



CEDARBERG AFRICA

Namibia Country Guide

The adventure starts here...

Table of Contents



01 | Page 4

Intro
Why we love it!

02 | Page 7

USPs
Top Reasons to Visit

03 | Page 9

Best Time to Visit
Off, Shoulder & Peak
Season

04 | Page 11

Destinations
Top Areas to Visit

05 | Page 23

How to Travel Around:
Guided, Self-Drive or Fly-in
& Sample Safaris

06 | Page 28

The Need to Know
Safari Budget Ranges
for Namibia



CEDARBERG AFRICA

A man and a woman are standing on a large, reddish-brown rock formation. They are positioned under a natural rock arch. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants, looking towards the right. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants, looking towards the left. The background shows a vast desert landscape with more rock formations and a bright sunset or sunrise on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is a mix of blue and white clouds.

NAMIBIA

More than just a safari destination...

vast deserts, dramatic coastlines, and wide-open spaces that feel almost empty

Namibia

Etosha • Skeleton Coast • Damaraland • Kalahari • Sossusvlei



Key Attributes

- Desert & Safari Destination
- Predators & desert-adapted wildlife (esp elephant & rhino)
- Fascinating cultural mix of Namibian/German influences
- Very low population density
- Amazing scenery
- One of only 2 possible Self-drive Destinations (South Africa is the other)

Useful Planning Tips

- **Peak Season:** July to Oct so book far in advance!
- **Allow enough time** as long distances so need a minimum of 11-12 nights, unless taking a fly-in safari
- Mostly Mid-range to Premier accommodation with a few Luxury lodges
- Ways of get around – fly-in safaris, privately guided driving safaris, self-drive or a mix to get best of all worlds

