

Namibia: Giraffe Conservation Safari

WORLD-EXCLUSIVE SAFARI WITH GPS TAGGING OF GIRAFFES



Wilderness Travel



Namibia: Giraffe Conservation Safari

TRIP DATES

2024

July 30-August 11, 2024

2025

July 30-August 11, 2025

Join field conservationists and vets from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and work alongside them for the thrilling experience of tracking and attaching GPS tags to giraffes in the wild—be prepared to be awed! We have two tagging days with the GCF staff and pioneering conservation scientist Dr. Julian Fennessy for an adventure in a unique country that is one of Africa's greatest wildlife conservation stories. Encounters with the giraffe will be unforgettable, but we'll also radio-track leopard at famed AfriCat, track desert-dwelling black rhino with rangers at the Save the Rhino Trust, and meet the nomadic Himba people of the remote Kaokoveld.

Itinerary

DAY 1

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Welcome to Namibia! Prepare to have your perceptions of Southern Africa delightfully shifted in the capital city of this vast land where Africa and Europe blend into a fascinating hybrid. You'll be met at Hosea Kutako Airport and transferred to charming Galton House, a delightful boutique hotel, an oasis in the city with wonderful decor and great cuisine. Tonight, we'll meet our Trip Leader for a comprehensive briefing and Welcome Dinner. Overnight at Galton House...D

DAY 2

OKONJIMA / AFRICAT FOUNDATION / TRACKING LEOPARDS

Today we leave Windhoek and head to Okonjima Bush Camp. Three hours north of Windhoek, the camp sits at the base of the dusty and ancient Omboroko Mountains and is the home of the AfriCat Foundation, a research and education center. AfriCat formerly ran one of the largest leopard rescue and release programs in the world, rescuing more than a thousand of these predators over the last 18 years, and now focuses on inter- and intraspecific relationships between different carnivore species in an enclosed conservation area.

Although your accommodations here are sited in a wilderness area, don't expect a bush camp with primitive lodgings. Our camp's nine thatched African chalets are rustic yet beautifully designed dwellings. Each chalet enjoys complete privacy and is a unique combination of earthy ochre walls, glass windows, and khaki-green canvas under a thatch. In the open-air lapa (thatched dining area), you will enjoy meals and stories with Jason and your fellow guests, and learn about the work of the AfriCat Foundation. You can take advantage of a nearby hide and guided walking trails that offer the chance to see the abundant wildlife that includes some 300 species of birds that have been identified here. You may even hear the roars of the three resident lions, Matata, Tambo, and Tessie, who were born in captivity and rescued by AfriCat.

In the afternoon, we head out for Namibia-style adventure, radio-tracking leopards by 4WD vehicle. Make sure you keep your camera close, because



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	13 days
Arrive:	Windhoek, Namibia
Depart:	Windhoek, Namibia
Lodging:	9 nights hotels, lodges, and camps, 3 nights mobile camp
Meals:	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Safaris, Wildlife and Natural History
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 4WD game viewing, bush walks

HIGHLIGHTS

- Just 6 participants—and led by Jason Nott, one of Namibia's most respected safari guides
- Hands-on participation in GPS tagging of giraffe with Dr. Julian Fennessy—an incredible experience!
- Track leopard at AfriCat, track endangered rhino in Damaraland with the Save the Rhino Trust
- Stay in gorgeous game lodges and wonderfully remote camps



Itinerary (cont'd)



thanks to our expert guides and radio collars on the area's leopards, you'll have an excellent opportunity to see these elusive big cats up close. The leopards in this area of the reserve are wild and live in the open bush, but due to their habituation to humans at the time of their rehabilitation, tend to let us get remarkably close to them, for absolutely incredible experiences—and photographs. In the evening, you may be able to observe wildlife from the night hide—the sound of Namibian porcupine's quills clacking is unforgettable, and the elusive honey badger sometimes makes an appearance. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp...BLD

