



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Namibia Encompassed - Tailormade

Tour Duration: 14 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●○○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●○○ | Culture ●●●○○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●●●●○

Tour Pace

Moderate

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Sossusvlei - The world's highest sand dunes
- ✓ Swakopmund - A charming coastal town with German colonial architecture
- ✓ Damaraland - Ancient Bushmen rock art and the Himba people
- ✓ Etosha - Abundant wildlife from comfortable lodges within the park





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Tour Map Namibia Encompassed – Tailormade



Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	Mix of comfortable mid-range (NOT LUXURY) lodges and hotels
Included Meals:	Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
Group Size:	Private tailormade tour
Start Point:	Windhoek – you can arrive any time on Day 1
End Point:	Windhoek – you can depart any time from 17:00 on Day 14
Transport:	Land Cruiser or modified vehicle
Country Visited:	Namibia



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Namibia Encompassed

A perfect tour for first time visitors to Namibia, taking in many of the country's outstanding highlights. Staying at comfortable lodges and hotels, we will experience dramatic scenery and varied wildlife as we explore the Kalahari Desert including the incredible Fish River Canyon, the towering blazing red dunes of Sossusvlei, laid back Swakopmund, the tribal heart of Damaraland and the world famous Etosha National Park. You may also wish to consider an extension to Okonjima Reserve, home to the Africat foundation, doing great work to protect big cats in Southern Africa.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used. Also note that this itinerary is an exemplar and can be tailored to your exact requirements on request.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be necessary to change the guide at one or more points during the tour. Please note that in Namibia, the guide drives the tour vehicle.

Note - If you are doing the self-drive version of this tour then you will not have an accompanying guide.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure with no guided activities. Overnight at Safari Court Hotel or similar. No meals nor guided arrangements are included today.

Windhoek

As any traveller to Namibia will attest, water is at a premium in this driest of southern African states and the origins of Windhoek, typically, are to be found in the presence of springs in the vicinity. In 1849, Jan Jonker Afrikaner founded a settlement here at the 'Fire Water' spring which can still be seen today. Standing at 5250 feet, the city was once dominated by the pristine white-washed 130-year-old fortress of Alte Feste, now a museum. The city took centuries to establish itself successfully and its finest buildings generally date from its flowering in the early 1900s – Christus Kirche is perhaps the finest of the religious architecture and its three German 'castles', the Heinitzburg, today a hotel and restaurant, the Schwerinsburg and the Sanderburg. This makes for a city which is modern, clean and yet fiercely proud of its development. The North Korean (yes!) built 'Heroes Memorial Acre' is a tribute to those who fought for Namibia's 1990 independence from South Africa and is worth a visit simply for its uniqueness. The modern culture of Windhoek is now very much to the fore: tours of the Namibia Craft Centre in the old breweries building offers fascinating examples of Namib local skills, Katutura township is a bustling 1950s suburb which has museums and cultural centres devoted to explaining why this place (literally 'place we do not want to live') is so symbolic of the struggle against apartheid, and Joe's Beerhouse has become an iconic restaurant and alehouse with vibrant local music and delicious food such as its legendary alligator steak.



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Day 2: Windhoek - Mariental (Approximate driving time: three hours)

Today we head for Mariental, a small, flourishing market town in the heart of Southern Namibia, and the administrative capital of the Hardap Region. Founded in 1912 as a railway stop between Windhoek and Keetmanshoop, the town was named by Rhenish (German Lutheran) missionaries after Maria the wife of the first colonial settler of the area, Herman Brandt. The lodge for tonight is a relaxed and down-to-earth stopover offering a taste of the Kalahari, the desert which lies over the vast areas eastern Namibia, southern Botswana and northern South Africa. Among large arid and semi-arid areas of brown sands and red dunes many rare species may be found, such as sand antelope, black desert rhino and cheetah. In late afternoon we'll take a three-hour sundowner drive to explore the local area. Overnight at Kalahari Anib Lodge or similar. (BLD)

Mariental

Named by local Rhenish (German Lutheran) missionaries after Maria the wife of the first colonial settler of the area Herman Brandt, Mariental was founded in 1912 as a simple railway stop between Windhoek and Keetmanshoop. It became a town in 1920 and was a municipality within another 26 years and is now home to some 10,000 people. The hot, arid region means that the life-blood of the town is the Hardap Dam which controls the former seasonal flooding of the Fish River. The dam now irrigates huge swathes of otherwise unproductive land and so grape, cotton and dairy farming become possible. The locals also manage cattle, sheep and ostriches, all of which are worth sampling locally for their fine meats. However, the main draw for visitors is the abundance of game – springbok, blesbuck, giraffe, ostrich, leopard, zebra, kudu, gemsbuck, hartebeest, eland, blue- and black wildebeest all can be seen here on safari.

