



2021 & 2022 - SCH 7 day Southern Swing safari (selected Fri departures)

Kalahari Namibia - Fish River Canyon - Luderitz - Aus - Sesriem - Sossusvlei

7 Days / 6 Nights

Group Size: Minimum 1 guest Maximum 14 guests



Introduction

Your journey takes in the Kalahari area of Namibia, majestic Fish River Canyon, eclectic town of Luderitz, ghost town at Kolmanskop ending in the Namib desert at Sossusvlei.

Departs: from Windhoek selected Friday mornings.

Ends: in Windhoek on a Thursday evening.

2021 Departure dates

Nov	Dec	Jan 21	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
13	11	01	12	12	09	07	04	02	13	10	08
27	25	15	26	26	23	21	18	16	27	24	22
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Rates valid: 01 November 2020 - 31 October 2021: NAD18 700.00

2022 Departure dates

Nov	Dec	Jan 22	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
05	03	14	11	11	08	06	03	01	12	09	07
19	17	28	25	25	22	20	17	15	26	23	21
	31							29			

Rates valid: 01 November 2020 - 31 October 2021: NAD19 650.00

Pricing is per person sharing – as tours tend to run full, we have limited packing space on the vehicles, tents are bulky items and as such we do require people of same gender to share.

Single tents may be supplied for those with valid health reasons, no single supplement payable.

Can this tour be combined with others: Yes, it can!

- The 7 day Northern Adventure which departs on selected Fridays, would make our 14 day Experience.

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Day 1	Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Campsite	Kalahari Namibia	L&D	1x Campsite	1 Night
Day 2	Canyon Roadhouse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia	Fish River Canyon	FB	1x Campsite	1 Night
Day 3	Luderitz Nest Hotel	Luderitz	B,B&L	1x comfort twin	1 Night
Day 4	Klein-Aus Vista Desert Horse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia	Aus	FB	1x Desert Horse Campsite	1 Night
Day 5	Sesriem Oshana Campsite	Sesriem	FB	1x Campsite	2 Nights

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

B,B&L: Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

L&D: Lunch and Dinner

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Pricing is per person sharing – as tours tend to run full, we have limited packing space on the vehicles, tents are bulky items and as such we do require people of same gender to share.

Single tents may be supplied for those with valid health reasons, no single supplement payable.

Included

- Professional guide
- Camp assistant
- All transport whilst on tour
- Meals as specified
- Camping equipment (does not include sleeping bag / pillow / stretcher)
- National Park entrance fees
- Campsite fees

Excluded

- Sleeping bag – can be rented for a daily fee of NAD45.00

- Stretcher - can be rented for a daily fee of NAD55.00
- Pillow
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks & bottled water
- Personal travel insurance - **compulsory**

Day 1: Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Campsite, Kalahari Namibia

Spreading across Botswana, South Africa and Namibia, the Kalahari meaning 'the great thirst' is an exceptionally beautiful living desert. The landscape is characterised by a large semi-arid sandy savannah draped over a gently rolling inland sea of sand covering most of Botswana and large parts of Namibia and South Africa. It is also the last bastion of the indigenous San people with the modern world having enveloped all the other areas they once roamed. The Namibian portion is made up of red sands covered in thin, wispy, mostly golden grass and dotted with acacia trees and wide-ranging wildlife including gemsbok, impala, jackals and cheetah.

Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Friday

Route: Windhoek to Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch

Distance: 265 km

Journey: Leaving Windhoek we head south passing through the town of Rehoboth, our destination for today is a private Reserve situated on the edge of the southern Kalahari are of Namibia, this is an area of mixed tree and shrub savannah crisscrossed by red sand dunes – quite different to the Namib Desert. During the afternoon we will take an afternoon nature drive in the Reserve where we hope to see various antelope species, ostrich, zebra and if lucky meerkats.

Overnight: Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Campsite

Located in Mariental, Namibia, Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Campsite offers guests a lovely camping experience set in tranquil surroundings. The establishment features a total of five camping sites, each with an ablution block, shower, wash-basin and toilet. Guests can enjoy meals and drinks at the nearby lodge restaurant and bar. Other lodge facilities campers have access to include a swimming pool and a library. Activities guests can enjoy at Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Campsite include day and night-time game drives, cheetah feedings, bush walks, horseback safaris, helicopter rides and much more.

