

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, search for ancient rock paintings near a petrified forest, even kayak with dolphins.

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 61–63, fly-ins on pages 64–65, and trips which combine both on page 66. For guided trips, see our *Wild about Africa* programme mentioned on page 63. Call us if you're unsure or inquisitive – we're here to help.

A SELF-DRIVE TRIP

Most people who visit Namibia do so on self-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 pre-arrange 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 to guide you around difficult 4WD terrain that they know well.

These self-drive trips are the most flexible, and usually the most economical, 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 small 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 lodges, and how long you stay at each, 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.

A FLY AND DRIVE TRIP

For the best of both worlds, consider dividing your trip between flying and driving – so you can take in the stunning scenery from the air as well as from the ground!



Lions sleep for 18 hours a day

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. Everything about our exclusive private-guided trips is as flexible as our self-drives – from the size of the party (go as a couple or join with family or friends), to the route and the style of accommodation. Travelling this way gives you the option of trying something a little different when creating your own itinerary, as well as including Namibia's highlights. These trips can be as wild as you want, and vary from comfortable mobile camping trips in offbeat areas to luxury guided safaris staying in top lodges.

Many travellers, and especially those on their own, enjoy joining a small group of like-minded people. We have many group trips, some using smart lodges, others including time camping – either in semi-permanent luxury tented camps or rather more simple camping. The latter is a particularly good-value way of experiencing some of the wilds, whilst learning about them from an expert.

With such a huge choice of guided trips, we've produced a totally separate, comprehensive programme of these small-group, guided trips around Namibia – *Wild about Africa*. See page 63 for more details.

The dunes at Sossusvlei - arguably the highest in the world





Cheetah in the Kalahari - a rare sight

ETOSHA

Pages 44–47 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!

DAMARALAND

Pages 40–43 This rugged, mountainous area is home to black rhino, elephant and other fascinating, desert-adapted wildlife. Expect friendly people, world-class rock art and an exhilarating feeling of wilderness.

SWAKOPMUND

Pages 38–39 A convenient stop between the dunes of the Namib-Naukluft and further north, Swakopmund is also the springboard for various adrenalin sports, and some great short excursions. Stay here for at least two nights if you're driving.



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 'Maps' on the menu at www.expertafrica.com – and see Namibia from the air!

SKELETON COAST

Pages 56–57 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.

WINDHOEK

Page 55 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.

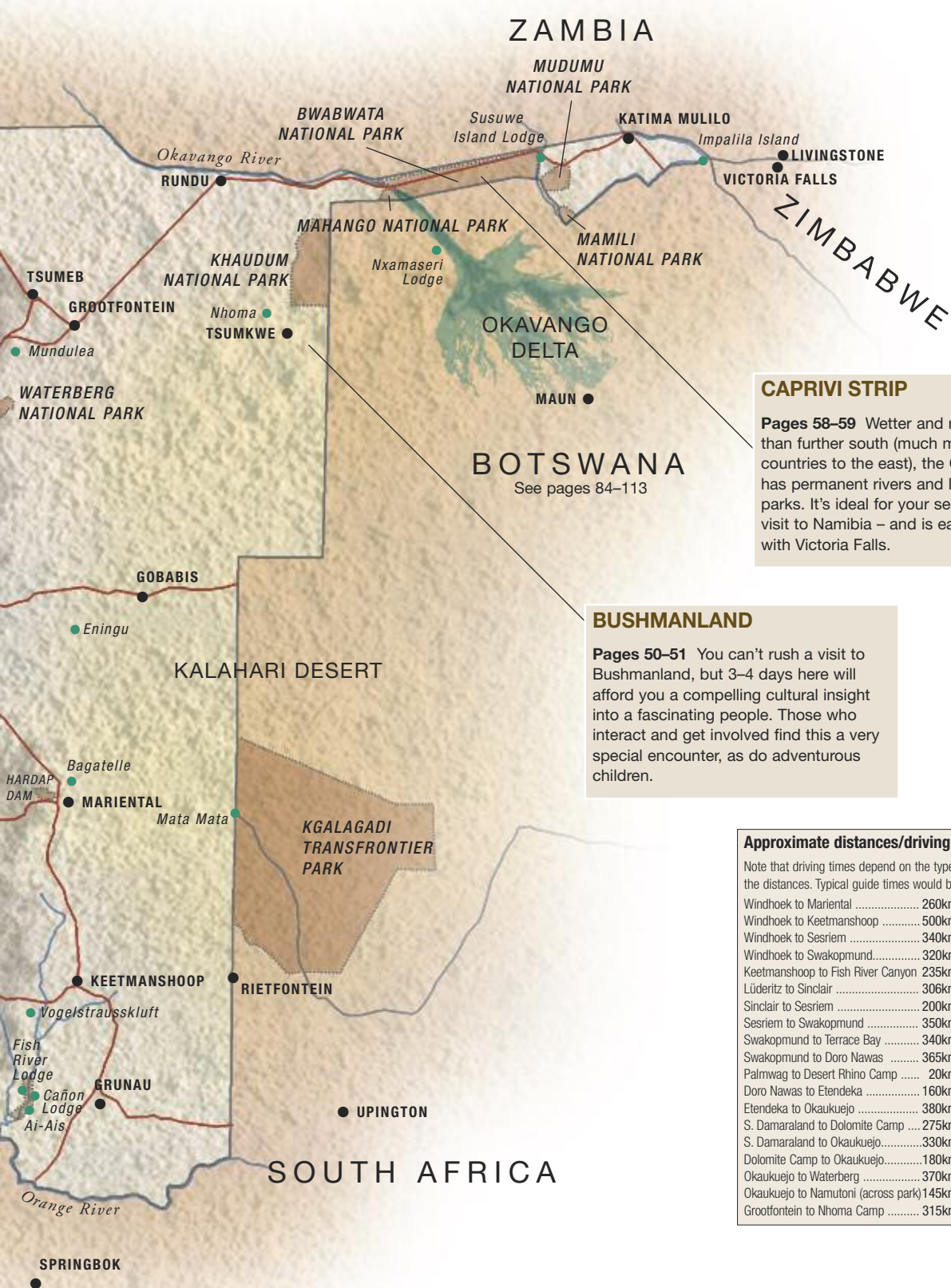
NAMIB-NAUKLUFT

Pages 30–34 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.

DEEP SOUTH

Pages 35–37 Best explored on a self-drive trip, this is Namibia at its most offbeat and quirky. Come for ghost towns, desert horses, an enormous canyon and yet more amazing scenery.





CAPRIVI STRIP

Pages 58–59 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.

BUSHMANLAND

Pages 50–51 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.

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
Windhoek to Swakopmund.....	320km:	4 hours
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:	3 hours
Doro Nawas to Etendeka	160km:	3 hours 30 mins
Etendeka to Okaukuejo	380km:	5 hours
S. Damaraland to Dolomite Camp	275km:	4 hours
S. Damaraland to Okaukuejo.....	330km:	4 hours 30 mins
Dolomite Camp to Okaukuejo.....	180km:	4 hours
Okaukuejo to Waterberg	370km:	4 hours
Okaukuejo to Namutoni (across park)	145km:	4 hours
Grootfontein to Nhomu Camp	315km:	4 hours