Day 3: Mariental - Mesosaurus Fossil Site - Fish River Canyon (Approximate driving time: five hours)

Today our journey takes us south to Fish River Canyon – at 500m deep and 27km wide, the world's second largest canyon after the US Grand Canyon. Fish River is itself the longest river in Namibia. However, the riverbed is mostly dry, an intermittent flow in late summer later becoming a chain of long narrow pools along the canyon's sandy, rock-strewn floor. At the canyon's lower extent, the hot springs resort of Ai-Ais provides an oasis for the surrounding arid area. En route to Fish River we visit the remarkable site of a fossilised Mesosaurus, and aquatic lizard from the early Permian Period, almost 300 million years ago. Overnight at Canyon Roadhouse or similar. (BLD)

Mesosaurus Fossil Site

When looking out over this harsh and unforgiving landscape, it is hard to imagine oneself standing at the bottom of an ancient lake. True to Namibia, this is a place of contrast and diversity, with earth's history written clearly in the beautiful rock formations. The Mesosaurus is probably one of the most convincing examples to prove the drifting of continents. The same genus in the same rock formations is to be found in both southern Africa and South America. In southern Africa the fossils can be found in the Whitehill formations, while in South America they are found in the Irats Formations.

Fish River Canyon

The jaw-dropping Fish-River Canyon rises in the centre of Namibia and flows south into the Orange River, being 100 miles in length and up to 20 miles wide in places. However, it is the dizzying depth (up to 1,800 feet) which creates the real drama. This all makes it the largest canyon in the southern hemisphere, and second only to Arizona's Grand Canyon. Much of its length is now protected reserves: the hot springs at Ai-Ais oasis are part of the 1969 National Park, the Godwana Nature Park lies further north and at the extremities of Namibia, a 'transfrontier park' or 'peace park' has been established with South Africa. Wildlife and vegetation are sparse, but in evidence if you are keen to learn: herds of Hartmann's mountain zebra, kudu, klipspringer antelope and baboons can be spotted and dassies or rock-rabbits are common. Birdlife is generally secretive but spectacular: the imposing black eagle sometimes passes over, rock kestrel, Karoo bustards and ostrich frequent the plains near the canyon and along its length you might watch out for herons, cormorants and kingfishers, martins and mountain wheatear.





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The slopes of the canyon house euphorbias, deep red aloe and quiver tree. Your guide will prove invaluable in helping you learn these inhabitants of one of the driest environments on earth.

Day 4: Fish River Canyon – Lüderitz via Aus Mountains (*Approximate driving time: four hours*)

This morning we leave early and head to the lookout point over Fish River Canyon for jaw dropping panoramic views. Our route takes us through the Aus Mountains, where we stop for lunch (not included) and have a chance to see wild horses that inhabit the area. Continuing the scenic drive to Lüderitz, we hope to arrive mid-afternoon, in time for a short orientation tour of the town. Overnight Lüderitz Nest Hotel or similar. (BL)

Day 5: Lüderitz and Kolmanskop

Subject to sea conditions, we board the catamaran Zeepaard for a thrilling two-hour voyage to Halifax Island and Diaz Point, hoping to observe African penguins in their natural habitat. Along the way, heaviside dolphins escort the boat, riding the bow wave. Other possible sightings include numerous seabirds, cape fur seals and in season, southern right and humpback whales. Zeepaard has plenty of comfortable seating in the saloon, cockpit or on deck. However, despite the availability of copious hot chocolate it's definitely worth taking warm clothing. Later, we continue to Kolmanskop, founded in 1908 when a diamond was discovered by a worker building the railway line to Lüderitz. The discovery triggered a massive diamond boom. For a while Kolmanskop was Africa's richest town, but by 1915 the diamond field was exhausted. The town declined and was abandoned in 1954, rendering Kolmanskop the atmospheric ghost town we see today. Later, we'll visit Diaz Point, noted for extraordinary, desolate coastal vistas. Overnight Lüderitz Nest Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 6: Lüderitz - Sesriem (*Approximate driving time: six hours*)