Activities

Morning	Rehoboth
Afternoon	Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Afternoon Drive

Rehoboth

Located in Hardap, Namibia, about 90 kilometres south of Windhoek, Rehoboth is surrounded by camel thorn, sweet-thorn and candle-pod acacia and dotted with several natural hot springs. The area is known not only for its striking natural beauty but also its rich heritage - the ancient Baster community, who came across the river to settle here in 1870, have a long and interesting history. Plant lovers will be interested to find that some of the Acacia Trees here date back around 2000 years. History enthusiasts will delight in the interesting town museum. Rehoboth makes for a convenient base for reaching popular destinations such as the Fish River Canyon, Sossussvlei, and Hardap Dam.

Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch Afternoon Drive

The Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch, situated in Mariental, Namibia, offers guests an afternoon game drive. The activity includes a game drive in the reserve, viewing a variety of game such as giraffe, kudu, zebra, oryx, blue wildebeest and eland. Guests are able to experience breath-taking views of the reserve that has some of the highest dunes in the region, with views over the pan.

The Kalahari has more than 150 bird species for guests who are bird enthusiasts. The well-known suricate, more commonly known as a meerkat can also to be seen. As the day draws to a close, guests are treated to a sundowner on the dune, complemented by refreshments and a Namibian snack, while enjoying a breath-taking sunset over the Kalahari.

Included

Meals: Light lunch and dinner – camping style

Day 2: Canyon Roadhouse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia, Fish River Canyon

Carving out an epic rocky wonderland in the south of Namibia, the Fish River has created Africa's largest and the world's second-largest canyon. Hot, dry and stony, the Fish River Canyon measures a whopping 160 kilometres in length, at times 27 kilometres in width and 550 metres in depth. The awe-inspiring natural beauty of this ancient geological marvel draws visitors from around the globe. For those looking for adventure, the intense 85 kilometre Fish River Hiking Trail through 1.5 billion years of geological history will definitely thrill avid adventure enthusiasts, and for visitors looking to relax, head over to the canyon's southern end to enjoy a soak in the mineral waters of the renowned hot springs of Ai-Ais, or take in the spectacularly scenic views from Hobas Restcamp as well as numerous other viewpoints along its rim. Other popular activities include: scenic chartered flights, horse riding, nature drives and seasonal kayaking.

Day Itinerary**Day 2 - Saturday**

Route: Bagatelle to Canyon Road campsite

Distance: 452 km

Journey: An early morning start as we travel down to Keetmanshoop, the original population of the town by a Nama tribe reaches back to the end of the 18th century. We take a guided tour with the owner to explore the Mesosaurus Fossil site, Quiver trees and dolerite rock before heading back to town and on to the Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa and forms part of the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Tansfontier Park. Our campsite is situated in the Gondwana Reserve on the bank of a dry riverbed against a backdrop of rocky hills.

Overnight: Canyon Roadhouse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia

Fill up with smiles at this innovative lodge that celebrates the good old days of the automobile. It offers peaceful slumber in 24 spacious rooms and boasts a pool, a campsite, a fuel station, an inviting terrace and the most extraordinary restaurant in southern Namibia.

Activities

Morning	Mesosaurus Fossil Site & Quivertree Dolorite Park
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Mesosaurus Fossil Site & Quivertree Dolorite Park

In the middle of Namibia's stark, arid landscape lies the dry bed of an ancient lake, where history is recorded in beautiful rock formations bearing fossils of a pre-historical creature known as *Mesosaurus tenuidens*. Visitors can explore the surrounding area on hikes and sundowner drives that will take them past many a quiver tree and dolorite valley.

Included

Meals: Breakfast, light lunch and dinner – camping style

Day 3: Luderitz Nest Hotel, Luderitz

Sandwiched between the rugged and stark Atlantic Coast and the arid desert of Namibia, the town of Luderitz is located in an incredible unique geographical setting. This seaside town is something of an anomaly frozen in time – a piece of 19th-century Bavaria bordering the pinkish sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Lutheran churches, German bakeries, and colonial buildings boasting German art nouveau architecture are dotted about the settlement, while its windswept beaches are home to flamingos, ostriches, seals, and penguins. The nearby ghost town of Kolmanskop, which has been taken over by the desert dunes, is another fascinating must-see attraction, located approximately 10 kilometres from Luderitz central, along with the herd of wild desert-adapted horses near the small town of Aus.

