



SPECIALITY

AFRICA · RECOMMENDED 16 DAYS

★
Deadvlei, Sossusvlei

Namibia

Red dunes, endless horizons and the waterholes of Etosha

RECOMMENDED LENGTH

16 days

DEPARTURE

Any day

you pick the dates

TRANSPORT

Self-drive

or private driver

ESTIMATED FROM, EXCL.
FLIGHT**€2,340** p.p.

My recommended 16-day route through one of Africa's most photogenic countries, entirely private. From the Kalahari and the world's highest dunes at Sossusvlei, via German-colonial Swakopmund and the rock engravings of Damaraland, to wildlife-rich Etosha and the leopards of Okonjima. The long drives are not lost time: you drive through some of the most beautiful landscapes in Africa. You choose: behind the wheel of a 4x4 that is waiting for you (Namibia is the self-drive country par excellence) or with a private driver. You start whenever you like.

✓ Put together personally

✓ No group travel

✓ At your own pace

✓ Leave out or add what you like

✓ Dates completely free

✓ Eat wherever you like

Highlights

- ★ Sunset in the red dunes of the Kalahari
- ★ Sunrise on Dune 45 and the dead camel-thorn trees of Deadvlei
- ★ Catamaran trip at Walvis Bay with seals, dolphins and pelicans
- ★ The Cape Cross seal colony
- ★ Rock engravings of Twyfelfontein (UNESCO) and desert elephants in Damaraland
- ★ Two days of game viewing around the Etosha pan and waterholes
- ★ Leopards and cheetahs at the AfriCat Foundation in Okonjima

Best time to travel

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

best time to travel: advice only, you travel when you like

TRAVELLERS

Private: only your own party, from 1 traveller. No group travel, no fellow travellers you don't know.

LENGTH

Recommended: 16 days · shorter or longer is always possible

DATES

Completely flexible: you leave on the day that suits you.

Your route on the map



Map: Natural Earth (public domain) · the arcs show the order of the route, not the exact road

- 1 Windhoek
2 nights · day 2, 14
- 2 Kalahari (Mariental area)
1 night · day 3
- 3 Sesriem/Sossusvlei
2 nights · day 4–5
- 4 Swakopmund
2 nights · day 6–7
- 5 Damaraland (Twyfelfontein area)
2 nights · day 8–9
- 6 Etosha West (Okaukuejo)
1 night · day 10
- 7 Etosha East (Namutoni/Onguma)
2 nights · day 11–12
- 8 Okonjima
1 night · day 13

overland, arrow = direction of travel day trip



DAY 8 Thousands of fur seals at Cape Cross



DAY 9 Ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein (UNESCO)

My recommended route

This is the route as I put it together for you. It is a starting point, not a fixed programme: leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you would like to do and travel at your own pace. Everything below is arranged for you in advance.

DAY 1

Departure from Brussels NACHTVLUCHT / OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Overnight flight to Windhoek with one connection (e.g. via Frankfurt with Discover Airlines, or via Doha or Johannesburg). You leave on the day that suits you.

DAY 2

Arrival in Windhoek WINDHOEK

At Hosea Kutako airport you are met with a name board. If you drive yourself, our partner takes you to Windhoek (approx. 45 min), where your 4x4 is waiting and you get a thorough briefing (tyre pressure, spare wheels, driving on gravel). If you travel with a private driver, he is in the arrivals hall himself. After some rest, explore the centre: the Christuskirche, the Independence Memorial Museum with its view over the city and the Namibia Craft Centre. If you like, visit Katutura, the township created during apartheid, with the Single Quarters market; this is best done with a local guide. Free evening; my tips for a first dinner are in your travel plan.

DAY 3

The Kalahari KALAHARI (REGIO MARIENTAL) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

South on the tarred B1 to the red dunes of the Kalahari (approx. 3 hours), an easy first driving day. In the afternoon a nature walk on the trails around the lodge among oryx, springbok, ground squirrels and the huge nests of sociable weavers. Towards sunset the lodge's sundowner drive in an open vehicle to the top of a red dune, while the sand glows.