DAY 3

OKONJIMA / AFRICAT FOUNDATION

Cooler early mornings in Okonjima are perfect for exploring and that's how we'll begin our day. We'll head out by open vehicle, a blanket over our laps to keep us warm. Our game drive allows us more time to enjoy and understand the reserve as a natural, typical ecosystem within Central Namibia. As the reserve was established primarily to conserve big cats, it provides an increased chance to encounter these elusive animals. There are more than 40 mammal species within Okonjima, both large and small, including the rarely seen Cape fox as well as a good representation of the typical flora. The experience is absolutely unforgettable; we may pass giraffe browsing on the tree tops, and will feel every shift of the light morning wind as we make our way through the bush. After returning to camp for a sumptuous breakfast/brunch and the chance to share your images with friends and family using the camp's Wi-Fi, the rest of the morning is yours. Take a dip in the swimming pool overlooking a watering hole, or relax in the luxurious reception area or on your veranda and enjoy the stunning scenery unfolding around you. In the afternoon, we head out on



yet another informative activity to learn more about the AfriCat foundation and the vital role it plays within the reserve. AfriCat has dedicated its resources to extensive and lengthy research studies on the effects of habitat fragmentation, with an emphasis not only on critically endangered species such as leopard, rhino, and pangolin, but also on under-researched species such as brown hyena, porcupine, armadillo, and honey badger. Through their environmental education and awareness program, AfriCat strives to share their findings to academics around the world, and pass on their insights to the next generation. Overnight at Okonjima Bush Camp...BLD

DAY 4

DAMARALAND //HUAB CONSERVANCY //HUAB UNDER CANVAS

Our journey brings us to the northwest as we drive through the market town of Outjo in our custom Toyota Land Cruisers before heading due west toward our camp in the heart of Damaraland. A place of incorruptible beauty, Damaraland is a photographer's nirvana—a dizzying array of geologic formations and magnificent palettes of color splashed over some of the earth's oldest landscapes. For eons, wind, water and geological upheaval have conspired to create a masterwork of nature. In the heart of this striking tableau of rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains, and ancient river terraces we come upon //Huab Under Canvas, set right in the heart of a desert-adapted black rhino area in the //Huab Conservancy in Damaraland. (The two forward slashes represent one of the four “click” sounds unique to Khoekhoe, the language spoken by Namibia's Damara people.) Protected from all the prevailing winds and sun, the permanent tented camp is virtually invisible from anywhere around and it carries arguably the lowest environmental footprint of any camp in Namibia. Once settled into camp, Jason will share an insightful—and very personal—discussion about the role of conservancies here and the bold foresight of the local people who have decided to live with wildlife including rhino and desert adapted elephant, recognizing the long-term benefits despite the inherent difficulties. Namibia's story of conservation is a truly astounding one. With less than two decades as an independent country, Namibia's innovative community conservancies have seen the country's wildlife, which had been trophy hunted and poached to minimal numbers, now rebounding, despite the harsh landscapes they must survive in. Jason has devoted his life to the preservation of Namibia's exceptional wildlife, and has witnessed, and contributed to, the effects to protect it. Overnight at //Huab Under Canvas...BLD

DAY 5

//HUAB UNDER CANVAS

We head out into this vast, protected conservancy in northern Damaraland, experiencing a starkly beautiful landscape that is also home to the Himba, one of the world's last truly nomadic tribes. With an early start, we'll set out to track desert rhino on foot. This is true wilderness tracking—you may have to trek for quite a bit over rocky and open terrain for a sighting, but if you are lucky enough to see a wild black rhino over the rise in its stately grandeur, the elation makes all the effort well worth it. Your participation in this safari



“As a first-time, unique, conservation-oriented trip, it was impressive! Julian Fennessy and the GCF team went overboard in their interaction with us—before, during, and after the field work. We never felt we were intruding or hindering them. This positive interaction was a true highlight of the trip.”

*David and Audrey N.,
Albuquerque, NM*



Itinerary (cont'd)

contributes to the vital work that Save the Rhino Trust does protecting and advocating for a species that has walked this land for over 14 million years. Unfortunately, both rhino and elephant poaching have hit dangerously high levels in neighboring South Africa, making the conservation efforts of SRT all the more vital today. Wilderness Travel is also playing an active role in conservation efforts, as we've recently donated funds to outfit an entire mobile camp of rhino rangers, the guardians of this rare and ancient species. After returning to camp for some R&R, we'll head out for an evening drive or bush walk with Jason to watch the life of the night unfold. Overnight at camp...BLD