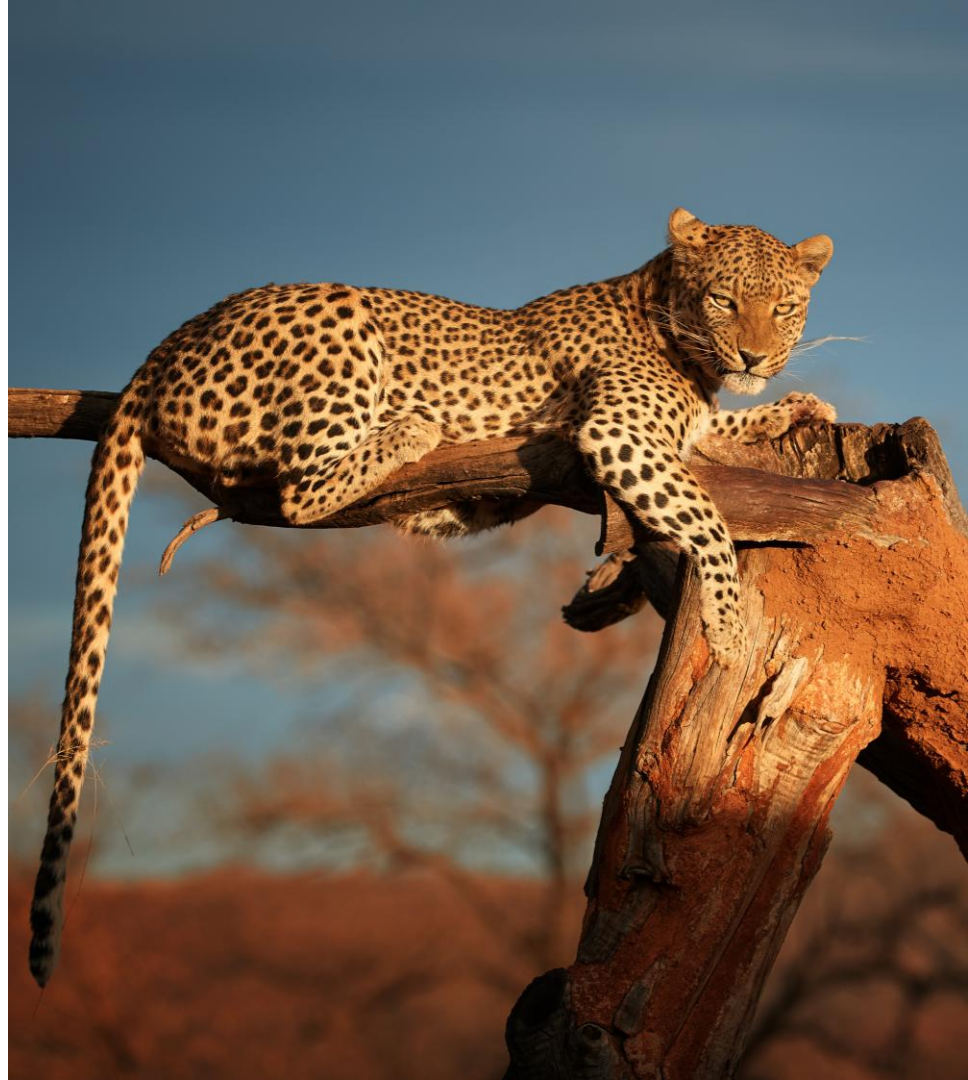


Namibia's USPs

The vast Etosha salt pan, the shimmering dunes of Sossusvlei and the Namib Desert and the Caprivi wetlands make Namibia an exhilarating safari destination.



CEDARBERG AFRICA



“

*Travel makes one modest.
You see what a tiny place you
occupy in the world*

Gustav Flaubert



CEDARBERG AFRICA

Top Reasons to Visit



Desert Destination

Unique blend of safari destination plus remarkable desert landscapes

Desert-adapted Game

Unique desert-adapted elephant, rhino, even lion in Damaraland/Skeleton Coast

Dunes of Sossusvlei

Some of the highest dunes in the world (can be climbed)

Curious Culture Mix

Herrero/Ovambo Culture & German colonial influences (architecture & food)

Safari in Etosha

Superb game-viewing in Etosha, especially in dry season (May to Oct)

Skeleton Coast-fly-in

Fly-in safaris to desolate but fascinating Skeleton Coast (& the Himba people)



CEDARBERG AFRICA

Varied Activities



Best Time To Visit



Best Time to Visit

Dec-March

Off Season:

Etosha & east of Namibia have rain

Game-viewing noticeably poorer

Need a 4x4 for roads

Photographers dream

Very hot but lowest prices

Fewer people!

April-June, Nov

Shoulder Season:

Start & end of the Dry season so good time to visit

Wildlife-viewing improves as dry season continues

April to June is less busy, but June nights are cold

Early Nov is hot but good game-viewing prior to rain

July-Oct

Peak Season:

