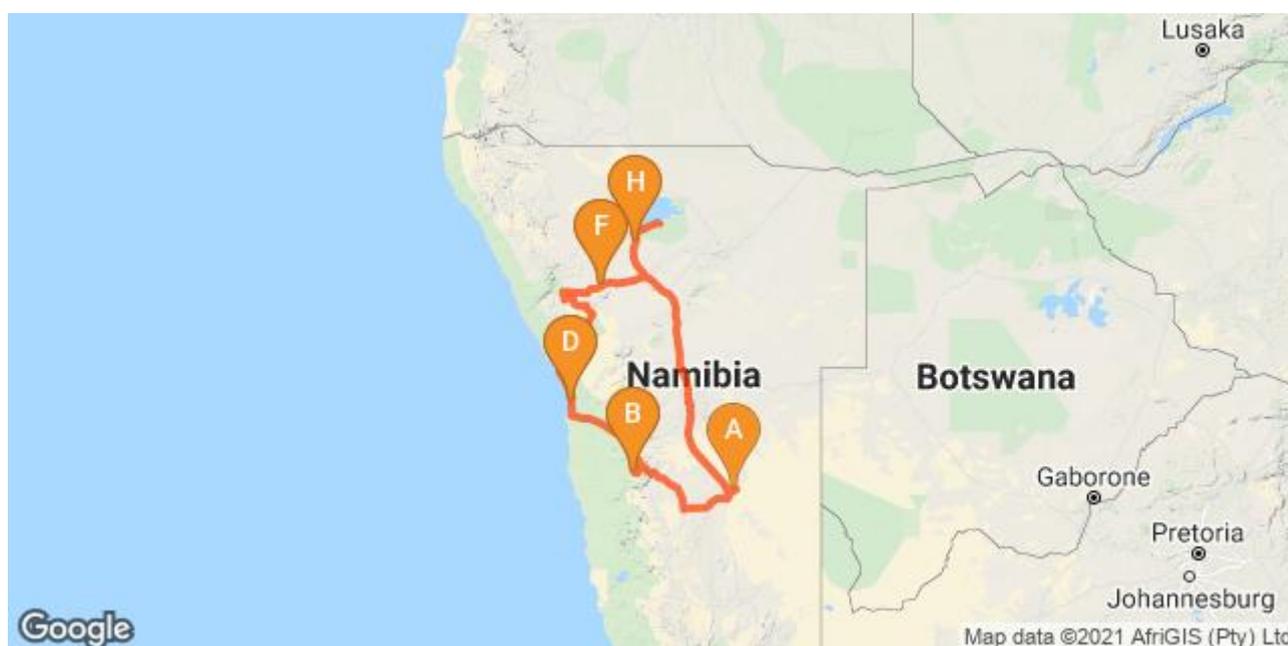




2021 & 2022 - STG - 10 day Namibian Highlights Safari

Kalahari Namibia - Sossusvlei - Sesriem - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Twyfelfontein - Etosha South - Etosha National Park - Okahandja
 10 Days / 9 Nights



Introduction

Enjoy Namibia's most popular destinations on this compact guided tour that incorporates visits to the Kalahari and Namib deserts – including the famed Sossusvlei dunes, the intriguing coastal town of Swakopmund, the Twyfelfontein rock engravings and Etosha National Park. The easiest way to travel the country, the Highlights Tour provides a comprehensive, informative and fun-filled Namibian feast, without the hassle. It couldn't be simpler. Just hop aboard, sit back and savour the delights this superlative country has to offer.

Windhoek Departures: Monday - Weekly

No minimum number of travellers

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Day 1	Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Kalahari Namibia	D,B&B	1 Night
Day 2	Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Sossusvlei	D,B&B	1 Night

Day 3	Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Sossusvlei	L&D	1 Night
Day 4	The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia	Swakopmund	B&B	1 Night
Day 5	The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia	Swakopmund	B&B	1 Night
Day 6	Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Damaraland	D,B&B	1 Night
Day 7	Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Damaraland	D,B&B	1 Night
Day 8	Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia	Etosha South	D,B&B	1 Night
Day 9	Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia	Etosha South	D,B&B	1 Night

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

L&D: Lunch and Dinner

D,B&B: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

2021 Rates

01 July – 31 October 2021	NAD33 750.00	Single supplement: NAD3 220.00
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2022 Rates

01 November 2021 – 30 June 2022	NAD33 660.00	Single supplement: NAD2 700.00
01 July – 31 October 2022	NAD37 710.00	Single supplement: NAD3 500.00

Rates are per person sharing.

