



Our fly-in safaris make use of 4WDs and excellent guides to give you a wonderful sense of freedom



Unlike white rhino, baby black rhino always walk behind their mother

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

Fly-in safaris can be as flexible as self-drive safaris. Our team can advise you and help plan your itinerary, then on arriving in Namibia you'll be taken to the light aircraft and off you go! You can choose from a selection of Namibia's top lodges, fly between them, and stay at each as long as you like. At each airstrip a vehicle and guide will be waiting to drive you to your next camp.

Flying times vary from 30 minutes to a few hours, but these trips are far from dull. The mountains and dunes in the south are spectacular, and when heading north, along the coast, you can gaze down on flocks of flamingos and the occasional shipwreck. Damaraland's vast tracts of rocky wilderness offer opportunities to spot ant-like herds of elephants, whilst Etosha's silvery pans beckon to the magic below. For many, flying around Namibia is the ultimate way to travel.

PRACTICALITIES OF FLYING

Flights can depart from either of Windhoek's two airports: Eros or the main International Airport. Planes are small (usually 5-seater Cessnas or 12-seater Caravans) and many of Namibia's best camps have local airstrips. Pilots are usually very knowledgeable and act as aerial guides to enliven your journey. If there's something specific you want pointed out, ask your pilot before and s/he's sure to show you.

However, as these planes are small there is a strict luggage allowance of 12kg per person for the *Bateleur* and *Goshawk* trips, and 20kg on most other flights. In order to fit into the luggage compartments, bags must be soft and squashable. (Most camps in Namibia do laundry, so this rarely poses a

problem.) If you need to take extra luggage, then ask us to pre-book an extra seat for you on the plane (at additional cost).

The *Bateleur* and the *Goshawk* are fixed itineraries that operate on set departure days.

The *Francolin*, *Buzzard* and *Flamingo* are flexible fly-in safaris which can be tailor-made to your requirements. You can alter where you stop and how long you stay at places; just talk to our team about the many options.

The last three trip ideas, the *Sandgrouse*, *Pelican* and *Fish Eagle* on page 41, are all partly fly-in safaris, partly self-drive trips. These can also be adapted to suit you – to be as long or short as you wish, or to include other places. Just discuss what you'd like with our Namibia experts.



Investigating natural agates on 'The Agate Mountain'



Luxury in the midst of dramatic scenery

Fly-in Prices include (see page 158)

Prices are an indication based on two people travelling together. They include all flights between London and Windhoek, all internal transfers and flights, and many of your activities, park fees, accommodation, meals and some of your drinks. Insurance is never included.

Note that the *Bateleur fly-in safari* is based on flights via Johannesburg with South African Airways; all the other fly-in safaris are based on flights with *Air Namibia*.

Please book early to secure the very best price for your trip.

Alternatively, for a supplement it's also easy to visit Namibia using the services of *South African Airways* or *British Airways* via Johannesburg; just ask us to outline the different flight options for your trip.

Approximate flying times

Note that these flying times are approximate only.

Windhoek Eros to Sossusvlei	1 hour
Windhoek Eros to Wolwedans	1 hour 15 mins
Windhoek Eros to Okonjima	1 hour
Windhoek Eros to Eastern Etosha	1 hour 45 mins
Windhoek Eros to Western Etosha	1 hour 20 mins
Windhoek Eros to Damaraland Camp	1 hour 30 mins
Windhoek Eros to Skeleton Coast Camp	2 h. 30 mins
Windhoek Eros to Serra Cafema	3 hours
Sossusvlei to Swakopmund	1 hour
Sossusvlei to Damaraland	2 hours
Swakopmund to Damaraland	1 hour
Damaraland to Eastern Etosha	1 hour 20 mins
Damaraland to Western Etosha	1 hour
Damaraland to Serra Cafema	1 hour 25 mins



The Skeleton Coast is a superb area for seeking brown hyena – one of Africa's more elusive carnivores

Trip Ideas for Fly-in Safaris

(for costs see page 158)

Bateleur Fly-in Safari

9-night/10-day fly-in | Set departure every Friday evening. *The classic, original Best of Namibia' fly-in featuring the dunes of the Namib, the mountains of Damaraland and the game of Etosha National Park*

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled flight via Johannesburg to Windhoek.

