

NAMIBIA: FLYING SAFARI

18 - 30 MARCH 2025

FROM
£10,270
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Nick Van Gruisen


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

STUNNING LANDSCAPES, DESERT WILDLIFE & A DRAMATIC COASTLINE



Namibia is awe-inspiringly impressive from all angles, but viewing the landscapes from a small plane, high in the sky, is magical. Join Nick Van Gruisen on a flying safari and experience the best of the country's vast and varied landscapes, including the iconic dunes of Sossusvlei, the fascinating, desert-adapted species of the Hoanib Valley, the intriguing Skeleton Coast and Etosha, home to the highest concentration of animals in Namibia. Travel across Namibia on a series of short privately chartered flights during which you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the scenery sweeping below you. The 8-night flying safari is topped and tailed with a night either side in Windhoek.

After swooping over the vast Namib Desert and the towering dunes of Sossusvlei from above, your first two nights on the flying safari are at Kwessi Dunes, a Sossusvlei safari camp located deep in Namibia's striking NamibRand Nature Reserve. A vast desert wilderness of over 200,000 hectares with rolling desert plains and backdrop of craggy mountains and iconic red dunes, this is a place where time seems to stand still and the space is never-ending. Here, it's not about chasing big game but rather soaking up the beauty of the colourful landscape, admiring the antelope that scatter the sand, and gazing at the stars that light up the night sky.

Then it's back to the sky for an incredible flight over the Atlantic Coastline, touching down briefly in Swakopmund, then on along the dramatic Skeleton Coast and inland to the Hoanib Valley Camp in Kaokoland for two nights. In a country jam-packed with vast, spectacularly beautiful landscapes, Kaokoland may just be the most incredible of them all. Deep in north-western Namibia, the area is a melee of towering mountains, sand dunes, and huge expanses of desert, scattered with unique wildlife and nomadic Herero 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.

Take a scenic drive to the spectacular Skeleton Coast to stay at the award-winning Shipwreck Lodge for a further two nights. The Skeleton Coast is 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 Skeleton Coast National Park is officially the least visited of all of Namibia's parks and Shipwreck Lodge is located in the Skeleton Coast Central Concession Area, a critically important piece of land for protecting vulnerable wildlife species.

Fly on inland to Etosha where your wildlife dreams will come true during a two-night stay at the Safarihoek Lodge which sits within an exclusive private reserve outside the renowned Etosha National Park. The Etosha Heights Private Reserve is one of the country's most prolific game areas and blissfully free of crowds, which offers a superb opportunity to encounter endangered black and white rhino amongst large concentrations of other plains game.



Hot Air balloon ride, Sossusvlei



Shipwreck Lodge



Hoanib Valley Camp

13-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 18 MARCH 2025

18 March London / Johannesburg

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 55 departing London Heathrow at 18.25 hrs.

19 March Johannesburg / Windhoek

Arrive in Johannesburg at 07.25 hrs and connect to British Airways BA6307 departing at 10.40 hrs arriving Windhoek at 12.50 hrs. Group transfer to the Windhoek Luxury Suites Hotel where one night is spent. With its lush green gardens, swimming pool and lavish designer rooms, the hotel offers luxury and tranquillity in the heart of the Namibian capital. Dinner at the Stellenbosch Restaurant.

20 March Windhoek/ Sossusvlei

Transfer to Windhoek's Eros Airport for the start of the flying safari. Meet your pilot and board your Desert Air privately chartered small plane to take to the skies for the flight to Kwessi Dunes in the striking NamibRand Nature Reserve in Sossusvlei. As you near the reserve, fly over the iconic, blood-red dunes stretching for as far as the eye can see. Check in at Kwessi Dunes where two nights are spent. This is a classic canvas-and-thatch lodge in the heart of the reserve. Africa's very first designated

International Dark Sky Reserve, the stargazing opportunities in the NamibRand are simply sensational. Each of the twelve chalets has its own open-to-the-sky 'stargazer' room just for admiring the constellations, as well as a vintage four-poster bed, outdoor shower and shaded veranda where you can take in the stunning desert vistas. The lodge has a refreshing pool, spa, a well-stocked bar and library.

Lunch at the lodge. Enjoy the activities available at the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

21 March Sossusvlei

Enjoy the activities the lodge has to offer including, morning and afternoon scenic drives and walks in the NamibRand Nature Reserve, horse riding, quad biking, hot air ballooning (at an extra cost), and a day trip to the dunes of Sossusvlei (at an extra cost) and star gazing. Keep your eyes peeled all the while for a glimpse of gemsbok, bat-eared foxes and other unique, desert-adapted wildlife.

Lunch and dinner at the Lodge.

22 March Sossusvlei / Kaokoland

This morning, board the plane for

a scenic flight northbound over the Atlantic Coast, passing the famous Eduard Bohlen shipwreck (1909), Conception Bay and Sandwich Harbour. Land briefly in Swakopmund for refuelling before continuing north in the plane over the dramatic rocky coastline, nicknamed the 'gates to hell' by Portuguese sailors attempting to round the Cape of Good Hope, glimpsing remnants of shipwrecks, before turning inland toward the Hoanib Valley Camp.

