

Safari Voyager, Namibia

Meta description

From the vast saltpan of Etosha to the dusty red landscape of Damaraland and coastal oasis of Swakopmund, this Namibian safari is the adventure of a lifetime.

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Experience iconic African fauna, rare and endangered game, and abundant marine life on this epic Namibian safari.

Summary

This epic Namibian safari adventure will give you the opportunity to see some of Africa's rare and endangered wildlife roaming the mesmerising landscapes of this fascinating country.

This self-drive safari trip takes you from the forested slopes and dinosaur footprints of the Waterberg Plateau National Park to the coastal oasis of Swakopmund, via the famed Etosha National Park and red-hued Palmwag Concession. Along the way, you'll see rare desert elephants and endangered black rhinos, along with some of Africa's finest hunters – lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas and wild dogs. You'll peek at wildlife interacting at floodlit watering holes, and enjoy a marine cruise alongside playful dolphins and curious Cape fur seals.

Highlights

- See 200-million-year-old dinosaur footprints
- Watch black eagles & Cape vultures soaring overhead
- Track endangered black rhinos through the bush
- See rare desert-adapted elephants
- Observe wildlife interact at floodlit watering holes
- Enjoy a marine cruise with playful dolphins and seals

Itinerary

Day 1-2 | Resort: Waterberg Plateau National Park | Type: Wildlife

Your Namibian safari adventure begins when you land in Windhoek, where you'll be met by a representative who'll sort out your rental car and point you in the right direction for your first stop: the Waterberg Plateau National Park.

Despite its relatively small size, the Waterberg Plateau encompasses a vast range of landscapes, from the unique sandstone plateau that gives it its name to petrified sand dunes. Natural springs make the area highly fertile with a mix of grasslands and forested slopes, and there are fossilised dinosaur footprints here dating back 200 million years.

On your first day you'll check into the Waterberg Guest Farm, a small luxury guesthouse renowned for its floodlit waterhole where you can spy antelope,

warthog and possibly an elusive leopard come to drink. There are no activities planned for your first day – you may choose to cool off after your drive with a dip in the pool or sip an ice-cold sundowner while watching the watering hole.

On day 2, you'll enjoy a two-hour guided walk through the bush with an experienced ranger. The varied landscapes support a range of wildlife, so keep your eyes peeled for leopard, brown hyena, buffalo, sable antelope, and black and white rhinos. You may choose other optional activities, including a game drive or birdwatching – the park is home to over 200 species of birds including black eagles and Namibia's only colony of Cape vultures.

Day 3-4 | Resort: Etosha East | Type: Wildlife

On day 3, it's time to hop back behind the wheel for the drive to one of southern Africa's prime wildlife reserves: Etosha National Park. Your first stop in this vast park is the Namutoni Resort in Etosha East, which sits in a prime location overlooking the King Nehale watering hole.

The park is dominated by the Etosha Pan, Africa's largest saltpan, which is so vast it can be seen from space. In dry season, the salt crusts over and shimmers white, occasionally broken by water holes where large herds of elephants gather alongside leopards, rhinos, springbok, gemsbok and, if you're lucky, wild dogs. During wet season, the pan transforms into a large lagoon filled with flocks of flamingos and pelicans.

You'll enjoy three game drives during your time here, and there'll be plenty of time to enjoy the pool, kick back with a drink in the rustic African bush bar, and watch wildlife at the watering hole.

Day 5-6 | Resort: Etosha South | Type: Wildlife

On day 5, it's time to head to Etosha's vast southern region. Your drive skirts the rim of the salt pan, so keep your eyes peeled for herds of zebra, antelope and buffalo, the elegant silhouette of giraffes loping across the white salt pans, and prides of lions resting in the long grass.

Your home for the next two nights is the Okaukuejo Resort, the oldest tourist camp in Etosha that's famed for its floodlit watering hole. Cool off after your drive with a dip in the pool and grab a sundowner to watch the magnificent sunset.

On day 6, you have a morning game drive – don't forget to take plenty of memory cards to capture the abundant wildlife. The rest of the day is yours to spend at your leisure. You may choose to go rhino tracking on foot, a guided nature walk, or simply sit by the watering hole, a hub of activity where you can see endangered black rhinos drinking alongside elephants and lions.

Day 7-8 | Resort: Palmwag | Type: Wildlife

On day 7, you'll swap the vast white salt pans for the rusty red landscape of Palmwag in northwest Damaraland. You're heading for the newly renovated

Palmwag Lodge and Campsite, which sits in a stunning scenic spot at the park's entrance.

You'll enjoy an afternoon game drive on day 7 and morning game drive on day 8. Look out for the rare desert elephants that roam here, along with Namibia's largest black rhino population. The area is also home to the largest predator population in the country outside of Etosha, with lions, cheetahs, leopards, and brown and spotted hyenas on the hunt for mountain zebra, kudu, springbok and giraffe.

While here, you have the option to join a guided walking safari, take a dedicated rhino-tracking tour, or kick back and cool off in one of two swimming pools.

Day 9-12 | Resort: Swakopmund | Type: Beach / Wildlife

For the final leg of your Namibian safari adventure, you're heading to the coastal oasis of Swakopmund, a colonial town with a reputation for adventure. You'll check into The Delight, a stylish, modern hotel close to the Mole, then you have the rest of the afternoon to relax. Take a stroll along the promenade, wander the palm-lined streets admiring the colonial architecture, or, if you're an experienced surfer, grab a board and enjoy the big rollers.

On day 10, you'll have a different wildlife experience. You're hopping on the Mola Mola marine cruise where you could see leaping dolphins, playful Cape fur seals, shy turtles, and, between July and November, various whales breaching offshore. Birders will be delighted to see penguins, pelicans and cormorants amid a wide variety of seabird species.

You can choose how to spend the rest of your time in Swakopmund. There are plenty of activities on offer, including hot air ballooning, sandboarding, dune carting, shark cage diving or fishing. Or you can just relax and enjoy the beach.

On day 12, it's time to drag yourself away from the coast and head back to Windhoek for your flight home. As you fly away, your head will be buzzing with memories of the dramatic landscapes and iconic African wildlife you've seen on your Namibian safari adventures.