Day 2 Arrive Windhoek and stay overnight at the delightful **Olive Grove** (bb).

Days 3 & 4 Scenic light aircraft flight from Windhoek to **Sossusvlei Wilderness Camp** (fba), where you'll stay for two nights. Activities here usually involve visits to the spectacular dunes at Sossusvlei, excursions to Sesriem Canyon, nature drives in open 4WDs and guided walks. Drinks and picnics in spectacular spots make for a magical stay.

Days 5 & 6 Fly over the most impressive spectacular dunes of the Namib, along the coast to Swakopmund. It's then a short drive to Walvis Bay, for a boat trip around the lagoon, in search of dolphins, seals and the area's outstanding birdlife. After a private picnic on the beach, continue flying over the Skeleton Coast to **Damaraland Camp** or **Doro Nawas** (fba), where you'll stay for two nights. Activities include drives in open 4WDs to track resident game, as well as stunning mountain walks.

Days 7 & 8 Light aircraft flight from Damaraland to **Ongava Tented Camp** or **Lodge** (fba) for two nights, enjoying guided game drives in open 4WDs in Etosha and on their private reserve. The adventurous will relish the opportunity to track white rhino on foot.

Day 9 Fly over the Central Highlands from Ongava to Windhoek, arriving early afternoon – in time to connect to your overnight flight back to London via Johannesburg.

Day 10 Arrive back in London.

Buzzard Fly-in Safari

9-night/10-day fly-in | Departs Wednesday evening. *An alternative fly-in safari to three different places in northern Namibia: Damaraland, Etosha and Okonjima.*

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Days 2 & 3 Your pilot will meet you on arrival and fly you to **Desert Rhino Camp** (fba), for two nights in the heart of the Kaokoveld's mountains. Nature walks and drives in open vehicles are available though the camp's highlights are its guided walks to track elusive desert-adapted black rhino. These trips are in conjunction with the Save the Rhino Trust team and part of the cost of your stay funds their valuable conservation work.

Days 4-6 Light aircraft transfer from Palmwag to spend three nights at the very comfortable **Onguma Tented Camp** (fba). This is a perfect base for exploring the amazing Etosha National Park with the help of a professional guide who knows the park intimately.

Days 7 & 8 Fly to **Okonjima Bushcamp** (fba) for 2 nights. Okonjima is home to the *Africat Foundation*, and here you will learn more about their projects. There are many activities, including some beautiful hikes and shorter guided 'trails', as well as the opportunity for close encounters with some of the Foundation's big cats.

Day 9 Fly from Okonjima to Windhoek to connect with your direct flight back to the UK.

Day 10 Arrive in London in the early morning.

Flamingo Fly-in Safari

9-night/10-day fly-in | Departs Wednesday evening. *A trip to the dunes at Sossusvlei, Okonjima and Etosha National Park.*

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Days 2 & 3 Your pilot will meet you on arrival and fly you to **Kulala Desert Lodge** (fba), overlooking the dramatic dunes of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Staying for two nights, you can join nature walks and drives in open 4WDs, including excursions to explore the stunning dunes at Sossusvlei and the depths of Sesriem Canyon.

Days 4 & 5 Fly north over the great escarpment and the rolling Central Highlands to spend two nights at **Okonjima Bush Camp**; base for the *Africat Foundation*. Here you can learn more about their conservation projects with endangered big cats, and get the chance to track cheetah and leopard.

Days 6-8 Fly to Etosha, to enjoy the bush hospitality at the small **Onguma Tree Top Camp** (fba), near the park's eastern boundary. Relax close to nature for three nights here, where your open-sided chalet is built high in the tree-tops, overlooking a waterhole. Activities include 4WD trips around the national park and the Onguma Reserve, led by the camp's wildlife guides.

Day 9 On your last day, you'll be flown south to Windhoek, arriving early afternoon (with enough time for shopping – talk to us about the options for this). Overnight international flight directly back to the UK.

