

Damaraland Wilderness Experience (9 days)

Experience the very best of Namibia's free living game outside a national park in the unspoilt nature and spectacular sceneries of the former Damaraland. This 9 day tour will take you to the cape fur seal colony at Cape Cross, the Messum Crater, the Ugab and Huab river areas, the Hoarusib River Valley and the game rich private concession area of Palmwag Lodge, hosting a huge variety of game, including the black rhino and desert elephant. The journey ends with an exciting outing to the private concession area of Etendeka before returning back to Swakopmund via the Skeleton Coast border.

Departure Dates	Every 1st and 3rd Friday in a month
Price per person sharing	£920 – £1530 (depending on number travelling)
Single supplement	£20
Minimum number	2
Maximum number	10
Price includes	Travelling costs as per itinerary; game drives, activities, entrance- and park fees - Accommodation in two-man tents / double rooms - Full board, refreshment drinks en route, house wine and beer at dinner whilst camping - Experienced guiding in English - VAT and Bed levy.
Price excludes	Expenses of a personal nature, i.e. laundry, telephone, gratuities, souvenirs, etc - Personal, medical and evacuation insurances - Additional activities - Alcoholic beverages and drinks



Itinerary Details

Day 1: Depart Swakopmund for Namib

Depart Swakopmund in the early morning and travel northwards along the West Coast Recreational Area visiting the quiet holiday village of Wlotzkasbaken en route.

After a visit to the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, you leave the main road and start exploring the fascinating gravel plains of the Namib. Head in an easterly direction towards the Messum Crater, an extinct volcanic protrusion with a fascinating geological history, where you'll be introduced to the unique desert vegetation. Continuing in a northerly direction, you make your way to the Ugab River, a dry seasonal river only flowing for a couple days in the rainy season. Here, camp will be pitched under giant Ana Trees. With a bit of luck you might even encounter the first desert adapted elephants. Dinner is prepared over an open fire and the day's sightings and adventures are relived around the dinner table.

Day 2: Doros Crater, Damaraland

After an early breakfast head further northwards towards the imposing Doros Crater in the heart of Damaraland. Species that survive here include Hartmann's zebra, oryx, springbuck, giraffe, ostrich, black banded jackal, kudu and with a bit of luck, the elusive black rhino. You'll be given the chance to spend some time exploring the fascinating rock engravings at the Twyfelfontein Massive.

From here, make your way down to the Huab River via ancient watercourses and camp wild under a starry sky. Once again, dinner is prepared as you enjoy the silence and solitude of the desert whilst sipping your sundowner drink.

Day 3: Palmwag Lodge Concession Area

Day 3 takes you into the Palmwag Concession, a 5500sq Km private game area. Spend the day tracking wildlife and visiting the various hidden springs. Game here includes lion, cheetah, elephant and various species of plains game, as well as the rare black rhino. Wild camping in the area.

Day 4: Hoanib River, Palmwag Concession Area

Continue heading northwards in the Palmwag Concession towards the Hoanib river. This fascinating river is an eco-system within itself and also the border between Damaraland and the Kaokoveld. Various game species, including elephant meander up and down the river, walking great distances everyday to feed and drink from its springs. Camp is set up in one of its beautiful side valleys. It is not uncommon to see elephant stealthily moving past the camp during the night.

Day 5: Purros

Today you head towards Purros, an Ovaherero settlement in the Hoarusib River. You might encounter some of the nomadic Himba people en route, depending on the availability of grass and water for their cattle and goats. There should also be an opportunity to visit a local school and meet the teachers and pupils.

Camp is set-up at a rustic campsite belonging to the local community. The desert adapted elephant sometimes roams the surrounding area.

Day 6: Hoarusib River Valley. Camping at Purros.

Spend the morning tracking Elephant in the ancient Hoarusib river bed, driving through imposing canyons and ravines as you make your way towards the "clay castles" and wetlands of the western Hoarusib. It is a geological paradise, and many different formations of rock and a variety of desert flora can be encountered. Return to Purros where you will camp.

Day 7: Sesfontein

Begin your return journey back towards “civilization” via the village of Sesfontein. This was originally a German police fort more than a hundred years ago, and gets its name from the prolific fountains found in the area. You will be able to visit the Khwarib Schlucht, a narrow gorge in the dry Hoanib River that is now home to a few Damara and Herero families, and from here make your way into the Etendeka Mountains, where you will spend the night wild camping.

Day 8: Grootberg Lodge

The last day is spent at Grootberg Lodge, perched on the edge of the Grootberg Plateau. Here you will have a last opportunity to search for the elusive Black Rhino in the ravines and dry rivers of this harsh environment. Overnight at Grootberg Lodge.

Day 9: Return to Swakopmund via Uis

We return to Swakopmund via the village of Uis, an old Tin mining town with majestic views of the Brandberg. We also have an opportunity for shopping for semi precious stones from vendors along the road reaching Swakopmund in the afternoon.

