

# NAMIBIA, VICTORIA FALLS & CHOBE - 17 DAYS

#### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

An adventurous 17-day exploration of Namibia, Victoria Falls and the Chobe Riverfront. Activities offer culture, game viewing, fishing and birding. Namibia's itinerary is an independent exploration on a self-drive basis with expert-guided activities. Victoria Falls includes transfers and guided activities, and the Chobe River safari includes a night on Impalila Island and two nights on the Chobe Princess houseboat. The itinerary is a true wilderness experience that combines the scenic landscapes of Namibia with one of the world's seven natural wonders and a unique river safari on one of Africa's great rivers.

## **ITINERARY SUMMARY**

#	AREAS	KMS	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS
1	Arrival - Windhoek	45 km	Okapuka Safari Lodge Guided Sundowner Game Drive	DBB
2	Sesriem	350km / 4h30	Desert Homestead Lodge	DBB
3	Sesriem		Desert Homestead Lodge	DBB
4	Sesriem - Swakopmund	380km / 4h30	Hansa Hotel	B+B
5	Swakop		Hansa Hotel Marine Dune Day	B+B+L
6	Swakop - Damaraland	330km / 4h	Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp	DBB
7	Damaraland		Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp	DBB
8	Damaraland - Etosha	320km/3h30	Etosha Safari Lodge	DBB
9	Etosha	180km	Onguma Forest Camp	DBB
10	Etosha		Onguma Forest Camp AM/PM Guided Drive in Etosha	DBB
11	Etosha - Windhoek	540km / 5h30	The Windhoek Luxury Suites	DBB
12	Windhoek - Victoria Falls	Flight 09:15 - 11:15	Shongwe Lookout	B+B
13	Victoria Falls		Shongwe Lookout Guided Tour of Vic Falls Boma Dinner & Drum Show	B+B+L
14	Victoria Falls - Kasane - Impalila	Road + boat transfer	Ichingo Lodge	FI



#	AREAS	KMS	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS
15	Impalila - Chobe Princess		Chobe Princess	FI
16	Chobe Princess		Chobe Princess	FI
17	Day of Departure	Boat + road transfer	Depart from Kasane Airport	



VOLID AFRICA STORY

#### **ITINERARY DAY-TO-DAY**

## **DAY 01**

Arrival - Windhoek (Eurowings 08:00)

Welcome to Namibia! A driver from the car rental company will meet you in the arrivals hall of the airport and transfer you to the rental depot in Windhoek. We will meet you here to assist with the vehicle collection and ensure you have everything necessary to embark on your Namibian adventure. Drive a short distance from Windhoek to Okapuka Safari Lodge. Check in and enjoy the beauty and peace of the Namibian bush. Enjoy lunch and rest well before joining a knowledgeable guide for a sundowner game drive, appreciating the picturesque scenery and observing the wildlife that thrives in Okapuka.

Overnight at <u>Okapuka Safari Lodge</u>

Basis: DBB

## **DAY 02**

Windhoek - Sesriem

Breakfast. Today, you depart from Windhoek and journey down the Naukluft escarpment, descending into the Namib Desert. Arrive at Desert Homestead Lodge during the afternoon and check in. Enjoy the beautiful views over the Namib landscape before sitting down for a delicious dinner. Marvel at the clarity of the stars when you walk to your room. Travel time from Windhoek to the lodge is approximately 4h.

Overnight at **Desert Homestead Lodge** 

Basis: DBB

#### **DAY 03**

A Day in the Sossusvlei Area

This morning is an early start to grab a light breakfast before departing the lodge for the Sesriem gate into the Namib Naukluft Park. The gate opens at sunrise, and you may encounter a queue of cars waiting to enter the park. Once you've completed the entry permit paperwork and paid the entry fees (N\$150 per person + N\$50 per vehicle - the permit is valid for a day and allows multiple entries), drive the 60km to the Sossusvlei dunes. The route to the dunes is a well-maintained tar road, except for the last few kilometres of thick sandy tracks. Sossusvlei will be on your right, and the parking and route to Deadvlei will be on your left. It is best to visit Deadvlei before the day gets too hot. If you're feeling energetic, we recommend the climb up the crest of Big Daddy Dune. The panoramic views over the sand sea are spectacular. If you want to visit the Sesriem Canyon, you'll find the access road running along the perimeter fence from the Sesriem park gate. Return to your lodge and enjoy the afternoon at leisure or alternatively book a guided activity.

