

NAMIBIA 2024 TOURING



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~ All tours should be pre-booked and operate with a minimum of 2 people unless noted ~

WINDHOEK TOURING

Windhoek Group City Tour (3 hours – min 2 persons)

Enjoy this guided group tour of Windhoek. You will be picked up from your hotel for a tour of downtown Windhoek as well as visiting the Old Cemetery and open market.

Return transfer back to your hotel. – **\$65.00 per person**

Pick-up hotel / Return transfer to the airport – **\$80.00 per person**

N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary

N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary is located only 42 km east of Windhoek and offers spectacular wildlife and nature. Whether your interests lie in helping orphaned or injured African wildlife and researching cheetahs and leopards, N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary is the ideal stop. There are several projects to choose from:

Caracal Walk – Take a walk with the habituated caracal and guides, during which you will get to see how these animals behave in the wild.

Departs Daily at 8:00am / Duration 1-1.5 hours (no children permitted) / Minimum 1 person

Cost: Approx \$100.00 per person [roundtrip transfers additional – see below]

Cheetah Experience – Enjoy time with the sanctuary's habituated cheetah as they are encouraged to live their lives as close to their wild counterparts.

Departs Daily at 8:00am / Duration 1-1.5 hours (no children permitted) / Min 2 people, maximum 5

Cost: Approx \$100.00 per person [roundtrip transfers additional – see below]

Discover the Roots of N/a'an ku sê Tour – Combines visit with the senior baboons, caracals, lions, cheetah, wild dog and leopard. Excellent opportunity to learn about the animals at the Sanctuary.

Departs 2x Daily at 9:00am or 2:00pm / Duration 3-3.5 hours (children 3-12 permitted) / Min 1 person

Cost: Approx \$50.00 per person [roundtrip transfers additional – see below]

Rhino Tracking – Spend an afternoon with a ranger and tracker in search of rhinos, which offers a great opportunity to learn about their habits and characteristics and on-going conservation efforts.

Departs Daily at 10:00am or 3:00pm / Duration 2.5 hours (no children permitted) / Min 2 people

Cost: Approx \$110.00 per person [roundtrip transfers additional – see below]

Private vehicle transfer to/from Windhoek - \$350.00 Total (to be added to the touring costs, shared by the participants)

N/a'an ku sê has a strict policy of no touching or petting the animals (and selfie photos with the cats are not allowed!) Failure to comply will result in the activity being immediately stopped.



SOSSUSVLEI TOURING

Ballooning Safari

Adding an exhilarating dimension to a Namib Desert excursion is a trip in a hot air balloon - the oldest form of aviation known to man. This is the best possible way to experience the breathtaking beauty of the Namib Desert and to marvel at its geological diversity. Drifting high above the Namib, this desert viewing from the sky reveals a majestic panorama of contoured dunes and stark desert plains, and is celebrated at the landing site with the traditional balloonists' champagne breakfast. The flight departs every morning at sunrise - weather permitting. (*Collection from the camps/lodges approx. 45min before departure. Time to be reconfirmed the evening prior.)

From \$450.00 per person

***There may be additional Travel Protection Premium of up to \$11 per person for the Travelex Adventure Sports Upgrade based on your state of residence. Please contact our office for updated plan cost.*



Eco Quad Biking (3 hours).

In the heart of the oldest desert in the world Sossusvlei eco quad offers unforgettable experiences. Driving your semi automatic quad bike, set off with the desert breeze and throbbing engine and you will follow trails through the dunes and mountains of this magical world and discover places inaccessible by 4x4 vehicles. (No one under 16 years old)

Guests at *Little Kulala* - quad-biking is included (booked upon arrival at camp)

Quad biking is not available at Kulala Desert Lodge (electric fat tire bikes are offered)



Sunset Horse Ride with Sundowners

Late afternoon ride through some of the most spectacular and unusual scenery for about three hours before meeting the team at a beautiful sundowner spot for drinks of your choice and delicious snack platters. You will then ride back under the stars in time for dinner at the lodge.

