

Namibia and Botswana

Wednesday 5 June - Monday 24 June 2024
18 Nights

TOUR OVERVIEW

Namibia is a diverse country with a range of habitats from desert to semi-desert and savannah and the landscapes are truly spectacular. In many places animals still roam freely unrestricted by human influence. Home to 650 bird species and 80 large mammal species, of which, 14 birds and 15 mammals are almost entirely endemic to the country. Botswana is one of Africa's most stable and sparsely populated countries. It protects some of Africa's largest areas of wilderness and safari-based tourism is of a very high quality. You will begin in Namibia and experience the Kalahari Desert and the Sossusvlei sand dunes. It's impossible not to marvel at the diversity of life present in such hostile environments. Arguably, the jewel in Namibia's Crown is Etosha National Park famed for its huge saltpan. Its edges give way to a surprising variety of vegetation and a series of waterholes provide visitors with close up views of wildlife, particularly at night when they are floodlit. From Windhoek, you will fly to the majestic Victoria Falls for a couple of nights so that you can walk along the rim and gaze in wonder at the Falls and the Zambezi rapids far below. Saving the best for last, travel to Botswana. First to Chobe National Park, home to large herds of elephants. You will stay alongside the Zambesi River and your safaris will be by boat and also further into the park in 4 wheel drive vehicles. A short flight transports you deep into the Okavango, a lush and watery mosaic of channels and islands. You will be taken to your luxurious tented camp. Floating peacefully in a small boat, you are sure to get close to a range of animals and it is a dream destination for bird-watchers. The beauty and ever changing landscapes on this tour will be sure to delight. These two countries offer some of Africa's best wildlife viewing.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson tour manager
- International economy airfare
- 1 nights accommodation in Sydney
- 1 nights accommodation at Johannesburg airport
- 16 nights accommodation in Namibia & Botswana
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and drivers
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airline taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel portorage

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay at three different top class game reserves: Etosha National Park, Chobe National Park and Moremi Crossing Game Reserve
- Experience the Kalahari Desert – one of the driest eco-systems on earth
- Walk the sculptural sand dunes at Sossusvlei
- Soak up the majesty of Victoria Falls
- Spot a range of animals taking their evening drink at the floodlit watering holes in Etosha
- Watch elephants from the river at Chobe National Park
- Cruise the waterways and channels of the Okavango Delta with its diversity of birds and wildlife
- Take game drives with experienced local guides to search for the 'Big 5' (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino)



IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This is tour for wildlife enthusiasts who want to observe animals and birds in their natural habitats. The tour will also appeal to people interested in geology and varied eco-systems from the desert in Namibia to the delta in Botswana.

You do need to be prepared for quite long drives in Namibia however there are animals to spot on route. On the other hand there is not a lot of walking on this tour so it would suit people with a range of fitness levels.

TOUR PRICE

Share twin per person	NZD \$18,990
Single supplement	NZD \$2,990

The tour price above includes economy international flights from Auckland.

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 18

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

[**CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE**](#)

TOUR MANAGER: Andrew Matheson

"Africa gets under your skin". That's what many people say after visiting this fascinating and richly diverse continent, and Andrew is no exception. He can't wait to take you there.

Participants on Andrew's tours value the way he brings the group together and applies his strong organisational skills to make sure the trip runs to plan and delivers a memorable adventure for everyone. He is looking forward to sharing these special destinations and experiences with you.

International Flights

Economy international flights are included in your package and you will be flying Qantas from Auckland to Johannesburg via Sydney

Depart Auckland Wednesday 5 June 2024 1:30 PM
Arrive Sydney 3:05 PM
Overnight Sydney

Depart Sydney Thursday 6 June 2024 09:35 AM
Arrive Johannesburg 3: 40 PM

Depart Johannesburg Monday 24 June 5:40 PM
Arrive Sydney Tuesday 25 June 1:25 PM
Connect in Sydney
Depart Sydney 5:40 PM
Arrive Auckland 10:55 PM

Premium economy and business class upgrades are available at an extra cost.



DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 5 June 2024

Auckland –Sydney

Meals: In flight

Flight: 3 hours, 40 minutes

Overnight: Sydney

Depart Auckland for Sydney, arriving late afternoon. Stay overnight at an airport hotel as we have an early start the next morning. Vivid Sydney will be on while you are in town so if you feel like stretching your legs you could head into Sydney Harbour to take in the amazing light shows and installations with your tour manager this evening.