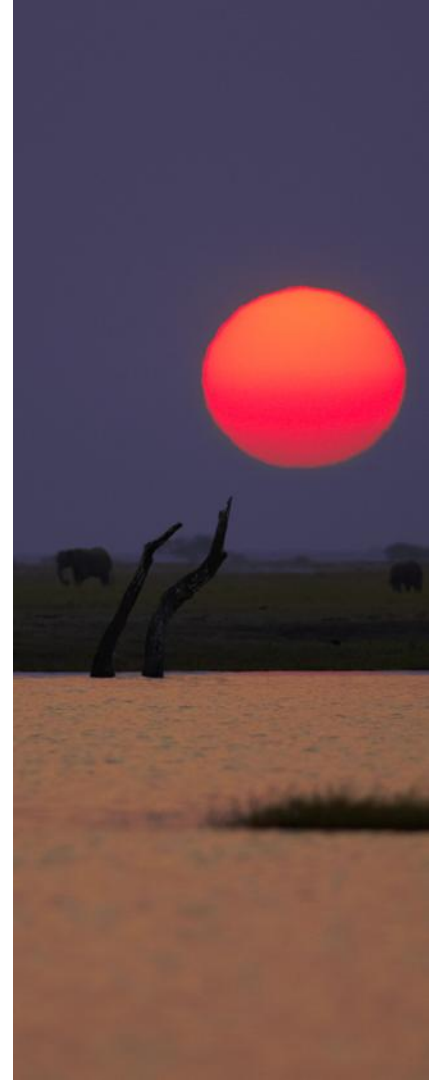
Best wildlife viewing

Less vegetation & so rivers are critical water sources

Pleasant daytime climate

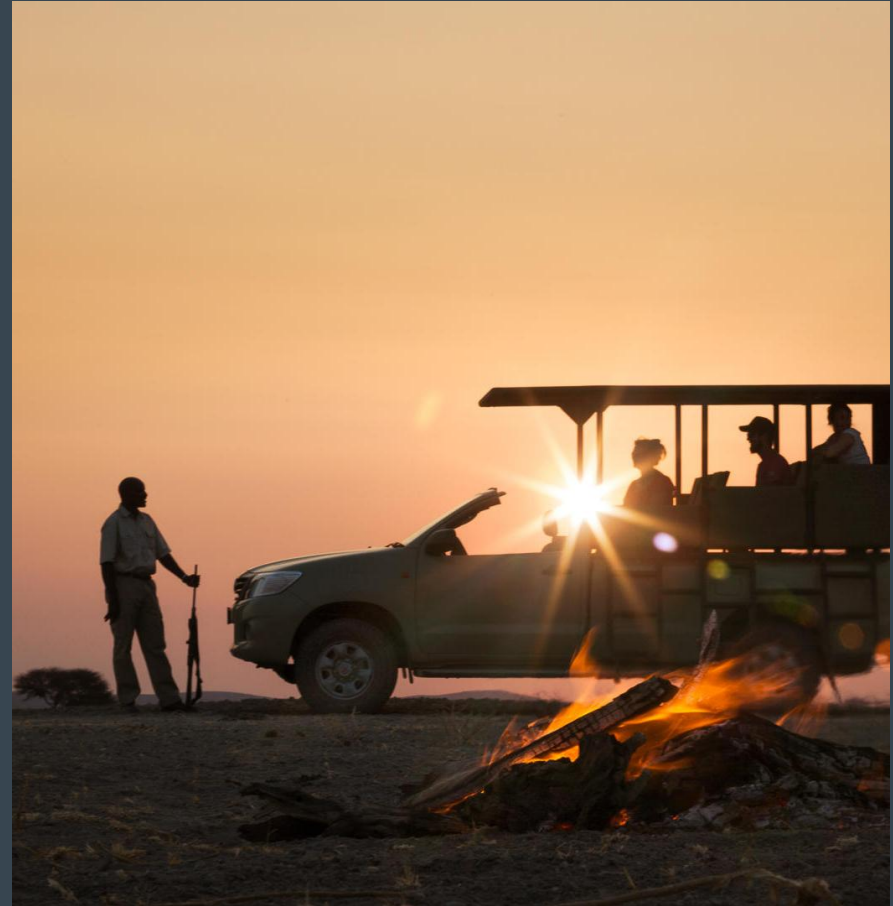
Higher prices from July – Oct

June & July nights cold



Destinations

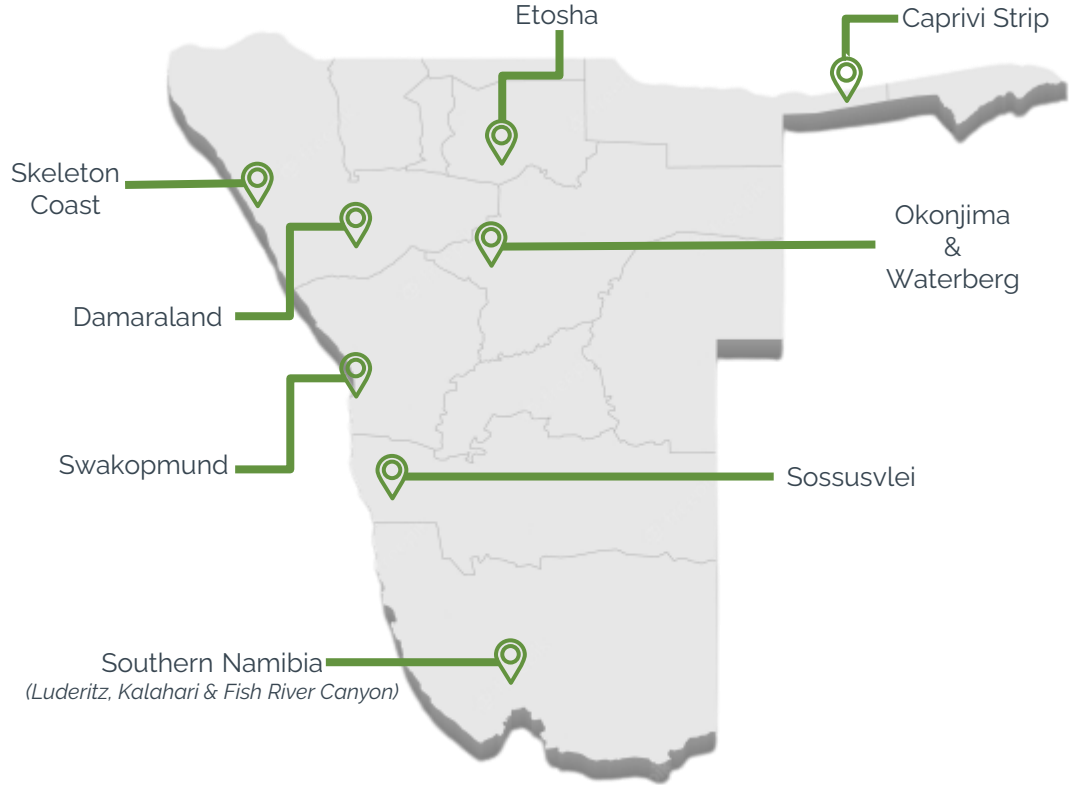
Etosha • Skeleton Coast • Damaraland
Kalahari • Sossusvlei & Namib



