

13 Day Family Adventure

The 13 day Family Adventure is a safari that has been specially designed for families with small children. The minimum age on this itinerary is 5 years and there is a discounted price for all children under the age of 13. We have tried to keep the driving distances down to a minimum, (not easy in a huge country like Namibia and there are still a few long drives), and we have tried to include as many sites as possible that will appeal to Adults and children alike.

The itinerary is semi accommodated and the camping nights are fully assisted comfortable camping.

We start with a “Township Tour, (depending on arrival time in Namibia), and the first night is in a quality Windhoek Guest-House to allow you time to relax and acclimatise. Day 2 will see you travelling north, south & west you will visit the Africat Foundation at Okonjima to meet and learn about Africa’s Big Cats. Then on to Etosha National Park for some concentrated Big Game viewing. The Himba village at Oase brings us in touch with some of Namibia’s ancient traditions before travelling into the desert proper to spend the night at The Brandberg, Namibia’s highest mountain and an ancient Bushman spiritual site. Swakopmund on the Skeleton Coast offers time to relax or time for some adventure sport adrenaline followed by two nights with the awesome sand dunes at Sesriem & Sossusvlei, the world’s tallest dunes in the world’s oldest desert.

The last night is spent back in Windhoek at a guest house to allow you to relax and provides some quality shopping time in Namibia’s capital city, (depending on departure flight times).

Guaranteed departures on selected Saturdays of the year, with a minimum of four people.

There is no single supplement, and the price is virtually fully inclusive of everything you will need whilst travelling with us. The style is limited participation, assisted camping with the participation limited to only helping with the tents. Collection time is between 08:00 & 08:30 from anywhere within the Windhoek city limits.

Two of the world’s natural wonders, the Okavango Delta and the mighty Victoria Falls can also be included by combining this trip with our 8 day Delta and Falls Safari, (minimum age in the Delta & Falls is 12 years)

- Maximum group size is 14 travellers
- All Safaris will be in a specially converted safari truck.
- Itinerary is assisted comfortable camping with participation limited to only helping with the tents.
- **Please note:**
As of 27th March 2010, the itinerary of our 13 Day Family Adventure safari will be running in the reverse direction.

Safari Tour Overview

Day	Destinations	Accommodation	Meals
1	Windhoek City	guest-house	
2	Okonjima	Camping	L, D
3	Etosha National Park	Camping	B, L, D
4	Etosha National Park	Camping	B, L, D
5	Oase Himba Village	Camping	B, L, D
6	Damaraland	Camping	B, L, D
7	Brandberg Mountain	Camping	B, L, D
8	Swakopmund	Chalets	B, L

9	Swakopmund	Chalets	B
10	Sesriem	Camping	B, L, D
11	Agama	Camping	B, L, D
12	Windhoek City	guest-house	B, L, D
13	Windhoek		B

Safari Tour Details

Day 1

Windhoek

After arriving in Windhoek and settling into your guest house, you have the day to yourself where you can relax at the guest house, laze by the pool, visit the museum or take a stroll through town.

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client's own account.

Day 2

Windhoek – Okonjima (300km) (LD) (Camping)

We will travel north, stopping at small towns along the way including Okahandja, where we have time to visit Namibia's largest wood carving market. The market is operated on a local co-operative basis and is one of the best places to shop for truly Namibian souvenirs.

Continuing north, passing through farmland, we aim to arrive at Okonjima during the middle afternoon, giving us time to set up our camp and to relax in the shade for a while before heading out on to the property to take part in the afternoon's activities.

Okonjima is the home of the Africat Foundation, a specialist conservation concern that centres its operations around the African Big Cats, particularly cheetah. This afternoon specialised guides will take you on a tour during which you will be able to meet, close-up-and-personal, some of the cheetah, and other Big Cats, that are going through the Africat rehabilitation programme.

Most of the animals currently living at Okonjima have been rescued from various desperate situations, being orphaned or caught in a trap, and the aim of the rehabilitation process is to attempt to re-introduce them into the wild.

After our educational tour we will return to camp and prepare for dinner under the African stars.

