



NAMIBIA

SOUTHWEST AFRICA

BOOK BY DEC 20
SAVE \$300 PP



SMALL GROUP
MAY 22-JUN 7, 2025 | 17 DAYS | 35 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: DEBORAH HART

Gazelle in Sossusvlei, Namibia

Journey with us into a land untouched by time. Namibia stands as one of Africa's last refuges of the Bushman, a realm of grand vistas, stunning scenery, and sparse human population. Here, the dominance of nature becomes apparent, reducing humanity to mere observers of its grandeur. Formerly known as South West Africa, Namibia carries echoes of its German colonial past, evident in its cities and villages. Yet, it is in the untamed wilderness where Namibia truly shines. Namibia's landscape is a study in contrasts and harsh realities, where deserts meet seas and Bushmen traverse the unforgiving Kalahari. Endless sand seas stretch toward the horizon, punctuated by dunes soaring a thousand feet into cerulean skies. Ancient trees, resembling mere shrubs, tenaciously cling to life amidst the desert's harshness. In the interior, vast salt pans come alive during the brief wet season, drawing wildlife in search of sustenance. This is nature in its rawest form – both magnificent and unforgiving.

Join us on this extraordinary small group adventure. Secure your spot by enrolling before December 20, 2024, and save \$300 per person!

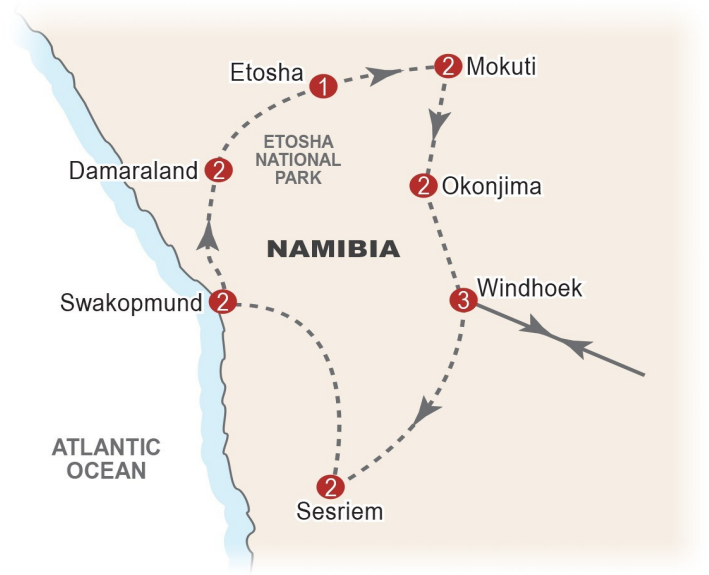
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE LIMITED TO ONLY 24 MEMBERS

Inclusive Features

- Return economy airfare from Canadian cities listed
- First class hotels and lodges as indicated or similar
- Extensive sightseeing throughout, including all admissions plus five game drives
- 35 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 9 lunches, D - 12 dinners)
- Services of our Canadian journey leader plus a professional local guide
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

Deborah Hart has been a minister with the United Church of Canada for over 30 years. She believes that travel enriches lives by broadening horizons, breaking down barriers, promoting understanding, and building community. As a Craig Journey Leader, Deborah has led tours to South Africa, Iceland, Norway, Germany & Oberammergau, Tuscany, and Ireland. Her extensive travels on ecumenical and interfaith study tours have allowed her to learn about various cultures, histories, faiths, and lives around the world, taking her to countries in the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, India, Nepal, South America, East Africa, and parts of Europe. The more Deborah travels, the more she is amazed by the wonders of our planet and its inhabitants. She looks forward to traveling with you to Namibia.



Highlights

- Discover the rich cultural heritage of Swakopmund
- Meet Bushmen in the Kalahari Desert
- Experience the vastness of the Namib Desert
- Visit the lonely coasts of Namibia from Walvis Bay up towards the desolate Skeleton Coast
- Explore the prehistoric rock paintings and engravings at Twyfelfontein and Damaraland
- Encounter the captivating wildlife of Etosha National Park on thrilling game drives
- Marvel at the dramatic landscapes of the Erongo region, characterized by colourful volcanic formations

May 22, Thursday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members from across Canada fly overnight to Africa.

