

Untamed and unforgettable best 11 nights, 12 days of your life!

# HIKING/CAMPING/LODGING NORTHWEST NAMIBIA The AREA, the WILDLIFE, the PEOPLE, the WEATHER

- Location and Terrain: Northwest Namibia offers a diverse range of hiking and camping opportunities, from the rugged landscapes of the Kunene Region to the iconic red dunes of the Namib Desert. The region is known for its stark beauty, unique flora and fauna, and remote wilderness areas that provide a challenging yet rewarding hiking experience.
- Kaokoland: This remote region is home to traditional Himba communities and stunning desert landscapes, making it a fascinating destination off the beaten path, for adventure seekers.
- Brandberg Mountain: As an international heritage site and the highest mountain in Namibia, Brandberg offers challenging hikes with ancient rock art sites and breathtaking views.
- Wildlife Encounters: Hiking and camping in Northwest Namibia may also bring encounters with unique wildlife species such as desert-adapted elephants, oryx, springbok, and various bird species. If we are lucky, we might even spot some of the last free desert-adapted Black Rhinos in their natural habitat.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Respect for local communities and their customs is vital when hiking in northwest Namibia. Many areas are inhabited by indigenous groups with rich cultural traditions, so it's important to be mindful of their way of life and seek permission when entering certain areas.
- Weather Conditions: The weather in Northwest Namibia can be extreme, with hot days and cold nights depending on the season. It's crucial to check weather forecasts before embarking on a hike and pack appropriate clothing layers to stay comfortable throughout your journey.



12 Days, 11 Nights

- Hiking
- Camping
  - Lodge





#### ITINIRARY

Day 1: Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek) pick up, drive to Okonjima

Day 2: Palmwag Lodge

Day 3 & 4: Palmwag Concession & Kai-ais area

Day 4 & 5: Hoanib & Mudurib Rivers

Day 6 & 7: Khumib River Valley & Granite Rock Garden

Day 8: Girebes Plains

Day 9 & 10: Forgotten Valley

Day 11: Okakuejo (Etosha)

Day 12: Fly out or Windhoek (Depending on flights)

#### WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS TOUR?

Northwest Namibia offers a diverse range of hiking and camping opportunities, from the rugged landscapes of the Kunene Region to the iconic red dunes of the Namib Desert. The region is known for its stark beauty, unique flora and fauna, and remote wilderness areas that provide a fascinating experience. It is home to traditional Himba communities, making it a fascinating destination off the beaten path for adventure seekers.

#### INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Experienced guide who knows the area very well Accommodation: Camp sites and lodges

Meals, including drinking water in the vehicle,

Vehicle (vehicle costs and fuel)

Park fees

Airport meet and drop-off

#### ALL YOU NEED EXTRA

International flights

Personal travel insurance and visas

Gratuities



## Okonjima

Sandstone Mountains, Acacia thornveld

- ✓ Omboroko Mountains
- ✓ Good wildlife, especially leopard, brown hyaena and pangolin
- ✓ AfriCat Foundation
- Excellent lodge facilities
- ✓ Lovely walking trails

The Okonjima Nature Reserve sprawls over 200 square kilometres of undulating plains, mountainous outcrops, and riverine thickets, and it is here that leopards (Panthera pardus), the most adaptable of all the wild cats, thrive. The Okonjima Nature Reserve, a huge, protected area set amongst the rugged commercial farmlands of central Namibia, comprises a diversified ecosystem representative of both the larger and smaller mammals of Namibia, as well as most of the country's endemic birds.

Game drives and guided bush walks offer visitors an intimate, up-close perspective of Namibia's wildlife and, especially, its most protected species.

The Okonjima Nature Reserve is home to and runs extensive research projects on rare and endangered species, big and small.

https://okonjima.com

### Palmwag

Semi Desert interspersed with small dry riverbeds & Mopane trees, basalt mountains & hills

- ✓ Northern Damaraland Etendeka Mountain range
- ✓ Last free ranging black rhino in the world
- Iracking on foot
- ✓ Local game guards contribute to conservation

In the Etendeka Basalt mountains, finding Black Rhinos amidst hundreds of thousands of acres is no easy task; however, despite what often feels like searching for a needle in a haystack, success can be achieved with the help of local trackers (Community Game Guards). These are the last free-ranging black rhinos living outside of national parks in the whole world. The tireless work of NGO's like Save the Rhino Trust affords us the rare privilege of having a chance to see these endangered animals in an inhospitable environment. Armed with local wisdom and insights from the trackers, we will attempt to find these mostly solitary animals. Other game in the area include Oryx, Springbok, and Hartmans Mountain Zebra.

