Tour Code
NA2

ADVENTURESABROAD

NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA

with Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

20 days

Created on: 15 Nov, 2026

Day 1 Arrival in Namibia

Arrival in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Founded in 1840 as a hot springs settlement, Windhoek grew into a colonial administrative centre and today serves as the country's political and economic heart. The city's architecture reflects its German colonial past, with Lutheran churches and turn-of-the-century buildings standing alongside modern office blocks.

This evening we meet our Namibia-based Tour Leader and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner.

NOTE: Due to space availability and other considerations, our Namibia itinerary may run in reverse order (Windhoek to Windhoek).

Overnight in Windhoek.

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 2 Windhoek - Namib-Naukluft National Park

After breakfast we leave the interior plateau and head southwest through the Gamsberg Pass toward the Namib Desert. The landscape shifts dramatically as we descend — from grasslands to rock formations and eventually to the dunes that define this ancient desert. The Gamsberg Pass itself offers sweeping views across multiple climate zones, a reminder of the elevation we're losing as we drop from the central highlands toward the coast.

In the Nama language, Namib means "vast" — an apt description for this expanse of sand that stretches along Namibia's entire 1,500-kilometre (930-mile) coastline. The Namib is considered one of the world's oldest deserts, with arid or semi-arid conditions persisting for at least 55 million years. The Sossusvlei dunes, at 300 metres (1,000 feet), rank among the world's highest — considerably taller than their nearest rivals in Arabia.

Animals, insects, and plants have adapted remarkably to survive here. The Namib beetle collects moisture by standing on its head in the early morning fog, allowing water droplets to run down its back to its mouth. The welwitschia plant, which can live over 1,000 years, survives on fog alone. En route we watch for kudu, springbok, gemsbok, and black eagles against the desert backdrop.

We stop several times for photos before arriving at our lodge this afternoon. The surrounding landscape — multi-hued sands, twisted acacia trees, and expansive views — offers excellent sunset-watching opportunities. We'll have a picnic lunch en route.

Overnight in the vicinity of Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3 Namib-Naukluft National Park

Very early this morning we drive into the park to Sossusvlei, a dried-up pan at the base of the Namib's most impressive dunes. The morning sun illuminates the apricot-coloured sands, with long shadows emphasizing the graceful curves of the dune crests. The older the dune, the richer its colour — the result of slow iron oxidation and minute garnet fragments.

We have plenty of time to walk among the dunes, scale one or two for panoramic views, and visit Dead Vlei. This surreal pan takes its name from the blackened dead acacia trees that rise from its white surface, set against towering orange dunes — a photographer's dream. The scale dwarfs human presence; footprints look like insect trails, and each step creates a mini sand-slide. Possible wildlife sightings include oryx antelope, springbok, and ostrich.

On our return we stop at Sesriem Canyon near the park entrance. Early inhabitants relied on this water source during dry periods, when deep clefts in the rock reduced evaporation. The name comes from the Afrikaans "ses" (six) and "riem" (thong) — explorers needed six leather thongs tied together to lower a bucket to the water. The canyon was carved by the Tsauchab River over millions of years, leaving ledges now

inhabited by pigeons, pied crows, and starlings.

We'll have a picnic breakfast en route and likely a late lunch upon return to our lodge.

Overnight in the vicinity of Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4 Namib-Naukluft Park - Swakopmund

This morning we continue north through Namib-Naukluft Park via Solitaire, a tiny settlement that serves as the last fuel stop before the dunes. The journey takes us through the rocky Kuiseb Canyon, carved by the Kuiseb River as it cuts through ancient rock formations on its way to the Atlantic. We make photo stops en route and watch for baboons, rock hyraxes clinging to cliff faces, and, if fortunate, leopards that inhabit these rocky outcrops.

Our destination is Swakopmund, Namibia's second-largest town and traditional "summer capital." The drive is approximately 350 kilometres (220 miles), with the landscape transforming from desert interior to the foggy coastal zone. Approaching Swakopmund through the Namib Desert creates one of travel's more surreal impressions — Bavarian spires and Germanic architecture emerge through the fog banks that typically blanket the town in morning and late afternoon. The Atlantic surf pounds the notorious Skeleton Coast beyond, an ever-present reminder of the ocean's power.

The town blends old Bavaria with contemporary Africa in unexpected ways. Herero women in Victorian dress — a legacy of 19th-century missionary influence — share the streets with descendants of German settlers, artists, miners, and safari operators. The architecture ranges from elaborate turn-of-the-century buildings to modern shops and restaurants. Palm-lined streets and carefully tended gardens give the town an almost Mediterranean feel, despite the chilly ocean currents offshore.