DAY 6

MOBILE EXPEDITION CAMP / NORTH WEST KAOKOVELD / DESERT GIRAFFE HABITAT

We drive deep into the Kaokoveld region, with a picnic lunch en route. The afternoon will be spent on an extended scenic drive as we make our way to our Expedition Camp, a mobile camp set up specifically for us in the heart of desert giraffe habitat. Along the way, we'll visit a local Himba settlement. The Himba are semi-nomads who live in scattered settlements throughout the Kunene Region. They are a tall, slender, and statuesque people, characterized especially by their proud yet friendly bearing. The women especially are noted for their unusual sculptural beauty, enhanced by intricate hairstyles and traditional adornments. They rub their bodies with red

ochre and fat, a treatment that protects their skin against the harsh desert climate. The homes of the Himba of Kaokoland are simple, cone-shaped structures of saplings, bound together with palm leaves and plastered with mud and dung. The men build the structures, while the women mix the clay and do the plastering. Men, women and children wear body adornments made from iron and shell beads. Our guide's presence and contacts with the local community will ensure we will be welcomed as a "friend of a friend" and that we will be able to spend considerable time there learning about these fascinating nomadic pastoralists. There has been virtually no modern influence on these communities, which makes for a fascinating cultural exchange.



Leaving the Himba, we keep an eye out for wildlife as we approach our expedition camp. The camp is set up specifically for us in the heart of desert giraffe habitat. Hot bucket showers will be awaiting upon arrival! This evening at the mobile camp, we meet with the field crew of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF). Overnight at the mobile expedition camp...BLD

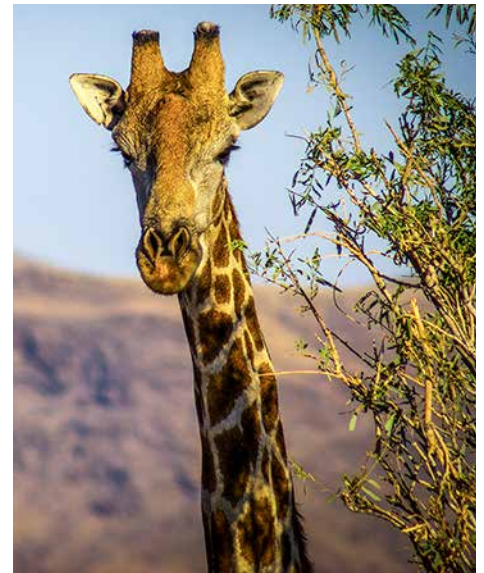
The Giraffe Conservation Foundation: Founded in 2009, the GCF is the only international charity solely dedicated to the conservation of giraffe in the wild and currently supports giraffe conservation initiatives on all subspecies of giraffe across the African continent in more than ten countries. Giraffe numbers have plummeted from 140,000 in the late 1990s to less

than 80,000 today. In the past 30 years, giraffe have become extinct in at least seven African countries. This dramatic loss has gone largely unnoticed—and has been termed “a silent extinction.” The main threats are habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, and increasingly, illegal hunting/poaching. At the crux of all this is human population growth in Africa and the demand for land. GCF’s giraffe conservation program in northwest Namibia is the first long-term ecological monitoring effort of the desert-dwelling Angolan giraffe. The project collects, collates, and disseminates information, both popular and scientific. This information is used locally and internationally for government, NGOs, communal conservancies, and other interested partners to help with the conservation and management of giraffe. Surprisingly, this is one of the first-ever long-term ecological monitoring efforts of giraffe in Africa. For more information, visit www.giraffeconservation.org.

DAYS 7-8

MOBILE CAMP / DESERT GIRAFFE HABITAT

The next two days are spent with GCF field crew, setting the tone for the tagging operation that will take place at Onduli Ridge. We will learn more about the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and discuss conservancies and the conservation that takes place on communal land. In this area local people have decided to live with wildlife and the troubles it brings, and this is a good time to discuss human wildlife conflict, along with the growth of wildlife, such as the desert adapted elephant, in these communal areas. Overnight at the mobile expedition camp...BLD each day





Desert-Adapted Elephant: In habitats with sufficient water, an adult elephant consumes as much as 60 gallons of water every day of its life. Consider what a herd of them would drink in a week or a month or a year. An African elephant in a desert? Well, yes, and not only elephant, but other large mammals as well, such as black rhinoceros and giraffe. Seven river courses northwards from the Ugab provide them with possible routes across the desert, right to the Skeleton Coast. Desert-adapted elephant in Kaokoland and the Namib walk further for water and fodder than any other elephant in Africa—the distances between waterholes and feeding grounds can be as great as 42 miles. The typical home range of a family herd is larger than 770 square miles, or eight times as big as ranges in central Africa where rainfall is much higher. They walk and feed at night and rest during the day. Not a separate species or even a subspecies, they are an ecotype unique to Namibia in Africa, behaviorally adapted to hyper-arid conditions.