Key Parks of Namibia

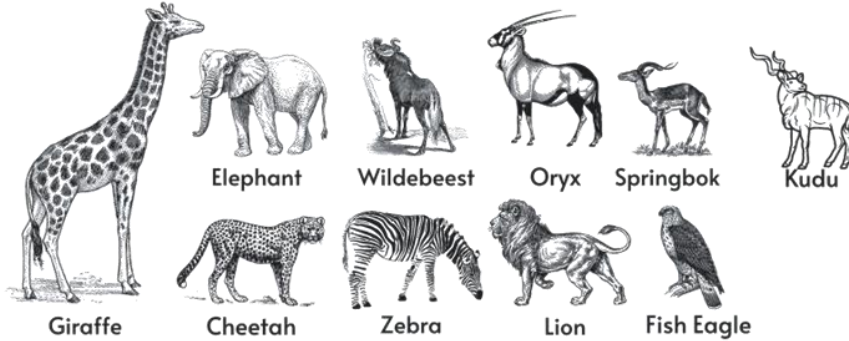
Usually mode is either self-drive,
privately guided or fly-in

- Etosha
- Damaraland
- Okonjima & Waterberg
- Swakopmund
- Sossusvlei
- Southern – Luderitz, Kalahari & Fish River Canyon
- Skeleton Coast
- Caprivi Strip

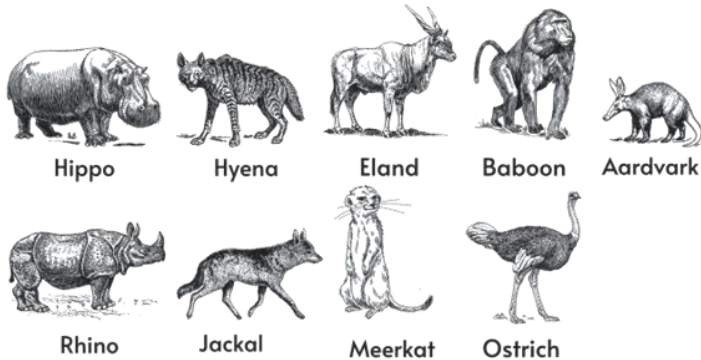


Animals you can expect to see in Namibia:

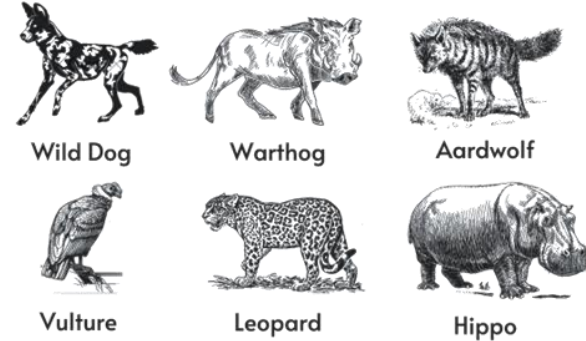
Common



Occasional



Rare



Very Rare





Etosha National Park

- Namibia's Premier wildlife reserve
- Scenic backdrop of salt-pans, pink with flamingos in the wet season
- Game lodges on Eastern & Southern sides, to suit wide range of budgets
- **Unique** - Huge variety of wildlife at the waterholes
- **Best time** - May to October. NOT ideal during the wet season (as elephant migrate north into the wetter areas – where no roads)



Damaraland

- Innate rugged mountainous beauty
- Desert-adapted wildlife (elephant, rhino)
- Twyfelfontein rock engravings
- Brandberg rock art
- Himba people: possible cultural interaction (but nomadic)
- **Unique:** tracking desert-adapted elephants
- **Tip:** If time, stay at 2 different Damaraland lodges for contrasting experience
- **Best time:** April through to November (Peak is July to Sept)

Skeleton Coast

- One of the most remote places on earth
- Predominantly fly-in safari destination
- Exclusive (& pricey) camps
- Desert-adapted wildlife in the South (elephants, rare lion sightings)
- Possibility of meeting nomadic Himba people (only if at Serra Cafema Camp)
- **Unique:** Landscapes, desert adapted wildlife
- **Best Time:** Slightly different from rest of Namibia





Swakopmund

Quirky coastal town offering excellent seafood, beach walks, plenty of excursions and adrenalin activities:

- Ocean marine trips (whale-watching)
- Living Landscape Desert excursion
- Kayaking amongst the seals in Walvis Bay
- Mesmerising Moon Valley
- Quad biking, scenic flights
- **Unique:** 4x4 dune trips to Sandwich Harbour & the Living Desert excursion
- **Tip:** Stay 3 nights if keen on doing plenty of excursions
- **Best Time:** year round, summer is less foggy

Great Excursions to add in Swakopmund



Living Landscape Tour

Fascinating desert excursion to uncover the living creatures of the desert

Ocean Yacht Cruise

Whale-watching in season (June to Nov)

Moon Valley

Spectacular rocky landscape

Kayaking with Seals

Kayaking on Walvis Lagoon amongst the seals

Sandwich Lagoon

4x4 desert dune excursion to Sandwich Lagoon with its flamingos

Quad Biking

1-2 hours quad biking in the dunes

Sossusvlei & NamibRand

To experience the high dunes of Sossusvlei at sunrise is one of the most mesmerising sights in Namibia, a 'must' on anyone's list...

- Dead Vlei is a mecca for photographers, especially at dawn
- Walking up Dune 45 or Big Daddy
- Sesriem Canyon
- NamibRand offers beautiful nature drives, quad biking, walking safaris
- **Unique:** Dead Vlei & its surrounding dunes
- **TIP:** If stay at NamibRand lodges, aim for 3 nights
- **Best Time:** Year round but very hot in summer





Southern Namibia

Several diverse attractions in Southern Namibia (need minimum 4-5 nights)

- Fish River canyon
- Ghost town of Kolmanskop
- Luderitz & feral horses of Aus
- Kalahari desert – nature drives, cheetah, bushmen culture
- Quivertree forest

Note: We often include 1-2 nights in the Kalahari after Sossusvlei en route back to Windhoek

Best Time: Year round but very hot in summer

Other Namibian Destinations



Central Highlands

- Breaks journey between Windhoek & Etosha
- Recommend Okonjima for 1-2 nights if budget allows or Otjiwa as alternative
- Cheetah conservation projects to visit
- Leopard tracking at Okonjima
- Great walking on offer in Omaruru area
- **TIP:** Good to add Okonjima when Etosha is less productive eg (Dec to March)
- **Best Time:** Year round (but note summer rains)

Caprivi Strip / Zambezi

- Only possibly for Self-drive or private road transfers ex Katima Mulilo, Kasane (Chobe) or Victoria Falls
- Combines well with Victoria Falls / Botswana
- Riverine landscapes similar to Botswana's Linyanti region
- Great for birding
- Several game reserves to visit
- **TIP:** Need extra 4-5 nights, plus Victoria Falls
- **Best Time:** April to October (eg not summer rainfall)



Namibia vs South Africa

– *Which suits you best?*



These destinations are often compared, as both combine safari with standout scenery. But they deliver very different experiences.

