

TRACKS SAFARIS

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NAMIBIAN JOURNEY
A 17 DAY SELF DRIVE EXPLORATION



Day 1:**Olive Grove Guesthouse, Windhoek****Luxury Room - Breakfast included**

Land at Windhoek International Airport today and clear customs and immigration before heading into the arrivals hall, where you will be met by our transfer driver holding a sign with your name on. From here you will be escorted to the city centre Olive Grove Guesthouse. Once you have had the chance to settle in a representative will be on hand to meet you and hand over your vouchers, road map and itinerary, and to answer any last minute questions you may have. During this time your rental vehicle will also be delivered - <http://www.olivegrove-namibia.com>

Olive Grove is a small, upmarket accommodation establishment situated close to the Windhoek city centre in a quiet, peaceful area.



Each room has a large veranda with tables and chairs for al fresco dining. The open-air lounge, spa bath, plunge pool and tranquil garden all invite the visitor to unwind and relax under Namibia's open skies. The Wellness Room offers a selection of professional services to help guests relax and de-stress after a long flight or for just the perfect end to an adventurous holiday.

The inside lounge is tastefully decorated, with comfortable chairs and a fireplace in front of which to relax, perhaps with a glass of good whiskey on a cold winter's evening. The stunning open plan kitchen creates a homely feel while providing tasty meals. Olive Grove will turn Windhoek into one of the highlights of any trip, creating and leaving a lasting impression of this beautiful country.

All the rooms are furnished and fitted in a simplistic, but stylish fashion. Extensive use has been made of natural stone cement, especially in the bathrooms, which are spacious and particularly indulgent. Moroccan lights give the room a romantic feel, further enhanced by dimming switches which give guests the option of choosing the brightness and therefore the ambience. Rooms are configured such that the guesthouse can accommodate requests for double (queen size) beds, or for twin (3/4 size) beds. Some of the bedrooms have a more open bathroom, while others have a more traditional, en-suite bathroom. The overall feeling is one of comfort and coolness, with all the facilities and added touches aimed at ensuring our guests have an enjoyable and pleasurable stay.

The 5 downstairs rooms are classed as standard and are more affordable than the 5 upstairs luxury rooms. The upstairs rooms have more privacy and are a generally quieter as they are further from the restaurant area. Whilst each of the 10 rooms, and one executive suite, cater for the every need of the most discerning traveller, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance.

Day 2:**Bagatelle Game Ranch, Kalahari Desert****Dune Chalet – Dinner & Breakfast Included**

Travelling from the north you take the B1 via Rehoboth towards Mariental. About 11km before this small town turn left onto the C20 and then left onto the D1268 where you will find Bagatelle Lodge - <http://www.bagatelle-kalahari-gameranch.com>

Located on the edge of the Kalahari Desert and surrounded by rolling red dunes, Bagatelle offers a very different desert experience to the more well-known Namib Desert. The Kalahari is not officially categorised as a desert but is rather a savannah environment of wide open grasslands and stunted acacias. As such it is home to many interesting wildlife species including meerkat (suricate), porcupine, bat-eared fox, Oryx, ostrich, wildebeest and zebra. Optional nature drives are offered which allow guests to learn about the ecology of this unique area and to enjoy a beautiful sunset before returning to the lodge for an excellent dinner.

Accommodation is provided in luxurious dune chalets perched on the dune ridge and overlooking a small waterhole offering an uninterrupted view of the vast Kalahari **OR** in cosy 'strohbaile' chalets close to the main bar & restaurant area. All rooms have air con/heaters, mini-bar and tea & coffee making facilities.

**Day 3 & 4:****Tok Tokkie Trails, Namib Rand****Full board & Activities included**

From Mariental take the C19 towards Maltahohe. From here continue on the C19 via the Tsaris Pass before turning off onto the D827. When you reach the junction with the C27, turn right and take the Tok Tokkie Trails turnoff 400m north of this intersection.

Tok Tokkie Trails is situated about 110 km/ ca. 2 hours south of Sesriem, about 500 km/ 6 hours' drive from Windhoek and Swakopmund. The turn off is about 400 m from the junction of C27/826 and D827. From the gate on C27/ D826 (there is a signpost) you drive about 11 km through a fenced corridor to a second gate where you turn left until you reach the Tok Tokkie Trails base (Die Duine Homestead), the trail starting point (4x2). Please report at the base if you see any wildlife inside the corridor.