Day Itinerary

Day 3 - Sunday

Route: Canyon Road campsite to Luderitz

Distance: 385 km

Journey: This morning we enter the Fish River National Park near Hobas, the most northern viewpoint from where the canyon meanders into the distance. The geology of this area began over a billion years ago, more 'recently' with the separation of the continent Gondwana about 120 million years ago the gradient of the Fish River increased allowing it to erode deeper into the rock so as at today, the deepest point is around 549 metres. Our travels today take us to the coastal town of Luderitz nestling between the Namib Desert and south Atlantic. During 1908 a black worker Zacharias Lewala found a diamond during his work at the narrow-gauge railway, this led to a diamond rush which turned Lüderitz into a very wealthy town. As the diamonds petered out the town lost most of its importance and today Luderitz has a lucrative fishing industry.

Overnight: Luderitz Nest Hotel

The Lüderitz Nest Hotel enjoys a superb on the rocks and sea location, with far reaching uninterrupted views. The hotel's private tidal beach with walk-on jetty, unique in Namibia, allows the guest to get close-up to the sea. All rooms and suites have direct sea views. The outdoor sparkling residents' pool with sun-loungers and parasols is surrounded by verdant gardens. Facilities include free Wi-Fi throughout, complementary full-buffet breakfasts, free sauna and free secure parking. The hotel delivers a friendly service in a relaxed environment.

Since 1998, management and staff have hosted guests from around the world and very much look forward to welcoming you. Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN) Excellence Awards 2016 winner.

COMFORT TWIN ROOM

All TWIN rooms have ocean view with small balcony, En-suite (Bath with overhead shower OR Walk-in shower), Remote air-conditioning & Heater, Extra long high quality 3/4 beds, Free Wi-Fi, HD TV, Hairdryer, Telephone, Laptop safe, Tea & Coffee making facilities, Mini-fridge.

Activities

Morning	Fish River Canyon Viewpoint
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Fish River Canyon Viewpoint

Located in Southern Namibia The Fish River Canyon is the largest canyon in Africa and draws many visitors each year. This viewpoint has a beautiful panoramic view of the canyon where visitors can witness the Fish River flow through sharp corners amidst rocky terrain.

Included

Meals: Breakfast, light lunch (camping style)

Excluded

Dinner for guests own account

Day 4: Klein-Aus Vista Desert Horse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia, Aus

Perched above the plains of the Namib Desert in the rocky Aus Mountains, the small village of Aus lies at the heart of phenomenal botanic diversity. Aus serves as an excellent base from which to see the area's major attraction: the feral horses of the Namib Desert, which run wild and free in the sparsely vegetated plains. The best place for viewings is at the water trough at Garub, which lies just twenty kilometres away from Aus. Visitors can gain insight into the Succulent Karoo by visiting beautiful Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park, home to the most biodiverse desert in the world. Don't miss the opportunity to camp under the famously clear Namibian night sky and experience the desert landscape on horseback.

Day Itinerary**Day 4 - Monday**

Route: Luderitz to Aus

Distance: 125km

Journey: Participate in an optional morning boat excursion to Halifax Island, home to a colony of African penguins. This tour passes an old whaling station and goes around Diaz Point, one can expect to see a host of marine wildlife which may include heavy side dolphins, seals and on occasion, whales. For those that decide against, there is the town to explore with its colonial buildings and the Lüderitz Museum which displays the town's diamond-mining past as well as local and natural history. Mid-morning, we head to Kolmanskop Ghost Town – the area where the diamond rush started, an affluent town in its heyday today the desert encroaches the town.

After a light lunch we take a drive out to Diaz Point to see the bird life, hopefully a few seals and the stone cross replica, originally erected by the Portuguese mariner Bartholomew Diaz. Our campsite for tonight is a Klein Aus Vista where the sites are positioned under camelthorn trees in the Aus Mountain Range. On the way we'll stop at Garub in the hope of seeing some of the Namib Desert Horses.

Overnight: Klein-Aus Vista Desert Horse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia

Large old camel thorn trees greet camping guests at the Desert Horse Campsite in a small valley of the Aus Mountains. Each of the ten sites is equipped with a tap, table, grill and windbreak. Neat shower and toilet facilities are within easy reach of each site. Barbecue packs are available at the reception of Desert Horse Inn (1.5 km); those who like to skip cooking for a change are more than welcome at the Inn's restaurant (subject to space available, please enquire upon arrival). Note there are no power point outlets at the Desert Horse camp. If you have equipment that need to be charged it can be done at reception of Desert Horse Inn.

Desert Horse Campsite

Each of the sites is equipped with a water tap, table with benches, fireplace with grid and windshelter. There are clean and neat ablution facilities to service the 10 sites with gas heated showers and flush toilets. Note there are no power point outlets.