We'll have time for a stroll before dinner, perhaps along the jetty where anglers try their luck, or through the craft markets near the lighthouse.

Overnight in Swakopmund.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5 Swakopmund: Leisure Time & Optional Activities

Today is free to explore Swakopmund at your own pace. The town offers an intriguing contrast — a corner of old Bavaria wedged between one of the world's harshest deserts and its most treacherous coastlines. Browse the shops along the main street, relax at a café, or visit the local museum to learn more about the region's history.

Optional activities include "Living Desert" excursions to explore the Namib's surprising biodiversity, marine cruises on Walvis Bay lagoon to see seals and dolphins, scenic flights over the desert and coast, or camel rides along the beach. Your Tour Leader can advise on current pricing and help arrange bookings.

Overnight in Swakopmund.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6 Swakopmund - Damaraland

After an early breakfast we head north and east into Damaraland, one of Namibia's most geologically diverse regions. We pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, which peaks at 2,573 metres (8,442 feet) above sea level. The massif is named for its glowing appearance at sunrise and sunset, when the granite reflects shades of red and orange. The mountain is also home to Namibia's most famous rock art site — the "White Lady" painting, though we won't visit it today.

We take time to watch for wildlife and absorb the vastness of the scenery as we make our way to Huab Under Canvas, our specially erected tented camp for the next two nights. This semi-permanent camp offers comfortable accommodation in the heart of the wilderness, allowing us to minimize our environmental footprint while maximizing our safari experience.

Damaraland displays remarkable geological diversity — table-top mountains, rock formations, and hardy vegetation create a landscape shaped by wind, water, and millennia of erosion. Rolling hills give way to dunes, gravel plains, and ancient river terraces. The region takes its name from the Damara people who have lived here for centuries, adapting to one of Africa's harshest environments. It's the variety and remoteness of the area, as much as its scenic grandeur, that provides an authentic wilderness experience.

If time permits this afternoon (or tomorrow if we're running late), we'll visit the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings, recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These engravings, created over thousands of years, depict animals, human figures, and abstract designs. We arrive in the late afternoon with time to enjoy sundowners before dinner.

Overnight in Damaraland.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7 Damaraland Touring

Today we explore this remarkable region with our guides. After an early breakfast we embark on a 4x4 excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab River valleys to search for desert-adapted elephants and other wildlife. Damaraland's hidden treasures include various desert-adapted species that have evolved to survive in this harsh environment.

The elephants are most active in the mornings, giving us the best chance to observe them before returning to camp for lunch. However, if all travellers are in agreement, we could take a picnic lunch and stop in the shade of a large ana tree by the riverbed — ideally while watching a herd of elephants browsing nearby. On return to camp there should be time to relax and enjoy sundowners while watching the sunset over this dramatic landscape.

Overnight in Damaraland.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Damaraland - Etosha National Park

This morning after breakfast we continue our safari to Etosha National Park, one of Africa's premier wildlife destinations. The drive takes us through changing landscapes as we leave the rocky terrain of Damaraland and enter the flatter bushveld that characterizes the approaches to Etosha. Located in northwestern Namibia, the park centres on the vast Etosha Pan — a 130-kilometre (80-mile) long salt pan that dominates the landscape and can even be seen from space.

This pan is the remnant of an ancient lake that dried up thousands of years ago, leaving behind a crust of salt and minerals. During rare good rainy seasons, the pan fills with a few centimetres of water, attracting thousands of flamingos and other water birds. Most years, however, it remains a shimmering white expanse that creates mirages and reflects the intense African sun. The name "Etosha" comes from the Oshiwambo language and means "great white place" — an accurate description of the pan's appearance.

The park was established as a game reserve in the early 20th century and declared a national park in 1970. Today it ranks among Namibia's most popular destinations, attracting visitors with its unique landscapes and abundant wildlife. The park covers 22,270 square kilometres (8,600 square miles) and supports 114 mammal species and over 340 bird species.

We have lunch en route, and if time permits this afternoon, our guide will take us on a game drive into Etosha, exiting before the gates close at sunset. The rest of the evening can be spent watching wildlife at our camp's floodlit waterhole — a peaceful way to end the day as animals come to drink under the stars.

Overnight at Etosha (West).