Tok Tokkie Trails takes you close to the desert's stunning beauty. Whilst walking, you will discover many secrets of the Namib that cannot be experienced when driving and you will get to feel different aspects of the desert – from mountainous terrain to sandy dunes. Fog- basking Tok Tokkie beetles, barking geckos, dancing spiders, bat-eared foxes, and many more - the desert is not deserted at all. Let your guide introduce you to this world, relax with a sundowner and enjoy a three- course dinner before falling asleep under the stars.



NamibRand Nature Reserve is a model for private conservation and low-impact tourism (www.namibrand.com) in about 200.000 hectares of protected area where wildlife can once again roam free and livestock farms have been restored to their former pristine state boasting the full biodiversity of the Pro-Namib ecosystem recognized as an International Dark Sky Reserve with gold status part of the “Namib Sand Sea” and is nominated as a World Heritage Site.

Day 5 & 6:

Cornerstone Guesthouse, Swakopmund

Breakfast Included + Pelican Point Kayaking

Drive to the coast this morning, travelling along the C19 & C14 roads, via Solitaire. These roads are all gravel until you reach Walvis Bay, and the mountain passes are quite steep so please drive very carefully! You may like to stop at Walvis Bay to see the famous lagoon, a wetland of international importance and home to many bird species including the greater flamingo.

Cornerstone is located on the corner of Rhode Allee and Hendrik Witbooi, at number 40 Hendrik Witbooi - <http://www.cornerstoneguesthouse.com>

Cornerstone Guesthouse is a small, private and peaceful bed and breakfast an easy walk away from the sea and the town centre of Swakopmund on Namibia's fascinating Skeleton Coast. Occupying a quiet corner of Swakopmund's old town, near the marine museum and the old brewery, Cornerstone Guesthouse offers the charm and intimacy of a family-run B&B combined with the modern amenities of a luxury hotel. Within a few minutes from the guest house you can walk to beaches, cafés, restaurants, lively pubs, Swakopmund tourist attractions and a variety of interesting shops and markets. All rooms have en suite bathrooms with large solar-assisted showers and modern fittings.

They offer an inclusive breakfast with a fresh selection of fruits, juices, yoghurts, breads, preserves and eggs and bacon cooked to order. Wash that all down with your choice of either freshly brewed coffee or tea and you'll be ready to explore the attractions of Swakopmund and the Skeleton Coast.

Swakopmund itself is a fascinating and intriguing resort town, complete with German architecture, monuments, historic buildings, well maintained gardens, palm lined avenues, coffee bars and great seafood restaurants. Temperatures rarely drop below 15C and rainfall is practically zero, however, the town is subjected to 9 months of morning fogs each year. These damp

and grey conditions often result in cool temperatures persisting the whole day, but this mist band, stretching up to 30km inland, gives water and life to the deserts plants & animals giving rise to 80 types of lichen and the ancient Welwitschia plants. The many ingenious adaptations to water collection, like the Tok-Tokkie beetle which condenses vapour on its raised back, make for fascinating walks and drives in the 'Moon Landscape' or 'Welwitschia Drive', located close to the town.

In addition, there are many adventure activities such as sand boarding, tandem parachuting, fishing & quad biking which can be arranged prior to arrival. We can also recommend some excellent day trips including the marine sanctuary of Sandwich Harbour, a unique environment comprising towering dunes, a freshwater lagoon and the wild Atlantic Ocean. Alternatively, a half day boat cruise from Walvis Bay may offer the opportunity to see dolphins, fur seals and many species of marine birds. Please ask us for advice on restaurants, the more popular ones should be booked in advance and we are happy to do this for you.

On the morning of day 6 make your way back to Walvis Bay for the Kayaking Eursion. Guests meet at 07h45 for an early start at the Kayaking meeting point (the Dolphin Coffee shop in Walvis Bay). You will drive out to Pelican Point in the Eco Marine 4x4 vehicle to begin your kayak tour. Each person will be given a lifejacket and there are waterproof jackets and trousers available as well as shoes, towels and dry bags for camera etc.

Experience the splendour of the beautiful wetlands and offshore coastal areas from the unique vantage of the sea kayak. With luck guests can witness splendid scenes such as flamingos, pelicans, seals and dolphins splashing around the kayaks. Tours are led by an experienced, licensed guide and only certified, seaworthy kayaks are used. At the end of the tour you will return to dry land for snacks and drinks before driving back to Walvis Bay.