May 23, Friday

ADDIS ABBA / WINDHOEK

We arrive in Windhoek, the capital and largest city of Namibia. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our deluxe hotel, conveniently located in the city center. Windhoek, nestled in a basin within the central highlands, is a vibrant yet small city with excellent shopping and historic sites just minutes away. Tonight, enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Windhoek Hilton (2 nights)

D

May 24, Saturday

WINDHOEK

This morning, we will enjoy a city tour, including a visit to the National Museum of Namibia in Alte Feste. After a free afternoon for independent exploration and shopping, we will reconvene for our welcome dinner.

BD

May 25, Sunday

SESRIEM / SOSSUSVLEI

Travel across Southern Namibia, a vast, arid region with landscapes ranging from the desolate Namib in the west to the rolling Kalahari dunes in the east. Despite its starkness, this enchanting terrain, with its fascinating geological features, will captivate us. Upon arriving in Sesriem, we will witness the beginnings of the vast sand sea of the Namib Desert, with dunes rising a thousand feet and the sands of Sossusvlei stretching over 50 km to the sea. Depart from our lodge in the late afternoon on a leisurely drive on the lodge's private reserve. Watch the shadows lengthen as your guide takes you out to a panoramic location where sundowner drinks will be served as you relax and watch

the spectacular sunset. The inner tranquility that a desert sunset imparts while you sit amongst nature is really something special. We will spend the next two nights at our exceptional half-tented lodge.

Soussusvlei Lodge (2 nights)

BLD

May 26, Monday SOSSUSVLEI SAND DUNES

After breakfast, we depart in 4x4 vehicles, navigating the inhospitable terrain of the dune sea along a gravel road flanked by spectacular sand dunes. Witness the dunes' colour transformation as the sun rises. Explore the vlei, a greyish-white clay pan surrounded by towering orange sand dunes. On our return to the hotel, we'll visit Sesriem Canyon, where the Tsauchab River has exposed millions of years of geological history. Optional scenic flights over the Namib Desert can be arranged at an extra cost. BLD



Namibia wildlife is stunning! Photo credit Jon Gurr

May 27, Tuesday SWAKOPMUND

Travel via the Kuiseb Canyon, a wild landscape crisscrossed by a maze of dry riverbeds, to the coast where the desert meets the ocean. Visit Swakopmund, known for its distinctive German colonial atmosphere. Discover the city's charms and German heritage through its historic buildings from the early 1900s, including the Swakopmund railway station (1901) and Hohenzollernhaus (1906) with its high mansard roof, elaborate mouldings, and statue of Atlas. **The Hansa Hotel** (2 nights) BL



Namibian Bushmen

May 28, Wednesday WALVIS BAY

A short scenic drive will bring us to Walvis Bay, nestled on a sheltered lagoon between the Atlantic Ocean and the golden-yellow dunes of the Namib. From the waterfront, embark on a marine cruise through the harbour and lagoon, with possible sightings of dolphins, seals, whales, sunfish, and abundant birdlife. After disembarking at the Lighthouse Jetty, board 4x4 vehicles for a beach and dune adventure to Sandwich Harbour, including a picnic lunch in the dunes (weather permitting). We return to our hotel in the late afternoon. Tonight, consider enjoying some local seafood. BL

May 29, Thursday DAMARALAND

Learn more about the Namib as we follow the fascinating Welwitschia Drive, discovering its geology, lichens, and unique plants. View the 'moon landscape' before travelling north towards the desolate Skeleton Coast, known for its treacherous foggy shores that have claimed many ships. Heading inland, traverse the Erongo region, characterized by colourful volcanic landscapes, ancient rock art, and unusual geological phenomena. Visit the Damara Living Museum to experience traditional Damara culture, a unique form that exists nowhere else in Namibia or the world.

Twyfelfontein Lodge (2 nights)

BLD



Sossusvlei sand dunes

May 30, Friday DAMARALAND

This morning, explore some of Africa's finest prehistoric rock art at Twyfelfontein, featuring paintings and engravings dating back 5,000 years. This treasure trove, left by Stone Age artists, is one of the richest collections in Africa. Our journey through this stunning landscape includes opportunities to stretch our legs, examine interesting stones, plants, bugs, and other creatures, and photograph the amazing scenery. Visit the Organ Pipes, a mass of basalt slabs in a ravine carved by a river; Burnt Mountain, a small inselberg and national monument since 1956; and the Petrified Forest, with enormous fossilized tree trunks and welwitschia plants, reputed to live over 1,000 years. This afternoon, we'll search for desert elephant herds on an Aba-Huab River safari. BD