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 Etosha National Park West

Today we embark on a full-day safari through the central and western sections of Etosha National Park from the comfort of our private vehicle. The park's landscape seamlessly blends grasslands, savannas, and woodlands, each supporting different wildlife communities. Grasslands with scattered acacias provide habitat for grazing animals like zebras and antelopes, while the savannas' open woodlands shelter giraffes, elephants, lions, and hyenas. Denser woodlands offer shade and cover for leopards and cheetahs.

Etosha is renowned for its wildlife diversity, with over 114 mammal species calling the park home. We watch for iconic species like elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras, as well as the endangered black rhinoceros and elusive leopard. The park also hosts over 340 bird species, including eagles, vultures, and ostriches. The unique geology and hydrology have created varied habitats — from salt pans and waterholes to rocky outcrops and sandy dunes — that support this remarkable biodiversity.

As we explore, we focus on the numerous springs and waterholes where multiple species often gather simultaneously, providing excellent viewing opportunities.

Overnight at Etosha (West).

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10 Etosha National Park East

Today we bid farewell to our current camp and travel eastward across Etosha National Park. With a full day of game viewing ahead, we take our time navigating the park's diverse landscape of grassland, woodland, and savannah. The eastern section of the park tends to be less visited than the central and western areas, often providing more solitary wildlife encounters.

We focus on the numerous springs and waterholes where wildlife congregates — often multiple species at once — providing fantastic photographic opportunities. Etosha's waterholes are legendary among wildlife photographers. Each has its own character: some attract primarily elephants, others are favoured by predators, and still others become gathering places for plains game. The dry season (May through October) offers the most concentrated wildlife viewing as animals must visit water daily.

We might spot an elephant's massive frame silhouetted against the horizon, a pride of lions resting in the shade during the heat of the day, or a giraffe browsing acacia leaves with its characteristic grace. Other wildlife we might encounter includes blue wildebeest, eland, kudu, and the distinctive gemsbok with its rapier-straight horns. Etosha is also one of the best places in Africa to see the endangered black rhinoceros, which has been successfully protected here for decades.

Bird life is equally impressive, with secretary birds stalking through the grasslands, martial eagles surveying from treetops, and, if we're lucky, ostriches striding across the plains with their awkward yet effective gait.

Tonight we overnight at a camp in the eastern sector of the park.

Overnight at Etosha (East).

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 Etosha - Windhoek

After a leisurely breakfast, we bid farewell to the wilderness and journey back to Windhoek through the central highlands. The scenic road takes us through rolling hills, verdant valleys, and commercial farmlands that showcase Namibia's agricultural sector. Along the way we pass unique rock formations, streams, and rural villages.

We stop at Lake Otjikoto, a tranquil oasis in the highlands where we might spot herons, egrets, kingfishers, and other water birds. The serene atmosphere provides a peaceful break from our journey.

Next we visit the town of Okahandja to explore the local woodcarver's craft market. This marketplace offers unique souvenirs, handmade crafts, and authentic Namibian artifacts — an excellent opportunity to browse for last-minute mementos of your safari.

As we arrive in Windhoek this evening, we'll have time to reflect on our unforgettable experiences.

Overnight in Windhoek.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12 Windhoek: City Touring

This morning we embark on a half-day guided tour of Windhoek, a charming city with distinct German influences dating from the colonial period (1884-1915). The well-maintained streets feature lush greenery, picturesque gardens, and architectural landmarks from the turn of the 20th century. Our tour includes the Christuskirche (Christ Church), a Lutheran church completed in 1910 that combines neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau styles, and the Alte Feste (Old Fortress), Windhoek's oldest surviving building, now home to a historical museum.

Windhoek's greatest strength lies in its cultural diversity. The city serves as a meeting place where the Wambo, Herero, and Damara peoples' influences interweave with European and modern African urban culture. As we wander the streets, we encounter this array of traditions firsthand — from traditional dress to contemporary fashion, from craft markets to modern shopping districts.

After our guided tour, we'll have time to explore on our own. Windhoek boasts delightful German-style pastry and bake shops, known as konditerais, where you can sample traditional treats like Black Forest cake and apple strudel alongside Namibian coffee. For those seeking souvenirs, the city's shops and markets offer a range of unique items. The Namibia Craft Centre showcases work from across the country, including exquisite gemstones (Namibia produces some of the world's finest tourmalines), Herero dolls, wood carvings, and traditional basketry.

Overnight in Windhoek.

Day 13 Windhoek, Namibia - Fly to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Today we fly from Windhoek to Victoria Falls, crossing into Zimbabwe and entering a completely different ecological zone. Where Namibia is characterized by deserts and arid landscapes, this region thrives on the massive flow of the Zambezi River, which sustains one of Africa's most important wildlife corridors.

This area has been inhabited for hundreds of thousands of years. The falls' first known name was "Shongwe," given by the Kololo people who lived in the region during the 1800s. The current name dates to 1855 when Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone became the first European to see the falls. He named them after Queen Victoria, though he later wrote in his journal that the local name was far more evocative. The Kololo called them "Mosi-oa-Tunya" — "The Smoke That Thunders" — referring to the massive spray cloud visible from 20 kilometres (12 miles) away.

The falls and nearby town sit on the mighty Zambezi River — Africa's fourth-longest at 2,574 kilometres (1,599 miles) — which forms the border with neighbouring Zambia. The river drains a vast watershed covering parts of eight countries before reaching the falls, where it plunges into a narrow gorge and continues its journey to the Indian Ocean.

After settling into our hotel, we travel by road a short distance to the Zambezi River for a scenic sunset cruise above the falls. The river here is wide and slow-moving, allowing us to drift peacefully while watching for hippos (often visible in pods), elephants coming to drink on the banks, antelopes, giraffes, and the myriad bird species for which the region is famous.

Overnight in Victoria Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 14 Victoria Falls Touring

Today we have a guided walking tour of Victoria Falls and the adjacent national park. Mosi-oa-Tunya ("The Smoke That Thunders") stands

twice as high as Niagara Falls and several times longer — approximately 1,708 metres (5,604 feet) wide during peak flow. The falls rank among the world's largest by combined height and width, with water dropping between 90 and 108 metres (295 and 354 feet) into the gorge below.

The falls formed over thousands of years through erosion. During the Jurassic Period (around 150-200 million years ago), volcanic activity resulted in thick basalt deposits across Southern Africa. As the lava cooled, cracks appeared and filled with softer materials like clay and lime. Erosion and the course of the Zambezi River cut through these weaker zones, forming the first of several waterfalls. Over time, the falls have retreated upstream, carving a series of zigzag gorges that document their geological history.

Our tour follows level paved paths, much of it shaded by the dense rainforest that thrives on constant spray from the falls. This "rainforest" exists in a region that would otherwise be semi-arid woodland — a microclimate created entirely by the falls themselves. The walk to the farthest viewpoint covers about one kilometre (0.6 miles), with the last section in full sun. We encourage you to complete the full route — the views justify the effort, including the best perspective of the Victoria Falls Bridge.

This engineering marvel, completed in 1905, was part of Cecil Rhodes' ambitious Cape-to-Cairo railway scheme. Rhodes envisioned a continuous rail line running the length of Africa under British control, though he died in 1902 before construction began and never visited the falls himself. The bridge still carries both rail and vehicle traffic, spanning the gorge 128 metres (420 feet) above the river.

The afternoon is free for optional activities. Relax by the pool, shop in the village for local artisan crafts, or arrange sightseeing by microlight aircraft or helicopter for a bird's-eye view of this natural wonder. Your guide can help plan your afternoon.

Overnight in Victoria Falls.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Chobe National Park, Botswana

Today our overland journey continues across the border into Botswana and Chobe National Park near the town of Kasane. The drive offers our first glimpses of Botswana's landscape — noticeably greener than the arid regions of Namibia we've been exploring. Botswana receives more rainfall than much of southern Africa, supporting denser vegetation and larger wildlife populations.

The San people, hunter-gatherers who moved seasonally in search of water, wild fruits, and animals, were the area's original inhabitants. Their rock paintings, some thousands of years old, can still be found throughout the region. In 1967, this became Botswana's first national park, established just one year after the country gained independence from Britain.

A major feature of Chobe National Park is its elephant population — probably the world's largest single population. These elephants, numbering around 100,000 individuals, range across northern Botswana and northwestern Zimbabwe, ignoring international boundaries in their seasonal movements. The population has grown steadily from a few thousand in the early 1900s, having escaped the massive poaching that decimated other African populations during the 1970s and 1980s. Botswana's strong anti-poaching policies and stable government have been crucial to this conservation success.

The Chobe elephants are highly migratory, making seasonal movements of up to 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the Chobe and Linyanti rivers, where they concentrate in the dry season, to the southeastern pans, where they disperse during the rains. This migration is one of Africa's longest remaining elephant migration routes.