*(*Only offered when staying at Desert Homestead & Outpost.)*

Approx \$50.00 per person



SWAKOPMUND TOURING

Namib Desert Tour (4 hour tour – min 2 people)

On first glance it seems impossible that the arid desert can support life. Yet it holds some of the richest lichen fields in the world and these lichens take on deeply colored hues in the morning light. We depart Swakopmund at either 8:30am or 2:00pm to return at either 12:30pm or 6:00pm respectively. We travel to the Moon Landscape, where soft overlaying levels of earth, deposited some million years ago, were eroded to create this eerie crater filled area. In 1859 a botanist searching the Namib Desert found, what he later described “as the world’s strangest plant”. This trip goes in search of these “living fossils” the *Welwitschia Mirabilis* a botanic curiosity endemic to the Namib Desert and one of the most bizarre and intriguing plants on earth.

Approx \$60.00 per person



Living Desert Tour (4-5 hours – min 2 persons)

This half-day tour departs from Swakopmund at 8:00am and lasts 4–5 hours. The tour concentrates on exploring the local dune belt between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Special care is taken not to damage the gravel plains and cause unnecessary damage to the dune eco system. Your guide will stop continuously to look for tracks (known locally as reading the bushman newspaper), to determine which animals were active the previous night and wherever possible will try to catch some of them to show you. Great care is taken in sharing knowledge with you on each desert animal and plant, including emphasis on special adaptations and perfect design used for survival in the desert.

Approx \$55.00 per person

**Historian Dune, Living Desert & Toopnaar Dune Quad Tour** (3.5 hours – min 2 persons)

The prehistoric Kuiseb River is older than the Namib Desert (the oldest desert in the world) and therefore the tour promises to be filled with interesting sights and facts, allowing visitors the ability to enjoy the tranquility of being in a desert dune region.

The tour highlights and includes:

- Details on how the delta came into being, why the delta developed, what the area was like before the “Sea of Sand” succeeded to cross the river and why the river and the dunes are the reasons for existence for the underground fresh water aquifer.
- Details on the formation of Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay.
- Scientific information on the underground fresh water aquifer and why it is endangered by modern man.
- Visiting different kind of dunes that exist in the delta and detailed explanations of how the different shapes are formed, how much they move in a given time and what the gradient of a slip face is and why it never differs.
- Details and evidence of why the dunes have different colours.
- Evidence of five different stages as a dune moves over a tree as well as over a *Narra* plant.
- Examining the desert fruit, the *!Nara* and the *Sirub*, explaining how the plants adapted to this particularly harsh environment, sampling what the fruit tastes like (in season) and how it is harvested and used by the *Topnaars* (descendants of the ancient *Khoi* inhabitants) as well as by the animals.
- Details about the present day animals (brown hyena, jackal, elephant shrew, oryx, springbok antelope, etc.), birds (pale chanting goshawk, dune lark (endemic-see photo) & damara tern (endemic), reptiles (snakes, like the sidewinder, the dancing lizards, the desert chameleon & gecko's) and some of the insects (fog drinking beetles) that live in the delta. Mostly we are able to show them some of these living creatures.
- Visit and explore the different intact *Khoi* middens (old living places).

- View what these ancient inhabitants of Namibia ate, used as tools/implements and as body ornaments.
- Show physical evidence of petrified footprints of the ancient Khoi and their goats. These footprints, all discovered by Fanie du Preez, have been laser scanned by leading international scientists and age tested. You will learn more about this when you do the tour with Fanie.
- Show centuries-old ostrich eggshells that were used by the Khoi to keep their water in and have been preserved, being covered by dune sand for centuries.
- We also show them numerous petrified footprints of almost all the present land animals of Namibia e.g. Elephant, rhino, buffalo, eland, oryx, kudu, giraffe, spotted hyena, springbok, steenbok, etc.
- Visitors are shown amazing evidence why the Namibian coast is called the “Skeleton Coast”. These old skeletons of the ancient Khoi people are exposed and covered again, from time to time by the ever shifting dunes.
- A last highlight is a visit to a Topnaar (descendants of the Khoi) home in the dunes. Meet these people, who today still live their traditional lives in the dunes and whose whole live centres around one desert fruit. They have no money, no electricity, no mobile phones and no motor vehicles. They prefer not to live in town with its amenities. They get their water and their food from the earth and their light from the sun and the moon, yet they are fulfilled and always happy and friendly.