Zebra's grazing in Etosha Park, Namibia

May 31, Saturday**KAMANJAB / ETOSHA**

Today, our drive takes us into the heart of northern Namibia, where we will encounter fascinating rock formations, vibrant colours, and unique plants, birds, and other wildlife. Our guide will bring to life the natural and human history of this remote and otherworldly region. A highlight of the day is a visit to a Himba village, where we will observe the semi-nomadic lifestyle of this local tribe and see how they maintain their traditions in such a harsh environment. **Etosha Safari Lodge** (1 night) BLD

June 1, Sunday**ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

Discover the best Namibian game viewing in Etosha National Park, known as "the great white place of dry water." The Etosha Pan is a vast depression where water gathers and evaporates, creating salty plains that attract zebra, springbok, blue wildebeest, and their predators. Large game abounds, and the sky is ablaze with birds. We will spend the day driving through the park, stopping at rest camps to enjoy the wildlife. Our destination is a lodge with comfortable rooms, two pools, a spa, tennis courts, and a games room. **Mokuti Game Lodge** (2 nights) BD

June 2, Monday**ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

Today, enjoy an early morning game drive in specially designed 4x4 open vehicles into Etosha National Park to search for wildlife. During the heat of the day, relax at the lodge, where you can enjoy the pool or take a walk in the private reserve. Late this afternoon, set out once again into the park in 4x4 safari vehicles to seek out both wildlife and birdlife. BD

June 3, Tuesday**ETOSHA PARK / OKONJIMA RESERVE**

We journey to the picturesque private reserve south of Otjiwarongo, spanning 16,000 hectares and serving as the home of the Africat Foundation. Dedicated to conserving and protecting threatened cheetahs, leopards, and other wild carnivores of Namibia, the reserve boasts a substantial population of these majestic cats in their natural habitat. Later this afternoon, we'll embark on a 4x4 game drive, utilizing radio tracking to locate leopards and other big cats. **Okonjima Plains Camp** (2 nights) BLD

June 4, Wednesday**OKONJIMA PRIVATE RESERVE**

Enjoy a full day in the reserve with morning and evening excursions. In the morning, we'll visit the Africat Carnivore Care Centre, where various big cats are treated and rehabilitated for reintroduction into the wild. Later this evening, at the nocturnal hide, we may observe nocturnal wildlife such as porcupines, honey badgers, caracals, and more. BLD

June 5, Thursday**CENTRAL NAMIBIA / WINDHOEK**

On our way to Windhoek, we'll make a stop in Okahandja, renowned for its vast outdoor woodcarvers market. Arriving in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, in the early afternoon, you'll have the remainder of the day to explore at your leisure. Our resort hotel boasts a picturesque setting surrounded by a golf course, spacious gardens, and an inviting outdoor swimming pool.

Windhoek Country Club (1 night) BLD

June 6, Friday**WINDHOEK / HOME**

As our adventure comes to an end, we transfer to the airport to catch our return flights to Canada. B

June 7, Saturday**ARRIVE CANADA**

We arrive in Canada and transfer to our home cities, as we bid farewell to our fellow travellers, carrying with us cherished memories of our Namibian odyssey.



Book by December 20, 2024

and save \$300 per person



CT RATING 3 - Moderately Challenging: This tour features some long travel days into remote parts of the country over rough and/or dusty roads with limited facilities. Visits may include some bush walks over uneven ground. Temperatures will vary from warm days to cool nights. Members should be fit and physically active to fully enjoy this tour.

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land only* (Join/Leave at hotel)	\$8,595
Toronto	\$10,795
Montreal / Ottawa	\$10,945
Halifax / St. John's / Moncton / Winnipeg	\$11,045
Regina / Saskatoon / Victoria	\$11,145
Calgary / Edmonton	\$11,095
Vancouver	\$11,095
Single Supplement	\$1,845

*Land-only price is based on joining and leaving at the hotels in Windhoek, and excludes flights and airport transfers.

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are estimated, subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Tour price is based on sharing a twin room at hotels and on a minimum of 20 members, based on rates, taxes and fees effective May 2024 and is subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted from Canada with a minimum of 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due on February 18, 2025

Deposit is \$800 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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