Day 7 & 8:

Camp Kipwe, Twyfelfontein

Full board & Activities Included

Departing from Swakopmund you take the C34 towards Henties Bay. Just outside the town of Henties, take the C35 gravel road and drive towards Uis. Continue on the C35 until you reach the D2612 turn-off where you turn left and 45 kilometers down the road you will see the signs to the lodge on your left hand side. Camp Kipwe is situated within the Twyfelfontein Conservancy in the Damaraland area, only 4kms from its sister lodge of Mowani Mountain Camp. Damaraland is renowned for its geology, unusual rock formations, rock paintings, and rare desert-adapted flora and fauna - <http://www.kipwe.com>



Relax and unwind in the lounge – the mountain views from here are breathtaking as are the stunning sunsets. There is also a swimming pool, where many guests head straight to after a day's activities, and a laundry service.

Accommodation is in 8 igloo-shaped double bungalows, allowing a maximum of 16 guests at a time, emphasizing the peace and quiet of the camp. Outside each bungalow is an en-suite bathroom with a shower, as well as a private veranda, overlooking the surrounding plains. They all have an in-room safe.

Activities include elephant nature drives lasting 3-6 hours, starting in the morning. These guided trips include exploring the surrounding area in a 4x4 vehicle, in search of Namibia's remaining 600 desert dwelling elephant. The Twyfelfontein excursions will last for around 2 ½ hrs, starting in the afternoon. The drive will include visits to the Burnt Mountain, the Organ Pipes, as well as to the fascinating Bushman Engravings. There are a number of guided nature walks that will cover trails in and around Camp Kipwe, the durations will depend on the guests.

Twyfelfontein: Maybe make an excursion to the Twyfelfontein rock etchings and paintings whilst in the area; a local guide will escort you around the ancient hillsides which are open for guests between 08:00 and 17:00. This area is covered in numerous fascinating examples of San rock art and is well worth a visit where a local guide will explain the area to you.

Burnt Mountain & Organ Pipes: The 'Burnt Mountain', an interesting area of volcanic rock, is also worth visiting. This area is an amazing sight as the sun shines over these rocks, giving the impression of flames moving over the mountain. Another intriguing site is the 'Valley of the organ pipes' situated across the road from the Burnt Mountain. This strange formation was formed when basalt slabs were gouged out by a river thousands of years ago.

Day 9: **Opuwo Country Lodge, Opuwo**
Standard Room – Dinner & Breakfast Included

Travelling from Camp Kipwe you drive to the C39 and then turn towards Khorixas. Just outside Khorixas you turn north on the C35 via Kamanjab and further north, until you reach the turn off for the C41 towards Opuwo.

Opuwo Country Hotel is on the outskirts of Opuwo on top of a hill. The turn off is on the main street, follow the signs - <http://www.opuwolodge.com/index.htm>

Opuwo Country Hotel is situated on a hilltop, north-west of the bustling town of Opuwo. It overlooks the surrounding valleys and mountains and is an ideal base to explore Kaokoland. The hotel was officially opened by His Excellency, Hifikipunyu Pohamba on the 25th August 2005. The hotel has a dining room, bar, lounge, wine cellar, curio shop, patio and swimming pool. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are normally served buffet style, but guests are welcome to order from the 'a la carte' menu if they prefer. Snacks can be ordered throughout the day. Accommodation is in 28 luxury or 12 standard rooms. They all have en-suite bathrooms and air-conditioning. Each room is overshadowed by the majestic, thatched main building.

Activities include a guided excursion to an authentic Himba village, Epupa Waterfalls trip, pioneer track hikes, and rural self-drive trips can also be arranged. Alternatively, why not ask about their drive to the hidden treasures of Kaokoland.

Opuwo is the gateway to Namibia's Kaokoveld region. This remote area, south of the Kunene River, is home to the Himba people who have kept their ethnic individuality and culture, whilst surviving in the seclusion of Kaokoland.

Days 10 & 11: **Kunene River Lodge, Epupa Region**
Bungalow – Dinner & Breakfast Included + Himba Village Excursion

From Opuwo follow the D3700 to Epembe turning right at the junction north on the D3701 towards Swartbooisdrift. The last 4 kms are a bit rough but provided you take it slowly you will not have any problems. It should take you about 3 hours to reach us - <http://www.kuneneriverlodge.com>

Kunene River Lodge is situated on the northern border of Namibia on the banks of the River Kunene, which forms the boundary with Angola. It is 50kms west of the Ruacana Falls and 100km east of the Epupa Falls in the region known as

Kaokoland. The terrain is rugged, but there are tarred roads as far as Ruacana. Local roads are generally good, gravel surfaces, although the riverside road is subject to occasional flooding during the wet season.

Kunene River Lodge nestles beneath a beautiful canopy of indigenous trees stretching down to the river. In addition to its idyllic setting, facilities and in-house activities, the lodge also serves as an ideal gateway for those setting out to explore the rugged and beautiful Kaokoland region of north-west Namibia. It has a restaurant, bar, pool and a shop and a laundry service. A popular gathering point, and focal point of the lodge is the large wooden deck built over the river, which serves as the main seating area for the restaurant and bar.