Overnight at <u>Desert Homestead Lodge</u>

Basis: DBB



## **DAY 04**

Sesriem - Swakopmund

Breakfast. Shake the Sossusvlei sand out of your shoes and head further north to the icy water of the Atlantic Ocean. Stop at Solitaire to refuel and sample some of their famous apple pie. Your route crosses the Tropic of Capricorn and winds through the Kuiseb Canyon. You'll reach the port town of Walvis Bay first. Keep following the coastal road north to Swakopmund. You'll arrive in Swakop during the course of the afternoon. Check in at your hotel and enjoy a stroll through town or on the jetty before choosing a restaurant for dinner. Travel time from Sesriem to Swakopmund is approximately 4h30.

Our Swakopmund restaurant recommendations:

- Brauhaus
- Gabrielle's Pizzeria (booking is essential)
- Altstadt
- Andy's Sushi, Oyster and Fine Seafood Restaurant
- Brewer + Butcher

Overnight at <u>Hansa Hotel</u> Basis: B+B

## **DAY 05**

A Day on the Namibian Coast

Breakfast. Drive the short distance, along the coast, to Walvis Bay. Check in at the Mola Mola office at the Waterfront for a day full of adventures. The day starts with a cruise in the Walvis Bay Harbour, where you'll spot seals, dolphins, pelicans and flamingos. If you're fortunate, you might spot whales and sunfish. On your return to the Waterfront, you will meet your guide and embark on an epic 4x4 adventure through the dunes of the Namib Naukluft Park to Sandwich Harbour. The route to Sandwich Harbour depends on the tides. It may run along the beach, past the Lange Wand, before you head through the dune belt to a scenic lookout point from where you can see the whole Sandwich Harbour estuary. Your guide is very experienced, and although you'll want to hold your breath at some of the steep dune descents, you are in skillful hands. A light lunch platter is served in the dunes with various "finger" foods, i.e., spring rolls, crostinis, calamari sticks, chicken wings, and snacks like droëwors, chips, cookies with sparkling wine, beer, coke, and water. Return to Swakopmund in the late afternoon and freshen up before choosing a restaurant for dinner. The cruise and dune trip is a full day. Travel time between Swakopmund and Walvisbay is approx 1h.

Overnight at <u>Hansa Hotel</u> Basis: B+B+L



VOLID AFRICA STORY

### DAY 06

Swakopmund - Twyfelfontein

Breakfast. Continue north via Hentiesbay and Uis to the Twyfelfontein area. We recommend having lunch at the Cactus and Coffee Café in Uis. As you continue north toward Twyfelfontein, you'll pass many small homesteads and makeshift shops/stalls next to the road. Feel free to negotiate the price of these handmade items, but keep in mind to be fair during the bargaining process, respecting the artists' talent and time. As you travel deeper into Damaraland, the dramatic landscapes continue to unfold. Take time to stop and admire this starkly beautiful place where the world's cares seem far away. The small road to Twyfelfontein (the D2612) is known for carrying heavy traffic and is often very corrugated, with deep sandy patches. Ensure a safe journey by taking your time while travelling. Arrive at your lodge in the afternoon. Check in and relax after the day's journey and listen to the sound of the Barking Geckos calling to each other as the daylight fades. Dinner under the stars tonight. Travel time between Swakopmund and Twyfelfontein is roughly 4h.

Overnight at <u>Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp</u>
Basis: DBB

# **DAY 07**

A Day in the Twyfelfontein Area

Breakfast. Today, you can join a local guide for a scenic drive through the dry riverbeds of the Huab and Aba Huab rivers in search of the desert-adapted elephants (book this activity directly with the camp at check-in). Alternatively, you can visit the nearby Damara Living Museum to gain an insight into the lifestyle and culture of the Damara people. We recommend visiting the Twyfelfontein Rock Art Gallery in the afternoon when the light is best for photos. Another beautiful evening under the stars of the Milky Way in Damaraland.

Overnight at <u>Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp</u>
Basis: DBB



### DAY 08

Twyfelfontein - Etosha

Breakfast. This morning, you head east toward Etosha. We recommend visiting the 'official' Petrified Forest to marvel at the 280 million-year-old fossilised tree trunks. Along the road, you'll see several handmade signs advertising the Petrified Forest and Welwitschias. These signs direct visitors to 'unofficial' petrified forest sites. Himba women sell arts and crafts from small stalls along the road. Their warm smiles and spirited dancing are a delightful reward for anyone who stops. Arrive at your lodge in time for lunch. Rest during the hottest part of the afternoon before driving into Etosha for an afternoon game drive. Spend time at Okaukuejo Camp and relax at the renowned waterhole while enjoying a cold drink. Delight in observing the myriad of animals coming and going before exiting the park gate before sunset. before exiting the park gates before sunset. Travel time between Twyfelfontein and Etosha is approx 3h30.