Today we depart Lüderitz early for a scenic drive to the Sossusvlei area of the Namib, the oldest desert on earth, and a habitat for some of the strangest flora and fauna on the continent. Along the route dramatic scenery unfolds, and there are plenty of photo opportunities. Upon arrival in Sesriem the rest of the afternoon is free, although locally booked activities are on offer. Overnight at Sossusvlei Lodge or similar. (BLD)

The Namib Desert

Arguably the oldest desert in the world (approximately 80 million years of arid climate), the Namib is a vast stretch of wilderness that stretches 2,000 miles from Angola to the Kalahari in the south. The lack of rainfall is stark: some places only receive less than a quarter of an inch a year; the wettest areas receive a dismal 8 inches a year. This hostile environment has thrown up an ocean of dunes from the cold Atlantic coast to the eastern mountains and has made it virtually uninhabitable for humans, excepting a few small pastoral tribes such as the Obatjimba Herero, the Topnaar Nama and the Ovahimba. However, despite its seemingly barren landscape, there is more to the Namib than simply a spectacular landscape of dry valleys, titanic sand dunes and the rocky magnificence of its mountains: the aridity has rendered the area a botanical island, with a high level of endemicity. Mountain zebras and Gemsbok are more visible examples, but many arthropods such as the Namib Desert beetle are also unique to the region as a much of the flora to be seen there.

Day 7: Sesriem Canyon and Sossusvlei

A spectacular sunrise over the 300m high red dunes of Sossusvlei is the reward for a very early start today – it is worth it. The sun's first rays light up the dunes with a deep orange glow – this is a 'golden hour' on steroids. In this wild and beautiful landscape sparse vegetation fringes the few water courses flowing from the Tsauchab River. It's a place where springbok and ostrich are often observed. We'll also explore the cool passageways of the Sesriem Canyon. The canyon is small but many plants grow among its shelter and shade, and its permanent water is a magnet for birds. The Africaans words 'sesriem' refers to the six lengths of rawhide rope once needed to draw a bucket of water from the stream below. Later, we'll have free time to relax after the morning's early start. Overnight at Sossusvlei Lodge or similar. (BLD)



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Day 8: Sesriem – Welwitschia Plains - Swakopmund (Approximate driving: four hours)

Travelling via Solitaire and the Kuiseb Canyon, we traverse the expansive landscape of the Namib gravel flats as we head towards the Atlantic Coast. An excursion to the lunar landscapes of the Welwitschia Plains allows time to contemplate life's fragility. Continuing the short journey to Swakopmund, we're surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Swakopmund is heavily influenced by its colonial past, with many beautiful examples of German colonial architecture. On arrival there's a short orientation tour followed by time to independently explore the town. Attractions include Swakopmund Museum, the National Marine Aquarium and the Crystal Gallery. Overnight The Delight or similar. (BL)

Swakopmund

Culturally and architecturally, Swakopmund (literally 'mouth of the rhino river') is particularly influenced by its having been a German colony, with many beautiful examples of German colonial architecture to be found. Swakopmund is surrounded by the Namib Desert on three sides, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The initial colonisation began with a military landing, favouring the site for its fresh water and potential for building a harbour along the hostile Namibian coastline. The soldiers spent the initial period dug into caves in the sand to shelter from the sun, but soon a port was created. However, by time of the seizure of German South West Africa by South Africa in 1915, the 'Mole' created to sustain the sea-trade had silted and the British moved the port to Walvis Bay. It was only when Uranium was discovered and mined inland that Swakopmund began to thrive again, breathing wealth and modernity into its character. Visitors today can easily explore the town on foot and attractions include the Swakopmund Museum, the National Marine Aquarium and the Crystal Gallery.

Day 9: Swakopmund

Today is free for relaxation or independent exploration. However, it is possible to arrange a cruise on the Walvis Bay Lagoon where dolphins, seals and many bird species may be observed. Other activities, at additional cost, include a Skeleton Coast scenic flight. Overnight at The Delight or similar. (B)

Please Note: Your guide will escort you to any optional activities.

