



CUSTOM NAMIBIA SAFARI

Specially prepared for Vickie Coker Group
Late June / Early July 2023



DAILY ITINERARY

Namibia is soul-stirring. Here on the southwest edge of Africa, burnt-orange dunes rise a thousand feet high against a cobalt sky. Inside are diamonds, tucked into the mountains of sand by waves and wind. The coastal desert is washed by the relentless ocean, while inland, the sun bakes the plains into a cracked puzzle of dried mud, pocked with enough grass and thornbush to sustain desert rhinoceros and other rare species uniquely adapted to survive in these daunting environs. There is water here, too, although its presence is subtle. At times, life is sustained merely by remnants of fog that drift in from the sea. In the stark Etosha salt pan, waterholes attract game pursued by feline predators. Springbok, oryx, kudu and dik-dik run to elude them in a great and ancient desert dance.

DAY 1: WINDHOEK

Arrive Windhoek anytime today. After completing immigration, baggage claim and customs formalities, you will be met by a Natural Habitat Adventures representative in the arrivals hall holding a signboard with your name. You will be transferred to Am Weinberg Hotel.

Am Weinberg features 41 rooms that wrap around a heritage building, creating an inviting courtyard. Each of the rooms is designed in a traditional, modern style with the convenience of the best amenities with the comfort of an elegant home. The hotel features three beautiful lounge spaces, including the Sky Lounge, boasting panoramic views of the surrounding valley. Guests also have access to two upmarket restaurants and a delicatessen within the broader estate precinct. A 5-star spa is also accessible to guests within the Am Weinberg Estate. The hotel is a very comfortable yet affordable way to begin or conclude a Namibian safari.

Overnight Am Weinberg Hotel in 7 Courtyard Upper Rooms (breakfast included)

DAYS 2 & 3: SOSSUSVLEI

At a time to be advised locally, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred by road to the airport for your charter flight to Sossusvlei and Kwessi Dunes.

Private Charter flight to Sossusvlei (times to be advised locally).

Flight times are subject to change.

In the midst of rolling plains and craggy mountains, you'll find Kwessi Dunes, boasting 12 comfortable, air-conditioned chalets all with canvas walls and thatched roofs. Each bedroom also has an en suite bathroom with both indoor and outdoor showers, a shaded, outdoor veranda and a separate 'star gazer' room, completely open to the sky, and the perfect spot from which to watch the celestial theater show above. The view from the lodge is spectacular, and the glass windows and doors at the main area look out onto the undulating sand that only ends when it meets the mountains, far in the distance. Inside, there's a well-

stocked bar, library area and several seating and dining areas. When the sun rises in the morning, head to the camp fire for a morning coffee or tea, while in the heat of the day, the swimming pool is the only place to be.

Kwessi Dunes is located deep in Namibia's striking NamibRand Nature Reserve, a vast desert wilderness of more than 494,000 acres. The dunes are home to a variety of wildlife that has adapted in many fascinating ways in order to survive. For example, find the gemsbok, or oryx, with their white bellies that reflect the heat of the sand and their sophisticated vascular system that cools the blood around the brain. Spot the bat-eared fox, whose ears help to amplify the sound of their predators approaching. You may also see springbok, kudu and steenbok as well as Burchell's zebra, black-backed jackal, aardwolves and Africa wild cats. Explore by quad bike, scenic drives and walks, as well as optional (at an extra cost) hot air ballooning, helicopter flights, horse riding and day trips to Sossusvlei.

Hot Air Balloon Safari: At sunrise, in the world's oldest desert, witness a spectacular hot air balloon inflation, and set out on the flight of a lifetime. Soar with the winds for an hour, over the oceans of sand and mountains, endless vistas of shadows and lights. At landing, you come back to earth with an "Out Of Africa" style Champagne breakfast set up in the middle of nowhere. Your pilot will present you with a flight certificate before you take a leisurely nature drive back to the pick-up point. It is an experience like no other. *Please note that this is a shared activity. Children should be at least 4 feet tall to be allowed to do the activity. This is an OPTION. It is not included in the price of the trip.*