Choose Namibia if:

- You're drawn to dramatic landscapes and wide-open spaces
- You value atmosphere, scenery and sense of journey as much as wildlife
- You're happy with more seasonal game viewing in exchange for unique terrain
- You want something that feels quieter, more remote and very different

Choose South Africa if:

- This is your first safari and you want a gentle introduction
- Wildlife viewing is a top priority, especially the Big Five
- You like flexibility, variety, and a wide choice of safari lodges
- You want to easily combine safari with cities, winelands or beaches

In short: South Africa delivers variety, scenery and accessibility; Namibia delivers space, scenery and soul.

How to Travel & Sample Safaris

Privately Guided (or scheduled)

Self-drive

Fly-in safaris



CEDARBERG AFRICA





How to get Around Namibia

See per day costs later to see price implication



Self-Drive

- Freedom to choose your own route & what you want to see
- Adventurous & flexible
- But must love driving as long distances (ideally 2 drivers)
- Most affordable option (by some way)
- Recommend Mid-range SUV and 4x4 in rainy season

Privately Guided

- Benefits of a guide for their knowledge and driving
- Expensive for 2 people (close in price to fly-in) but more affordable for 4-6 people
- Some interesting scheduled tours also on offer (in Swakopmund)

Fly-in

- Most expensive option
- Best if short of time
- Key destinations now combined by FlyNamibia schedule
- Scenic flights, but may not get true sense of the country?
- Great to combine with some Self-drive or Private touring

TIP: Consider Mix & Match e.g. some flights, then self drive or guided touring...

Sample Namibia Itineraries – Road Trips

Inspiration for your journey - we design each safari as unique as you are



Namibia in Focus - private

10 Nights

- Explore the **towering dunes and salt pans of Sossusvlei** in Namib Desert
- Discover **Swakopmund**, with optional desert and 4x4 excursions
- Journey into **Damaraland's dramatic landscapes**, home to desert-adapted elephant, rhino, and unique geology
- Enjoy superb game viewing in **Etosha National Park**, where multiple species gather at waterholes
- Privately guided tour with mid-range or luxury options available
- 5-night **southern extension**: Kalahari, Fish River Canyon & Luderitz

Ultimate Namibia - Scheduled

9 Nights

- Scheduled small group departures with set dates in 2026 and 2027
- Visits the highlights of **Sossusvlei, Swakopmund, Twyfelfontein** in **Damaraland and Etosha Heights**
- Sea Kayak with seals and dolphins on the Skeleton Coast (alternative option: Catamaran Marine Excursion).
- Track **desert-adapted elephants** in ephemeral river systems
- Typically departs on Tuesdays or Saturdays
- Group size ensures a personalised, yet sociable experience

Namibia to Go - Transferred

10 to 12 nights

- No self-driving required as seamless lodge-to-lodge transfers
- Explore **Sossusvlei's** iconic dunes with a guided 4x4 excursion
- Coastal interlude in **Swakopmund** with optional touring
- Game viewing in Etosha National Park
- Balanced blend of structure (set transfer times & lodges) and flexibility (choose alternative excursions/activities as you prefer)

Sample Namibia Itineraries – Self Drive

Inspiration for your journey - we design each safari as unique as you are



Namibian Adventure

14 Nights

- **Luxury self-drive** - for independence and flexibility - to the highlights of **Etosha, Damaraland, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei & the Kalahari**
- Including several guided excursions: leopard tracking & guided game drives at Okonjima, nature drive for desert-adapted elephant in Damaraland & a guided Sossusvlei dunes excursion
- Mix of Premier & Luxury lodges

Namibia Discovery

12 to 16 Nights

- Affordable self-drive safari ideal for first-time visitors
- Covers the highlights of **Etosha, Damaraland, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei & the Kalahari**
- Optional southern extension to Luderitz & Fish River Canyon (16 nights)
- Stay in characterful mid-range lodges and guesthouses
- Easy to tailor with extra nights or stops (e.g. Okonjima Wildlife Reserve)