Day 10: Swakopmund - Damaraland (Approximate driving time: four hours)

Our journey continues to ruggedly beautiful Damaraland. Along the way we stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein where over 2,500 prehistoric rock petroglyphs make it the largest concentration of Stone Age art in Namibia. Nearby, a curious geological formation made up of perpendicular slabs of basalt is known as The Organ Pipes. Elsewhere, amid Damaraland's rough terrain, Khorixas was the capital of Damaraland prior to Namibia's independence and is still the main centre for the Damara ethnic group. Close to the town we visit an accumulation of enormous fossilised tree trunks, about 280 million years old, known as The Petrified Forest. Overnight at Damara Mopane Lodge or similar. (BLD)

Damaraland

45 miles inland from the Skeleton Coast, Damaraland is a dramatic and mountainous setting which is home to an impressive array of key species: the largest elephants in Africa, lions, rhino and zebra have all adapted to the driest of dry landscapes. The dominant peak here is the delightful Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, which boasts countless ancient rock paintings. The region has only recently taken up its name, linked as it is to the ancient and ethnically unique Damara people, who were forcibly relocated here in 1960 by the South African government. A traditionally pastoral and hunter-gatherer people, their way of life was seriously damaged by this move to poor quality soils and many of the tribe moved in time to the Windhoek region. However, much of their cultural integrity remains intact and traditional hide clothing; green, white and blue dress and rituals such as elaborate hunting performances required for a boy to come of age are still prized.



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Day 11: Damaraland

Today is a day at leisure. Either relax by the pool, or if you wish to stay active then perhaps explore the self-guided hiking trails in the vicinity ranging from 1 – 3 hours. Towards the end of the day ascend the hill to a viewing platform for a sweeping vista of the epic landscape whilst the sun sets. Beverages can be provided and are charged to the room. Overnight at Damara Mopane Lodge or similar. (BLD)

Day 12: Damaraland - Etosha National Park (Approximate driving time: five hours)

After breakfast we leave for Etosha National Park, an immense saline desert covering over 32,000 square kilometres and providing a habitat for 114 animal and 340 bird species. Etosha has been described as the best game reserve in Africa. We arrive in time for an afternoon game drive and stay in the park until sunset. Following a network of gravel roads, visiting various viewpoints and permanent waterholes, terrain ranges from dense bush to large open plains where animals roam freely. We hope to see elephant, rhino and hopefully lion. Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp or similar. (BLD)

Etosha National Park

Covering over 12,400 square miles, and the habitat for 114 species of animals and 340 species of birds, Etosha National Park has its focal point as a vast salt pan. However, it is the water holes which make it such a wonderful place to view wildlife: thousands of animals come to drink here and sightings of many of the game species can be virtually guaranteed. The broad grasslands which provide endless grazing for the wildlife are a dramatic contrast to the aridity of elsewhere. Elephants grow to unusually large proportions on the nutrient rich trees, giraffes, lions and even leopards are relatively often seen and this is one of the best places on earth to view the endangered black rhino. Birds are abundant – around 340 species have been recorded here. Favourite species such as Flamingos, Bateleurs, Ostrich and African openbill are simpler spots, but keen birders also come for the rarer Carp's tit, Bare-cheeked babbler, Monterio's hornbill, and the Rockrunner.

Day 13: Etosha National Park

Today we continue game viewing in the park, focusing particularly on the numerous waterholes and underground springs attracting springbok, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe. We also visit Etosha Pan, a vast salt lake at the heart of the park, believed by geologists to have formed some 12 million years ago after an inland lake the size of Holland dried up. Now a gigantic depression, the flat, saline and silvery expanse of the pan is the domain of mirages and dust-laden images. Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp or similar. (BLD)

Day 14: Etosha National Park - Windhoek (Approximate driving time: five hours)

After breakfast we travel back towards Windhoek, making a short stop at the Okahandja Woodcarvers' market for last minute souvenirs and a picnic lunch. We arrive mid-afternoon and continue directly to the airport for onward flights. (BL)

Optional Extension

Day 14: Etosha National Park – Okonjima Reserve (Approximate driving time: three hours)

After breakfast we travel to Okonjima Reserve, home of the AfriCat Foundation, located approximately half-way between Etosha and Windhoek. The foundation was formed to promote the conservation of Namibia's predatory species in their natural habitat. Okonjima offers a range of interesting activities among the reserve's 200 square kilometres, including a good chance to see leopard in the wild. Overnight Okonjima Reserve – Plains Camp. (BLD)

Please Note: You will be transferred part of the way from Etosha National Park to Okonjima with the group and then closer to Okonjima you will then continue to the reserve for your accommodation.



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Okonjima Reserve

The vital Africat project is centred on this exceptional reserve, with 50,000 acres of protected land aiming to study and sustain the existence of Africa's predatory cats. Established in 1991, the Foundation works with local schools and farmers in helping to educate and support a parallel existence between humanity and big cats. The founders themselves are former cattle ranchers who use their understanding of needing to mitigate for losses to predators. Tourism plays a vital part in funding the Reserve and also in offering financial incentives to locals to work with the organisation. Situated midway between Windhoek and Etosha, a diverse population of predators are being monitored and protected: several lions are to be seen, but it is the leopard populations which are especially significant. Many are rehabilitated and released here, fitted with tracking collars and constantly monitored for their welfare and for a better grasp of these shy and complex creatures. Beyond the cats, over 250 species of bird can be found here, from Orange River francolin to Ruppell's parrot and Violet woodhoopoe to Crimson-breasted shrike, whilst a game drive or walk can also yield rich pickings: Eland, Kudu, Impala Springbok, Gemsbok and Kudu are regularly seen.