Overnight at <u>Etosha Safari Lodge</u> Basis: DBB

## **DAY 09**

A Day in Etosha National Park

Breakfast. Today you enjoy a full day's game drive through the middle of Etosha Park. Leave early to enjoy the cool morning air and enter the park through the Andersson gate. Entry fees are N\$150 per adult, N\$50 per child (up to 16 years) and N\$50 per vehicle. Explore the numerous water points where hundreds of animals gather. The lookout point on the edge of the pan provides splendid views of the massive Etosha Pan. This shallow depression is dry most of the year but fed by moisture from perennial springs on the fringes. The pan covers about 25 percent of the park. Spotting the predators may be more challenging, but you might get lucky by keeping a keen eye out during the adventure. Make your way to Halali camp, situated in the centre of the park, where you can enjoy a light lunch and relax during the hottest part of the day. After lunch, continue north to Namutoni and exit the park through the Von Lindequist gate. You will soon arrive at your lodge. Check in and relax before enjoying a delicious dinner. The distance from Etosha Safari Lodge to Onguma is approximately 180km which you can cover at your own pace, allowing for stops and opportunities to observe the wildlife along the way.

Overnight at <u>Onguma Forest Camp</u>
Basis: DBB



**DAY 10** 

A Day in Etosha National Park

This morning, you explore the northern parts of Etosha with a guide from the lodge. Spend the day visiting the waterholes and springs that line the edge of the dry salt pan while enjoying the beautiful landscape and abundant animal life. The animals gather at these water sources during the dry season. Etosha is famous for mammal herds numbering into the hundreds. You will enjoy a perfect vantage point from an all-terrain vehicle to observe elephants and rhinos, giraffes and lions, meerkats and flamingos – all in safety and comfort. Return to the lodge for lunch and to rest when the day is hottest. This afternoon you can return to the park for more game viewing. Enjoy dinner at the lodge while viewing the busy waterhole where animals, including rhinos, come to quench their thirst.

Overnight at <u>Onguma Forest Camp</u>
Basis: DBB

**DAY 11** 

Etosha - Windhoek

Breakfast. Leave the white clay dust of Etosha behind and travel south to Windhoek. Your route travels via the small towns of Tsumeb, Otavi, Ojtiwarongo and Okahandja before returning to Windhoek. We recommend having lunch in Otjiwarongo at Casa Forno Restaurant or the Crocodile Ranch. Continue to Windhoek and return the rental to the car rental depot. From here, you will be transferred to your hotel and relax for the rest of the afternoon before walking to the nearby restaurant for dinner. The travel distance between Etosha and Windhoek is roughly 5h20.

Overnight at <u>The Windhoek Luxury Suites</u>
Basis: B+B

**DAY 12** 

Windhoek - Victoria Falls

You will be picked up early in the morning for your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your flight to Victoria Falls (LH4304 @ 09:15). Breakfast will be served on the flight. Upon arrival in Vic Falls, you'll be met by a driver who will transfer you to the hotel. This afternoon you are free to explore the lively town of Victoria Falls on foot. On returning to the lodge, climb the Shongwe Lookout Tower to enjoy your first Victoria Falls sundowner. Have dinner at Shongwe Lookout or alternatively choose a restaurant in town.

Overnight at <u>Shongwe Lookout Guest Lodge</u>
Basis: B+B



## **DAY 13**

A Day Exploring Victoria Falls

Breakfast. Visit Victoria Falls with a guide while witnessing the astounding beauty of the world's largest sheet of falling water. Explore the rainforest, with magnificent plant and bird life, and be guided to various viewpoints to experience its grandeur. Prepare to be awestruck by the sheer magnitude of this water wilderness. Then enjoy lunch at the Lookout Café, perched on the edge of the Batoka Gorge. This open-air café is one of the favourites in Victoria Falls. Spectacular views of the gorges and Zambezi River. After lunch, guests return to the lodge to freshen up and relax before transferring to the Boma Dinner & Drum Show. Nestled within the Gusu forest, partly roofed by the African sky, the Boma restaurant awakens your senses with an authentic African experience. The cuisine ranges between daring and delicious, offering everything from roasted mopane worms to warthog fillet and delicious game stews. Feel the rhythm of Africa pump through your veins as you learn how to pound your palms against a hand drum, let your hair be braided into intricate plaits that hold their shape for several days, or disappear into the witch doctors hut and see what your future holds in his scattering of bones and stones. Fall into the warm embrace of genuine Zimbabwean hospitality and spend your evening basking in the epitome of African culture.