Day 10 Arrive in London in the early morning.



Elephant enjoy frequent dust baths





Exploring the clay castles of the Skeleton Coast



Lighting a pipe in the Kaokoveld

More Trip Ideas for Fly-in Safaris

(for costs see page158)

Francolin Fly-in Safari

12-night/13-day fly-in | Departs Friday evening. An extended overview of Namibia, visiting the Namib, Swakopmund, the mountains of Damaraland and Etosha.

Day 1 Depart London - direct scheduled flight to Windhoek.

Days 2 & 3 Meet your pilot for a spectacular scenic flight into the desert, where you'll stay at **Kulala Wilderness Camp** (fba) for two nights. Activities here include trips to Sossusvlei, visits to Sesriem Canyon, nature drives in open 4WDs, escorted walks, and picnics in the desert under shady camelthorn trees.

Days 4-6 Fly over the Namib's russet dunes to Swakopmund, where you'll transfer to the **Hansa Hotel** (bb) for three nights. Here you can relax and explore the coastal settlement of Swakopmund at your own pace. We'll include a full day trip to Sandwich Harbour with Turnstone Tours.

Days 7 & 8 Fly over the windswept Skeleton Coast to **Mowani Mountain Camp** (fb). Your two-night stay may include walks in the surrounding mountains and, notably, 4WD trips in search of oryx, ostrich, springbok and the resident desert-adapted elephant.

Days 9-11 Continuing inland, you'll fly across the Central Highlands to stay at **Ongava Tented Camp** (fba) for three nights. Explorations on foot and in open 4WDs allow expert guides to introduce you to the marvellous wildlife in Ongava's own reserve and Etosha National Park.

Day 12 On your last day, you'll be flown south over the rugged Central Highlands to Windhoek International Airport, arriving in the early afternoon. There is enough time for souvenir shopping – talk to us about the options for this. Overnight international flight direct back to the UK.

Day 13 Arrive back in London in the early morning.

Beach Add-ons

To relax on a beach after your Namibia trip, consider the palm-fringed tropical islands of Mozambique. Both the Bazaruto Archipelago (pages 136–137) and the Quirimbas Archipelago (pages 138–139) are easily accessible.

Goshawk Fly-in Safari

14-night/15-day fly-in | Set departure every Friday evening. The classic 'Bateleur fly-in' overview of Namibia, extended to include the remote Skeleton Coast Camp.

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Day 2 Arrive Windhoek and overnight at the delightful **Heinitzburg Hotel** (bb).

Days 3 & 4 After being driven to Eros airport, you'll join a scenic flight from Windhoek to **Sossusvlei Wilderness Camp** (fba), where you'll stay for two nights to enjoy 4WD desert trips and guided walks. Sossusvlei's amazing dunes are a highlight; phenomenal dawn ballooning is available with a supplement.

Days 5 & 6 A stunning flight over the Namib's dunes leads to a short drive beside the ocean, a boat trip around Walvis Bay Lagoon, and a picnic on the beach. Continuing by air along the Skeleton Coast, you'll turn inland to reach **Damaraland Camp** or **Doro Nawas** (fba). This is your base for the next two nights, from where you'll explore the area on guided walks and in open 4WDs.

Days 7 & 8 Continuing inland, you'll fly across the Central Highlands for two nights at **Ongava Tented Camp** or **Lodge** (fba). Explore from here on walks and in open 4WDs with expert guides, marvelling at the wildlife in Ongava's own reserve and Etosha National Park. The adventurous may be able to go tracking white rhino on foot.

Days 9-12 Flying northwest, you'll arrive in time for lunch at the remote **Skeleton Coast Camp** (fba). This is a special place; the only camp in the remote Skeleton Coast Wilderness Area. Your four nights include half- and full-day trips to explore diverse corners in this amazing part of the Namib. It may include trips to the agate mountain, remote Himba villages, the Clay Castles of the Hoarusib River, fragile lichen fields or *Welwitschia* plants which are thousands of years old.