The tour is an unforgettable experience that will certainly make visitors realize that there is life in the desert regions. Stops are made frequently to give visitors ample time to drink in the immense beauty of this dune desert and to take photos.

Please Request

Cape Cross Seal Colony (approx 4 hrs – min 2 persons)

In 1486, Diego Cao landed on the coast of Namibia at Cape Cross. Here, 115-km north of Swakopmund, he erected a cross in honor of King John 1 of Portugal. Today a replica of Diego Cao’s cross can be seen at the Cape Cross. But that’s not all - Cape Cross is one of the largest breeding seal colonies in southern Africa, fluctuating in numbers of about between 80,000 – 300,000 seals. Come and enjoy a trip to Cape Cross with an experienced guide. En route you visit Wlotkas Baken and Henties Bay.

**Departs Swakopmund at 9:00am or 1:00pm, returning at 1:00p or 5:00pm.*

Approx \$140.00 per person (based on 2 people)



Dolphin and Seal Cruise (3-4 hour tour – min 2 persons)

From meeting with pelicans, to feeding seals, and if luck permits, leaping dolphins and shy turtles – enjoy all this and more on the daily morning educational dolphin and seal cruises. Cruises depart between 8:45am-9:00am (check-in 8:15am) every morning from the Jetty at the Walvis Bay Waterfront for a marine educational sightseeing tour in the bay area in search of the marine big 5: Whales, Dolphins, Mola, Leatherback turtle and seals. While serving hot coffee and tea, the initial route takes you past oyster farms as you approach Pelican Point with its landmark lighthouse and 50,000 resident cape fur seals. In season (July to November), larger mammals such as the Southern Right Whale and Humpback Whales are often spotted, while other whale species, such as the Gray whale and the Pygmy Right whale have made appearances. Bottlenose, Heaviside and Dusky dolphins are regularly seen, as are Mola Molas and Leatherback Turtles.

Accompanying the catamaran throughout are a variety of seabirds, such as the Kelp Gull, Hartlaub's Gull, Pelicans and Cape Cormorant. The journey from Pelican Point takes you past some of the more interesting ships in the bay as you are served fresh oysters with sparkling wine, snacks and desserts together with light drinks, cool drinks and water. Return to the Waterfront is around 12:30pm.

Approx \$75.00 per person



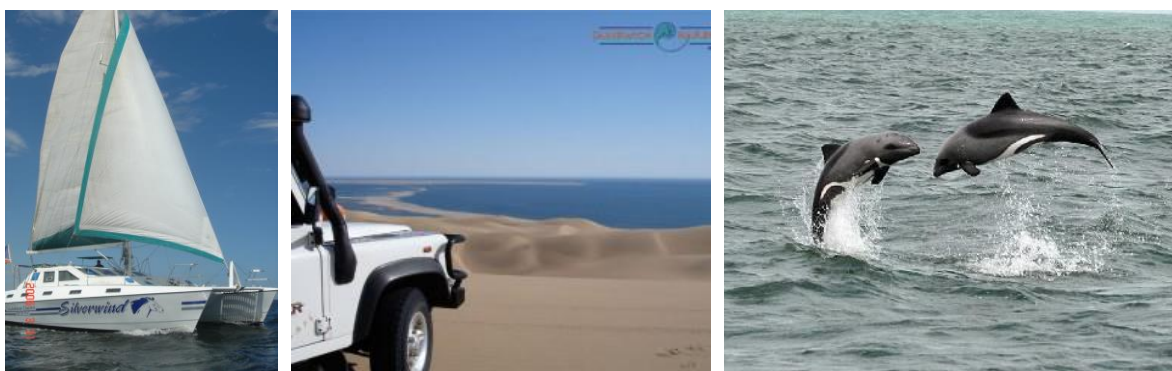
Marine Dune Day (Dolphin Cruise & Sandwich Harbor Combo) (full day – min 2 persons).

This marine dune day gives you the ultimate combination of a leisure cruise on the Atlantic Ocean, a delicious lunch on the beach or in the dunes and a 4x4 ride in the breathtaking Sandwich Harbor area of the Namib Naukluft Park. The day starts with a marine cruise in the morning at 9:00am. You get a chance to see flying pelicans, seals, the Walvis Bay Harbour, old boat wrecks, dolphins and - during season - even whales and turtles. Around 11:30pm, your skipper will drop you off at a deserted beach at the Jetty at Walvis Bay Waterfront where your Sandwich Harbour 4x4 guide will meet you with a Land Rover. Begin the Sandwich Harbour excursion to see the Kuiseb River Delta, flamingoes, the saltpans and the wetlands just north of the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon.