DAY 9

ONDULI RIDGE / DAMARALAND

We get an early start for a drive into the heart of Damaraland, a remote region typified by displays of color, magnificent table-topped mountains, rock formations, and bizarre-looking vegetation. The variety and loneliness of the area and its scenic splendor will reward and astound you, giving you an authentic understanding of the word “wilderness.” Our accommodation is Onduli Ridge, named after the resident giraffe of the area. This stylish camp was built at the base of two south-facing granite outcrops connected by a ridge. This location allows for magnificent views of Namibia’s highest mountain, the Brandberg. The camp’s suites are hidden among the granite boulders, with louvered shutters that can be opened completely, blurring the lines between the indoors and nature, or closed for complete privacy. The king-sized bed in each suite is the perfect place for afternoon siestas and can be rolled out onto your private deck as a “star bed” for a night under a billion stars. In the evening, we meet up with Dr. Julian Fennessy and his crew to talk around the campfire in preparation for tomorrow’s giraffe GPS satellite tagging operation. Overnight at Onduli Ridge...BLD



DAYS 10-11

ONDULI RIDGE / GPS SATELLITE TAGGING

These next two days will be spent working as an integral part of Dr. Fennessy's ground team. You will be part of the team that is tracking giraffe, immobilizing them, and assisting with the GPS satellite tagging of the giraffes. We may be able to test a new tagging technology (if it proves effective), along with a new unit that is fitted to the tail of the giraffe; Dr Julian Fennessy is also investigating an innovative ear tag. The aim is to try tag a number of giraffes, depending on the group size and success in the field.

During the course of these days we will make a visit to Twyfelfontein, a UNESCO-listed treasury of rock engravings. Twyfelfontein's 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. Stone tools and other artifacts found at Twyfelfontein suggest that hunter-gatherers occupied the site over a period of perhaps 7,000 years. A local guide accompanies visitors to showcase the rock art. The engravings lie along two circular routes, one an hour's climb and the other 40 minutes longer. There should also be time to take a walk or cycle into the local area with your guide if desired, or simply relax and enjoy some well-deserved leisure time. We end our days with sundowners overlooking the ancient granite landscape. Overnights at Onduli Ridge...BLD each day



DAY 12

WINDHOEK

We bid farewell to the GCF team and head back to Windhoek, arriving in the late afternoon at the Galton House. If time allows today, you can do some last-minute shopping. Tonight we gather for our festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight at the Galton House...BLD



DAY 13

DEPART

After a leisurely breakfast, transfer to the Windhoek International Airport in time for your international flights home...B

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$9,595 (5-6 members)

\$10,095 (4 members)

Single supplement: \$1300

Giraffe Conservation Foundation Donation (if 6 participants: \$3000 tax deductible)

Giraffe Conservation Foundation Donation (if 4 or 5 participants: \$3500 tax deductible)

2025 Trip Costs: Please call for pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Namibia by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Namibian Dollar. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 18.4 Namibian Dollars. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Namibian Dollars, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Namibian Dollar were to rise in value, the trip cost would rise less than might be expected, and if the Namibian Dollar were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader
- Gratuities and tips for staff and porters (except Trip Leaders)
- Accommodations as noted, based on double occupancy
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

- Water, soft drinks, beer, and table wine at meals; mineral water on board the safari vehicle
- Park fees
- Land transportation
- Airport transfers
- Sightseeing as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to and from Africa, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to Trip Leader and assistant guide, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (drinks outside of meals as noted, premium alcoholic beverages, additional laundry, etc.). Optional side trips and excursions are also at your own expense.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE*

At time of reservation	\$1000
120 days prior to departure	Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE*

Minimum fee: \$1000 per person
119 days or less: 100% of trip cost*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance

Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Namibia: Giraffe Conservation Safari* webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/namibia-giraffe-conservation-safari/

CAPE TOWN EXTENSION

The town where modern South Africa was born has a glorious location on the mountainous Cape Peninsula along the blue waters of Table Bay. There is much to see, from Table Mountain to the famous botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, where 10,000 species are cultivated on 1,000 acres. Close by is Stellenbosch and Franschhoek wine country and the Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the African continent ends.

The itinerary can be customized as needed, please call for details.
4 days. From \$1795.