None of the accommodation here can be considered luxurious, rather the lodging is functional and the beautiful & tranquil environment more than makes up for any shortfall in the standard of the rooms. All 11 rooms are all laid out in the tranquil shade of Jackalberry and Leadwood trees.

The level of the river permitting, river boarding can be done along with rafting. Although rafting operations are concentrated on the Ondoruzu Gorge, Kunene River Lodge can also offer tailor-made rafting trips of up to 5 days. The scenery along the river is stunning, consisting mainly of red boulders and hills, which are interspersed with a variety of trees. Unfortunately wildlife in the area is not abundant, mainly due to serious poaching and hunting during the Namibian war of Independence - but much of the area around the lodge is now a conservancy and game is slowly being re-introduced. The fortunate guest may see a crocodile or hippo on the river, but the most common animals here are Nguni cows.

Many of Namibia's most striking images, recognised worldwide, show the beautiful Himba people with their glowing red skin and intricate adornments. Kaokoland is home to a Himba population estimated at 12,000. Sadly, their traditional way of life, with its culture of strict rituals, is increasingly at risk from the attractions of 21st century technology and lifestyles, leading many to abandon their nomadic existence by moving to towns and adopting western dress, thereby becoming '*invisible*' to travellers.

Jewellery, adornments and grooming are all important elements in Himba culture, with the women spending much of their time on beauty care - their unique full-body skin treatment which gives the flesh its characteristically intense, glowing red-brown colour. This treatment is also an effective sunscreen, and avoids frequent washing, which would waste precious water.

Historically, the Himba were pastoralist herdsmen travelling with their goats and cattle from one waterhole to another as the seasons or conditions dictated. Nowadays, their homesteads (kraals) tend to be more permanent.

The Himba people are proud yet friendly, but can take offence at well-meaning travellers who might inadvertently violate their customs. For this reason, and with their permission, we are allowed to escort small groups to a local kraal. There we can translate and help Guests to meet a family without embarrassment, revealing a unique insight into the history and culture of a centuries-old way of life which still survives, virtually unchanged, in this remote area. Photography is also allowed.

Day 12:

Ongula Village Homestead, Ondangwa

Dinner & Breakfast included

From Kunene River Lodge follow the D3700 towards Ruacana and then follow the C46 all the way to Ondangwa. About 8km before Ondangwa turn into M121 on the junction of M121 junction of Oniipa- Onandjokwe- Oshigambo/Eenhana road until the end of the tarred road. Continue driving north east on the gravel road for about 6 km and turn left into the feeder road at a sign post for Ongula ya- Netanga Settlement area and drive for 4 km before reaching Ongula Homestead lodge.

Situated a stone's throw from Ondangwa, north of the world famous Etosha National Park, Ongula Village Homestead Lodge offers an experience like no other. Here you are taken on a cultural journey, exploring traditional Namibian practices, rest next to Makalani palm trees and visit traditional homes - <http://www.ongula.com/home>

With the aim of discovering the beauty, simplicity and dignity of traditional village life, you are invited to look beyond the familiar Namibia of dunes, wildlife and vast landscapes. Here you will discover the Owambo, a people with a rich cultural history.

You will have a chance to participate in the traditional daily activities of the homestead and its community. Watch the simplicity and sometimes harsh reality of tradition finding its place within modern society and offering the best of both worlds. Here you don't simply watch, you will be encouraged to join in and learn the art of basket-weaving, cooking on an open fire, cattle herding and clay-pot making. You can even create your own gift to take home with you.

With only 8 chalets, Ongula Village Homestead Lodge provides authentic Owambo experience in a relaxing, comfortable village life whilst offering all the comforts of home with a touch of luxury and attention to detail, ensuring your comfort amidst the unexplored wilderness and harsh beauty of your surroundings.

Day 13 & 14:

Okaukuejo Rest Camp, Etosha National Park

Waterhole Chalet - Breakfast included

From Ondangwa follow the B1 in the direction of Tsumeb. After Oshivelo Gate, take the C38 towards Etosha National Park, entering at the Von Lindequist Gate. Spend the rest of the day slowly making your way through the park to Okaukuejo Rest Camp - <http://www.etoshanationalpark.org/accommodation/okaukuejo>

You will need to pay park entry fees of approximately **N\$80** per person per day and **N\$10** per vehicle. These unfortunately cannot be paid in advance. Okaukuejo & Halali rest camps can be visited for lunch, a swim or simply a quick break, each camp having a restaurant, small shop & petrol station. Care should be taken to be back in the rest camp before sunset when the Park gates close.