Day 15: Okonjima Reserve

A day spent enjoying the Okonjima Reserve. You will be able to choose your activities on arrival. Here is a link to the activities on offer - <https://okonjima.com/activities/>. Overnight Okonjima Reserve – Plains Camp (BLD)

Day 16: Okonjima Reserve – Windhoek (Approximate driving time: two hours)

Today we leave and transfer to the international airport for onward flights or, if scheduled departure times are early morning, stay an extra night in Windhoek (not included). (B)

Important Note: Those departing on Day 17 should book flights leaving on or after 3pm.

Tour inclusions/exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
All accommodation as per the itinerary
Transport throughout the tour
Services of English-speaking tour leader/guide (not on self-drive option)
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary (not on self-drive option)
Bottled water on board vehicle (not on self-drive option)

Excluded:

International flights
Items of a personal nature
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas
Drinks (except mentioned in inclusions)
Tips (discretionary)



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Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

Before booking your tour please familiarise yourself with the country specific information provided by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. This includes important information such as latest immigration requirements, and details of any travel advisories. At the time of writing the FCDO does not have any warnings in place against travel to the areas we visit on this tour.

Non-UK nationals should check with their own government, as the information and advice may differ to that provided by British authorities.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

At Undiscovered Destinations we know our travellers prefer to stay in comfortable, mid-range accommodation. With few exceptions you can expect rooms to be en-suite, with private bathroom and when necessary air-conditioning will be provided. In general, you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar. This is not a luxury lodge tour. However Undiscovered Destinations can book many lodges if you wish to opt for something more luxurious.

Those wishing to have a solo occupancy room will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic or a stop at a lodge en route to your destination. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.



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Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch £15.00 / Dinner £20.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of Beer £1.50 / Water £0.50

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 100 for tipping.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are increasingly accepted but we recommend that you do not rely on them totally, and also take some cash.

Local Currency: Namibian Dollar. South African Rand is legal tender in Namibia.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: We recommend that you consider taking South African Rand as they are totally inter changeable within Namibia, with some US Dollars.

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a free airport transfer, both on arrival and departure. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities.



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Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Under 18 Immigration Guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Vaccinations & Protection

There are no compulsory vaccinations for entry to Namibia, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list and we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

With a staggering 300 day of sunshine each year, Namibia is a year-round destination, although some may prefer to avoid the heat of high summer. The cold Benguela current keeps the Atlantic coast of the Namib Desert cool and rain-free for most of the year, with a thick coastal fog that lends a mysterious edge to the area. January and February are the hottest months, when daytime temperatures in the heart of the Namib can exceed 40°C (104°F), but nights are usually cool. Winter nights can be fairly cold, but days are generally warm and pleasant. Even in so called cooler months it is not unusual to experience periodic heatwaves where temperatures can be well above normal.



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Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight, however a warm fleece and sweater/thick shirts are essential, as nights (and daytime) can be very cold, especially from May to September, and game drives tend to take place at dawn and dusk. Brightly coloured clothing is not suitable for game viewing.

Equipment

Bring a torch, water bottle, sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Binoculars are essential for game viewing and a 300mm lens is recommended for photography. We also recommend you bring a swimming costume.

Footwear

The advice on footwear for this tour is to take Lightweight trail boots or shoes with grip for walking safaris, plus trainers or sandals for general travelling.

Road Conditions

Kindly note that on this tour at times you will be travelling on dirt and gravel roads which by nature are bumpier than travelling on tarred roads so please be prepared for this. It is possible whilst on tour to experience punctures of other minor mechanical problems when travelling in a country like Namibia so if such an event occurs we ask kindly for your patience. Kindly note that all driving times are given in good faith and are approximate driving times without photo or scheduled stops or comfort stops.

Luggage on tour

One main piece of luggage (we recommend a soft bag or holdall) plus day sack.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg (please note airline allowances may vary)

Electric Supply & Plugs

There are several different sockets and even with an international adaptor you may need to buy one locally.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated on 17th December 2020.