Activities

Morning	Kolmanskop
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Kolmanskop

Amongst the sands of the Namib, the crumbling buildings of a small, once-luxurious town emerge from the drifting dunes. This ghost town is Kolmanskop, a reminder of the wealth of a time when diamonds could be picked by hand from the desert, and a remarkable photographic opportunity with few equals anywhere on earth.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Included

Meals: Breakfast, light lunch and dinner – camping style

Day 5: Sesriem Oshana Campsite, Sesriem

As there is no accommodation at Sossusvlei, visitors to this desert wilderness are likely to end up staying at Sesriem, 65 kilometres away, where camps and lodges serve as a base from which to explore the dunes. Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)

Day Itinerary

Day 5 - Tuesday

Route: Aus to Namib Naukluft Park – Sesriem area

Distance: 345 km

Journey: Today we'll be spending time travelling through the southern Namib, passing rural communities on the way. This is a bleak, harsh and forbidding landscape yet we come across some open savannah and farms before encountering the dunes of the Namib Desert. In the town of Maltahohe we will stop to experience the Amaburuxa Cultural Choir which was started in 2001. This is a group of learners that dance and sing, most of whom are orphans or vulnerable. Set up camp in the Sesriem area and visit Elim dune – a great place for sundowners with the dunes behind us and the Naukluft Mountains in the distance.

Overnight: Sesriem Oshana Campsite

Sesriem offers ten (10) self-catering camping facilities with each campsite having its own private toilet and shower, washup kitchenette with hot and cold water and 220V electricity. Campers have full access to the shop, bar, restaurant and swimming pool at Sesriem (NWR).

Activities

Lunch	Amaburuxa Cultural Choir
Afternoon	Elim Dune

Elim Dune

Just five kilometres from the camp at Sesriem, Elim Dune is best viewed at sunset, when the colours deepen, intensifying the contrast between the red dunes and the purple-blue Naukluft Mountains on the opposite horizon. Elim Dune is roughly 100 metres in height and the climb to its zenith takes under an hour.

Included

Meals: Breakfast, light lunch and dinner – camping style

Day 6: Sesriem Oshana Campsite, Sesriem

Day Itinerary

Day 6 - Wednesday

Route: Sesriem – Sossusvlei - Sesriem

Journey: We'll need to be on the move an hour before dawn as we make our way through a dry riverbed and across the gravel plains towards the Namib Dunes. We'll stop at Dune 45 before making our way to Sossusvlei with age old sands said to be around five million years old. Dead Vlei with its white pan and contrasting black scorched trees is also on our visit list. Whilst this region appears to be lifeless there are a variety of animal species that have adapted to these conditions and if we're lucky may see Oryx antelope, ostrich, springbok and don't forget about the birdlife and reptiles that inhabit the area. Return to our campsite for lunch, late afternoon visit to the Sesriem Canyon where the ephemeral Tsauchab River has shaped the area over millions of years.

Activities

Morning	Dune 45
Morning	Sossusvlei

Morning	Dead Vlei
Afternoon	Sesriem Canyon

Dune 45

Named for its location 45 kilometres past the town of Sesriem, Dune 45 is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – have earned it the distinction of 'most photographed dune in the world'. If you're not keen for the strenuous hike to the top of Big Daddy, Dune 45 is a more forgiving alternative, standing at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient.

Sossusvlei

Located in the scenic Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red dunes to make this one of the most scenic natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven. This awe-inspiring destination is possibly Namibia's premier attraction, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 metres - making them some of the highest in the world. These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts from around the globe. Sossusvlei is home to a variety of desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes; explore Deadvlei, a white, salt, claypan dotted with ancient trees; or for the more extravagant, scenic flights and hot air ballooning are on offer, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime champagne breakfast amidst these majestic dunes.

Dead Vlei

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.

Sesriem Canyon

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon's name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather ('ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.

Included

Meals: Breakfast, light lunch and dinner – camping style

Day 7: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

Day 7 - Thursday

Route: Sesriem to Windhoek

Distance: 335 km

Arrival in Windhoek: Between 15h00 – 17h00

Journey: Our route today takes us back towards Solitaire from where we travel to the town of Rehoboth, an area of natural hot water springs, before arriving back into the city of Windhoek, this will be late afternoon, please do not book any outbound flights for this afternoon.

Activities

Lunch	Rehoboth
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Rehoboth

Located in Hardap, the area is known not only for its striking natural beauty but also its rich heritage - the ancient Baster community, who came across the river to settle here in 1870, have a long and interesting history.

Included

Meals: Breakfast and light lunch – camping style