Included

- 6 Nights' Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals & activities as per itinerary
- Twyfelfontein Excursion
- Game Drives in Etosha as per itinerary
- Tour Guide
- Vehicle and Fuel
- Water on board the vehicle

Excluded

- Flights
- Airport transfers (on request)
- Visa fees
- Beverages
- Tips and Gratuities

- Personal items
- Personal travel insurance - **compulsory**

Day 1: Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, 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: Monday

Route: Windhoek to Kalahari

Distance: 285 km

Collection time: 08h00 departure from the City of Windhoek.

Journey: Guests are picked up from their accommodation in Windhoek for the leg of the journey. Just before Mariental, we veer eastwards into the Kalahari Desert to overnight at Kalahari Anib Lodge. The stylish, spacious and refreshing lodge is imbued with the spirit of the Kalahari with its burnished sand, ostrich eggshell light and camelthorn trees.

Overnight: Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia

Savour the Kalahari Desert at this easily accessible lodge. 30 standard rooms flank a shady courtyard, with another 21 comfort overlooking Kalahari savannah. Stretch legs on the walks and join the afternoon drive to experience the red Kalahari sands aglow with an inner fire.

Optional

Sundowner Dune Drive

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 2: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, 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.

Day Itinerary

Day 2: Tuesday

Route: Kalahari to Namib Desert Lodge

Distance: 340 km

Journey: After a good night's sleep and a full breakfast, it's time for a taste of the ancient Namib Desert. The route takes you past the majestic Namib Naukluft Mountains near Büllsport before reaching the Namib with its combination of spectacular desert scenery and majestic mountains. Namib Desert Lodge is set below an impressive ridge of fossilised sand dunes, formed 20-million years ago. The highlight of the afternoon is a drive to the crest of the fossilised dunes for a view of some of the best scenery on the planet.

Overnight: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia

Set below striking fossilised dunes, the comfortable lodge provides a spectacular experience of ancient desert. 65 rooms, two swimming pools and a waterhole are surrounded by sandy splendour. Breathe in the grandeur on a sunset drive and feel the earth underfoot. Relax in the arms of the Namib.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 3: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Sossusvlei

Day Itinerary

Day 3: Wednesday

Route: Namib Desert Lodge - Sossusvlei - Namib Desert Lodge

Distance: 238 km

Journey: An early start to the day awaits. Much of the day is spent climbing the highest sand dunes in the world. Big Daddy offers a strenuous climb, but the view along the crest is completely worth it. Upon descent, the whispering sands of the Namib lead to the ancient camelthorn trees of Dead Vlei – one of the most photographed areas in Sossusvlei. Exploration continues into the rugged Sesriem Canyon before returning to the lodge for the evening, but the day is not yet done. The second night of the safari is concluded with a sunset dune drive where the crimson horizon can be appreciated from the crest of the fossilised dunes in the Gondwana Namib Park.

Overnight: Namib Desert Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia.

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Activities

Sossusvlei

Dead Vlei
Sesriem

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

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.)

Basis

Lunch and Dinner

Day 4: The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia, Swakopmund

Set along Namibia's spectacularly scenic coast, the seaside town of Swakopmund is known for its wide-open avenues, colonial architecture, and its surrounding otherworldly desert terrain. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South-West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort town, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, adventure options, laid-back atmosphere and cool sea breeze make it a very popular Namibian destination. Visitors can look forward to a number of exciting activities including: quad biking, horse riding, paragliding, fishing, sightseeing and fascinating desert tours.

Day Itinerary**Day 4: Thursday**

Route: Namib Desert Lodge to The Delight, Swakopmund

Distance: 355 km

Journey: Enjoy a buffet breakfast at Namib Desert Lodge before the journey through the fascinating desert landscape to Swakopmund. First stop is the desert outpost of Solitaire, famous for its apple pie. The route crosses the Tropic of Capricorn, marking the sun's turning point at 23° south on its annual journey through the heavens, before meandering through the Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. The cool and often misty town of Swakopmund, which lies between the crashing Atlantic Ocean and the Namib Desert, balances the day's journey perfectly. Old German architecture, wide streets and a plethora of restaurants, coffee and curio shops make this coastal town a joy to explore. The Delight hotel is a fresh breeze in the desert, providing a delightful home for your stay in Swakopmund.

