

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



ETOSHA AND KUNENE WILDLIFE & CULTURE



An icon in Namibia and the best of the north-west.

9 days and 8 nights

Maximum of 9 participants

Please note that activities in the conservancies described on particular days are flexible and interchangeable as these are not “staged” but depend on the current day to day activities and events of the communities themselves

Day 1

Our Guide will meet you at your accommodation establishment in Windhoek at 09h00 (or possibly at Hosea Kutako International Airport *if* a flight arrives in Windhoek earlier than 08h30). Depart as soon as possible and journey north, through some of Namibia's prime cattle ranching area to Anderson Gate on the south border of the Etosha National Park. Should time allow, we might be able to fit in an hour or so of game watching before checking in and relaxing for the evening. We will over night at either Okaukuejo in Etosha or at a camp of similar standard near Anderson Gate.

Day 2

We make an early start to increase our chances of finding predators still out and about in the cool of the early morning. The day will be spent searching for animals in Etosha. You will also learn about the fascinating history and management practises in the Park. This promises to be an exciting and awesome day. It is not just the large predators and mammals that are appealing, there are a host of smaller creatures and birds to learn about. We overnight as per our previous evening.



Day 3

We pack and leave early, gradually making our way westwards into an area of Etosha that not many visit! This is a long but worthwhile and interesting day. The western part of Etosha is closed to general access and only registered safari operators may enter. You will see interesting changes in vegetation and topography as we move westwards. We will exit the Park at Galton Gate around mid-day. We then drive via a small "frontier" town, Kamanjab, over the stunning Grootberg mountain pass into the low-lying Torra Conservancy. We will arrive late afternoon at Wereldsend, historic base camp of IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) from where the now national community-based conservation program was piloted in the early 1980s. See the graveyard of bones, a reminder of the massive commercial poaching of the 70s and early 1980s that came close to wiping out the desert adapted elephant, black rhino and other megafauna. Hear how rural communities turned this situation round. Dinner is included at our tented camp. This is our first night camping in wonderful, wild Africa.

Day 4

An early start with Torra Conservancy game guards looking for desert-adapted black rhino and other fascinating animals and plants. This might entail covering some of the terrain on foot. Later we head north via the village of Sesfontein (which means six springs). The route takes us through typical basalt hills, a signature feature of Damaraland. We travel north via Sesfontein and into the dry bed of the Hoanib River, a linear oasis with majestic Ana, Leadwood and Camelthorn trees marking its course. The remainder of the day is spent exploring, searching for elephants, lions, giraffe, oryx and other wildlife which seasonally use this ephemeral river's resources. In the late afternoon we climb out of the river bed and make our camp at the foot of high hills providing us with a fantastic view across the Hoanib Valley.

Day 5

Our morning will be spent searching for elephants, lions, giraffe, oryx and other wildlife which seasonally use this magnificent ephemeral river's resources. We then head north, across magnificent landscape, towards the 3568 square kilometre Puros Conservancy. This vast area, with a population of less than 300 Himba and Herero herders, is one of the conservancies that own

our company and we will be hosted here tonight. Spend the evening around the campfire in the Puros Conservancy Campsite, where elephants may stroll past your tent. This is a good opportunity, if you are interested, to obtain insights into the real conservation problems and their local solutions.



Day 6

We take a scenic drive up the Hoarusib River, cross the flank of the Etendeka Mountains and descend into the Khumib dry riverbed. Our route, through dramatic landscapes, passes small Himba settlements and we may see goats browsing with springbok nearby or a line of ostrich high-stepping past peacefully grazing cattle. Our destination for the next two nights is “Etambura Camp”, Namibia’s first Himba-owned camp, on a hilltop with views that will take your breath away. Relax in comfortable accommodation units, each with an en suite bathroom and private deck area. KCS guests have exclusive use of this camp! Meet our conservancy hosts and spend an interesting evening at the fire talking to Himba game guards or conservancy staff.

Day 7

Today’s emphasis is on the interesting and intricate culture of the local Himba people. A member of the conservancy will give us an insight into the collection of resin/myrrh. In the months of December to April, Himba women harvest resin from commiphora wildii – the perfume plant or myrrh made famous by the Bible’s three wise men. Hear how IRDNC, the local support NGO, has assisted conservancies to earn a regular annual income by sustainably harvesting and marketing this valuable product to international cosmetic companies. Understand the challenges of living in an arid and harsh environment and see the fascinating adaptations that one needs to make to survive as an individual and society in such circumstances. Overnight again at Etambura Camp.



Day 8

After a hearty breakfast, we head south, traversing vast and silent plains. We once pause briefly in Puros, before following the course of the Gomatium River and cross the spectacular Giribis Plains with its mysterious Fairy Circles. We overnight at Sesfontein Conservancy's Ganamub Mountain Camp built on a hillside among granite boulders. Immerse yourself in the sounds, scents and flavours of an African night around a crackling campfire, knowing your presence is making conservation sustainable for the people and animals who share this vast region.

Day 9

After an early breakfast we travel via Sesfontein and past the game-rich Palmwag Concession area. Our route then takes us through the Skeleton Coast Park and southwards to Swakopmund. This is a stark but stunning landscape conjuring up images of ship wrecks and drama. If time permits, we will visit the Cape Fur seal reserve at Cape Cross. We arrive late afternoon at Swakopmund where you will check-in to your accommodation.

Note:

1. *Community based activities vary from trip to trip as these depend on the seasonal nature of conservation activities and on the events currently taking place in the host communities.*
2. *Our itinerary remains flexible because of environmental, climatic and human factors.*
3. *Over-nighting in Etosha depends on availability. Should this not be possible we will be accommodated in one of the lodges or camps of comparable standard in the vicinity of Anderson Gate.*

INCLUDED Breakfasts, light lunches, snacks, dinners, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, entrance and "Conservation" fee for Etosha