Day 3

Okonjima – Etosha National Park (300km) (BLD) (Camping)

Heading north on the main road and passing through small towns along the way. We will make a short stop for fresh supplies in the northern community of Outjo where we can also get coffee and sticky cakes at the local bakery, before continuing on to Etosha's premier resort, Okaukuejo.

We have time to make our camp and to relax in the shade by the swimming pool before heading out into the park in the cool of the late afternoon on our first game drive. Etosha forms the main game viewing section of our safari and the Okaukuejo area offers us some of the best waterholes in the park and the best chance to see some Big Game.

Game driving is not the only way to see the African wildlife at Okaukuejo. Located right on the boundary of the camp and within easy walking distance there is a floodlit waterhole for "after hours" game watching. Okaukuejo is famous for its waterhole, it has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa" and black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope are usually seen.

Day 4

Etosha National Park (Full Day Game Drive) (BLD) (Camping)

Okaukuejo is our first two-night stop and we go straight out on an early morning game drive. We visit some of the numerous waterholes in the area hoping to catch some of Etosha's Big Game out for an early morning drink. The game drives around the Okaukuejo area are some of the best in the park and we cover several different terrains this morning, from wooded areas to open savannah and in the rainy season, wetland.

Back to Okaukuejo in the late morning and after lunch there is time once again to relax during the heat of the day. The pool area here is very good, shaded by palm trees and within easy walking distance of the waterhole.

As on day three, we take a shorter game drive in the late afternoon, often driving out to one of the waterholes popular with game and waiting for the animals to come to us.

The Okaukuejo waterhole "Game Show" is scheduled to start again at sunset

Day 5

Etosha National Park – Oase Himba Village (300km)

Leaving Etosha we begin our journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Kamanjab where we will make a short stop here before continuing on to find the Himba Tribesmen.

This is the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia. These tribes-people have migrated here, lifestyle and customs intact, and are following their traditional way-of-life in their village on a farm. Oase Village is located about 15 to 20 km outside Kamanjab, the exact location of the site varies as the Himba occasionally roam to a new location.

During the afternoon we will be invited into Oase Village and will meet with the locals. We will have a specialist guide for the time we are there, who will be able to translate for us and will introduce us to this "alternative lifestyle". We will learn about marriage customs, traditional food and the mysteries of the local religion, "Holy Fire".

Day 6

Oase Himba village – Damaraland (230km) (BLD) (Camping)

From Oase we will travel to the west, heading deeper into the desert and passing through beautiful Damaraland scenery as we traverse the small "Groot-Berg" mountain range and we head down to the Palmwag Oasis.

Located on the banks of a dry river, the Oasis is shaded by huge makalani palm trees and water comes from a rare desert spring that attracts a wide variety of wild game, including the rare and elusive desert elephant and rhinoceros.

There is a swimming pool where you can cool off and chill out or a self guided sunset walking trail if you are feeling energetic.

Day 7

Damaraland – Brandberg Mountain (250km) (BLD) (Camping)

Damaraland is probably Namibia's most beautiful area and we drive through the heart of the region today. Giant granite "koppies" and open grassland make up the terrain with rare and unusual flora species dotting the landscape.

Our first main stop today will be the Twyfelfontein valley to visit the Bushman rock engravings or petroglyphs. Ancient artisans used tools made from quartz to leave modern generations with the gift of a fascinating open air museum. The art is carved into the flat surfaces of a ruined petrified sand dune and a local guide will introduce us to this important site.

From here we head deeper into the desert and on to Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m). Brandberg Mountain is another ancient Bushman spiritual site and

tonight we will sleep in a community campsite under the shadow of this giant granite monolith.

Day 8

Brandberg Mountain – Swakopmund (300km) (BL) (Chalet)

Starting early to enjoy the cool of the morning we will hike, “into” the mountain with our guide to see the world famous “White Lady” rock painting. Attributed to the Bushman artists, the white lady panel is believed by some to be in excess of 20 000 years old.

Back on the road and more beautiful Damaraland scenery this morning, we make our first stop in the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here, rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc can be found at bargain prices.

From here we turn directly west and cross the “gravel plains” on our way to the Atlantic Ocean and the Skeleton Coast. Meeting the ocean at Henties Bay, we first head north along the coast to visit the seal colony at Cape Cross where at certain times of the year there can be as many as 100,000 Cape Fur Seals in attendance.