You will have to pay a key deposit in NWR camps of **N\$500.00**. You will be refunded with check out. Please just make sure that you include an additional 20min as they have to check up on your room before they refund you.

The Etosha National Park opens its gates at sunrise and closes them at sunset. If you do not have a reservation inside the park you will need to be outside the park by sunset. At the entrance gate there are huge clocks indicating the opening & closing times. The speed limit inside the park is 60 km/h so please keep this in mind when planning your day driving through the park

Okaukuejo was the first tourist camp to open in Etosha and it currently functions as the administrative hub of the park, and home of the Etosha Ecological Institute. It is situated at the western end of the pan, and about 120km north of Outjo. The Okaukuejo waterhole is often voted as the best of all the rest camp waterholes and enjoys an amazing array of wildlife.



Animals that come appear to be oblivious of the camp – unaware of the bright lights or the people sitting on benches just behind the low stone wall. The light doesn't penetrate into the surrounding bush. It creates something of a stage - with the water at its centre - focusing the attention on the animals that come to drink. During the dry season, you're bound to see something of interest by just sitting here for a few hours in the evening - so bring a couple of drinks, binoculars, and some warm clothes to settle down and wait. Among the regulars are elephants and jackals, while lion and black rhino often visit in the dry season.

Day 15 & 16:**Okonjima Plains Camp, Otjiwarongo Area****Standard Room – Dinner & Breakfast included**

Travelling from Okaukuejo you continue on the C38 to Outjo and Otjiwarongo. From here you take the B1 for around another 48km. Okonjima will be another 24km to the lodge. Arriving in time for the afternoon activities, which begin at 15h00 in winter / 16h00 in summer - http://www.okonjima.com/content/The_Plains_Camp



En route to Okonjima there is the opportunity to stop for a visit at REST (www.restafrica.org), which is housed on a piece of land adjacent to Okonjima, just before you enter the 22,000 hectare reserve. For a donation adults and children are shown around, facilities include an interpretation centre, with information on the various animal species they work with, these include; Cape Griffon Vultures, The Spotted rubber Frog, Pangolin, Damara Dik-dik, Dwarf Python and Wild Dog. REST is also home to some non-releasable Cape Griffon vultures as well as having a hide at the 'Vulture Restaurant'. Definitely a bonus for anyone wanting to learn about Namibia's wildlife and contribute in a meaningful way.

West of the Waterberg Plateau, the vast plains are occasionally broken by the remnants of ancient Sandstone outcrops, which once covered large areas of northern Namibia. Nestled among the Omboroko Mountains lies Okonjima – a Herero name meaning Place of the Baboons. This is much more than just a lodge. Okonjima is also home to The Africat Foundation.

The Africat Foundation, works with farmers and the public to conserve the big cat species of Namibia. The project is there to educate the local communities on how to work with big cat species rather than capturing them and removing them from arable land and includes a local school. The hopes are to extend their environmental education efforts to high school and even university undergraduates in the future.

One of the first steps along this route is to reinstate visits to the Africat clinic and education centre. Other unique, optional activities here include nature walks, cheetah & leopard tracking, and bushman walks. On the day of arrival you can choose to join an afternoon activity, usually tracking leopard in the immense reserve. After dinner you will also be offered the opportunity to visit a night hide where many nocturnal animals, including porcupine, honey badger and leopard are frequently sighted. The following morning you will have the opportunity to view feeding, see the veterinary/research and learn more about AfriCat's work.

Day 17 :**Windhoek International Airport – Depart**

After what I hope will have been a fantastic holiday you will make your way back to our offices in Windhoek. Here you will be able to freshen up, or have a chance to look around the town before making your way back to the International Airport to drop off your car and meet your onward flight home.

Included:

Accommodation, meals & activities as per the itinerary

Rental vehicle (4x4 Toyota Hilux with zero excess, see separate attachment for more details)

Personal detailed itinerary and information package with marked road map

Emergency Medical Accident and Serious Illness Evacuation and Hospitalisation insurance cover whilst in Namibia

Mobile phone and coolbox hire in Namibia

24 hour mobile phone emergency support number

Tourism Levy

VAT

Excluded:

Fuel for rental vehicle

N\$1500 fuel deposit and second driver charge + any additional extras such as a baby seat

Entrance fees to all National Parks/ sightseeing attractions except for inclusive activities

Gratuities

International flights and airport taxes

Travel insurance for cancellation, curtailment and medical emergencies/ treatment

Visas if applicable – all visas are the full responsibility of the client

All other expenses of a personal nature



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