Day 13 An amazing final morning on the Skeleton Coast is rounded off with a scenic flight to Windhoek, where you'll overnight at the stylish **Heinitzburg Hotel** (bb).

Day 14 Your last day is almost entirely at leisure: relax, shop or view the sights in Windhoek before your overnight international flight directly back to the UK.

Day 15 Arrive back in London in the early morning.

Namibia: the Facts

Speak to our experts or read Chris's guidebook **Namibia: The Bradt Travel Guide** (see page 37) for further details, but in brief:

Currency: The Namibian dollar is currently interchangeable in Namibia with South Africa's Rand. At the time of writing £1 = N\$14.5. Foreign currency may be exchanged at banks. Most shops, hotels and restaurants take credit cards (Visa & M/card). Petrol stations require cash. Credit and debit cards can also be used to withdraw cash at bank ATMs.

Visas: Travellers with British passports do not need a visa.

Health: Namibia is a healthy country to visit. Several vaccines are sensible (typhoid, polio and tetanus), though none is required. Malaria is not widespread, but if you are travelling to the north, or from December to March, then take a course of anti-malarial tablets. Always check the latest recommendations with your doctor or travel clinic before you travel.

Language: English is the official language, but German, Afrikaans and many tribal languages are also spoken.

Food: High-quality food is inexpensive – steak and seafood are particularly good. Local beer and South African wine are cheap and excellent.

Climate: Namibia generally has a lovely climate, but see pages 14-15 for specific advice on when to visit Namibia.

Driving: Distances are great, but the region has some of the finest roads in Africa. Traffic is light; driving is on the left and normally a pleasure. The main roads are tarmac and the gravel roads in more remote areas are well maintained. We include route maps, directions, general information and full itineraries with your travel documents..



Many find that Namibia's vast landscapes and dunescapes are best appreciated from the air

Trip Ideas for Combining Self-drive and Fly-in Safaris

(for costs see page 158)

Sandgrouse Fly & Drive Safari

16-night/17-day | Departs Wednesday evening. A classic combination: fly-in to the dunes of the Namib, followed by a self-drive around northern Namibia.

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Day 2 Arrive in Windhoek where you'll be collected to overnight at the delightful and contemporary **Olive Grove** (bb).

Days 3 & 4 After being driven to Eros airport, you'll join a scenic flight from Windhoek to **Wolwedans Dune Camp** (fba) for two nights. The desert is a mix of mountains and dunes here, and you'll explore with guided walks and 4WD desert safaris.

Days 5 & 6 A short 4WD transfer will take you to **Kulala Wilderness Camp** (fba), where you'll stay for two nights to enjoy 4WD trips into the heart of the Namib, to Sossusvlei's photogenic dunes. Hot-air ballooning is also available here, for a supplement.

Days 7 & 8 A stunning flight over the Namib will take you to Swakopmund, where you'll pick up your own car. Your base for two nights is the friendly **Cornerstone Guesthouse** (bb), from where you can explore Swakopmund and the surrounding desert.

Days 9 & 10 Set off early to visit the seals at Cape Cross before driving into Damaraland's stunning mountains. **Doro Nawas** (hb) is a good base for your own explorations and offers 4WD safaris in search of wildlife, including desert-adapted elephants.

Days 11-13 Drive out of the mountains to reach Etosha National Park, staying at the good-value restcamps – two nights at **Okaukuejo** (bb) and one at **Halali** (bb). Each day you can set your own schedule to watch the amazing wildlife.

Days 14 & 15 After an early game drive, leave Etosha to drive through the Central Highlands to **Erongo Wilderness Lodge** (hb) for two nights. Stretch your legs with a gentle walk or a more strenuous ramble on the hills at Erongo; alternatively take a 4WD nature drive.

Day 16 In the morning make your way to Windhoek airport for your direct overnight flight back to London.

Day 17 Arrive back in London in the early morning.

Pelican Drive & Fly Safari

12-night/13-day | Departs Friday evening. An adventure with a soft ending: self-drive to explore the Namib Desert, and then leave your car to fly-in to the highlights of northern Namibia.