Red Kalahari dunes at sunset

DAY 4

To the Namib Desert SESRIEM/SOSSUSVLEI ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

On increasingly empty gravel roads via Maltahöhe to Sesriem on the edge of the Namib (approx. 4.5 hours; on gravel you drive at 80 km/h at most). The drive itself is worth it: the red Kalahari gives way to endless grass plains, the Naukluft mountains and the first orange dunes on the horizon, and you stop wherever you like. In the afternoon the narrow Sesriem Canyon and sunset on Elim Dune.

DAY 5

Sossusvlei and Deadvlei SESRIEM/SOSSUSVLEI ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

Through the park gate at opening time to Dune 45 for sunrise. Then the park's 4x4 shuttle for the last sandy kilometres to Sossusvlei and on foot to Deadvlei with its centuries-old dead trees against orange dunes; those who wish can climb Big Daddy. Afternoon rest at the lodge.

DAY 6**To Swakopmund** SWAKOPMUND ♦ BREAKFAST

Via Solitaire (apple pie and a fuel stop!), the Gaub and Kuiseb passes and the Tropic of Capricorn to Walvis Bay with its flamingos, and on to Swakopmund (approx. 5.5 hours). It is the longest driving day, but also one of the most beautiful: the bare moonscapes of the canyons, the gravel plains of the Namib and, at the end, dunes that run down to the ocean. Evening in this German-colonial seaside town, where you can walk to a restaurant; my addresses are in your travel plan.



Hohenzollern House in German-colonial Swakopmund

DAY 7**Walvis Bay and free afternoon** SWAKOPMUND ♦ BREAKFAST

Morning catamaran trip in Walvis Bay lagoon with fur seals, dolphins, pelicans and oysters on board. Free afternoon in Swakopmund: the Jetty, the beach, the colonial buildings and the craft market, or a coffee in one of the German cafés. Fancy more? Then do the Living Desert tour in search of the dunes' 'Little Five', go quad biking or sandboarding, or make a tandem skydive over desert and ocean. Instead of the catamaran you can also take a 4x4 trip to Sandwich Harbour, where the dunes drop straight into the Atlantic (approx. 5 hours, depending on the tide).

DAY 8**Cape Cross and Damaraland** DAMARALAND (REGIO TWYFELFONTEIN) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

Along the Skeleton Coast to the Cape Cross seal colony, then inland via Uis (fuel stop) and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, to Damaraland (approx. 5 hours). On the way the misty coast turns into a desert of red and black rocks, table mountains and dry riverbeds: the drive itself is one of the fine moments of the trip. Lodge among glowing red rock formations.

DAY 9**Twyfelfontein and desert elephants** DAMARALAND (REGIO TWYFELFONTEIN) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

You visit the thousands-of-years-old rock engravings of Twyfelfontein (UNESCO) with a guide from the local community: for the best-known engravings, such as the Lion Man and the Dancing Kudu, this is compulsory, and the guide is part of the entrance fee. Then the Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain. In the afternoon an open 4x4 with a tracker from the lodge takes you in search of desert-adapted elephants in the dry riverbeds.

DAY 10**To Etosha** ETOSHA WEST (OKAUKUEJO) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

Via the Petrified Forest and Outjo (fuel and supplies) to Etosha's Andersson Gate (approx. 4.5 hours). This is a beautiful drive too: past table mountains and mopane woodland the desert slowly turns into savannah. First game drive in the afternoon, in your own 4x4 or with your driver, and in the late afternoon the Okaukuejo waterhole. The gate closes at sunset; if you sleep inside the park (option), you often see rhinos drinking at the floodlit waterhole in the evening.



Zebras and springbok at the Okaukuejo waterhole

DAY 11**Across Etosha** ETOSHA OOST (NAMUTONI/ONGUMA) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

Full day of game viewing from waterhole to waterhole, from Okaukuejo via Halali to the east of the park, with viewpoints over the white salt pan. Etosha is easy to drive yourself: good gravel roads, a 60 km/h limit and a map of all waterholes in your road book. Elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras and large herds of antelope.

DAY 12**Eastern Etosha** ETOSHA OOST (NAMUTONI/ONGUMA) ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

The lodge's morning game drive in an open safari vehicle around Fischer's Pan and the waterholes near Namutoni, known for rhino and leopard. Afternoon rest by the pool or another drive on your own.