The next destination is Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast into Namibia’s premier seaside town.

The Swakopmund section of the trip is designed to allow people to relax either with the group, or on their own. Only breakfast is provided to allow you to plan your time here with as much flexibility as possible and not to be tied to group meal times. It also gives you the chance to sample some of the excellent local cafes and restaurants. The seafood in Swakopmund is superb and your guide will offer to organise a group meal in a local restaurant for this evening.

Dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client’s own account

Day 9

Swakopmund (B) (Chalet)

Today is a free day. The idea is to allow time for everybody to do their own thing.

Swakopmund is a very pleasant seaside town with lots of shops, a good stretch of beach (although the Atlantic here is quite cold) and an open-air curio market. There is also a very good museum and the Namibian National Marine Aquarium is located in Swakopmund.

Alternatively, there are various optional activities that can be arranged. These include aeroplane and microlight flights over the desert, scenic drives, fishing trips (both from the beach or in a boat), four-wheel motorcycle (quad bike) trips into the desert and over the sand dunes around Swakopmund, sand boarding trips (also in the dunes), skydiving, surfing, bird-watching and many other activities are available.

Your tour guide will discuss all the possible options with you before you reach Swakopmund and will offer to make bookings in advance of your arrival.

(N.B. All extra activities and excursions in Swakopmund are subject to availability and are made at the clients’ own risk and expense and dinner this evening is not included in the price of the safari and will be for the client’s own account.

Day 10

Swakopmund - Sesriem (280km) (BLD) (Camping)

We first make a stop at Walvis Bay, situated about 40 km south of Swakopmund. South of the town there is a large marine lagoon which is home to a vast array of marine bird-life, in particular flamingos.

We will make a short visit to the lagoon to see the birds and a short visit to Walvis Bay to collect any last minute supplies before once again heading out into the desert.

The second part of our journey today takes us across more of the seemingly endless Namib gravel plains. Then the landscape suddenly changes and we are into the mountain desert. We traverse both the Kuiseb and Gaub passes, driving both times to the river beds at the bottom of the canyons and then climbing the long steep road to the top and the spectacular panoramas the mountains give us. Again the scenery changes as we make our way down to the Namib Desert.”

“We cross some open grass savannah and farmlands before the terrain begins to give way to the immense Naukluft Mountains of the Namib and from here it is only a short distance to our next stop, the tiny town of Solitaire. We will stop here for some refreshments before continuing on through stunning desert scenery.”

We aim to arrive at our camp during the late afternoon and watch the colours glow and change on distant mountains to the east.

Day 11

Sesriem – Agama (220km) (BLD) (Camping)

A pre dawn start is essential this morning as we want to catch the soft light of the sunrise on the desert as we drive in. We will arrive at the entrance to the dunes on sunrise and then travel through the dune field as the sun is coming up. The light casts strong contrasts of colour on the edges of the dunes and offers stunning views from the dry river bed you travel through. We reach Sossusvlei itself by walking the last 5 km through the dunes. The walk is like nothing else, enjoying the changing light and coolness of the morning.

Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or maybe an ostrich make the photo opportunities perfect.

We spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, also visiting “Dune 45”, and as the day wears on we return to Sesriem for lunch and to escape the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon we will take a short excursion to the Sesriem Canyon.

Day 12

Agama – Windhoek (350km) (BL)

After breakfast we begin our journey, over the mountains and along scenic roads, back to Windhoek. We will travel over the Naukluft Mountains and also the Khomas Hochland range, through beautiful Remhoogte Pass on our way back to civilization.

We aim to arrive back in Windhoek in the early afternoon. Tonight we are staying at a guest house in town and there will be time to wander around town or relax at the guest house before your guide collects you again in the evening for dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Day 13

Windhoek

This morning you will be taken on a “Katutura Township Tour”. Katutura was, during the apartheid years, the original Windhoek workers “township” and is still today the largest suburb in Windhoek. The atmosphere is truly African and we will visit all the areas of local interest including markets and a local bar to try out the traditional drinks and food.

Depending on departure times for your flight home, the afternoon can be spent shopping in Windhoek. Not only interesting, this is an excellent opportunity to check out the markets for last minute gifts and souvenirs.