Sossusvlei Excursion: Depart camp early in the morning, heading west into the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Drive through a sea of rust-orange sand dunes, perfectly shaped by the wind into sharp peaks creating unique shadows in the morning sunlight. One of the highlights of your excursion will be Big Daddy, the highest sand dune in the Sossusvlei area, reaching over 1000-1200 feet most days. You have the option of climbing up the ridge of this impressive formation as far as you'd like, and you can depart down either side at any time. To the right of the main ridge of Big Daddy sits Dead Vlei (meaning "dead marsh" in Afrikaans) at the bottom of the dune. This massive clay pan was once an oasis, now dry, and is dotted with the remains of acacia camel thorn trees that are thought to have died 600-700 years ago and are now scorched black by the sun. The desiccated pan floor is a cracked white clay, creating an austere and surreal landscape to explore. Another stop you can make is at Dune 45, nearly 300 feet tall and comprised of five million year-old sands. Because Sossusvlei is inside a national park and quite a popular site, you will see other tourists and vehicles here, but the experience of seeing these features up close is unique and worthwhile.

Overnights Kwessi Dunes in 7 Rooms (full board basis—all meals included)

DAYS 4 & 5: KAOKOLAND

At a time to be advised locally, you will be transferred to the airstrip for your charter flight to Hoanib Valley Camp.

Private Charter flight to Damaraland (times to be advised locally).
Flight times are subject to change.

In a country jam-packed with vast, spectacularly beautiful landscapes, Kaokoland may just be the most incredible of them all. Deep in northwestern Namibia, the area is a melee of towering mountains, sand dunes, and huge expanses of desert, scattered with unique wildlife and nomadic Himba settlements. It's also one of Namibia's most remote and wild environments, and one that not many will get the chance to discover in a lifetime.

A joint venture between the local communities and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, the world's only Africa-wide giraffe conservation organisation, Hoanib Valley Camp is an elegant, intimate affair that immerses you into the wilds of the desert. The six rooms blend seamlessly with the environment, offering a simple aesthetic that matches the rugged landscape down to a tee. Days are spent tracking endangered rhino, desert-adapted elephant, and of course desert-adapted giraffe, before retiring to your private veranda to marvel at the magnitude of your surroundings.

Game drive through the network of dry sand riverbeds and discover desert-adapted lion, elephant and giraffe, and track endangered black rhino. Visit the Giraffe Conservation Foundation field-base and learn about the cutting-edge giraffe research being conducted here. Spend time with local Herero and Himba people and learn a little of their fascinating way of life in such a harsh climate. Embark on a guided nature walk and uncover the smaller flora and fauna of the desert.

Overnights Hoanib Valley Camp in 7 Rooms (full board basis—all meals included)

DAYS 6 & 7: SKELETON COAST

At a time to be advised locally, you will transfer by road to Shipwreck Lodge.

Uniquely designed around the enigmatic shipwrecks that line Namibia's Skeleton Coast, there's nowhere on the continent quite like Shipwreck Lodge. In fact, there's nowhere on the continent quite like the Skeleton Coast. It's a raw, rugged and impossibly remote slice of African wilderness, where towering dunes and wind-swept plains roll as far as the eye can see, buffeted by the icy Atlantic seas.

The camp is built to match the remarkable scenery of the Skeleton Coast, and each of the 10 rooms have been constructed to resemble the shipwrecks that line the beach. There are eight twin or double rooms, and two family tents, all en suite and solar-powered. Well, apart from the wood burning stove but on the chilly evenings and mornings, it's most definitely a welcome addition! In the center of camp, you'll find an uniquely designed lounge and restaurant with a wide, wraparound deck and uninterrupted views across the sand, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

But there's much more to the area than simple isolation. Stay at Shipwreck Lodge, and game drive among the desert-dwelling elephant, lion and kudu, or discover the enchanting desert flora; sit atop the roaring dunes as the sun sinks below the horizon, or visit at the Suiderkus and Karimona shipwrecks or marvel at the geologically-remarkable Clay Castles. Really, there's nowhere like it on earth.

Overnights Shipwreck Lodge in 7 Rooms (full board basis—all meals included)

DAYS 8–10: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

At a time to be advised locally, you will be transferred to the airstrip for your charter flight to Etosha National Park, where you will be met and transferred to Safarihoek Lodge.

Private Charter flight to Etosha National Park (times to be advised locally).

Flight times are subject to change.