If weather and tides allow, the drive goes right to the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon, one of Southern Africa's richest and unique wetlands. If vehicles cannot make it there due to tides, you will have the time to walk 4–5 kms. Alternatively, you will get a chance to see the Lagoon area from one of the many beautiful lookout spots. You will have plenty of time to take photos when the big dunes in Sandwich Harbour are crossed. En route, a light meal with snacks and salads as well as oysters and sparkling wine are dished up. The oysters here are amongst the best in the world! On the return drive to Walvis Bay, more giant dunes are crossed, including the big roaring dunes.

Arrive in Walvis Bay at approx 4:30pm.

Approx \$250.00 per person



BIRDING TOURS (SWAKOPMUND)

Gray's Lark and Coastal Wetland Birding Tour (5 hours – min 3 persons)

This tour takes you north of Swakopmund to the quartzite gravel plains to search for the arid-adapted and cryptic Gray's Lark. This pale coloured desert Lark can be difficult to locate as it blends in perfectly to the expansive gravel plains which it frequents in the true Namib Desert. Here they scurry around in small family parties uttering a soft contact whistle all the while. It is this call that we will be listening out for when searching for this elusive little bird. The birds call actively during predawn and early evenings this is when they do their courtship display flights, avoiding the scorching heat of the day. Our other target species that we will be looking for are the pale coloured coastal form of Tractrac Chat, Red-capped Lark and Rufous-eared Warbler.

Here we may also see Spotted Desert Lizard, Namib Sand Snake and with luck Horned adder.

From the gravel plains we travel to the wetlands near the Swakopmund salt works and depending on the time of the year we may encounter large flocks of both Greater and Lesser flamingos, a variety of waders including White-fronted Plover, African Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstones, Common Greenshanks, Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints and on occasion common Redshank and other unusual species like Greater or Lesser Sandplover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Franklin's Gull.

We also scope the guano platform with its thousands of Cape Cormorants for the rarer Bank Cormorant here at its northern most range. Kelp and Hartlaub's Gulls are common here and in the summer there may also be large numbers of terns including Swift, Damara, Sandwich, Common, and Arctic and with luck Black Tern.

We also visit a small wetland in the Swakop River where Kittlitz's Plover is fairly common as well as a Chestnut-banded Plover and a few other waders. Occasionally Cape Teal, Egyptian Goose, Rock Kestrel, Black-winged Kite and Peregrine Falcon may be seen. If time permits we have a quick visit to the dunes and look for some of the specially adapted lizards, insects and with luck the desert Namaqua Chameleon and Perringuey's Adder (Sidewinder).

Departs at 8:00am and return time will be approx 1:00pm. Please note that weather conditions vary from day to day and most bird sightings are strictly dependent on weather and time of the year. *It is recommended that you bring walking shoes, jacket, sunscreen, hat, binoculars and photo equipment.*

Approx \$130.00 per person (based on minimum 3 people)

Dune Lark & Kuiseb Delta & Walvis Lagoon Birding Tour (5 hours – min 2 people)

The Kuiseb Delta vegetation comprises of Tamarisk Trees *Tamarix usneoides*, stunted vegetation and huge 'Nara' hummocks *Acanthosicyos horrida* with a backdrop of the red dune fields. Further upstream towards Rooibank fairly large Camelthorn Trees *Acacia erioloba* are also found.

