



Tour Name: **Northern Highlights**
Duration: 7 nights, 8 days (Optional 5 nights, 6 days extension)
Operator: NatureFriend Safaris

Itinerary

Day 1 & 2

Arrive at the Windhoek International Airport, clear customs and immigrations and continue through to the arrivals hall. Meet your Naturefriend Safaris transfer representative and transfer to the Windhoek Eros Airport. Meet your pilot and commence on your flight to the Etosha National Park. From the Mokuti airstrip you will be transferred to Onguma Plains Camp where you will be accommodated for the next 2 nights.

The Onguma reserve covers an area of 20 000ha and incorporates ecological substrata such as savannah, bushveld, omuramba and dry pan. Age-old and well-worn migration routes, once used by elephant and buffalo wander through Onguma's three dry riverbeds. Onguma reserve boasts over thirty different animal species. Plains game roam freely and predators although not easy to spot are nevertheless common residents of the area.

Onguma also became part of an innovative custodianship project relating to the black rhino. Six black rhino were darted in Etosha National Park and relocated to the reserve where they are protected and monitored. The joyful news is that the first calf was born on Onguma in October 2002.

Accommodation at Onguma - The Fort consists of 12 mini suites, all situated adjacent to the Main Fort extending on both sides to the south and the north. Every mini Suite is completely private and about 50 metres apart from one another and is equipped with a bar fridge, telephone and an air cooling system for those warmer days. The spacious bathroom has both an inside shower as well as an outside shower area. From every area of the room, wooden decks lead you towards the outside seating area and sun loungers for just relaxing and enjoying the extraordinary view.



Onguma The Fort [Full Board + activities]

Day 3 & 4

Enjoy breakfast after which you will be transferred back to the Mokuti airstrip for your onward light aircraft flight to the north of Namibia. A stop will be made en route in Oshakati to visit an Owambo Village.

There are seven traditional “kingdoms’ with highly regarded leaders, which continue to exist in northern Namibia. With the help of the Namibia Community-Based Tourism Association several young people from the area were trained as tourist guides. Since time immemorial it has been the centre for traditional values, customs and cultural practices to be passed down from generation to generation. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a step closer and meet the people of Owambo, gain insight into the local culture and way of life, and learn more about the traditions of the tribe.

Lunch will be enjoyed in town before you continue to your night’s accommodation at the Kunene River.

The Okahirongo River Camp on the banks of the Kunene River and in the Marienfluss Valley in northwestern Namibia. This is also home to the Himba people. The camp can accommodate up to 14 guests and is built on high hills overlooking the Otupambua Rapids and spectacular landscapes of the area. There are 5 luxury double tents and a family villa, each with en-suite facilities including indoor and outdoor showers and a huge deck overlooking the river. The swimming pool is the heart of the main area with a beautiful sun deck and ample space to relax around the pool. There is also a curio shop.

Activities include a visit to a local Himba village where their traditions and pastoral mode of life is maintained despite the influence of the modern world. Each village comprises of several families who live in wooden huts covered in earth and dung. The camp also offers game and scenic drives to the nearby mountains and red dunes, boat cruises with great birding and crocodile viewing opportunities. Early morning walks are very much recommended and a great way to explore the Marienfluss Valley.



Okahirongo River Camp [Full Board + activities]

Day 5 & 6

After a sumptuous breakfast meet your pilot and commence on your flight to the remote north-west of Namibia.

Okahirongo Elephant Lodge is situated in the Kunene Region, 55km from the coast and around 200km south of the Kunene River. This is the only place in the world where desert elephants, black rhinos, giraffes and lions live in a desert environment. The lodge consists of 7 luxurious en suite chalets as well as a suite with two rooms and combined living area, all overlooking spectacular views. The cottages are decorated in a rich and sensuous fusion of ochre, honey and sand colors, whilst each one has its own unique style and atmosphere; ethnic and locally carved furnishing adds to the romance and excitement of the pervading African ambience.

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Okahirongo offers the stunning views, the opportunity to laze around the pool while reading a book from the comfortable library, or merely relax in one of the two open-air lounges. A domed entrance gives access to the open-air buildings which are linked by wooden walkways all joining onto a central area with a rustic deck and infinity pool.

