia’s unique Skeleton Coast
- Experience traditional culture
- Explore the quirky town of Swakopmund
- Visit to Walvis Bay Lagoon

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Snapshot

- **Starts** : Windhoek, Tuesdays year round (0700)
- **Ends** : Windhoek, Friday pm
- **Duration** : 4 days, 3 nights
- **Accommodation**: Twin-share accommodation at resorts/lodges
- **Price** : AUD \$2,295 per person, twin-share. Single room upgrade on request.
- **Meals**: 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- **What's included**: 3 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, accommodation in Windhoek before/after, drinks and snacks





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Itinerary

Day 1 (Tuesday) 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 to gather some last-minute supplies 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) 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 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 which features a comfortable, spacious twin-share room with modern ensuite bathroom facilities. An ideal space to sit back, relax and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. A fantastic dinner tonight.

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Day 3 (Thursday) 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 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.





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We complete the final leg of our journey to Swakopmund, check into our accommodation, the centrally located A La Mer hotel, and the town is easily explored on foot from our central location. 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.

Swakopmund boasts some truly excellent restaurants, and your guide will be able to provide recommendations and assist with bookings. Dinner tonight is to your own account.

Day 4 (Friday) Swakopmund to Walvis Bay to Windhoek (B/L)

We have a more leisurely start this morning, and a lie-in, a big breakfast and a wander around town are the order of the day. There are some great curio shops, excellent bookstores, and an authentic café culture is thriving here, with plenty of small eateries serving delicious food. Later in the morning, we visit the Walvis Bay lagoon.

Just 40 km along the coast to the south, Walvis Bay (Whale Bay) lagoon is an internationally recognised Ramsar site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat). It is justly renowned for its birdlife, particularly flamingos, which are usually abundant and can be found within easy photographic distance from the shore.

Heading back to Swakopmund, we then take the main road back to Windhoek. We will have a light lunch en route, and upon arrival in Windhoek, you will be dropped off at your accommodation, located anywhere within the Windhoek city limits.