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Day 2 Arrive in Windhoek where you'll collect your car and relax for the afternoon and overnight at the stylish **Heinitzburg Hotel** (bb).

Days 3 & 4 Driving out of Windhoek, you'll find open roads and spectacular scenery as you head over the mountains and into the desert, where you'll have two nights at **Sossus Dune Lodge** (fb). Explore the desert for yourself; optional guided excursions include balloon flights and escorted 4WD safaris to Sossusvlei.

Days 5-7 Another stunning drive takes you right across the Namib Desert to Swakopmund, and two nights at the excellent **Sam's Giardino** (bb). Whilst here you've a wide choice of optional activities in and around Swakopmund, from gentle kayaking to heart-stopping sky-diving, or driving around the moon landscape.

Days 8 & 9 Leaving your car at Swakopmund's tiny airport, you'll be flown up into Damaraland for two nights at **Desert Rhino Camp** (fba), set in stunning semi-arid mountains. You'll be led by professional guides and trackers to find the amazing wildlife that lives here, including desert-adapted black rhino and elephant.

Days 10 & 11 Leaving Damaraland on a small flight, you'll hop to **Ongava Tented Camp** (fba) for two nights. Here you'll be guided through the dense wildlife in Etosha National Park, and perhaps have the chance to track white rhino on foot, as well as discovering the area's nocturnal wildlife on 4WD night drives.

Day 12 On your last day, you'll be flown south to Windhoek, arriving early afternoon with enough time for curio shopping – talk to us about the options for this. Overnight international flight direct back to the UK.

Day 13 Arrive in London very early after an amazing trip.

Number of Nights Spent in Namibia

Using Air Namibia	Leave Namibia	
Leave London	Tues eve	Thurs eve
Wed eve	5 / 12 / 19	7 / 14 / 21
Fri eve	3 / 10 / 17	5 / 12 / 19

Fish eagle Fly & Drive Safari

16-night/17-day | Departs Wednesday evening. Cover the long distances south, to the Fish River and the Namib, by flying; then explore northern Namibia on your own self-drive trip

Day 1 Depart London – scheduled direct flight to Windhoek.

Days 2 & 3 Arrive in Windhoek to transfer onto a private flight south to **Cañon Lodge** (hb). Beside the spectacular Fish River Canyon, you can enjoy optional scenic drives, horse-riding trips, walking trails and sundowner drives.

Days 4 & 5 Today your private flight starts with a scenic sortie over the great canyon itself, before heading north to the Namib Desert. Stay for two nights at **Kulala Desert Lodge** (fba), where you can enjoy 4WD trips to Sossusvlei's amazing dunes.

Days 6 & 7 A stunning flight over the Namib takes you to Swakopmund, where you'll collect your own car for the rest of the trip. Your two-night base to explore the coast and surrounding desert areas is the friendly **Sam's Giardino** (bb).

Day 8 Set off early to visit the seals at Cape Cross before driving into Damaraland's stunning mountains. **Doro Nawas** (hb) is a good base for your own explorations to Twyfelfontein, and offers optional 4WD safaris in search of wildlife, including desert-adapted elephants.

Days 9 & 10 After a morning excursion from Doro Nawas, head north to **Grootberg Lodge** (dbb) for two nights. From the lodge you can spend your time tracking desert-adapted elephants and black rhino, and exploring this starkly beautiful area.

Days 11-14 Drive from northern Damaraland to Etosha National Park, where you stay inside the park at its restcamps – two nights at **Okaukuejo** (bb) and two at **Halali** (bb). Each day you can set your own safari itinerary.

Day 15 Drive to **Okonjima Main Camp** (fba) for your last night. Okonjima is the base of the *Africat Foundation*, where you'll usually get the chance for close encounters with some of their big cats.

Day 16 After a morning activity at Okonjima you make your way back to Windhoek for your direct flight to London.

Day 17 Arrive in London in the early morning.



Yellow-billed stork in breeding plumage

Accommodation Codes

ao..... accommodation only
bb..... bed & breakfast
hb..... half board
 (or dinner, bed & breakfast)
fb..... full board
fba..... full board and activities