DAY 13**Okonjima – AfriCat** OKONJIMA ♦ BREAKFAST • DINNER

South on tarmac to the Okonjima Nature Reserve (approx. 3.5 hours), home of the AfriCat Foundation. In the afternoon you learn about the work with cheetahs and leopards and go on a tracking drive; inside the reserve you go out with Okonjima's rangers.

DAY 14**Back to Windhoek** WINDHOEK ♦ BREAKFAST

Early morning activity in the reserve (leopard tracking or a bush walk), then to Windhoek (approx. 3 hours, tarmac). Last evening in town; your hotel is close to good restaurants and my favourites are in your travel plan.

DAY 15 **Departure** NACHTVLUCHT / OVERNIGHT FLIGHT ♦ BREAKFAST

If you drive yourself, you return your 4x4 at the depot in Windhoek and our partner takes you to Hosea Kutako airport; with a private driver you are taken right to the departure hall. Flight to Brussels with one connection.

DAY 16 **Arrival in Brussels**

Arrival in Brussels. In the week after you get home I call you for a debrief.

What I arrange for you

1 Airport pickup

At Hosea Kutako airport you are met with a name board. Self-drivers are taken to the depot in Windhoek (approx. 45 min), where the 4x4 is waiting with a thorough briefing; with a private driver, your driver is in the arrivals hall himself. On the last day you return the vehicle in Windhoek and are taken to the airport.

2 Hotels

Every night is booked and confirmed in advance, at the level you choose: Budget, Comfort or Premium. Prefer another hotel? I change it.

3 Transport

You choose: self-drive with a rental car waiting for you, or a private driver and private transfers. Domestic flights, trains and boats where they make sense, all booked in advance.

4 Activities, at your pace

The activities and entrance tickets on the route. No guide or group travels with you: you set the pace, and anything you would rather skip, you simply leave out.

5 Eat wherever you like

Breakfast is included, as are the meals at remote camps and lodges where there is no alternative. For the rest I give you my restaurant tips, but you are completely free to choose where you eat. I never send you somewhere because it earns me something.

Estimated prices per person

PER PERSON, BASED ON 2 TRAVELLERS, EXCL. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

ACCOMMODATION LEVEL	Self-drive rental car, everything pre-booked	Private driver private transfers and driver
Budget simple, clean and well located	€2,340 p.p.	€4,000 p.p.
Comfort characterful mid-range	€3,870 p.p.	€5,530 p.p.
Premium the best addresses on the ground	€5,050 p.p.	€6,710 p.p.

WITH 4 TRAVELLERS approx. 13% off per person: you share the car and driver. E.g. Comfort, private driver: approx. €4,810 p.p.

TRAVELLING SOLO supplement of approx. 62%: you carry the room and transport alone. E.g. Comfort, private driver: approx. €8,960 p.p.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT I book your flight as part of your trip; the flight price for your dates is in your personal quote. Return flight Brussels–Windhoek not included: allow about € 700–1,200 p.p. depending on the month (July and August are the most expensive). I find you the best flight with your quote.

SELF-DRIVE

Namibia is Africa's self-drive country par excellence: little traffic, clear roads and a lodge expecting you every evening. You get a 4x4 with two spare wheels and zero-excess insurance, a thorough briefing in Windhoek and a road book with driving times, fuel stops and road conditions. Fuel is paid locally (indicative ± €390 per vehicle for the whole route; there are no toll roads). You drive on the left, at 80 km/h at most on gravel and never after dark. Driving days take 3 to 5.5 hours; most roads off the main routes are well-maintained gravel. The long drives are not lost time: you drive through some of the most beautiful landscapes in Africa. You stop wherever you like for a photo or a picnic.

WITH A PRIVATE DRIVER

Rather not drive on gravel yourself? Then you travel the whole route with one dedicated driver in a 4x4. He speaks English and Afrikaans (which Flemish speakers understand well), knows the roads and the waterholes and also drives you through Etosha. That way you can enjoy the landscapes to the full along the way. Fuel and your driver's accommodation are included.

ESTIMATED PRICES

Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation.

Estimated price. In high season the price can be higher, in low season lower; your exact price is in your personal quote.

Three accommodation levels

Budget

Guesthouses in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Otjiwarongo and simple rest camps and tented camps elsewhere (approx. €50–180 per room). Truly cheap rooms do not exist near Sossusvlei and Etosha; you stay at a self-catering camp by the gate and a rest camp inside the park. Breakfast included, dinners at your own expense; Okonjima is visited as a day guest.