Lunch on arrival and transfer to Hoanib Valley Camp where two nights are spent. This tented eco-camp is located amongst the towering mountains and sand dunes of Kaokoland in north-western Namibia – a remote wilderness defined by sweeping desert, rolling sand dunes and dramatic jagged mountains. Accommodation consists of just six guest tents, all with private verandas and en suite bathrooms. The camp is a joint venture between the local communities, and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. Remainder of the afternoon at enjoy the activities available at the camp. Dinner at the camp.



Elephants in Etosha



Kwessi Dunes



Safarihoek

23 March Kaokoland

Full day for activities which focus primarily on the region's unique, desert wildlife. Game drives along dry riverbeds take you in search of desert-adapted lion, giraffe and elephant, as well as kudu, springbok, oryx, hornbills, eagles and the endangered black rhino. Guided nature walks allow you to experience the region's smaller species. Visits to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation field-base enable you to see its cutting-edge research. For those interested in culture, visits to local nomadic Himba communities are a great way of getting an insight into life in this remote region.

Lunch and dinner at the camp.

24 March Kaokoland / Skeleton Coast

Today, take a full-day, spectacular drive to the Skeleton Coast along the ephemeral Hoanib River, home to large herds of elephant, and the Hoarusib River, where dry plains give way to a clay-baked landscape, and as you reach the Atlantic Sea, so the landscape turns to white sand dunes. Check in at the award-winning Shipwreck Lodge, in the Skeleton

Coast National Park, where two nights are spent. The lodge is located in the Skeleton Coast Central Concession Area, a critically important piece of land for protecting vulnerable wildlife species. Each of its ten striking, solar-powered chalets have been designed to mimic the shipwrecks dramatically strewn along the hauntingly beautiful Skeleton Coast. Step inside, however, and you are welcomed by modern, well-appointed interiors with ensuite bathrooms and cosy, wood-burning stoves. At the heart of the lodge lies the attractive lounge and restaurant, complete with wraparound deck where you can take in views that stretch out towards the shimmering ocean, and a swimming pool.

Lunch at the lodge. Enjoy the activities at the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

25 March Skeleton Coast

Choose from the activities on offer at the lodge which include trips to the Mowe Bay seal colony, including stops at the Suiderkus and Karimona shipwrecks, Westies diamond mine, and the remains of the Ventura Bomber; sundowner drives to the roaring dunes; full day 4x4 Hoarusib

River excursions, including the remarkable Clay Castles and wildlife spotting in search of desert-adapted elephants, lion and kudu; beach lunches; quad biking and sand boarding.

Lunch and dinner at the lodge.

26 March Skeleton Coast / Etosha

This morning board the plane once more for a flight inland toward Etosha and check in at the Safarihoek Lodge where two nights are spent. The lodge is located in the Etosha Heights Private Reserve, a 60,000-hectare private reserve, an epic wilderness of vast savannah dotted with scatterings of mopane woodland and dolomite hills. Perched atop a hill overlooking a large waterhole and with far-reaching views across the flat savannah, the lodge has 11 well-appointed chalets on wooden platforms, with private verandas, writing desks and air-conditioned ensuites with indoor showers. It has a double-tiered photography hide offering close-ups of the region's diverse wildlife and a swimming pool with panoramic views.

Lunch at the lodge. Enjoy activities at the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£10,270
Single Supplement	£1,885

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Private domestic charter flights
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner (plus all non-luxury drinks) at the camps
- 2 dinners Windhoek
- Group transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits and excursions
- Camp gratuities
- Gratuities to driver/s; portorage
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Selected camp activities at an additional cost
- Meals indicated as 'under own arrangements'
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 10/04/24

27 March Etosha

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the Etosha Heights Private Reserve where wildlife roams undisturbed and you can expect amazing encounters with a variety of species including mountain zebra, lion, cheetah elephant, giraffe, antelope and both white and black rhinos. Alternatively, spend the morning or afternoon in the unique, double-tiered photography hide which will get you closer than ever to Namibia's giants. It is also possible to experience the bush after dark on an exciting night game drive.

Lunch and dinner at the lodge including the possibility of a picnic out in the bush.

28 March Etosha / Windhoek

Morning to enjoy activities at the lodge.

Lunch at the lodge. Return by private charter plane to Windhoek where a further night is spent at the Windhoek Luxury Suites. Dinner at Joe's Beer House.

29 March Windhoek / Cape Town

Group transfer to Windhoek International Airport. Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 6236 departing Windhoek at 13.45 hrs arriving Cape Town at 15.50 hrs connecting to BA 58 departing at 18.45 hrs.

30 March Cape Town / London

Arrive London Heathrow at 05.45 hrs.

The tour will be limited to a maximum of 8 people travelling in one privately chartered Cessna Grand Caravan small plane.





YOUR TOUR LEADER



NICK VAN GRUISEN

Raised in Northumberland, in the 1970s Nick spent five years as a professional guide in Botswana and southern Africa. He then joined the Tiger Mountain group, pioneering cultural, trekking and wildlife holidays throughout the Indian subcontinent. He founded Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions in 1991, from which The Ultimate Travel Company emerged in 1998.



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