It is here that your guide will find the only true endemic of the country, the arid adapted Dune Lark. Out of the 16 near endemic birds of Namibia the Dune Lark is the only true endemic. Fortunately 90% of the population falls within protected areas, both national and private so there is no threat to their survival. This little lark is one of the most arid-adapted birds in the world. It lives at the base of the huge red dunes of the Namib where it is most active in the morning and late afternoon. Here you can find it running rapidly over the bare sand between patches of vegetation and dune grass. It scurries between the dunes searching for seeds and small insects on which it feeds. By mid-afternoon the birds become quiet and take shelter in the shade of grass tufts on the dune edges. At this time of the day where the surface can reach a scorching 55 - 60⁰ C, the shaded areas in which they roost may only be around 33⁰ C. approximately 20 – 30% of the Dune Lark's diet is invertebrates, ants, termites, grasshoppers etc. This helps to metabolise enough water to survive as this species does not drink water. Besides this species we may also see the coastal form of Tractrac Chat en route and in the river bed there are several other species such as Bokmakierie, Black-chested Prinia, Ashy Tit, Chestnut-vented Tit Babbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Cape Sparrow, Dusky Sunbird, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Rock Kestrel, Lanner Falcon and Black-chested Snake Eagle.

From the Kuiseb we travel to the Walvis Bay Lagoon and salt pans (proclaimed as a RAMSAR site) where depending on the time of the year you may see thousands of wetland species (over 100,000 birds in summer and less than 50,000 in winter) such as Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sanderlings, Little Stint, both Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Great White Pelican, various Gulls and Terns and with luck Terek Sandpiper, Great Sandplover, Red-necked Phalarope, Franklin's Gull and European Oystercatcher may be seen in huge numbers. However the best time to see most of the above mentioned species is in our summer months from December to mid-April this is when most of the migrants have arrived to feed on the lagoon mudflats.

Departs at 8:00am and return time will be approx 1:00pm. Please note that weather conditions vary from day to day and most bird sightings are strictly dependent on weather and time of the year. *It is recommended that you bring walking shoes, jacket, sunscreen, hat, binoculars and photo equipment.*

Approx \$160.00 per person (based on 2 people)

ADRENALIN ACTIVITIES (SWAKOPMUND)

Scenic Aerial Flight Options

Experience the thrill of Namibia's stunning beauty with a scheduled charter flight over the dunes and along the coast.

Sossusvlei Scenic Flight – Depart Swakopmund and cover a distance of approximately 362 miles as your flight travels south, passing Tsondapvlei, the Namib Desert, down to Sossusvlei and then along the coast to view the shipwrecks of the Eduard Bohlen (1909) and Shaunee (1976). Fly over Sandwich Bay and Walvis Bay, returning to Swakopmund (flight time is approximately 2hr 12min).

Skeleton Coast Scenic Flight – Depart Swakopmund and cover a distance of approximately 337 miles as your flight travels over rugged mountains, ancient lava, open plains and riverbeds. You will pass the Spitskoppe and Brandberg, the most recognizable landmarks in Namibia. Fly along the iconic Skeleton Coast before returning to Swakopmund (flight time is approximately 2hrs).

Namib Desert Scenic Flight – Depart Swakopmund and cover a distance of approximately 185 miles as your flight travels south, crossing the Kuiseb River, over the Namib Desert, and then along the coast to view the shipwreck of the Shaunee (1976). Fly over Sandwich Bay and Walvis Bay, returning to Swakopmund (flight time is approximately 1hr 6min).

Rates – Please Request \$



Quad Biking (1hr or 2 hrs – minimum 2 persons)

This is the best way to experience the pristine beauty of the Namib Desert and its magnificent dunes. No prior experience is needed and you can never be too old to do a guided quad bike excursion.

(No one under 16 years old). **1 Hour - \$35.00 per person / 2 Hour - \$55.00 per person**



Quad Biking and Sandboarding Excursion (min 2 persons)

1 hr Sandboarding lie down + 2 hrs Quad biking

An approximately 3-hour tour, including water, safety gear & guide. This is a full-on adventure package with quad biking and sandboarding. You will drive for about an hour on the quad bike to the sandboarding dune; there you enjoy a fun hour of lie-down sandboarding. Conquer the constantly shifting and powerfully towering beauties of the Namib Desert, the sand dunes, by zooming down the sheer slip faces on a traditional Swakopmund sand board. Enjoy an hour quad bike ride back to the starting point.

Approx \$80.00 per person



Pelican Point Kayaking (half day tour – min 2 persons)

The tour departs the Walvis Bay Yacht Club at 7:45am and returns around 1:00pm. Drive with your guide in a 4-wheel drive vehicle to Pelican Point. Kayak past the lighthouse and around Pelican Point to the seal colonies. Enjoy excellent bird viewing, seals and Heavyside dolphins.

Approx \$85.00 per person