Thursday 6 June

Sydney - Johannesburg

Meals: B/In flight

Flight: 14 hours

Overnight: Johannesburg

You will take a morning flight from Sydney, arriving in Johannesburg late afternoon. Tonight you stay at a Johannesburg Airport Hotel.

Friday 7 June

Johannesburg - Windhoek - Sossusvlei

Meals: B/D

Flight: 2 hours

Coach: 5 hours

Overnight: Sossusvlei

Depart Johannesburg on an early flight to Windhoek and transfer into the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Your lodge is situated close to Sossusvlei, the oldest desert in the world. This photogenic area is famous for its large red sand dunes which are some of the tallest sand dunes in the world. They're dynamic and change shape with the wind. Stay here for two nights.

Saturday 8 June

Sossusvlei

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Sossusvlei

Today you have an early start and witness first light and shadows on the sand dunes before arriving at the heart of the famous sand dune sea of Namibia. Watch the colours change on the sand dunes in this spectacular and unique area. You can climb a dune close to Sossusvlei then walk to Dead Vlei with its large expanse of bleached cracked clay and skeletal camel thorn trees scattered around, contrasting with a backdrop of huge orange-red dunes that make for superb photographic opportunities. Then explore the famous Sesriem Canyon, one of the few places with permanent water before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Sunday 9 June

Sossusvlei - Swakopmund

Meals: B

Coach: 4 hours

Overnight: Swakopmund

Drive to Swakopmund on the Skeleton Coast to stay two nights. Relax and enjoy this coastal town nestled between the Namib Desert and the Atlantic Ocean. There are many activities to choose from (at additional cost): desert tours and boat cruises, or perhaps just relax and enjoy the facilities at your hotel.

Monday 10 June

Swakopmund

Meals: B

Overnight: Swakopmund

A day to enjoy this town and the excellent sightseeing it has to offer. Perhaps visit the aquarium, the Crystal Gallery where the world's largest-known crystal cluster is housed or Woermann House with its elegant panelled walls and stucco ceilings. There are also many art shops throughout the town centre should some 'retail therapy' be on the agenda.

DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 11 June

Swakopmund - Twyfelfontein

Meals: B/D

Coach: 5 hours

Overnight: Twyfelfontein

You leave after an early breakfast and head north along the Skeleton Coast seeing the gravel plains and desert opening up around you with the ocean crashing down onto the shore. Visit the seal colony at Cape Cross and take in the noise (and smell!) of this large colony of Cape Fur Seals. Turning inland, you drive past Brandberg, the highest point in Namibia and a huge massif rising up over the plains. The Twyfelfontein area, a very vulnerable and delicate ecosystem, is renowned for some of the best examples of Rock Paintings and Engravings in Southern Africa. Interesting rock formations and the remainder of prehistoric volcanic action can be seen in the Organ Pipes and Burnt Mountain, among the most prominent geographic features. Your lodge accommodation for two nights is set amongst a mountainous backdrop and is close to the rock paintings.

Wednesday 12 June

Twyfelfontein

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Twyfelfontein

Take a guided nature walk or relax beside the swimming pool and take in the beautiful surroundings. Spectacular rock formations bear witness to volcanic activity and geological events of prehistoric times. Those interested in geology may wish to visit to the Organ Pipes, Burnt Mountain, Doros Crater and Petrified Forest. Visit the Living Culture Museum of the Damara people and then have some free time at leisure in the afternoon

Thursday 13 June

Twyfelfontein - Etosha National Park

Meals: B

Coach: 4 hours

Overnight: Etosha

Travel north to Etosha National Park, considered the jewel in Namibia's crown. The park's main characteristic is a salt pan that covers 4700 square kilometres, so large that it can be seen from space. There is abundant wildlife which congregates around the waterholes giving almost guaranteed sightings of animals and birds. The Okaukuejo rest-camp overlooks a permanent waterhole, which is floodlit at night and this is where you will see the wildlife gathering and interacting. The spectacle starts at dawn, with animals coming to quench their thirst and continues throughout the day and into the night when, in the early evening, it is not uncommon to have black rhinoceros, elephant and lion, all drinking at the same time. Stay for two nights to enjoy the many facilities of this remote desert oasis.



DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 14 June

Etosha National Park

Meals: B

Overnight: Etosha

At Okaukuejo Lodge you will visit many waterholes as you traverse the park. Etosha is home to many species of game including lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, hyena, giraffe as well as antelope and over 340 species of birds so there is something for every animal and bird lover. This park is recognised as one of the best game parks in Southern Africa for the numbers and various species of game as well as the interesting geology

Saturday 15 June

Etosha National Park - Windhoek

Meals: B/D

Coach: 4 hours

Overnight: Windhoek

Travel back to the city for your last night in Namibia. The journey takes you through the small historic town of Okahandja, home of a large wood carving market. You will have a city tour of Windhoek before settling into your hotel for the evening.