<u>https://store.gondwana-</u> collection.com/accommodation/palmwag-lodge









## Hoanib/Mudurib Rivers

Ephemeral Rivers of Namibia

- ✓ Good birdlife
- ✓ Desert Adapted Elephants
- ✓ Lovely walking trails

In Namibia, there are rivers known as ephemeral or episodic rivers that flow only after rain. These dry rivers are a significant feature of the landscape, especially in the arid regions of the country. The Hoanib River is an ephemeral river that flows through the parched Namib Desert all the way to the Skeleton Coast before emptying out into the Atlantic Ocean. The river only flows periodically during the rainy season. When it's born, it gathers strength, shaping and invigorating the landscape and all that it touches.

https://youtu.be/K7k2Ocd3FBM

#### Khumib River / Granite Rock Garden

Ephemeral Rivers of Namibia

- ✓ Near-endemic birdlife
- Lovely walking trails

The Khumib River is a seasonal river located in the Kunene Region of northwestern Namibia. It flows through the beautiful and remote Kaokoland area, known for its stunning landscapes and unique wildlife.



https://youtu.be/K7k2Ocd3FBM



#### Girebes Plains

Unbelievably Special Landscapes

- Good birdlife
- Herero/Himba villages
- Lovely walking trails

The Girebes Plains in Namibia is a vast and remote area known for its stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, and unique geological formations. This area is part of the Namib-Naukluft National Park and offers visitors the chance to experience the beauty of the Namib Desert up close.

## Forgotten Valley

As the word say, this valley is forgotten and special beyond words

- ✓ Good birdlife
- ✓ Many bushman Rock Art sights in the area
- Bushman village
- Lovely walking trails

Forgotten Valley is a route covering seven conservancies where tourists can experience a variety of flora and fauna as well as several natural springs. Our team members were joined by members of the Otuzemba Conservancy, and along the route, we consult various community members.

Development opportunities include the continued clearing of vehicle tracks with community members, tourist information signs along the routes (including historical, cultural, geographical, and ecological features), and the construction of eco-friendly hides to observe elephants and other wildlife. The overall aim of the route is to develop nature-based ecotourism, which gives communities access to tourism benefits, providing them incentives to conserve wildlife and other natural resources.





## Okaukuejo Camp

Etosha National Park

Premium game viewing in Etosha National Park

Famous for its floodlit waterhole Okaukuejo Rest Camp is also the administrative centre of Etosha. Most visitors travel though this camp with its characteristic stone tower and Etosha Ecological Institute is also situated within the camp.

The rest camp was formerly a military outpost founded in 1901 and the tower was added in 1963. Located in the south of Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo is only 17 km from Anderson Gate. Okaukuejo offers a wide range of accommodation as well as all the necessities such as a petrol station and a shop. The restaurant and bar offer refreshments and delicious meals, while the swimming pool offers relief on hot days. The waterhole is a hub of animal activity starting in the early hours of the morning. Especially during winter diversity of game congregate near the camp to quench their thirst.

After sunset floodlights illuminate the waterhole. This is the best time and place to see the endangered black rhino. This archaic mammal can often be seen drinking alongside lion and elephant. The number and interaction of the animals is the major drawcard of Okaukuejo Rest Camp in Namibia.

https://www.etoshanationalpark.org/

Paul Liechti is the founder and owner of Untamed Safaris Namibia, a tour company specialising in guided tours, camping expeditions, hiking adventures, birdwatching excursions, and self-drive tours to Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, and Angola.

With Paul's leadership, Untamed Safaris provides unique experiences in some of Africa's most spectacular wilderness areas.

Paul's experience and passion for the region's natural beauty and his commitment to sustainable tourism ensure that travelers embarking on a tour with him and/or his team, will not only have unforgettable adventures but also contribute positively to local communities and conservation efforts.

Whether clients are seeking unique wildlife, breath-taking landscapes, or a more active adventure like camping and hiking in unique areas, they will be provided with expert guidance and unparalleled service, creating memories to last a lifetime.

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