



Namibia

Desert, Safari & Coast – Small Group Departure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

Itinerary	Namibia • Desert, Safari & Coast – Small Group
11 Days • 10 Nights	<i>Windhoek – Sesriem – Sossusvlei – Swakopmund – Twyfelfontein – Estosha – Estosha National Park - Windhoek</i>

HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR ESSENTIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sossusvlei ■ Swakopmund ■ Cape Fur Seals and the Skeleton Coast ■ Twyfelfontein Rock Engravings ■ The Petrified Forest ■ The Etosha National Park 	Tour Style	Wildlife
	Tour Start	Windhoek
	Tour End	Windhoek
	Accommodation	Hotel, Lodges, Camps
	Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 8 lunches, 6 Dinners
	Difficulty Level	Medium

Desert, safari & coast



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NAMBIA *an overview*

Visit the flame-coloured dunes of Sossusvlei. The magnificent Hardap Dam is the largest reservoir in Namibia. The area is fertile with citrus, melons and grapes for wine. In the South, the world's second-largest canyon (Fish River canyon) is a geological marvel measuring a spectacular 160km in length and 27 km wide at times. The awe-inspiring beauty and surreal light draw visitors from all over the globe. There are 85km of hiking trails through this 15 billion-year-old rocky wonderland. Located in the scenic Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. One of Namibia's premier attractions, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 metres-some of the highest in the world. These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts from far and wide. Sossusvlei is home to various desert wildlife, including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes; explore Deadvlei, a white, salt claypan dotted with ancient trees; or for the more extravagant, scenic flights and hot air ballooning are on offer, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime champagne breakfast amidst these majestic dunes. We visit the immense Etosha National park; the area boasts numerous waterholes attracting elephants, rhinos, leopards, lions, and a variety of bucks. Don't miss the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the rare Hartmann's Mountain Zebra and black-faced impala.

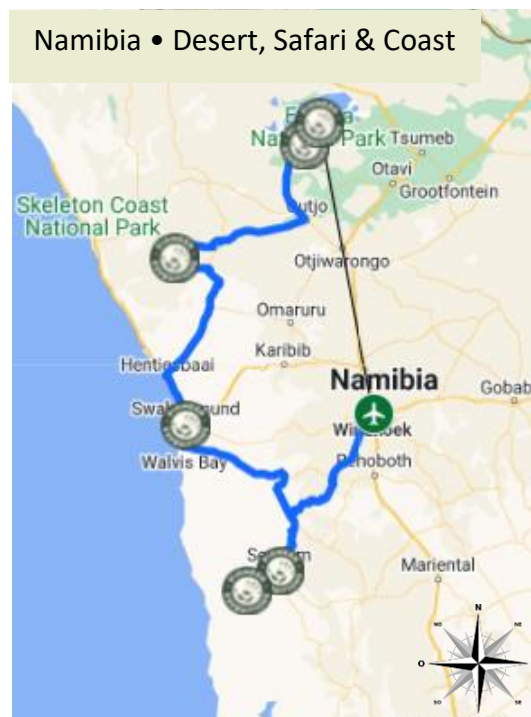
Why Pioneer Expeditions?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

Itinerary



DAY 1: Arrival in Windhoek

Meet and greet at the Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure and dinner on own account at a restaurant of your own choice. Your guide will advise you on restaurant choices.

Overnight at Casa Piccolo or similar



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Approx, 40km



Activity:
Travel

DAY 2: Windhoek – Sesriem

Departing Windhoek by 8am, we head in a southerly direction through the cattle farmland towards the Namib Desert. Passing through the Nauchas we stop for a short break at the top of the Escarpment looking over the Spreetshoogte Pass. A short distance down the pass, we arrive at the small rest stop of Solitaire before continuing the last 80km to our lodge at Sesriem.

Overnight at Namib Desert Lodge or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
Approx. 300km



Activity:
Explore/Travel

DAY 3: Sossusvlei

An early pre-dawn departure from our lodge entering the park at sunrise. The 60km tar road leads the way into the Namib dune fields within the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Passing dune 45, we arrive at the 2x4 parking area, engage into 4x4 and continue the last 5km into the Dead Vlei pan. Climb one of the world's highest dunes – for the fit and brave, or wander around the dead vlei pan before continuing to the Sossusvlei.

Exiting the area by 12:00 before the heat of the day sets in, we return to the lodge for a lunch and afternoon siesta or lie by the lodge pool enjoying the midday. A short visit to the Sesriem canyon late afternoon only 5km away ends a day of activities.

Overnight at Namib Desert Lodge or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
Approx. 120km



Activity:
Explore/Hiking

DAY 4: Sossusvlei – Swakopmund

A 9am morning departure to the harbour town of Walvis Bay via the Kuiseb canyon. We explore the small industrial town and its surrounding salt pans and lagoon before continuing to the coastal resort of Swakopmund.

The rest of the day is spent exploring this town and planning your next day's adventure activities. These activities will be discussed with your guide the night before as its essential to make bookings. These activities include short scenic flights, Catamaran cruises, dune-boarding, quad-biking and so much more.

Dinner can be enjoyed at any one of the town's best restaurants on own account.

Overnight at The Delight Hotel or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B,L



Distance:
Approx. 320km



Activity:
Explore/Travel



DAY 5: Swakopmund

A lazy morning before the short trip to the harbour town of Walvis Bay. We explore the small industrial town and its surrounding salt pans and lagoon before continuing to the coastal resort of Swakopmund.

The rest of the day is spent exploring this town and planning your next day's adventure activities. These activities will be discussed with your guide the night before as its essential to make bookings. These activities include short scenic flights, Catamaran cruises, dune-boarding, quad-biking and so much more.