The vistas at Safarihoek have to be some of the best. Raised high above the savanna on wooden platforms, each of the 11 chalets look out over the ambling zebra and romping elephant on the plains below. Take a seat on your private deck and watch wild Africa wander by, or escape the heat inside; the view is just as spectacular wherever you choose to sit. Under the thatch roofs of the chalets, you'll find large double or twin beds, and a small writing desk, minibar and coffee station. All bathrooms have air conditioning and are en

suite with indoor showers. In the center of camp, you'll find a large lounge area, wine cellar, dining area, and a small curio shop all under thatch. There's also a cozy outdoor seating area complete with roaring fire, and a perfect spot for keeping an eye on passing four-legged creatures. Drinks are served from the outdoor bar and can also be taken to the swimming pool, a cooling space with the same infinite views of the plains below.

The impressive 148,000 acres of classic Etosha landscape around Safarihoek Lodge is dominated by vast, flat savanna interspersed with thickets of mopane woodland, riverine forest, and scattered salt pans. The dolomite hills offer cover for elusive mountain zebra, kudu and lion, and the numerous waterholes attract large numbers of game and their feathered counterparts. The reserve is also home to numerous species of antelope including sable and black-faced impala, as well as giraffe and other plains game. In winter, aardvark and elephant sightings are not infrequent. The Etosha area is rated one of the best places on the continent to view rhino, and Etosha Heights is home to both white and black rhino. A morning spent tracking their footprints through the dust before eventually coming nose-to-horn with one of the endangered beasts is a memory not to be forgotten. Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the Etosha Heights Private Reserve, get a different perspective on a night game drive, spend a morning or afternoon in the unique, double-tiered photography hide and enjoy bush meals and picnics.

Overnights Safarihoek Lodge (full board basis—all meals included)

DAY 11: DEPARTURE

At a time to be advised locally, you will have transfer to the airstrip for your charter flight to Windhoek to connect with your onward departing flight.

Private Charter flight to Windhoek (times to be advised locally).

Flight times are subject to change.

Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional, life-enhancing adventure. To achieve that goal, our Expedition Leaders are empowered to make reasonable changes to itineraries while a trip is underway. These decisions might be made to more closely follow the movements of wildlife, to accommodate extreme weather, to take advantage of unexpected opportunities, or generally to improve overall guest experience. For this reason, the above itinerary should be considered a general outline of your trip, but it is subject to change. After all, the very definition of adventure is "an exciting or remarkable undertaking involving the unknown."

ADVENTURE INFORMATION

This is a proposal only. No services or accommodations have been booked on your behalf until a non-refundable deposit is made to secure these services, which are then confirmed with local suppliers.

NOTES

- A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the trip fee per person is required upon booking to confirm your reservation.

INCLUDED IN THE COST OF YOUR ADVENTURE

- All accommodations on a double occupancy basis
- All meals at camps and lodges
- Breakfast daily in city hotels
- Alcoholic and soft-drink beverages at some accommodations (see amenities below)
- Services of camp guides and staff
- Scheduled activities on safari and excursions as noted
- Road transfers as noted
- Air transfers/shared charter flights as noted
- Laundry service at some accommodations (see amenities below)
- Relevant park and conservancy fees
- Accommodation taxes, applicable tourism levies and Value Added Tax (VAT) or Government Sales Tax (GST)
- Gratuities for meals or drinks already included in your itinerary

NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF YOUR ADVENTURE

- Travel to the start and end point of the itinerary
- Lunch, dinner and drinks in city hotels
- Alcoholic and soft-drink beverages at some accommodations (see amenities below)
- Premium brand alcoholic beverages and imports (see amenities below)
- Laundry service at some accommodations (see amenities below)
- Cancellation, baggage and medical insurance
- Passport and visa fees where applicable
- Gratuities for staff, guides, trackers, porters, transfer drivers, and any meals or drinks not included in your itinerary, etc.
- Any newly-implemented government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases which are beyond our control
- International airport departure taxes applicable from manned airports only, which is to be paid in US\$ cash on departure unless included in your ticket cost
- Any items of a personal nature (souvenirs, massage, drinks and meals not included, etc.)
- Covid testing fees if applicable at time of travel
- Nat Hab private guide throughout (you will enjoy the guidance of camp-based naturalist guides at each stop)

YOUR GUIDES

During the safari you will have the services of experienced local camp guides. These guides will take you on game drives and are charged with the important responsibilities of locating wildlife and taking care of you, our traveler. Their intimate knowledge of the surrounding environment is unmatched, as they successfully

track wildlife day in and day out. Not only is this the most prudent way for you to observe the most wildlife while ensuring our adventures operate smoothly, it creates revenue for the host countries, motivating the local people to continue their protection of the animals and their habitat.