Comfort

Boutique guesthouses in the towns and good mid-range lodges in the wild (approx. €190–340 per room on half board), such as the Gondwana Collection lodges, a tented camp within walking distance of the rock engravings and Okonjima Plains Camp inside the leopard reserve itself.

Premium

The best lodge in each place (approx. €250–500 per room on half board): a boutique hotel in Windhoek, a game ranch on a red Kalahari dune, the lodge right at the Sossusvlei gate, an intimate lodge near eastern Etosha and Okonjima's Luxury Bush Camp.

Possible guided moments

Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

- ★ Day 2: Katutura and the Single Quarters market with a local guide
- ★ Day 3: a morning walk through the Kalahari dunes with a San guide (with an extra night)
- ★ Day 7: the Living Desert tour or a 4x4 trip to Sandwich Harbour
- ★ Day 10: a sunset or night drive with the park guides from Okaukuejo
- ★ Day 11: a private guide riding along with you through Etosha
- ★ Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

Ideas to adapt the route

- Shorter (12–13 days): drop the Kalahari and Okonjima and drive from Windhoek straight to Sesriem
- Longer (up to 21 days): add the Fish River Canyon and Lüderitz/Kolmanskop in the south, or the Caprivi Strip with a link to Victoria Falls
- A slower pace: an extra night in the Kalahari (San walk), in Swakopmund (Living Desert or Sandwich Harbour), in Damaraland or in western Etosha
- Sleep inside Etosha at the floodlit Okaukuejo waterhole instead of at the gate
- Mix: self-drive, with a private guide for one or two days in Etosha

Included

- ✓ 13 nights at your chosen level (Budget, Comfort or Premium), double room with breakfast; in Etosha and Sossusvlei as close to the park gate as possible
- ✓ Comfort and Premium: dinner too (half board) at the remote lodges (Kalahari, Sesriem, Damaraland, Etosha and Okonjima); Budget: breakfast only
- ✓ Pickup at Windhoek airport with a name board and transfer back on the last day
- ✓ Self-drive: 4x4 (double cab or SUV) for 13 days with zero-excess insurance, second driver, two spare wheels, a thorough briefing and a road book (fuel is paid locally)
- ✓ Private driver: the same English/Afrikaans-speaking driver with a 4x4 for the whole trip, fuel and his accommodation included
- ✓ Park fees Namib-Naukluft (Sossusvlei) and Etosha, 4x4 shuttle at Sossusvlei, Cape Cross, Twyfelfontein and the Petrified Forest
- ✓ Activities: Kalahari sundowner drive, Walvis Bay catamaran trip, the Twyfelfontein rock engravings (with the compulsory community guide), desert-elephant drive, morning game drive in an open safari vehicle in Etosha, activities at AfriCat/Okonjima

Not included

- International flight (optional; allow approx. €700–1,200 pp, depending on the month)
- Namibian e-visa: N\$1,600 pp (approx. €80, indicative price). I apply for it for you in advance; you pay the visa fee yourself
- Lunches, drinks and dinners in Windhoek and Swakopmund, where you choose where to eat (Budget: all dinners)
- Optional excursions (Living Desert tour, Sandwich Harbour, quad biking, sandboarding, tandem skydive, sunset or night drive in Etosha, scenic flight over the dunes) and any guides you add
- Self-drive: fuel, tolls and parking (indicative ± €390 per vehicle for the whole route; paid locally)
- Self-drive: deposit on your credit card at the rental company; tyre and windscreen damage as per the rental conditions
- Tips (guideline €8–10 pp per day)
- Travel and cancellation insurance

Practical information

VISA (BELGIAN CITIZENS)

Belgians have needed a visa since 1 April 2025: N\$1,600 pp (approx. €80, indicative price), valid for 30 days. I apply for the e-visa for you in advance via the official portal (eservices.mhaiss.gov.na), so you don't have to queue for a visa on arrival at the airport. For this, send me: a scan of your passport photo page, a recent digital passport photo and your flight details; I fill in your lodge addresses myself. You pay the visa fee yourself. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months on arrival and have at least 3 blank pages. Print the approved e-visa and take it with you.

