

NAMIBIA

Namibia is an amazing country; ask anyone who has been there. You can greet sunrise on top of the world's highest dunes in an ancient desert, watch lion stalk Etosha's huge herds by day, and observe black rhino by floodlight at night. Meet a cheetah at close quarters, or search for ancient rock paintings near a petrified forest.

Namibia is like nowhere else on earth – and we hope that this information will help you to understand what's possible. Reading about Namibia, remember that how you visit is as important to your enjoyment as where you visit. You can choose to drive yourself around, opt for a fly-in safari, take a guided trip, or have a combination of these.

For some trip ideas, see self-drives on pages 35–37, fly-ins on pages 38–40, and trips combining these on page 41; all have prices at the back of this brochure (pages 158). For guided trips, see our *Wild about Africa* programme on page 35. Call us if you're unsure or inquisitive – we're here to help.



Gemsbok are well adapted to desert life

A SELF-DRIVE TRIP

Most people go to Namibia on their own fly-drive trips. This isn't intrepid exploration; we'll arrange a normal 2WD car, detailed maps and all the information that you'll need. This means you've a great trip planned and you have the freedom to explore the country at your own pace.

Distances might appear daunting, but roads are usually good, straight and empty. Driving is a joy in Namibia; it's far easier than a trip around Europe. We will advise you from first-hand knowledge and prearrange your trip – all you do is hop into your car and go! In more remote areas, you'll often stay at small camps and lodges. From there we'll arrange for specialist naturalist guides to walk with you, or guide you around difficult 4WD terrain that they know well.

These fly-drive trips are the most flexible, and usually the most economic, way to visit Namibia. However, it's best not to rush them – you'll experience more by staying at least 2–3 nights at most places.

A FLY-IN TRIP

For those with limited time, or who don't want to drive, flying around Namibia is magical. It gives you a completely different perspective on the country's dramatic landscapes. You'll marvel at the size of the Great Dune Sea, fly low over seal colonies and land at grass airstrips only a few miles from your camp.

Flying times vary from 30 minutes to a maximum of a few hours, and these trips can be almost as flexible as self-drives. Choose where you stay from a selection of Namibia's top lodges, how long you stay at each, and then hop between them.

Flying around Namibia is the ultimate way to travel. You can cover a lot of ground in a very short time, so it's perfect if your time is limited. However, it's not the cheapest way to visit.

DAMARALAND

Page 24-25 This rugged, mountainous area is home to black rhino, elephant and other fascinating, desert-adapted wildlife. Expect friendly people, interesting animals and an exhilarating feeling of wilderness.

SKELETON COAST

Page 34 This vast, apparently barren coastal wilderness exerts a strange fascination. Drive yourself from Swakopmund, or splash out on a superb 3-4 night fly-in trip.

SWAKOPMUND

Page 21 A convenient stop between the dunes of the Namib-Naukluft and further north, Swakopmund is also the springboard for various adrenaline sports, and some great short excursions. Stay here for at least two nights if you're driving.

NAMIB-NAUKLUFT

Pages 18-20 It's a 'must' for most travellers, drawn here for some of Africa's most haunting scenery! Stay for longer and experience some excellent walking and hiking in the mountains and desert.



Kolmanskop, near Lüderitz – one of Namibia's enigmatic ghost towns



ETOSHA

Pages 26–28 Against the stark backdrop of a vast saltpan, dense herds of big game make Etosha one of Africa's top game parks. At its best during the dry season, it is unusual for the ease with which you can drive yourself around. Book early here to be sure of space!

CAPRIVI STRIP

Pages 32–33 Wetter and more verdant than further south (much more like countries to the east), the Caprivi Strip has permanent rivers and lush game parks. It's ideal for your second or third visit to Namibia – and is easily combined with Victoria Falls.

Approximate distances/driving times

Note that driving times depend on the types of roads, as well as the distances. Typical guide times would be:

Windhoek to Mariental	260km:	2 hours 45 mins
Windhoek to Keetmanshoop	500km:	5 hours
Windhoek to Sesriem	340km:	5 hours 30 mins
Keetmanshoop to Fish River Canyon	235km:	3 hours 30 mins
Lüderitz to Sinclair	306km:	4 hours
Sinclair to Sesriem	200km:	3 hours
Sesriem to Swakopmund	350km:	5 hours 30 mins
Swakopmund to Terrace Bay	340km:	6 hours
Swakopmund to Doro Nawas	365km:	6 hours
Palmwag to Desert Rhino Camp	20km:	2 hours 30 mins
Doro Nawas to Etendeka	160km:	3 hours 30 mins
Etendeka to Okaukuejo	380km:	5 hours
S. Damaraland to Okaukuejo	330km:	4 hours 30 mins
Okaukuejo to Waterberg	370km:	4 hours
Okaukuejo to Namutoni (across park)	145km:	4 hours
Grootfontein to Nhoma Camp	315km:	4 hours



BUSHMANLAND

Page 29 You can't rush a visit to Bushmanland, but 3–4 days here will afford you a compelling cultural insight into a fascinating people. Those who interact and get involved find this a very special encounter, as do adventurous children.

WINDHOEK

Page 31 The capital city: a start and end point for many trips. No huge attractions here, but a very pleasant place for a night or two.

A GUIDED TRIP

If you don't want to drive but like the idea of travelling by road, then we can arrange for you to be driven around by an expert guide. Many travellers, and especially those on their own, enjoy joining a small group of like-minded people. We have many of these, some taking trips using smart lodges, whilst others include time camping. The latter is a particularly good-value way of experiencing some of the wilds, whilst learning about them from an expert.

Families and friends often join together to define their own guided itinerary. These can be as wild as you want, and vary from simple camping trips to luxury guided safaris. With such a huge choice of guided trips, we've produced a totally separate, comprehensive brochure of these small-group, guided trips around Namibia – *Wild about Africa*. See page 36, then call us for a copy of this.

DEEP SOUTH

Pages 22–23 Best explored on a self-drive, this is Namibia at its most offbeat and quirky. Come for ghost towns, desert horses, enormous canyons and yet more amazing scenery.



On a high: dune walking at Sossusvlei



A normal saloon car is fine for most roads in Namibia

Satellite Maps Online

Our website incorporates Google satellite maps of Namibia, which show the locations of many of the camps and lodges with amazing precision. Click on the 'Maps' on the menu at www.expertafrika.com – and see Namibia from the air!