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The following details include available facilities, amenities and services at each of your accommodations. Note that while we do update this information regularly, these details can and do change frequently and thus should be used as a guideline only. Please contact your Adventure Concierge team if you have any questions.

Am Weinberg Hotel—Windhoek, Namibia

- En suite bathroom with rainfall shower
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap and lotion
- Hair dryer
- Air conditioning
- Tea/coffee in room
- In-room safe
- 220v charging outlets in room
- Wi-Fi available
- Flat screen TV and satellite channels
- Laundry service (extra cost)
- Spa (extra cost)
- Credit cards accepted (Visa)

Hoanib Valley Camp—Kaokoland, Namibia

- En suite bathroom with indoor shower
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap and lotion
- Wi-Fi available
- 220v charging outlets in room and main area
- Central swimming pool
- Laundry included
- Local drinks included (house alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks)

Shipwreck Lodge—Skeleton Coast, Namibia

- En suite bathroom with indoor shower
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap and lotion
- Hair dryer available on request
- Wi-Fi available
- 220v charging outlets in room and main area
- Laundry included
- Local drinks included (house alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks)

Safarihoek Lodge—Etosha National Park, Namibia

- En suite bathroom with indoor shower
- Soap, shampoo and conditioner
- Hair dryer
- Air conditioning
- 220v charging outlets
- Wifi available for an N\$50 donation to the reserve's anti-poaching program
- Central swimming pool
- Laundry included
- Local drinks included (house alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks)
- Credit cards accepted (Visa & MasterCard)

AVERAGE CLIMATE DURING YOUR SAFARI

It is important to remember that the below information is based on general climate and weather patterns so the conditions during your visit could be quite different from what is listed below. Please check the current weather on the Internet (weather.com or wunderground.com) so you can be prepared for any unseasonable weather.

Namibia

Nighttime temperatures in June can drop below freezing in some desert areas. Travelers will experience pleasant daytime temperatures similar to those in May, so layering is key. You will want warm layers including

a fleece, windproof jacket, warm hat, gloves and scarf for early morning hikes and drives, but will need only lightweight clothing by the middle of the day (shorts may not be necessary, although zip-off pants are always a good idea).

July is very similar to June, as it is the middle of Namibia's winter season. Travelers should be prepared for very chilly nighttime and early morning temperatures with a fleece, windproof jacket, warm hat, gloves and scarf. Once the days warm up, you will want to shed these outer layers and will need only lightweight underlayers. During this time you can expect high temperatures in the 60s and low 70s F (possibly reaching the low 80s F in Sossusvlei). Lows will again have the potential to dip below freezing, although this is unlikely to happen every night. July and August are typically the best times to track desert-adapted elephant and rhino in the deserts of Damaraland and Palmwag.

Average Temperature & Rainfall—June

Region	Low	High	Rainfall
Windhoek	45 °F	72 °F	0.06 in
	7 °C	22 °C	2 mm
Sossusvlei	55 °F	84 °F	0.04 in
	12 °C	28 °C	1 mm
Damaraland	55 °F	64 °F	0.04 in
	12 °C	17 °C	1 mm
Skeleton Coast	55 °F	64 °F	0.04 in
	12 °C	17 °C	1 mm
Etosha Nat'l Park	45 °F	72 °F	0.0 in
	7 °C	22 °C	0 mm

Average Temperature & Rainfall—July

Region	Low	High	Rainfall
Windhoek	45 °F	72 °F	0.02 in
	7 °C	22 °C	1 mm
Sossusvlei	52 °F	81 °F	0.0 in
	11 °C	27 °C	0 mm
Damaraland	52 °F	63 °F	0.12 in
	11 °C	17 °C	3 mm
Skeleton Coast	52 °F	63 °F	0.0 in
	11 °C	17 °C	0 mm
Etosha Nat'l Park	43 °F	72 °F	0.08 in
	6 °C	22 °C	2 mm