Overnight at <u>Shongwe Lookout Guest Lodge</u> Basis: B+B

#### DAY 14

Victoria Falls - Kasane - Impalila Island

Breakfast. After breakfast, your driver will pick you up from Shongwe and facilitate your transfer across the border from Kazangula to Kasane. Your drop-off point will be the Kasane Immigration Office. You will be warmly greeted by a dedicated Zambezi Queen Collection representative, who will provide assistance with your luggage and guide you through the passport control process. A boat will transfer you to Ichingo Chobe River Lodge on Impalila Island. Located on the Namibian side of the Chobe River, where it's quieter, more secluded and personalised, Ichingo Chobe River Lodge is ideal for fishermen, groups, or couples looking for a quiet, romantic place to relax. Whether planning a short stay or an extended visit, include in the thrill of catch-and-release fishing for the mighty tigerfish and various other sought-after species along the Chobe River, Kasai Channel, or Zambezi River. Following lunch, the afternoon offers leisure opportunities such as a late afternoon river safari or a visit to a local village. In the evening, savour a delicious 3-course dinner, after which you can unwind and enjoy the serene African night.

Overnight at Ichingo Chobe River Lodge
Basis: FI



# **DAY 15**

Impalila Island - Chobe Princess Houseboat

Awake to a choir of birdsong and the soothing sound of the Chobe River. Enjoy a delicious breakfast before being transferred to the Chobe Princess, where you will be welcomed with an introduction and a delectable lunch on board. Lunch is available until 14h00, and guests arriving later will be served a mid-afternoon snack. The afternoon is free for leisure activities, or if time permits, you can join a late afternoon river safari. After a 3-course dinner has been served, allow the gentle rhythm of the river to lull you into a state of relaxation while immersing yourself in the beauty of nature and the allure of the African wilderness.

Overnight on the <u>Chobe Princess</u>
Basis: FI

# **DAY 16**

A Day on the River

Start your day with a cup of coffee or tea served from 06h00 on the upper deck. With a flexible activity schedule, you can select the timing that suits you best for enjoying three 2-hour activities each day. Options include guided water-based game viewing, birding, fishing, cultural tour and photographic safaris. Early mornings are perfect for activities such as Tiger fishing or birding excursions. Back on board, indulge in a hearty buffet breakfast from 08h00. After breakfast, immerse yourself in the local culture with a village tour, followed by a scenic game cruise along Chobe National Park aboard a tender boat. Indulge in a delicious onboard lunch and take time to relax by the splash pool or dive into a good book. Later in the day, revel in the panoramic surroundings with another thrilling tender boat safari. End your day with a mouth-watering dinner on the upper deck, embracing the serene African ambience.

Overnight on the <u>Chobe Princess</u> Basis: FI

## **DAY 17**

Day of Departure

Following a peaceful awakening, savour a refreshing glass of juice or freshly brewed cup of coffee or tea. Watch for wildlife as you enjoy a morning cruise during your buffet breakfast. Prepare to disembark the Chobe Princess for passport control. A short road transfer will take you to Kasane Airport, where you check in for your onward flight.

#### **END OF SERVICES**



#### **QUOTE**

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT N\$
NAMIBIA + CHOBE RIVER SAFARI (14 nights) Per Person Sharing (based on 2 pax)	From N\$ 67 290.00
VICTORIA FALLS (2 nights) Per Person Sharing (based on 2 pax)	From US\$520.00

Each confirmed itinerary contributes N\$500 towards the <u>DRC School Project & Community Centre</u> in Swakopmund.

#### **GUIDED EXCURSIONS**

- Okapuka Safari Lodge Sundowner Game Drive
- Mola Mola Marine Dune Day
- Onguma Forest Camp AM/PM Guided Game Drive in Etosha National Park
- Victoria Falls Guided tour of the Victoria Falls with lunch at the Lookout Café
- Victoria Falls Boma dinner & drum show
- Ichingo Chobe River Lodge daily guided activities
- Chobe Princess daily guided activities

#### **MEAL ABBREVIATIONS**

B+B	Bed and breakfast
B+B+L	Bed, breakfast and lunch
DBB	Dinner, bed and breakfast (excludes drinks)
DBB+L	Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch (excludes drinks)
FB	Accommodation, meals and local drinks
FI	Accommodation, three meals daily, soft drinks, house wines, local brand spirits and beers, teas and coffees, refreshments during guided activities

## **INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS**

Details about what is included and excluded from the Namibia quote are available <u>HERE</u>. Details about what is included and excluded from the Victoria Falls quote are available <u>HERE</u>.