Dinner can be enjoyed at any one of the town's best restaurants.

Overnight at The Delight Hotel or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Approx. 460km



Activity:
Explore/Travel

DAY 6: Swakopmund to Twyfelfontein

Heading North Along the Atlantic Coastline, we stop on route at the Lichen fields just north of Hentiesbay. Continuing up the Skeleton Coast, we stop again at the Cape Fur Seal Colony. Thousands of seals congregate here due to unique sea current conditions in a bay that adds to their safety from predators as well as favourable survival conditions in terms of fish resources.

The Skeleton Coastline is a desert environment which meets the cold Benguela current creating cool conditions throughout the day. The coastline is named as such due to many ships over the years that have run aground as can be seen just north of the Ugab Gate entering the Park. We continue up the coastline and then turning inland into Damaraland arriving at our lodge late afternoon.

Overnight at Twyfelfontein Lodge or similar



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
Approx. 460km



Activity:
Explore/Travel

DAY 7: Twyfelfontein Lodge – Etosha

Early Morning breakfast for departure just a few km away to the world famous Twyfelfontein Bushman Rock engravings where a local community guide you.

Declared a world heritage site in 2007, the Twyfelfontein bushman (San) rock engravings date back between 2000 and 10 000 years and show case the largest concentration of Petroglyphs in the world.

After a leisurely light walk through Twyfelfontein, we continue in the direction of the Etosha National Park but not before a quick stop over at the Petrified Forest. Said to be dated at 280 Million years old, there are remnants of large tree trunks brought down by a flood and over Millenia turned to stone.

Arrival at our lodge late afternoon in time for a cool swim before an early dinner.

Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
Approx, 300km



Activity:
Camp



DAY 8: Etosha National Park

A full day is spent in open vehicle game drive covering the Western part of the Park exploring all of the watering holes in search of all the animals not sighted the day before. Late afternoon arrival back at the Lodge for a deserved swim in the pool and a cool drink to finish off the day before dinner.

Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Exploring

DAY 9: Etosha National Park

A full morning is spent in open vehicle game drive in the Etosha National Park. Traversing areas of Etosha missed the previous day in the effort to tick off all that the park has to offer. Spend the afternoon at the lodge pool or take time to update your social media before heading back to Windhoek the next day.

Overnight at Etosha Safari Camp or similar



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
N/A



Activity:
Wildlife

DAY 10: Etosha Safari Camp – Windhoek

A lengthy drive back to the capital city, Windhoek. Mid-afternoon arrival back at our hotel where we can explore the city in your own time or relax at the hotel and prepare for the departure flight home the following day. Dinner on own account – recommended at Joes Beerhouse

Overnight at Casa Piccolo or similar



Overnight:
Village



Meals:
B,L



Distance:
Approx. 405km



Activity:
Wildlife

DAY 11: Departure

Transfer to Hosea Kutako International Airport for your flight back home.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Travel



Accommodation at a glance

Subject change to availability

	Location	Accommodation	Example
<i>Nights: 1,10</i>	Windhoek	Casa Piccolo	<i>Hotel</i>
<i>Nights: 2,3</i>	Sossusvle	Namib Desert Lodge	<i>Lodge</i>
<i>Nights: 4,5</i>	Swakopmund	The Delight Hotel	<i>Hotel</i>
<i>Nights: 6</i>	Twyfelfontein	Twyfelfontein Lodge	<i>Lodge</i>
<i>Nights: 7,8,9</i>	Etosha	Etosha Safari Camp	<i>Camp</i>

Important Information

INCLUDED

- Professional Guide
- Comfortable safari vehicle
- Accommodation as per Itinerary
- Meals as per Itinerary (B - Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
- Park entrance fees
- Activities as per Itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- Expenses of a personal nature, i.e. laundry, telephone expenses, gratuities, portorage, etc
- Any additional meals
- Any additional activities
- Rental vehicle extras
- All relevant park- and entrance fees
- Any scheduled flights and related taxes
- Cancellation-, baggage-, medical- and evacuation insurance
- Any new Government taxes, levies, etc which are beyond our control
- Flights
- Restaurant Meals as indicated
- Visa's, Airport Transfers, Curios and Tips
- Optional Excursions and Activities not in itinerary
- Beverages

When to go

- Partially covered by the Namib Desert, one of the world's driest deserts, Namibia's climate is generally very dry and pleasant – it's fine to visit all year round. Namibia only receives a fraction of the rain experienced by countries further east. Between about December to March some days will be humid and rain may follow, often in localised, afternoon thunderstorms. These are more common in the centre and east of the country, and more unusual in the desert.
- April and especially May are often lovely months in Namibia. Increasingly dry, with a real freshness in the air, and much greenery in the landscape; at this time the air is clear and largely free from dust.
- From June to August Namibia cools down and dries out more; nights can become cold, dropping below freezing in some desert areas. As the landscape dries so the game in the north of the country gravitates more to waterholes, and is more easily seen by visitors. By September and October it warms up again; game-viewing in most areas is at its best, although there's often a lot of dust around and the vegetation has lost its vibrancy.
- November is a highly variable month. Sometimes the hot, dry weather will continue, at other times the sky will fill with clouds and threaten to rain – but if you're lucky enough to witness the first rains of the season, you'll never forget the drama.

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 5 hours per day
SEASON	June to October: Not too hot and little rain
BEST TIME TO GO	July to September
GROUP SIZE	1 - 8
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	This is run as a private departure on dates to suit you
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.



The Pioneer Booking Process

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