SHUMBALALA AND GREATER KRUGER SAFARI EXTENSION

A stay at Shumbalala Game Lodge, in the Thornybush Reserve bordering Kruger National Park, South Africa, is an ideal way to experience additional game viewing while enjoying the amenities of a deluxe wildlife lodge. Set on the banks of the Monwana River, Shumbalala is an oasis of luxurious comfort in the heart of the African bushveld. Activities include morning and late afternoon game drives in search of the Big Five, bush walks in the company of an expert ranger and tracker, or simply relaxing on decks overlooking a waterhole where animals frequently congregate. The lodge caters to a maximum of eight guests in four suites, each with its own fireplace and spacious bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers.

4 days. From \$3545.



Accommodations



GALTON HOUSE

Windhoek, Namibia

Day 1 (1 night), Day 12 (1 night)

This welcoming nine-room hotel, just a 10-minute shuttle drive from the center of town, offers a personal and informal atmosphere. Guest rooms are decorated in an inviting modern style, with wildlife photography adorning the walls. Communal areas include a large lounge, indoor and outdoor dining areas, and a small swimming pool. The hotel is named after the explorer and polymath Francis Galton, who produced the first maps of Namibia's interior.



OKONJIMA BUSH CAMP

Omboroko Mountains, Namibia

Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

Home to the AfriCat Foundation, this luxury bush camp features eight thatched, African-style chalets decorated in earthy tones. The chalets are very spacious, have en suite bathrooms, and can be opened wide during the day for enjoying the views and watching birds in the garden right from your room. A secluded swimming pool awaits at the end of a busy day of game viewing. The food is of a very high standard and the staff and guides are terrific.



HUAB UNDER CANVAS

Damaraland, Namibia

Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)

Located in a desert-adapted black rhino area in the // Huab Conservancy in Damaraland, this semi-mobile camp has a wonderfully light environmental footprint. We will have this camp for our exclusive use. Each spacious tent is equipped with single beds, solar lighting, and a bathroom with a toilet, bucket shower, and washbasin. Solar lighting is provided, and chairs on the patio allow guests to enjoy the surrounding view. Camp catering is of a high standard, with delicious meals prepared using fresh local produce wherever possible.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Namibia: Giraffe Conservation Safari* webpage and click on "Accommodations."



EXPEDITION MOBILE CAMP

Namibia

Days 6 to 8 (3 nights)

Our Mobile Expedition camps are fully serviced and equipped to keep you in comfort in a remote setting. They are not permanent and are designed to be set up quickly in some of the most inaccessible corners of the country, normally for just two or three nights at a time. The dome tents (10 by 10 feet and 7 feet high) have built-in groundsheets and mosquito screens on all doors and windows. Each tent is equipped with solar lighting, bedside table, comfortable camp beds/cots and mattresses with normal bedding as well as an additional blanket and a hot water bottle for those chilly nights. Towels and toiletries are provided in the en suite bathroom, which also has its own field toilet, bucket shower, and washbasin. A small table, mirror, and solar lighting are also provided in the bathroom, and chairs on the patio allow guests to relax and enjoy the surrounding view. While mobile camps cannot have all the comforts you might expect in permanent camps, their reward is access to areas where there is little or no other fixed infrastructure, thus allowing a real pioneering experience. We consider good food and wine to be an important part of the overall experience, so catering in camp is of a suitably high standard, with delicious, wholesome meals prepared on open fires using fresh local produce where available.



ONDULI RIDGE

Damaraland, Namibia

Days 9 to 11 (3 nights)

Nestled among boulders on a private concession in the heart of Damaraland, the camp's six partially open-air suites feature incredible views of Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, and out across the plains to the cathedral-like granite inselbergs (isolated small rock mountains). Each suite has a partially open-air bathroom with a flush toilet and hot water rain shower, and a king-sized bed that you can roll out onto your private deck for a night under the stars. Communal areas include a lounge, library, dining room with fireplace, bar, campfire ring, spacious deck, and a pool for a refreshing afternoon dip. The lodge is 100% solar powered, is within close proximity to a waterhole frequented by wildlife, and blends beautifully with the natural surroundings.

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Galton House

Windhoek, Namibia

Date: Day 1

Suggested arrival time: 4:00 pm or earlier

Suggested Arrival Airport

Windhoek, Namibia (airport code WDH)

A complimentary transfer is provided from the Windhoek airport to your accommodation for all trip members arriving on Day 1. Your Trip Leader or a WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign. If you have booked extra services for early arrival, a voucher for your transfer and extra hotel nights will be sent with your final documents.