Overnight: The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia

Amongst the town's captivating contrasts and old traditions, Gondwana's Delight is a fresh breeze in the desert. A refreshing, relaxing, modern, light and airy establishment to uplift and inspire. Effortless and comfortable, with the distinctively warm and welcoming Gondwana service and charm, your stay is always a memorable experience.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 5: The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia, Swakopmund**Day Itinerary****Day 5: Friday**

Route: Swakopmund

Journey: A highlight of a stay at The Delight is its scrumptious breakfast spread. Pour yourself a glass of champagne and freshly-squeezed orange juice and savour Walvis Bay oysters before heading off to explore the town. Or, choose an activity or excursion. Swakopmund is the adventure capital of Namibia and excursions range from Living Desert tours, kayaking in the Walvis Bay lagoon and dolphin cruises to sandboarding, quad-biking and skydiving. Take your pick, or just relax - ending the day in one of Swakopmund's popular restaurants.

Overnight: The Delight Swakopmund Gondwana Collection Namibia**Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

Day 6: Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Damaraland

This vast desert landscape is known as one of the most beautiful regions in Namibia. Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful, Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape featuring open plains, ancient valleys and spectacular rock

formations. The major attractions are the sacred Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the otherworldly Petrified Forest. Visitors can take in the dramatic vistas, catch a glimpse of the rare desert-adapted elephant, and enjoy spectacular stargazing in crystal-clear night skies from one of the many safari camps dotting Damaraland. Other popular activities include: guided drives, nature walks and visiting the local communities. Don't miss the opportunity to view Damaraland's world-famous ancient rock art.

Day Itinerary

Day 6: Saturday

Route: Swakopmund to Damaraland

Distance: 436 km

Journey: After your day of fun and exploration, we continue northwards to Henties Bay along the coast before veering inland towards Uis and the Brandberg massif. Rock art is on the agenda today with a visit to Twyfelfontein, home to a treasure-trove of ancient rock engravings. The area was once visited by groups of hunters and gatherers, who congregated at the rock pools in the dry season. Their shamans beseeched the gods for rain, healing for their people and luck for the hunt, hammering their prayers into the sandstone rock. The dry desert environment has preserved these engravings for thousands of years. Other stops include the Organ Pipes, Burnt Mountain and Petrified Forest, testament to the Earth's intriguing geological history. In the afternoon, it's a pleasure to arrive at Damara Mopane lodge set in a mopane woodland, where each chalet charmingly sports its own vegetable garden.

Overnight: Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia

Built in a labyrinth design, this innovative lodge has 55 chalets, each with its own vegetable garden. Savour the charm from your stoep where sunflowers peep over walls, refresh in the pool, visit the Twyfelfontein rock engravings 100km away and watch the sun sink into mopane woodland.

Activities

Twyfelfontein
Burnt Mountain
Organ Pipes
Petrified Forest

Twyfelfontein

Set in the Kunene Region of north-western Namibia, Twyfelfontein is a spectacularly scenic area, featuring one of the largest and most important concentrations of rock art in Africa. The name 'Twyfelfontein' translates to 'Fountain of Doubt', which refers to the perennial spring situated in the impressive Huab Valley flanked by the slopes of a sandstone table mountain. It was this spring that attracted Stone Age hunters over six thousand years ago, and it was during this time that the extensive group of rock engravings and paintings were produced. Visitors can look forward to basing themselves at some wonderfully shady campsites along the Aba-Huab riverbed, while exploring over thirty different sacred ritual sites of the traditional hunter-gatherer communities.

Burnt Mountain

Burnt Mountain is a small hill located near Twyfelfontein and just a kilometre from the Organ Pipes in Damaraland, Namibia. This national monument displays an intense variety of colours formed by volcanic activity interacting with organic material that transformed into a sedimentary bed over 125 million years ago.