Sunday 16 June

Windhoek - Victoria Falls

Meals: B

Flight: 1 hour 35 minutes

Overnight: Victoria Falls

Hop on a morning flight from Windhoek to Victoria Falls, locally known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, 'the smoke that thunders'. Tons of water plunges over a chasm that is nearly 2km wide, falling about 100 metres to the Zambesi River below. The thunderous sound of the water being heard for miles around. You will have a sunset cruise on the Zambesi River this evening and then an evening at the grand Victoria Falls Hotel.

Monday 17 June

Victoria falls - Chobe Safari Lodge

Meals: B

Drive: 1 hour 30 minutes

Overnight: Chobe National Park

Take a guided tour of Victoria Falls and then drive to your lodge in Chobe National Park; the lodge is situated in the heart of the park, overlooking the Chobe River and the Caprivi flood-plains. The park has great diversity of wildlife, and is home to the largest concentration of elephants in Africa. Your days at the lodge include safari activities - game drives, game viewing by small boats, sunset cruises along the Chobe River, and after-dinner stargazing.



DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 18 June

Chobe National Park

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Chobe National Park

Your lodge offers a choice of land or water-based activities and the most complete game experience in the Chobe National Park. Early morning and late afternoon game drives are conducted by expert guides in open-sided 4x4 vehicles to ensure maximum visibility of the spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. Meanwhile, riverside game viewing is done from small and highly manoeuvrable boats, perfect for morning or sunset cruises. Chobe's diverse wildlife roams in abundance – it is home to the largest concentration of elephant in Africa. During the dry season these large herds, as well as vast herds of buffalo, congregate on the fertile flood plains along the Chobe River to drink, bathe and play. There are frequent sightings of lion, African wild dog, puku, red lechwe, sable, giraffe and roan antelope.

Wednesday 19 June

Chobe National Park

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Chobe National Park

Another full day in Chobe National Park with animal viewing by small boats and game drives.

Thursday 20 June

Chobe National Park – Moremi Game Reserve

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Moremi Game Reserve

Take a charter flight from Chobe to Moremi and transfer to the Moremi Game Reserve. The lodge offers a broad range of safari activities on both land and water. Exhilarating game drives provide the chance to track wildlife in the beautiful surrounds of the reserve, a protected area renowned for frequent sightings of lion, leopard and cheetah. African wild dog sightings are also regularly reported. Water activities involve the exploration of the water-lily fringed Xakanaxa Lagoon and surrounding Okavango Delta channels by motor boat and mokoro canoe. The birdlife is prolific and varied, and each boat trip offers you exceptional bird-watching opportunities.



DAILY ITINERARY

**Friday 21 June and
Saturday 22 June
Moremi Game Reserve**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Moremi Game Reserve

A full day of activities, in Moremi Game Reserve. Options may include game drives, boat rides plus:

Mokoro Excursions

Become part of bustling river life by easing between the papyrus clad banks on traditional 'mokoro' canoes. These are propelled from the stern by skilled 'poler' guides, allowing you to sit back and absorb the scenery.

Walking Safaris

Explore the wilderness on foot with your own personal guide.

Motorboat Sunset Cruises

Enjoy an African sunset while drifting on a lagoon in the middle of the Okavango Delta. Watch as changing colours are reflected in the smooth waters, disturbed only by dipping swallows or curious hippos. (subject to delta water levels)

**Sunday 23 June
Moremi - Maun**

Meals: B/D

Take a short 20 minute charter flight from Moremi to Maun. You will then have a free afternoon. There will be an option to visit 'Elephant Havens', a charity caring for orphan and abandoned elephants. This is an optional activity and there will be an extra cost of \$100 USD which goes directly to the operating costs of the orphanage.

**Monday 24 June
Maun - Johannesburg -
Auckland or Capetown**

Meals: B/in flight

Flights:

1 hr 40 mins (Maun - Joburg)

12 hours (Joburg - Sydney)

3 hours (Sydney - Auckland)

Take a flight from Maun to Johannesburg and onward to Sydney and then Auckland, arriving in the late evening on **Tuesday 25 June**.

An optional extension for four nights to Capetown is also available. Please see the separate itinerary for this option



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit and your place in this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/ or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 1.5% surcharge if you wish to pay by Visa or Mastercard.