Namibia Explorer to Victoria Falls

18 to 20 nights

- Adventurous self-drive from the dunes of **Sossusvlei** to the waterways of the **Caprivi**
- Explore **Etosha's** prolific wildlife across contrasting regions
- Experience river safaris and boat cruises in the Caprivi strip
- Conclude at the awe-inspiring **Victoria Falls**
- Option to enhance with upgraded lodges, or a **2-night Chobe extension**

Sample Namibia Itineraries – Fly-in Safaris

Inspiration for your journey - we design each safari as unique as you are



Namibia in a Nutshell

10 Nights

- **Fly Namibia seat-in-charters** link the country's major highlights quickly and efficiently
- Visit **Sossusvlei dunes, Swakopmund coast, Damaraland's desert wildlife, and Etosha National Park**
- Option to add more time in **Etosha**, including both central and eastern regions, for diverse safari viewing
- Mix-and-match lodges: choose between Premier, or Luxury camps

Best of Namibia

6 nights

- **Fly-in safari** linking Namibia's highlights: with 2 nights each at **Sossusvlei, Damaraland & Etosha**
- Scenic flights over Namibia's vast deserts and striking coastlines
- Fully inclusive stays at hand-picked **Classic or Premier** camps
- Option to add nights, or even **2-3 night Skeleton Coast extension**
- Ideal for those with limited time, can combine with South Africa or Namibia

Namibia Fly-in With Skeleton Coast

12 (to 14) nights

- Fly between Namibia's iconic regions for seamless access
- Three nights immersed in the dunes and dark skies of the **NamibRand Nature Reserve**
- Coastal stay at **Swakopmund**
- Explore ancient rock art in Damaraland
- Experience two contrasting **Skeleton Coast camps**
- Scenic 4x4 desert transfer through the **Hoanib Valley**
- Optional 2-3 night safari to Etosha

Need to Know

Types of Accommodation
Safari Costs



Typical per Night Costs in Namibia (per person sharing)

	Moderate	Premier	Mix of Premier/Luxury – or to remote areas
Self-Drive Itineraries	\$250 - \$325	\$350 - \$475	\$500 - \$750
Privately Guided (4 pax)	\$375 - \$450 <i>Transfers/not guided</i>	\$475 - \$625	\$650 - \$1050
Privately Guide (2 pax)/ Off-Season Fly-in/ Incl Chobe	<i>Not Applicable</i>	\$675 - \$975	\$850 - \$1 400
Fly-in Safaris	<i>Not Applicable</i>	\$800 - \$1 050	\$1 150 - \$1 800

Note: This per night price includes Accommodation & meals as per itinerary, car rental if self-drive, private guide with entrances or charter flights if fly-in safari, plus park fees, safari activities as mentioned in Itinerary



CEDARBERG AFRICA

General Info



Population

3.2 million

Capital

Windhoek

Safari Season

April to October/Early
Nov (Peak is July to Sept)

Population Density

Only 4 people per sq
km (USA is 38, UK is
290!)

Getting there

Via Johannesburg (or Frankfurt).
Also connecting flights from Cape
Town to Windhoek & Walvis Bay

Official Language

English – though only 3% speak
it as their home language!



CEDARBERG AFRICA



Useful Namibia Articles

- [Our Top 10 Lodges in Namibia](#)
- [Namibia Family Safaris](#) – adventurous & off beat
- [Adventurous Self-drive Routes in South Africa & Namibia](#)
- [Relief from Drought – rhino tracking in Damaraland](#)

We can't wait to welcome you!

This guide was created by Cedarberg Africa, safari operator for Southern & East Africa. We'll design an individual safari just for you so that you get the safari you've always dreamed of. But without wasting hours of precious time navigating the endless possibilities.

If you're looking for an authentic and magical safari experience to share with loved ones, Cedarberg Africa can help you.

Have questions? Schedule a time to chat or email us at:

Africa Office - kate@cedarberg-travel.com or +27 27 482 2444

UK Office - info@cedarberg-travel.com or +44 20 8898 8533

Web - www.cedarberg-travel.com



“

*Spectacular By Nature,
Personal By Design*

Cedarberg Africa – your specialist safari operator