



WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

Classic Namibia



Zebra at waterhole, Etosha National Park

DAY 1 - Depart UK.

DAY 2 - Arrival in Windhoek.

On arrival in Namibia's capital Windhoek you will be met a representative of World Discovery and taken to your Guest House, located in the centre of the city. This afternoon you will enjoy a short tour of **Windhoek**.

DAY 3 - Into the Namib Desert.

Leaving Windhoek after breakfast, you will head in a southerly direction through the mountains of the Khomas Hochland, via the "Spreetshoogte Pass", into the low plains of the Namib Desert for your stay at the **Desert Homestead & Horse Trails**.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 4 - Sossusvlei. Sesriem Canyon.

Early morning visit to Sossusvlei, (a huge clay-pan enclosed by mighty sand dunes. Some of the spectacular hills of sand reach a height of 300 metres, amongst the highest in the world. The pan is filled with water only in years when there is exceptionally good rainfall. You will also visit the Sesriem Canyon, where the erosion of many centuries has incised a narrow gorge about 1km in length. It is said that the canyon got its name during the time of the ox wagon, when a person had to use six harness straps ('ses riem') to haul water from the bottom of the canyon.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 5 - Through the Namib Desert to Swakopmund.

The route takes you north via the Kuiseb Canyon to Swakopmund. En route you will visit the so-called 'Moon Landscape', an area of surreal rock formations carved over millennia by the Swakop River, as well as the unique Welwitchia Plains, covered in *welwitchia mirabilis*, the oldest desert plant on earth and a botanical curiosity. Swakopmund is a quaint desert town with old-world charm and a relaxed atmosphere, hedged by desert and sea, and enhanced by lush green lawns and palm trees.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 6 - Swakopmund. Walvis Bay.

The highlight of your stay in Swakopmund is this morning's cruise of Walvis Bay Lagoon. You should see dolphins and seals, a variety of seabirds, and one of the largest flocks of flamingos in southern Africa. Return to Swakopmund for time on your own to enjoy the town's quaint mix of European and African culture, or to indulge in a little shopping in the vibrant markets.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAYS 7 AND 8 - Into Damaraland.

Departure from Swakopmund along the Atlantic Coast towards the North. Visit the lichen fields near Wlotzka's Baken before continuing to Henties Bay, a small holiday resort. Onwards to the seal colony at Cape Cross. After visiting the seals, the journey continues via Ugabmund to the southern Skeleton Coast Park to inspect a shipwreck. You leave the Skeleton Coast Park in the early afternoon via Springbokwasser and can experience the harsh transition from the Namib Desert to the Damaraland highlands with its impressive landscape and ragged valleys. A highlight of your stay at **Grootberg Lodge** will be the rhino-tracking excursion.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner each day.

DAY 9 - Etosha National Park.

Leaving your lodge, you will travel via the Grootberg Pass to Kamanjab and further on the tarred road to the Etosha National Park. Afternoon arrival at the **Okaukuejo Restcamp** in the Etosha National Park - 22,270 square kilometres of countryside ranging from dense bush to barren plains. At the heart of this National Park is the Etosha Pan - known as the "Place of Dry Water" - a vast dry shallow depression. Perennial springs feed the waterholes along the southern verge, which attract a myriad of animal species.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 10 - Etosha National Park.

Spend the day in the park and visit the numerous waterholes that attract a large diversity of animals including lions, springbok, zebra, gnu, giraffe, kudu and elephant. Etosha also contains endangered black rhino and unusual species like the blackfaced impala, a larger and darker species found only in southwestern Angola and northwest Namibia. Birdlife is absolutely wonderful at Etosha; those to look for in particular are the ground hornbill, the yellow-billed hornbill, and the lilac-breasted roller, whose underwings when they take off in pursuit of an insect give a blinding flash of electric blue. Eagles and vultures cruise high in the warm air currents or perch on branches with beady eyes alert.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 11 - Return to Windhoek for homeward flight.

Return journey via Okahandja to Windhoek. Okahandja is an important centre for woodcarvers from the north. They practice their ancient skills at the Woodcarvers Market next to the main road. This is a good place to pick a last souvenir. Arrival in Windhoek with transfer to Hosea Kutako Airport for check-in on your outbound flight.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 16 - Arrive UK.

Morning arrival the UK.