Sometimes springbuck, gemsbok and ostrich can be seen while desert adapted elephants, traverse the dry riverbed on their way to fresh water springs. Activities include morning, afternoon and night drives, guided walks in the Hoarusib River and surrounding mountains. Highlights are tracking the rare desert-adapted elephants or visiting a nearby Himba village - where guests gain an insight into the hardy lifestyle & culture of these semi-nomadic desert-dwelling people.



Okahirongo Purros Elephant Lodge [Full Board + activities]

Day 7

After breakfast at leisure meet your pilot and commence on your flight to Damaraland where you land at noon.

Mowani Mountain Camp is characterised by its thatched dome-shaped structures which echo the shape of the granite boulders amongst which they are built. Much care has been taken with the design of the public areas, creating the impression of a (very upmarket) African Village, with dome-like thatched structures that blend in with the imposing boulders which are scattered around the outcrops.

The main complex at Mowani consists of a reception, bar, dining room and a lounge which overlooks the waterhole. Accommodation is in 12 luxury East-African-style en-suite safari tents which are spread around the mountain crest. The tents are built on raised wooden platforms, each with its own private veranda and great views of the Aba-Huab Valley.



Enjoy an afternoon excursion to the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein. An hour and a half walking trail between the boulders and mopane trees in the valley below the lodge takes you to a small waterhole and a viewpoint. The highlight of the day however is the spectacular sunsets from the camp sundowner point.

Mowani Mountain Camp – Superior Room [Full Board + activity]

Day 8

After breakfast your charter flight will commence towards the coastal town of Swakopmund. Upon arrival at the Swakopmund Airport a transfer representative of Naturefriend Safaris will transfer you into Swakopmund for lunch and some time at leisure. After lunch transfer back to the Swakopmund Airport, meet your pilot and commence on your flight back to Windhoek.

Optional extension:

Day 8 & 9

Swakopmund Guest House is situated in the town centre, a mere five-minute walk from the beach and main shopping area.

The guesthouse was previously used as a holiday house by the Borg family that runs it now. It has been completely revamped to offer 8 standard rooms, 7 luxury rooms and 1 family suite for guests wanting to indulge in a comfortable stay-over close to the ocean. The spacious rooms are fitted with crisp, white linen sheets. Wallpaper portraying a peaceful view of the ocean adds to the clean and neat atmosphere of the guesthouse. The en-suite bathrooms with soft cream walls are decorated with beach pebbles that give them a unique atmosphere.

Spend the next two days at leisure and optionally participate in some of the many activities available in and around Swakopmund such as a dolphin cruise, quad biking, sand boarding, camel rides, horse riding etc, or perhaps a visit to the museum, aquarium or the crystal gallery.



Lunch, dinner and all activities and entrance fees are on own account

Swakopmund Guesthouse – Lux Room [Bed & Breakfast]

Day 10

Spend the morning at leisure before you will be transferred back to the Swakopmund airport for your scheduled Dune Hopper flight to the Sossusvlei area, departing at **14h15**.

The Desert Homestead lies where the wide grassy valley is sheltered by the Nubib, Tsaris and Naukluft mountains with a view reaching the distant dunes of the Namib Desert in the west.

Desert Homestead offers 20 thatched, en-suite chalets, all luxuriously decorated in pale linens and dark wood “riempie” furniture. Each unit has its own verandah under a latte canopy with

Northern views extending to the Rotterkaum Mountains. There is also an en-suite bathroom with shower and toilet.

The living areas of the Main Lodge are all open plan, encouraging guests to move around freely. The most prominent feature is the well sheltered verandah where you can have a leisurely breakfast, lunch and dinner, candle-lit even on windy evenings. There is a cosy lounge with ethnic African decoration and comfortable leather sofas. Satellite TV is available in a separate room and internet facilities are available in the adjacent Curio shop. The bar is attended by a friendly, well educated and communicative barkeeper. Desert Homestead offers creative farm style cuisine with fresh vegetables from the desert gardens.



Lunch and all additional activities are on own account
Desert Homestead [Dinner, Bed & Breakfast + Sossusvlei excursion]

Day 11

Enjoy an early morning guided excursion to the famous Sossusvlei area. Here you will be able to view and climb some of the highest dunes in the world, some of which measures up to 325 m from its base.

Return to the lodge for lunch after which you will be transferred to the magnificent NamibRand Nature Reserve.