DEPARTURE

Windhoek, Namibia

Date: Day 13

Suggested departure time: anytime

Suggested Departure Airport

Windhoek, Namibia (airport code WDH)

A complimentary airport transfer will be provided for all trip members to the Windhoek Airport departing on Day 13. If you are departing on a different day, a transfer can be arranged at additional cost.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Namibia. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

South African Airways

Phone: 800-722-9675

www.flysaa.com

British Airways

Phone: 800-247-9297

www.ba.com

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the U.S. one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the U.S.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS WINDHOEK

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you in Windhoek. Please see the Extra Hotel Request Form to book these reservations.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS JOHANNESBURG

We recommend the following hotels in Johannesburg for extra overnights. To obtain the best rate, please book directly with the property on line.

Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Hotel

www.intercontinental.com

Protea Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/jnbor-protea-hotel-or-tambo-airport/

Trip Leader

Our expert Trip Leaders and their naturalist guides are indispensable, providing unbelievable game-tracking skills, and intimate knowledge of Namibia's cultural and natural history. Both on the trail and on the road, the crew contributes valuable local perspective, and makes possible a thought-provoking and exiting trip in ways that no guide book can. With their years of experience, the Trip Leaders bring the desert to life.



JASON NOTT

Jason Nott of Namibia comes from a well-known family of “nature conservators” who have been involved in development issues in Namibia for decades, even before it was known as Namibia! He grew up in a small rural town, and his love for wild Africa was instilled in him at a young age. One of his greatest influences as a child was his godfather, Flip Stander, who now runs the Desert Lion Conservation Foundation and is considered the world's leading authority on desert lions. Jason spent a year of study in England, returning to Namibia to run a safari for his fellow students at the age of 19, then obtained a Travel and Tourism Management degree at a local university. While managing a remote game lodge in Namibia, he developed excellent relationships with local communities all across northwest Namibia, and now he and his guests are welcomed at these fascinating communities. “One of my greatest pleasures is sharing the wonders of the country I love with visitors,” he says, “and guiding is my tool for doing this.” Jason met his wife, Amber, when she was in Namibia on a study abroad program as part of her degree in Zoology. Both Jason and Amber have a passion for wildlife and its protection, and a strong belief that this is best achieved through the development of communities. Jason is a phenomenally knowledgeable birder, wildlife expert, and wonderful traveling companion. In addition to being a guide, he also helps run the Conservation Travel Foundation, which is involved in funding a number of humanitarian and conservation initiatives around the country.

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation



The Giraffe Conservation Foundation program in northwest Namibia is the first long-term ecological monitoring effort on the desert-dwelling Angolan giraffe. Giraffe numbers have plummeted from 140,000 in the late 1990s to less than 80,000 in the world today. The GCF project collects, collates, and disseminates information, both popular and scientific. This information is used locally and internationally for government, NGOs, communal conservancies, and other interested partners to help with the conservation and management of giraffe. Surprisingly, this is one of the first ever long-term ecological monitoring efforts of giraffe in Africa. As part of a larger Namibian countrywide initiative, GCF works closely with communal conservancies in order to support the first-ever Giraffe Conservation Status Assessment in Namibia, which will form an important baseline to inform the potential development of a National Giraffe Conservation Strategy for Namibia. A portion of your safari cost goes directly to the Giraffe Conservation Fund. You will receive a receipt for this portion of the trip cost, which you can use for tax purposes.



Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 3, Moderate, according to our trip grading system. This is a camping and lodge safari with game viewing by 4WD vehicle, nature walks, and long driving days. There will be some sections of walking through sand dunes or on rough, hilly terrain with loose scree.

Although this is not a particularly rigorous trip, we still recommend you undertake a preparatory program of physical conditioning. Daily walking or regular hiking, jogging, and stair-climbing are excellent preparatory exercises. Any African safari is an adventure, and the traveler should bring along flexibility, a sense of humor, curiosity about new peoples and places, and an openness to the unexpected.

WEATHER

Namibia has a typical desert climate: hot in the day, and cool at night, mostly sunny and dry. Between November and April, daytime temperatures can be in the low 90s, with night temperatures dropping to the 50s. Between May and October, daytime temperatures generally reach the mid-70s and can drop to as low as 40 at night. The coastal region is cool and dry throughout the year.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at africa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS KLEAN KANTEEN 270Z WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2021, 10-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2021 & 2020

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*, 2020

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

September 26, 2023 1:46 PM