HEALTH

No mandatory vaccinations, except a yellow fever certificate when arriving from (or with a long transit through) a yellow fever country. Malaria: the south, Windhoek and the coast are malaria-free. Etosha and the northern third of the country are a seasonal malaria area: Wanda recommends mosquito protection plus preventive antimalarial tablets from September to May, and because of a malaria outbreak (update 22 September 2026) now also from June to August. Whenever you travel, discuss malaria prophylaxis for the Etosha section (days 10–13) with a travel clinic (ITG/Wanda).

CURRENCY & PAYMENT

Namibian dollar (NAD), pegged 1:1 to the South African rand (also accepted). Cards accepted at most lodges.

FLIGHT TIME FROM BRUSSELS

Approx. 12–15 hours with one connection (Frankfurt–Windhoek direct approx. 10 hours).

TIME DIFFERENCE

Namibia (UTC+2): +1 hour in Belgian winter, no difference in Belgian summer.

LANGUAGE

English (official), Afrikaans, German and many local languages (Oshiwambo, Nama/Damara, Herero).

MEALS

Breakfast is included every day. At the remote lodges (Kalahari, Sesriem, Damaraland, Etosha and Okonjima) dinner is included too at Comfort and Premium, because there is no alternative; at Budget you pay for dinner there locally. In Windhoek and Swakopmund you choose where to eat: I give you my restaurant recommendations, but I don't include those meals in the price.

GUIDES

By default you travel without a guide. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

As of September 2026 — check diplomatie.belgium.be (travel advice) and wanda.be (health) before you travel.

Travelling responsibly

Namibia was the first African country to write environmental protection into its constitution, and many lodges are located in communal conservancies where local communities are co-owners and earn income. I prefer such lodges, at Twyfelfontein and in Damaraland you go out with guides and trackers from the community, and you visit AfriCat, which works on coexistence between farmers and predators. In the desert you stay on the tracks and use water sparingly.



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Put together personally by Yari, down to the last detail. — Yari Steennot

No group travel and no fixed dates: you travel privately, at your own pace. Leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you like. I give you my restaurant tips, but you choose freely where you eat: nobody sends you to expensive restaurants for a commission.

MY CONTACT ON THE GROUND: [\[contact name\]](#)

ESTIMATED PRICES

Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation. Ask for a no-obligation personal intake call or a proposal. Other dates, more or fewer days, something left out or added? Everything can be adapted.

This trip is a package under the Belgian Act of 21 November 2017 on the sale of package travel, linked travel arrangements and travel services. Before you sign, you receive the standard information form and our travel conditions. Steennot Travels is insured against insolvency with [insurer, address, policy number — to be completed]: in case of insolvency, payments are refunded and, where transport is included, repatriation is guaranteed. All prices are indicative estimates; the binding price is the one in your booking confirmation.

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COVER Deadvlei, Sossusvlei — Photo: Giles Laurent · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:054e_Dead_camel_thorn_tree_in_Deadvlei_Photo_by_Giles_Laurent.jpg · *cropped, resized*

DAY 3 Red Kalahari dunes at sunset — Photo: Frank Vassen from Brussels, Belgium · CC BY 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) · [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalahari_Dunes_Namibia_\(3997934029\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalahari_Dunes_Namibia_(3997934029).jpg) · *cropped, resized*

DAY 6 Hohenzollern House in German-colonial Swakopmund — Photo: Ji-Elle · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Swakopmund-Hohenzollernhaus.jpg · *resized*

DAY 8 Thousands of fur seals at Cape Cross — Photo: Ana Raquel S. Hernandes from Sao Paulo, Brazil · CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) · [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cape_Cross_Seal_Colony,_RTW_2012_\(8395938208\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cape_Cross_Seal_Colony,_RTW_2012_(8395938208).jpg) · *cropped, resized*

DAY 9 Ancient rock engravings at Twyfelfontein (UNESCO) — Photo: Jean & Nathalie · CC BY 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Twyfelfontein_Rock_Engraving,_Namibia.jpg · *cropped, resized*

DAY 10 Zebras and springbok at the Okaukuejo waterhole — Photo: Christoph Strässler · CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zebras_and_springboks_at_the_Okaukuejo_Waterhole,_Etosha_National_Park,_Namibia.jpg · *cropped, resized*