Wolwedans Dune Camp is positioned on the edge of a 250-metre high dune and sleeps a maximum of 12 guests in a totally unspoilt setting. Guests stay in comfortable tents, which are pitched on wooden platforms. A spacious deck, allowing for safe sleep-outs under the stars and a private bathroom make for a rather civilized camping experience.

The lapa is comprised of a lounge, dining area and an open-plan kitchen, which allows guests to chat to the chef while he prepares a sumptuous dinner. The sundowner deck with its fireplace is the central meeting point of the camp, making for a cosy and relaxed ambience. Whilst the lodge aims at accommodating those guests in need of relaxed comfort and space, the camp provides a more down-to-earth experience. Its rustic but unique atmosphere courts the young and more adventurous traveller.



Wolwedans Dune Camp [Fully Inclusive]

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Day 12

Each morning, awake to enjoy coffee/tea on your private verandah, with an unequalled view of the beauty around you before a delicious breakfast in the early morning sunshine. Then board the LandRover and experience the unique NamibRand Nature Reserve landscape during a morning and afternoon excursion by Landrover through the dunes, endless grassy plains and along mystical mountain formations. You could encounter large and small desert animals, learn about their unique habits and explore the ancient hunting spots of the Bushmen.

Absorb the incredible landscape around you and Wolwedans' commitment to care for guest and nature alike. Here in this land of stretching blue skies, endless plains and countless creatures enacting nature's savagely exciting passion play, you will find beauty feeding your soul, tranquillity to clear your mind and space for your imagination to fly!

Optionally (depending on tours and season), you could join a day-safari with picnic lunch en-route at one of the famous picnic sites - the "HardRock Café" for example.

Wolwedans Dune Camp [Fully Inclusive]

Day 13

Awake in the pristine desert dawn and soak in the atmosphere and landscape from your bed whilst enjoying early morning tea.

After breakfast you will be transferred down to the farmhouse to bid Wolwedans farewell and commence on your scheduled Dune Hopper flight at **09h00** to the Windhoek Eros Airport. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to the Hosea Kutako International Airport.

RATES:

High Season: 20 Dec 2013 – 6 Jan 2014 & 1 July - 31 Oct 2014:

Based on 2 pax: N\$ 73 880.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 3 pax: N\$ 59 725.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 4 pax: N\$ 52 650.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Single supplement: N\$ 8 020.00 additional to the per person sharing cost for occupying a single room

Additional cost: N\$ 120.00 per person for airport passenger taxes

Low Season: 7 Jan – 31 March 2014:

Based on 2 pax: N\$ 71 460.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 3 pax: N\$ 57 310.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 4 pax: N\$ 50 230.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Single supplement: N\$ 7 480.00 additional to the per person sharing cost for occupying a single room

Additional cost: N\$ 120.00 per person for airport passenger taxes

Low Season: 1 Nov – 19 Dec 2013 & 1 April – 30 June 2014:

Based on 2 pax: N\$ 71 910.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 3 pax: N\$ 57 760.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Based on 4 pax: N\$ 50 680.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Single supplement: N\$ 7 480.00 additional to the per person sharing cost for occupying a single room

Additional cost: N\$ 120.00 per person for airport passenger taxes

Optional extension:

N\$ 22 985.00 per person sharing a double/twin room

Single supplement: N\$ 3 935.00 additional to the per person sharing cost for occupying a single room

Additional cost: N\$ 85.00 per person for airport passenger taxes

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PLEASE NOTE:

Included:

Accommodation and meals as per above brief outline, VAT, Tourism levy, scheduled activities at the lodges, private charter flights, Owambo excursion, all relevant airport and airstrip transfers as per the program, pilot accommodation and meals where applicable, house wines and soft drinks on activities at Onguma, Mowani and Okahirongo camps

Extension – guided Sossusvlei excursion, road transfer between Sossusvlei/Wolwedans, scheduled Dune Hopper flight from Swakopmund / Sossusvlei and Wolwedans / Windhoek Eros

Excluded:

Personal insurance and personal items, International flights, Tips and portages, Any additional meals and ALL drinks (except at Wolwedans Dunes Camp), Vintage wines and imported spirits at Wolwedans Dunes Camp, Any additional / optional activities, Laundry services, any costs incurred due to delays or diversions as a result of bad weather or any other reason that might affect the safety of the aircraft and/or the passengers