Organ Pipes

The Organ Pipes are located near Twyfelfontein and a few kilometres to the Burnt Mountain in Damaraland, Namibia. It is a 100m long feature of unusual dolomite columns these rocks were formed by volcanic activity and after erosion, the rocks have remained in the form of organ pipes.

Petrified Forest

Situated approximately 50 kilometers west of the town of Khorixas, in an area of open veld, lies a large deposit of massive tree trunks that have "turned to stone" through a process of diagenesis. These petrified tree trunks are up to 34metres long, 6 metres in circumference and are approximately 260 million years old. Due to the lack of root or branch remains, it's believed that the trees were washed down an ancient river to the site in a massive flood.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 7: Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Damaraland**Day Itinerary****Day 7: Sunday**

Enjoy this leisurely day at Damara Mopane Lodge. Cool off in the large turquoise pool, rest and put your feet up with a favourite book. Don't miss the afternoon walk to the sunset deck for a sundowner drink and an exceptional view of the landscape.

Overnight: Damara Mopane Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 8: Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia, Etosha South

Located just south of the boundary of Etosha National Park in north-western Namibia, Etosha South makes up the southern region of this wild paradise. Ongava Private Game Reserve shares the southern boundary with Etosha National Park and offers an array of luxury lodges overlooking picturesque landscapes dotted with abundant wildlife. The national park can be accessed via the southern entrance at Andersson's Gate. Visitors can catch a glimpse of a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. Popular activities include: game drives, tracking rhinos on foot, guided nature walks, or watching the sunset over the magnificent African landscape.

Day Itinerary**Day 8: Monday**

Route: Damaraland to Etosha Safari Camp

Distance: 220 km

Journey: Today we travel into the heart of the country, Etosha National Park, via Outjo, making it in time for an afternoon game drive in the park. Experience the bounty of this wildlife haven before returning to Etosha Safari Camp for supper. This relaxed and down-to-earth camp has a quirky restaurant based on the shebeens (taverns) of old. Musicians strum guitars in the courtyard and sing local tunes while the guests relish the good fare. Tap toes and sing along at this lively, fun venue before returning by starlight to your comfortable room and the peace of an Etosha night.

Overnight: Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia

Tap toes to an African beat in the novel Oshebeena Bar and relax at this friendly Camp, 10 kilometres from Etosha National Park. 50 chalets, shaded by mopane trees, and a grassy campsite provide a comfortable home from which to explore the abundant animal kingdom. Legendary.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 9: Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia, Etosha South

Day Itinerary

Day 9: Tuesday

Route: Etosha National Park

Journey: Explore Etosha and its many waterholes where the wildlife gathers to slake its thirst. Every season has its own beauty in this special conservation area. The full day drive gives you the chance to view the array of sleek African wildlife in its natural surroundings. Return in the afternoon to the friendliness of Etosha Safari Camp for your last night of the tour.

Overnight: Etosha Safari Camp Gondwana Collection Namibia.

Activities

Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park

Situated in north-western Namibia, the Etosha National Park offers a premier game viewing experience. The park's diverse vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a variety of wildlife. Located in the heart of the park is the Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000 square kilometres. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after seasonal rains, making it the perfect habitat for wildlife. In the dry season, the wildlife is attracted to the perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing. Visitors can look forward to world-class game viewing including a variety of large mammals such as lion, elephant, leopard, rhino, zebra, giraffe, a diversity of birdlife such as flamingos and pelicans.

Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 10: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

Day 10: Wednesday

Route: Etosha Safari Camp to Windhoek

Distance: 405 km

Journey: Breakfast is enjoyed at the camp before the drive southwards back to Windhoek, via Okahandja's popular woodcarver's market. Your guide will drop you off at your chosen accommodation in the capital city, Windhoek.

Activities

Okahandja

Okahandja

Located just north of Windhoek, in the central Namibian Otjozondjupa region, the bustling city of Okahandja serves as the main commercial centre of the area, as well as a prominent cultural centre for the local Herero people. The name 'Okahandja', means 'The place where two rivers flow into each other to form one wide one.' These two seasonal rivers are the Okamita and the Okakango. Known as the 'Garden Town of Namibia', Okahandja boasts a rich cultural heritage, numerous historical sites and excellent bird watching in the surrounding areas.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast
