

Gentle Walking & Wildlife Holiday Namibia *New*

Safari in Etosha National Park, climb Sossusvlei's colossal dunes and track rhino and elephant in the desert.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Walking
Accommodation	Lodges, hotels and a safari camp
Grade	Gentle
Duration	17 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: 9 days
Min/Max group size	5 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 5
Trip Leader	Local Leader Namibia
Land only	Joining in Windhoek, Namibia

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



tel: +44 (0)1453 844400 info@mountainkingdoms.com www.mountainkingdoms.com

Mountain Kingdoms Ltd, 20 Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7BT UK
Managing Director: Steven Berry. Registered in England No. 2118433. VAT No. 496 6511 08

Departures

Group departures

2026 Dates:

Fri 21 Aug - Sun 06 Sep

2027 Dates:

Fri 18 Jun - Sun 04 Jul

Fri 17 Sep - Sun 03 Oct

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 5 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



We use highly experienced, local, English-speaking guides for our holidays in Namibia. Our guides have been leading groups for many years and have a particular interest in the wildlife of Namibia and a deep knowledge of the flora and fauna of their homeland.

Pictured here is Raymond Van Wyk who has been a professional guide for over 20 years. Raymond explains why he loves his work so much: “Tourism has not only been my career it’s been my life’s passion. Whether behind the wheel of a safari vehicle, guiding guests through pristine wilderness, or introducing school children to the wonders of nature, my goal has always been the same - to share the beauty, stories, and spirit of Namibia.”

Your trip highlights

- Walk on the world famous dunes at Sossusvlei and explore the Skeleton Coast
- Relax in the attractive coastal town of Swakopmund and take a wildlife cruise in Walvis Bay
- Track desert-adapted elephant, rhino and pangolin
- Go on safari in spectacular Etosha National Park - Namibia's premier wildlife reserve
- Stay at carefully selected lodges with bags of comfort and character including Okonjima Plains Camp

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Namibia. Arrive Windhoek International Airport. Guided walking tour of Windhoek and welcome dinner.
Day 3	Drive to Zebra Lodge in the Tsaris Mountains. Afternoon nature walk.
Day 4	Morning walk in the Tsaris Mountains. Drive to Sossusvlei. Sunset walk.
Day 5	Drive to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Explore Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei, dunes and Sesriem Canyon on foot.
Days 6-7	Drive to Swakopmund via Walvis Bay Lagoon. Marine Cruise in Walvis Bay and time at leisure.
Day 8	Drive along Skeleton Coast to Twyfelfontein. See lichens, Zeila shipwreck and 'White Lady' rock art en route.
Day 9	Morning walk to visit the Twyfelfontein World Heritage Site and rock etchings. Drive to Grootberg Lodge.
Day 10	Morning desert-elephant tracking. Afternoon at leisure.
Day 11	Drive to Vingerlip Lodge. Visit Himba Community on way. Afternoon walk to Vingerlip.
Days 12-13	Drive to Etosha. Game drives.
Days 14 -15	Drive to Okonjima Plains Camp. Afternoon walk. Rhino and pangolin tracking on foot.
Days 16-17	Morning activity. Drive to Windhoek airport. Fly to UK.

Trip summary

Namibia is a land of pristine wilderness with spectacular natural landscapes and a rich diversity of wildlife. This holiday includes the best places to visit in Namibia - its beautiful coastline, dune-peaked desert, rugged mountains and vast nature reserves that make it a heart-stopping destination to explore.

Your Namibia holiday begins with a walking tour of Windhoek, an attractively compact capital city that combines its Germanic Colonial heritage with a pleasingly modern vibe. Leaving the city behind, you travel southwards to hike in the Tsaris Mountains - a geologist's paradise and your first taste of the wild environs of Namibia. Your journey takes you next to the spectacular southern Namib Desert, arguably the oldest and most photogenic in the world, where you walk the world famous dunes at Sossusvlei and delve into the Sesriem Canyon.

The sleepy coastal town of Swakopmund provides a delightful change of scenery and you get to spend a relaxing couple of days there enjoying some free time and a boat trip out to Walvis Bay home to dolphins, seals and an array of seabirds. Driving north, you travel along the atmospheric Skeleton Coast dotted with the wrecks of stranded ships, before turning back inland into beautiful Damaraland - one of Africa's last great wildernesses and Namibia's least inhabited area. Here you'll visit a community of the semi-nomadic Himba tribe, track the rare desert elephant on foot and see pre-historic rock art at Twyfelfontein.

Next stop is the Etosha National Park, famous for its shimmering pans and superb game viewing. Cheetah, leopard, black rhino, zebra and giraffe are just some of the animals you may encounter along with myriad birds. Your journey ends at the Okonjima Private Reserve where you can hike on nature trails, track rhinos and pangolins and learn about the leopard and cheetah conservation work of the AfriCat Foundation. Here your adventure ends, but with so much left to discover, it's unlikely to be your last visit to this wildly beautiful and deeply enriching country.

Please note that this itinerary and daily walks may vary based on weather conditions, group members, wildlife and/or the recommendations of your guide.

Special notes

This holiday combines sightseeing and game drives with gentle walks. Walks are between 1-4 hours (please see the daily descriptions for details) often on uneven or sandy surfaces, and conditions can be hot. Your guide will lead walks at a comfortable pace and there will be ample stops for water, wildlife watching, photography etc. Please be aware that Namibia is a huge country and to visit the highlights of the country some long driving days are involved.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Windhoek

Today you will catch your flight from London and fly to Windhoek. There are no direct flights to Namibia from the UK. Please ask us for details of the available airline options.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Windhoek International Airport. Drive to Windhoek - 40km, 30 minutes. Afternoon walking tour.

You will be met at Windhoek International Airport by your guide. It's then about a 30 minute drive to Windhoek. Namibia's capital city.

Before checking in at your hotel you will have the chance to stretch your legs on a gentle orientation walking tour through the city's historical and cultural highlights. You may stroll past notable landmarks such as the Christuskirche, Tintenpalast (Parliament Gardens) and the old railway station, and will get a taste of Windhoek's unique blend of colonial heritage and modern-day life. Along the way there will be the opportunity to stop for a light lunch with a first chance to sample some local food.

You will then check in at your hotel and have time to settle in and freshen up. Later, in the evening, you will head out to the legendary Joe's Beerhouse known for its lively atmosphere and hearty Namibian dishes.

Overnight: Weinberg Hotel or Similar, Windhoek (Meals: D)

Day 3: Drive to Zebra River Lodge at Maltahohe in the Tsaris Mountains. Guided nature walk.

The drive south to the Tsaris Mountains takes around 4 to 5 hours through ever changing scenery and you will have a stop for lunch on the way. Your destination is the Zebra River Lodge, a charming old farmstead located in the heart of the serene wilderness of the Tsaris Mountains and teeming with desert-adapted flora and fauna.



Later in the afternoon, after you have settled in, you will stretch your legs and take in your new surroundings on a gentle walking trail around the lodge led by your guide. There are several scenic paths such as the Gail's Cave Trail, the Quivertree Trail, or the Ridgeway Trail which take in the rugged landscape, unique vegetation and the fantastic birdlife that calls this semi-arid region home. If you are lucky you may see resident black eagles and rosy faced lovebird but look out also for animals such as mountain zebra, kudu, steenbok and much more. The geology and archaeology of the region is incredible, and various ancient hand tools, such as mandolins, have been unearthed. A small collection of tools and stones are displayed at the lodge - fascinating stuff! Dinner will be served in the lodge.

Overnight: Zebra River Lodge, Maltahohe (Meals: B D)

Day 4: Morning walk in Tsaris Mountains - 2-3 hours. Drive to Elegant Desert Camp - 1½ hours. Sunset walk.

This morning your guide will take you on another walk along one of the lodge's longer trails. You may climb to the ridge top for far-reaching views over canyon areas and quiver trees, taking in some of the wonderful unique geology of the area on the way. After your walk you will leave the Tsaris Mountains behind to drive down to the desert floor and onwards to Elegant Desert Lodge where you will be based for the next two nights. There will be time to unpack and relax and perhaps take a swim in the pool.

Later in the afternoon your guide will lead you out on a walk to enjoy the open vistas and stillness of the desert environment and to watch the sun set over the desert. Afterwards, you return to the lodge for dinner perhaps accompanied by a glass of fine South African wine.

Overnight: Elegant Desert Lodge, Sossusvlei (Meals: B D)

Day 5: Explore Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei & Sesriem Canyon on foot - 4-5 hours.

The classic desert area around Sossusvlei and Deadvlei is undoubtedly the scenery for which Namibia is best known, with its iconic red sand dunes. These surreal clay pans, framed by towering red dunes, offer some of the most memorable landscapes in Namibia. Sossusvlei is the largest of four pans in the vicinity, another is Dead Vlei where large camel thorn trees, dead for want of water, still stand after 900 years. The area is home to a variety of desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a number of reptiles.



The clay pan of Sossusvlei is set amid massive sand dunes that rank among the tallest dunes on earth, some up to 400 metres high. The pans are large expanses of bleached, cracked clay which are a deathly white against the red sands of the dunes. Sossusvlei Pan, once an oasis, is the endpoint of a now dry river, the Tsauchab. Until dunes stopped it in its tracks 60,000 years ago, the Tsauchab reached the sea, as ephemeral rivers still do in the northern half of the Namib. Once-a-decade rainfall over the Naukluft Mountains is sufficient to bring the river down in flood and fill the pan.

This morning you will rise early to drive to the Namib-Naukluft National Park, for an unforgettable full day in the Namib Desert. You will park your vehicle and explore on foot, walking through the iconic landscapes of towering apricot sand dunes and ancient skeletal camel thorn trees. You will climb the elegant Dune 24 for panoramic views over the desert and explore the picturesque Sesriem Canyon, a natural gorge where centuries of water erosion has carved a narrow ravine. At the foot of the gorge, which plunges down 30-40m, are pools that become replenished after good rains. Sesriem derives its name from the time when early pioneers tied six (ses) lengths of rawhide straps together and secured to a bucket to draw water from the deep pools within the canyon.

In the late afternoon you will return to the comfort of your lodge, where you can relax and perhaps have a swim before dinner.

Overnight: Elegant Desert Lodge, Sossusvlei (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Drive to Swakopmund via Walvis Bay Lagoon - 4-5 hours. Afternoon at leisure.

Today you drive north, traversing vast gravel plains and arid dunes as you head for the coast. On the way you will visit the Walvis Bay Lagoon, one of South Africa's most important coastal wetlands. The lagoon, which offers a striking contrast to the surrounding desert scenery, is a protected RAMSAR wetland site and home to a wide variety of birdlife; roughly 50 species. Look out for greater and lesser flamingos, pelicans, avocets, plovers, cormorants and the endemic Damara tern.

You may stop somewhere along the way for lunch before continuing to the charming town of Swakopmund. Swakopmund is a town with an air of enchantment about it, as if the ornate buildings of the old quarter and the lush greenery of the seafront were somehow spirited away from their proper setting to be left without rhyme or reason in an African desert. Beyond the last row of houses, the desert is devoid of vegetation except for low bushes. A bare plain beside a rough sea and dry river is hardly a prime position for a holiday resort, and yet against all the odds the town has become one. Swakopmund, named for the mouth of the Swakop River, was established in 1892 as the main harbour for German South-West Africa, firstly with a landing station where the Imperial Navy erected beacons on the site, and cargo and passengers were rowed ashore in surfboats from steamers anchored offshore. Once a concrete breakwater had been built it became possible to use tugs and barges instead and the town grew as a harbour town and then later into a seaside resort.

Upon arrival, you will check in at the welcoming Swakopmund Sands Hotel, located just a short walk from the town centre, jetty and beach. The afternoon is free for you to relax at the hotel, walk into town or, if time permits, you may find local activities available.

Dinner tonight will be taken in your hotel.

Overnight: Swakopmund Sands Hotel, Swakopmund (Meals: B D)

Day 7: Morning marine cruise at Walvis Bay. Afternoon at leisure.

In the morning you return to Walvis Bay (the name means Whale Bay) to join a scenic cruise in the protected waters of the bay, which provide a safe haven for over 150,000 birds. This excursion also offers the chance to see three different types of dolphin (Heaviside's dolphin, endemic to the Namibian coast, dusky dolphins and bottlenose dolphins) as well as boisterous Cape fur seals and a wide variety of seabirds. A light snack and sparkling wine are typically served on board, adding to the experience.

Following the cruise you will drive back to Swakopmund and then the afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure. You may like to browse the town's many quaint shops and commercial art galleries or the curio market around the lighthouse area. Or you could visit the Swakopmund Museum which has exhibits on the Namib Desert and the colonial German history of the region. Swakopmund also has a National Maritime Museum. Alternatively you could simply take a stroll along the beach promenade.

Tonight, dinner will be at one of the restaurants in town.

Overnight: Swakopmund Sands Hotel, Swakopmund (Meals: B D)

Day 8: Drive along the Skeleton Coast to Twyfelfontein. On the way see lichen fields, the Zeila shipwreck and stop off at Brandberg to walk to the White Lady rock painting - total driving 420kms, 6-7 hours.

Leaving after breakfast, you head north along the Skeleton Coast (1½ hours), known for its stark beauty where thousands of miles of sandy desert meet with the cold waters of the Atlantic. It is dotted with shipwrecks, and atmospheric ocean fogs creep over the shoreline. You will have several scenic stops along the way. Firstly you will visit the fascinating coastal lichen fields - fragile desert organisms that flourish in the mist. Then you will see the wreck of the Zeila, a fishing trawler stranded offshore, now an eerie monument to the treacherous Atlantic currents.



From here you turn inland and drive to Brandberg Mountain, a huge granite massif rising up over the plains, and at 2,573m the highest point in Namibia. This mountain has been sacred to the local San people for centuries. With a local guide you will walk to see the famous 'White Lady' rock painting, a striking example of ancient San rock art, nestled in a gorge along the Tsisab River. Although she has a big reputation, the 'white lady' of Brandberg is a diminutive 40cm tall, and is depicted as part of processional frieze. This is an excursion of about 1½ hours on foot.

Returning to your vehicle you continue to Twyfelfontein in the heart of Damaraland. Twyfelfontein is a spectacularly scenic area, featuring one of the largest and most important concentrations of rock art in Africa and home to some of the best examples of rock paintings and engravings in southern Africa. The name Twyfelfontein translates to 'fountain of doubt', which refers to the perennial spring situated in the impressive Huab Valley flanked by the slopes of a sandstone table mountain. It was this spring that attracted Stone Age hunters over six thousand years ago, and it was during this time that the extensive group of rock engravings and paintings were produced. Twyfelfontein was declared a World Heritage Site in 2007. The local fauna and flora of this area includes plants such as welwitschia, a 'miracle' plant that can live for over 1,000 years, and animals such as rhinoceros, giraffe, springbok, oryx, ostrich and famously, the desert-adapted elephant. These creatures live in harmony with the community and the communal farming activities of the local conservancy.

You will stay at Twyfelfontein Country Lodge, arriving in the late afternoon. This is a comfortable lodge set in a picturesque landscape of red rock formations with magnificent views from the deck over the Huab Valley, desert plains and distant mountains. Dinner will be served at the lodge restaurant under Damaraland's vast, starry skies.

Overnight: Twyfelfontein Country Lodge (Meals: B D)

Day 9: Morning walk to see UNESCO World Heritage Site and rock etchings. Drive to Grootberg Lodge - 2-3 hours.

In the morning, whilst the temperature is still cool, you will visit the ancient rock etchings of Twyfelfontein in the company of a local guide. Your guide will provide insights into the history and significance of this cultural treasure which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Strewn over a hillside at Twyfelfontein in the southern Kaokoveld, boulders and slabs of red sandstone hold some 2,500 prehistoric engravings that depict wildlife,

animal spoor and abstract motifs. It is perhaps the largest and finest collection of petroglyphs in Africa. The engravings show animals such as elephant, giraffe, kudu, lion, rhinoceros, springbok, zebra and ostrich that once used to drink from a fountain at the bottom of the hill. In some cases, footprints were engraved instead of hooves or paws. The abstract motifs feature mainly circles. Stone tools and other artefacts found at Twyfelfontein suggest that hunter-gatherers occupied the site over a period of perhaps 7,000 years. The exact age of the engravings is unknown, but the patina on individual figures, the darker the older, does give an idea of their relative ages.

After your visit you will return to your vehicle for another 2-3 hours to continue further into the heart of Damaraland where baobab trees, strange plants and dramatic cliffs dominate the landscapes. You will arrive in the afternoon at Grootberg Lodge which enjoys an enviable location, situated on the edge of the Etendeka Plateau with views across the Klip River Valley.

Overnight: Grootberg Lodge, Damaraland (Meals: B D)

Day 10: Elephant tracking in the morning. Afternoon at leisure.

This morning you will set out early in vehicles with a guide and tracker from the lodge to search for the elusive desert-adapted elephant. This guided tracking experience offers a rare opportunity to observe these remarkable giants in their natural habitat, learning about their behaviour and survival strategies for the harsh desert environment. The elephants of the region generally inhabit the ancient, ephemeral riverbeds that need rainfall before flowing above ground; however, in the dry season the water still flows under the desert sand. There is some debate as to whether the Namibian desert dwelling elephants should be classified as a different species. They are apparently very well adapted to living under the particular conditions of the desert and routinely move distances of up to 70km between feeding grounds and the scattered waterholes where they drink during the dry season.



Please note that these are wild animals who wander at will in the conservancy and so sightings are not guaranteed! However, this will still be a worthwhile experience, giving the opportunity to learn and appreciate more about the lifestyle and challenges for the local people.

You will have a picnic lunch in the shade of a tree, giving time to relax amid the stunning scenery of Damaraland. You will return to the lodge in the early afternoon where you may explore further or relax by the pool.

Overnight: Grootberg Lodge, Damaraland (Meals: B L D)

Day 11: Drive to Vingerklip - 140km, 2-3 hours, with visit to Himba community en route. Afternoon walk - 2 hours.

After a leisurely start, you leave Grootberg behind to drive to Vingerklip, a drive of about 2 to 3 hours through rugged mountains and wide-open plains.

Along the way you will visit a traditional Himba community to gain an insight into the culture and lifestyle of this semi-nomadic indigenous group and learn something of their customs, dress, and survival skills. The Himba are one of the last tribes in Namibia still attempting to preserve and live their traditional lifestyle. These friendly people are closely related to the Herero tribe and they speak the same language. They are herdsmen, breeding mainly cattle and goats while leading a semi-nomadic life, and they are well known for their centuries-old livestock farming practices. For the Himba people, clothes, hair and jewellery hold a special meaning and form an important part of their tradition and culture, with every aspect either having a practical reason, significance or representing age or status. Even new-born babies are adorned with pearl necklaces while older children are given bracelets crafted from copper and decorated with shells.

You will then continue the journey to Vingerklip. Rising dramatically from the flat landscape, Vingerklip is a towering rock pinnacle, the remains of an ancient lava flow shaped by millions of years of erosion and offering a striking contrast to the surrounding arid plains. Its name, meaning "rock finger" in Afrikaans, aptly describes its imposing presence. It stands proudly above a valley, known as the Ugab Terraces on the edge of the Damaraland.

You arrive at your lodge, which sits on a hilltop just 1km from the rock pinnacle, in the early afternoon. Your guide will then lead a walk to the first of the Vingerklip rock formations (2 hours return). Alternatively, you can just relax by one of the lodge's two pools or spot animals from your private veranda.

Overnight: Vingerklip Lodge, Damaraland (Meals: B D)

Day 12: Drive to Etosha - 200 Km, 3 to 4 hours. Afternoon game drive in open-sided safari vehicle.

Today you drive north through a variety of changing landscapes to reach the Etosha National Park, one of Namibia's greatest natural treasures. You arrive at the southern edge of the park and enter via Andersson's Gate for an exciting game drive in an open safari vehicle. With its vast salt pan and thriving waterholes, Etosha offers exceptional wildlife viewing - look out for elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras, and perhaps even elusive rhino and cheetah.

After your safari you will continue to nearby Etosha Omusati Lodge, which is located just outside the park.

Etosha is recognised as one of the best game parks in Southern Africa for the numbers and variety of game, as well as for its interesting geology. The name Etosha translates as 'Great White Place' or 'Place of Mirages'. The dry and shimmering Etosha Pan is a vast shallow depression and is thought to be the remains of a large inland lake which existed before continental uplift changed the slope of the land and the lake dried up. If the lake existed today, it would be the third largest in the world. Nowadays the Etosha pan is filled with water only after seasonal rains. In the dry season, the wildlife is attracted to the perennial springs and waterholes that make for excellent game viewing. There are over 115 different mammals in the park including endangered species such as cheetah and black rhino, as well as elephant, lion, leopard, hyena, zebra, giraffe and a whole host of plains game. 340 species of bird have been recorded in Etosha including uncommon members of the hawk and vulture families.

Overnight: Etosha Omusati Lodge (Meals: B D)

Day 13: Full day of games drives In Etosha National Park.

You have a full-day game drive dedicated to exploring the park's diverse habitats and renowned waterholes, which draw a wide variety of wildlife - ranging from large elephant herds and lion prides to elegant antelope and countless bird species. Your expert guide will help track animals and share insights with you into Etosha's ecosystems and conservation efforts.

You will stop at one of the park's well-equipped rest camps at lunchtime where you can take a short break, buy some food, browse the souvenir shops, or visit the rest camp waterhole for additional wildlife sightings.

In the late afternoon you will return to Etosha Omusati Lodge to relax and reflect on your exciting day of wildlife viewing. Dinner is served at the lodge.

Overnight: Etosha Omusati Lodge (Meals: B D)

Day 14: Drive to Okonjima Plains Camp - 250km, 3-4 hours. Afternoon walk.

After breakfast you begin the journey southward to Okonjima Nature Reserve, home of the renowned AfriCat Foundation. The drive is approximately 250 km and takes around 3 to 4 hours, passing through scenic cattle farmland and rolling hills.

You arrive and check in at the Okonjima Plains Camp which is within the secluded wilderness area of Okonjima Nature Reserve. This family-owned lodge was formerly a cattle and hunting farm and has transitioned to become a welcoming lodge that specialises in conservation. Sunsets from the terrace here are particularly fine.

In the afternoon, your guide will lead you on a nature trail walk through the surrounding bushveld. This gentle walk offers the chance to observe birds, small wildlife, and animal tracks, while soaking in the tranquillity of the reserve.



The camp offers optional activities for the enthusiastic, which are payable locally.

Dinner is served at the lodge's restaurant where you can enjoy fresh, locally inspired cuisine while looking out over the plains.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp, Central Highlands (Meals: B D)

Day 15: Full day at Okonjima. Rhino tracking and Pangolin tracking on foot.

The Okonjima Nature Reserve is home to the AfriCAT Foundation and is recognised as one of the best places to stay to see carnivores and other endangered species, such as the aardvark, pangolin and brown hyaena in the wild. You will also learn more about conservation. The AfriCAT Foundation was founded in the early 1990's, as a non-profit organisation, starting out primarily as a sanctuary for the rehabilitation of cheetah and leopard rescued from irate livestock farmers. Captured big cats were given a second chance to be released back into the wild and become completely independent hunters in a protected area, right in the middle of commercial cattle farmland. The Foundation has since focused on research projects considered essential for the long-term conservation of Namibia's wildlife. Today, AfriCat is renowned for its carnivore rehabilitation programs and for working to mitigate conflicts between humans and wildlife. The AfriCAT Foundation is based partly at Okonjima Farm where you are staying, and partly at Kaross farm in the northwest. The partnership between the Okonjima Lodges, the Okonjima Nature Reserve and the AfriCAT Foundation is considered a valuable demonstration of a symbiosis between conservation and tourism.



After an early breakfast, you will set off on foot for an unforgettable morning of rhino tracking. Accompanied by an experienced guide and tracker, you will explore the reserve in search of the endangered white or black rhino. Walking quietly through the bush, you will learn about rhino behaviour, habitat, and the vital conservation work taking place at Okonjima.

You will return to camp to relax during the heat of the afternoon, possibly by the pool or observing wildlife from the camp's viewing hide.

Later, towards evening, you will join a guided pangolin tracking excursion on foot. This offers a rare and deeply rewarding opportunity to encounter one of Africa's most elusive and threatened nocturnal creatures. Using telemetry and expert tracking skills, your guide will lead you through the bush as daylight fades, sharing insights into pangolin ecology and the efforts being made to protect them.

You return to the lodge for a relaxed dinner surrounded, for the last time on your trip, by the sounds of the Namibian night.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp, Central Highlands (Meals: B D)

Day 16: Time at leisure. Drive to Windhoek International Airport - 3-4 hours. Depart Namibia.

Depending on flight timings there may be time at leisure this morning before the drive to Windhoek Airport for your flight home.

Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)

Day 17: Arrive London.

Our grading system

Gentle Walking Namibia is graded as a Gentle walking holiday, as described below.

Gentle

Trips within this grade typically mix sightseeing with easy-paced half and/or full day walks. On these trips, walks will be on relatively low altitude trails, for a duration of around 4-6 hours. On all of our Gentle graded trips, some ascent and descent should be anticipated, and there may occasionally be a longer walking day. Holidays within this grade generally use hotels and comfortable lodges although a few do have some nights camping.

These holidays are suitable for people who enjoy easy-paced walks in the British countryside or exploring on foot rather than in a vehicle.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ 1 full day and 1 evening Etosha safari drive in an open-side safari vehicle
- ✓ Marine wildlife cruise at Walvis Bay
- ✓ Elephant, rhino and pangolin tracking
- ✓ 14 x breakfasts, 2 x lunches, 14 x dinners
- ✓ 14 nights in good standard of lodge and hotel accommodation on a twin-share basis
- ✓ All park entrance fees
- ✓ An experienced, English-speaking local leader
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Sightseeing and excursions where specified
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go Bottle
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Group airport transfers
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- × Overseas airport departure taxes
- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Lunches (except for days 5 and 10) and drinks
- × Locally paid bar bills and laundry
- × Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients, who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

Your accommodation

Please note that the following lodges and hotels are our preferred options but alternative accommodation of a similar style and standard may be substituted if these are not available.



Weinberg Hotel or Similar, Windhoek

The Weinberg is a very pleasant place to recover from a long flight. It is a comfortable boutique hotel located in a tranquil area not far from Windhoek city centre. The hotel combines old world charm with modern amenities. Rooms are stylish and comfortable with en suite bathrooms, air conditioning, flat-screen TV and hairdryers. The hotel has a bar, offers a good breakfast and has unlimited Wi-Fi.



Zebra River Lodge, Maltahohe

This lodge has been extensively refurbished and modernised without losing its charm. The main house is part of the old farmstead with a comfy lounge and fireplace, small library, bar and dining area. The friendly owners provide good home cooking and, during summer months, you can take meals on the verandah to appreciate the incredible views. Rooms are spacious and comfy with en suite facilities, solar water heaters and fans. The lodge itself is surrounded by lawns and has a swimming pool.



Elegant Desert Lodge, Sossusvlei

This stylish lodge is situated in the desert, on the border of the World Heritage site of the Namib Desert and just 38 km from the gate to Sesriem and Sossusvlei. It has 27 comfortable rooms, all en suite and air conditioned. The lodge has a bar, swimming pool, an African fire pit and Wi-Fi in the common areas. The lodge prides itself on its good food featuring Namibian specialities and its range of hand-picked South African wines.



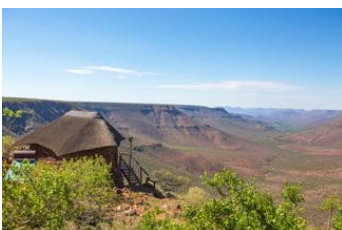
Swakopmund Sands Hotel, Swakopmund

This friendly modern hotel is situated on Swakopmund's 'Platinum mile', and has a lovely location just a few minutes' walk from the town centre and the jetty and is well situated for strolls along the beach. Rooms are comfortable with en suite bathrooms, heating and all amenities. The hotel has a bar and Wi-Fi Connection is available throughout the hotel.



Twyfelfontein Country Lodge

Situated in the heart of the Twyfelfontein Uibasen Conservancy, this lodge enjoys beautiful views of the Huab Valley. The lodge was built to minimise its visual impact on the local environment using thatched roofs, stone and natural paint colours to blend with the surrounding rock formations. It offers a lounge, curio shop and dining room which overlooks the surrounding rocky terrain, plus a bar and swimming pool.



Grootberg Lodge, Damaraland

The lodge, wholly owned by the conservancy and hosted by members of the rural community, has a stunning location and incredible views, being situated on the edge of the Etendeka Plateau with the views across the Klip River Valley. Accommodation is in attractive rock and thatch chalets, and there is a comfy lounge, a bar and a dining area. There is also a beautiful infinity swimming pool. The lodge is solar based so there are no electric outlets in the rooms but there is a charging station at reception and limited Wi-Fi in the main area. Staff at the lodge are all employed from the vicinity and the revenue generated benefits the local community.



Vingerklip Lodge, Damaraland

This lodge is located in the heart of Damaraland and close to the 35m high pillar of rock, the Vingerklip (Finger Rock), from which it derives its name. Accommodation is in thatched bungalows, and rooms have en suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, mosquito nets and an in-room safes. There are two restaurants, one at the lodge itself and another, the Eagles Nest, a 10 minute walk away and set on top of the plateau. The lodge also has two pools, good food and offers free Wi-Fi. There are three waterholes near the lodge with one being flood-lit at night.



Etosha Omusati Lodge

Located just a short distance from the eastern gates of Etosha Park gates the lodge is set among the Mapane trees that give it its name. It is a peaceful place with attractive views from its sundowner deck. The lodge features 20 twin, en suite, bush chalets and 10 spacious twin bungalows, all with air-conditioning, private patios, in-room safes, coffee stations, and complimentary toiletries. The lodge has a garden, restaurant, bar and a swimming pool and offers free Wi-Fi although connection may be limited.



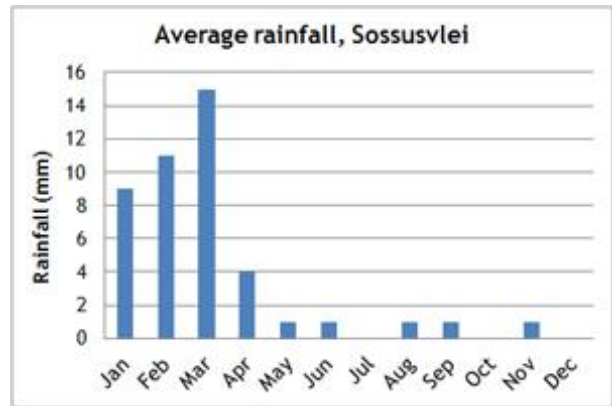
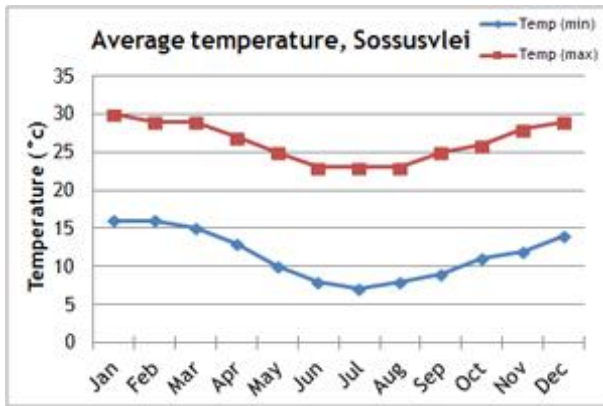
Okonjima Plains Camp, Central Highlands

Located on the Okonjima Private Reserve, nestled amongst the Omboroko Mountains, the camp is home to the Africat Foundation which aims to rescue and rehabilitate cheetah and leopard. Accommodation at Plains Camp is in generously-sized room with verandas, large bathrooms and fans. At the heart of the Okonjima Plains Camp is the Barn which acts as a hub and gathering place, with inside and outside dining areas, a roomy lounge and bar and swimming pool. There is also a terrace with views over a waterhole and the Okonjima plains, and particularly spectacular sunsets.

Meal arrangements

14 x breakfasts, 2 x lunches, 14 x dinners.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400.



Please ask us about extension options. Ideas include a 3-day flying safari to the north of Namibia, a 6-day Fish River Canyon Trek (April - September only) or even visiting neighbouring countries such as the Cape Peninsula of South Africa, Botswana or Victoria Falls.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- The ideal trip for first time visitors, this itinerary has been designed to include the must see highlights of Namibia and features easy walks and excellent wildlife viewing.
- Accommodation has been selected to have bags of character and comfort to enhance your holiday experience
- All breakfasts and dinners are included plus two lunches.
- Your holiday will be led by a professional local leader, passionate and knowledgeable about Namibia. They will be backed up where necessary by local guides and experts.
- Mountain Kingdoms staff member Jude Limburn Turner has travelled to Namibia. Please email jude@mountainkingdoms.com or call 01453 844400 to talk to her about this trip.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What we say



Namibia is just magnificent. The dramatic landscapes are wonderfully varied, the lodges excellent and you're given a warm welcome everywhere you go. I've been lucky enough to visit Namibia twice and I would return again in a heartbeat.

-Jude, Marketing Manager, Mountain Kingdoms

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