Overnight in Chobe Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 16 Chobe National Park

Chobe National Park covers 10,566 square kilometres (4,080 square miles) and hosts one of Africa's greatest concentrations of wildlife. The park features diverse habitats ranging from floodplains and baobab and mopane woodlands to acacia thickets and verdant flood grasslands bordering the Chobe River.

Our safari begins with a cruise on the Chobe River, bringing us close to the waterfowl and wildlife along its banks. Large flocks of birds, pods of hippos, and very large crocodiles can be viewed safely from the boat. Shade and refreshments are available throughout the cruise.

After lunch we board open (but covered) safari vehicles and head into the park to view elephants, buffalo herds, sable, wildebeest, giraffes, and with luck, some resident lions and hyenas.

Overnight in Chobe National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 17 Chobe Park - Fly to Okavango

This morning we return to Kasane for our flight into the Okavango Delta — one of Africa's most extraordinary wilderness areas. Our comfortable lodge sits centrally in the delta, deep among grass-covered islands where the silence and remoteness create an authentic bush experience.

Most of our game viewing will be on foot and by mokoro (dugout canoe). Without vehicle noise, you experience the bush in its truest form and become one with nature. The silence allows you to hear sounds usually masked by mechanical hum — the rustle of reeds, the call of a fish eagle, the distant trumpet of an elephant. Motorboat excursions and game viewing in 4x4 vehicles may also be available, depending on water levels.

The Okavango Delta is unique as the world's largest inland delta. Instead of flowing to the sea, the annual flood of fresh water flows inland, spreading over 15,000 square kilometres (5,800 square miles) of Kalahari sand in a maze of lagoons and channels. This creates a lush wonderland surrounded by the arid Kalahari Desert, home to many antelope species, buffalo herds, zebras, and thousands of elephants that pass through annually on their migration routes.

NOTE: Gratuities for camp staff and guides in the Okavango are NOT included in your tour price. Further details will be provided in your pre-trip notes.

Overnight in the Okavango.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 18 Okavango Delta

We have a full day exploring the waterways of the Okavango Delta. Depending on water levels, we'll do our sightseeing either by mokoro canoes, 4WD vehicles, or a combination of both. The mokoro experience is particularly special — gliding silently through narrow channels, your poler navigating expertly through reed beds and lily-covered lagoons, you encounter the delta's wildlife at their own pace.

In the lush indigenous forests and along the floodplains, more than 400 bird species flourish. On the mainland and among the islands, lions, elephants, hyenas, wild dogs, buffalo, hippos, and crocodiles share the landscape with a remarkable variety of antelopes and smaller animals — warthogs, mongooses, spotted genets, monkeys, bush babies, and tree squirrels.

The red lechwe, a water-loving antelope found almost exclusively in the Okavango, moves through the shallows with remarkable grace. We might also spot the rare sitatunga, an elusive antelope so adapted to wetland life that its splayed hooves allow it to walk on floating vegetation.

Fishing, bird watching, game viewing, photography, or simple relaxation — whatever you choose to do in the Okavango becomes an experience without parallel.

Overnight in the Okavango.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 19 Okavango Delta

We have another full day to explore the wonders of the delta. Our guides will tailor today's activities based on wildlife sightings, water levels, and the group's interests. Early morning offers the best opportunity to see predators and to experience the delta as it awakens — the air cool, the light golden, and the wildlife at its most active.

The delta's ecosystem represents a delicate balance. The annual flood, which peaks between June and August (months after the rains fall in Angola), sustains this oasis. The floodwaters spread slowly across the delta, creating temporary islands and channels that shift year to year. This dynamic environment requires constant adaptation from both wildlife and the people who live here.

Traditional mokoro were carved from massive trees like the African ebony and could last for generations. Today most are made from fibreglass to protect the remaining ancient trees, but the design and poling technique remain unchanged — a testament to centuries of accumulated knowledge about navigating these waterways.

Whether we're tracking elephants on foot with our guide, watching malachite kingfishers dart between reeds, or simply floating in silence as the sun sets behind a stand of papyrus, the Okavango creates memories that endure long after the journey ends.

Overnight in the Okavango.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 20 Okavango Delta - Fly to Maun - Departure

This morning we fly to Maun, the main town and gateway to the Okavango region, where we connect with onward flights.

NOTE: If booking your own flights from Maun, ensure your departure time is no earlier than 2:00 PM to allow for our morning flight to Maun.

Bon voyage! Tsamaya sentle (Go well in Setswana)

Included Meal(s): Breakfast