



14 DAY(13 night) – Namibia Classic Bike Tour 2012

TOUR TYPE: Cycle Tour
DURATION: 14 Days & 13 Nights

<i>Included in price:</i>	<i>Not included in price:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals including water • All transport and transfers in tour vehicle • Bike trailer for bike transport • 6 Lodge/Hotel nights and 7 Camping nights • Comfortable tents and camping equipment including mattresses • All entrance fees and permits to parks • Professional tourguide/bike guide • 1 Camp assistant/driver • All activities as described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooldrinks and alcohol • Tips • Souvenirs • Mountain Bike • Sleeping bag and pillow

ITINERARY:

Day 1:

Arrive in Windhoek

Guests and bicycles are transferred to a Guest-farm on the outskirts of Windhoek. The day is spent relaxing, assembling the bicycles and testing equipment. A late afternoon acclimatisation ride or sunset game drive may be chosen.

Accommodation: Lodge/Guestfarm

Day 2:

Windhoek– Nauams farm in the Rantberg Mountains

After a hearty farm breakfast we set some time aside to acquaint ourselves with our bikes and to make sure that all gear is in order for the adventure ahead. We enjoy a scenic drive through the Khomas Hochland to the Rantberg Mountains south west of Windhoek. From here we cycle on a good road the final kilometers to Farm Nauams where we will be camping for the night. A pristine nature area with some great walking trails. Biking ca. 3-5 hours to our campsite, 50 km, 150 Metres

Overnight: Camping

Day 3:

Nauams -Spreetshoogte Pass – Sesriem

We cycle a special route through the Rantberg Mountains and then down the spectacular Spreetshoogte Pass. We cycle to Solitaire for a lunch of famous apple pie and other goodies from the well know Desert Bakery. We continue by vehicle between the great sand sea and the impressive Naukluft Mountains all the way to Sesriem where we set up camp. In the afternoon we enjoy an excursion with our safari vehicle 60 km into the dunes. The scene is one of breathtaking beauty with huge dunes towering above us on either side of the road. We visit Deadvlei and Sossusvlei. Biking 3-5 Hours, 30-40 km, 200 Metres

Overnight: Camping

Day 4:**Blutkoppe**

We leave Sesriem by vehicle and drive through the Namib Desert to the Namib Naukluft Park, West of the Kuiseb Canyon. After a light lunch, we cycle the final 30-40 km through this beautiful desert landscape to Blutkoppe and our campsite for the night. This area is famous for its granite inselbergs and boulders. The interesting flora includes the Aloe Dichotoma, the Quiver Tree, of which there are many specimens in the area. Cycle duration 3-5 hours, 40-60 km, 200 Metres

Accommodation: Camping

Day 5:**Swakopmund**

We enjoy a morning cycle on a trail that takes us through a boulder strewn area and through the grassy plains of the pre-Namib. It is a scenic route and we have a good chance of viewing ostriches, springbok, Oryx antelope, lappet-faced vultures, black-backed jackal, mountain zebra and other desert adapted animals. After lunch we depart through the Namib Desert to Swakopmund at the coast. On arrival at Swakopmund, we book into our comfortable lodge in Swakop and look forward to some great seafood. Cycle duration 3-5 Hours, 30-50 km, 200 Metres

Accommodation: Guest House

Day 6:**Swakopmund**

After breakfast, we depart to Walvis Bay and undertake an adventurous morning kayak trip on the Atlantic Ocean. A great and safe outdoor experience, seals, pelicans, two different species of dolphin and a variety of different sea birds. On return to Swakopmund we have an afternoon to enjoy this historically interesting town with some really great shops, museum and various other adventure activities to choose from

Accommodation: Guest House

Day 7:**Spitzkoppe**

We transfer by vehicle to the edge of the Swakop Canyon and the Moon Landscape, unique to this area. We cycle through the side canyons of the Swakop River viewing unique flora and fauna to Goanikontes Oasis in the Swakop River for a light lunch. Thereafter we transfer by vehicle to the Spitzkoppe area and cycle the last 20 km to our campsite at the foot of this beautiful solid granite inselberg, known as the 'Matterhorn' of Namibia. Cycle duration 3-5 hours, 40-50 km, 200 Metres

Accommodation: Camping

Day 8:**Save the Rhino Camp, Ugab River, Brandberg**

The Spitzkoppe Inselberg and surrounding granite mountains are unique to the central Namib Desert. One could spend a few days here, exploring, climbing, studying the interesting flora and cycling. We enjoy an early breakfast in the shadow of the Spitzkoppe then transfer to Bushman's Paradise. After an easy climb we discover a small valley that was used by the hunter gatherers of previous times as a winter hideout. We walk this beautiful area for 2 hours, and then transfer by vehicle to the so called "Welwitschia Highway" along the base of the highest mountain in Namibia, the Brandberg. The area is again totally different geologically to all we have experienced before. Wide open spaces and table top mountains from the Karoo times dot the landscape in our path. Many Welwitschia plants line the sides of the gravel road we travel on and we take this opportunity to study them closely. We should also see various antelope and other wildlife on this part of our journey. We finally wind our way through the hostile side canyons of the Ugab River, to reach our sheltered campsite at the Save the Rhino base camp. Cycle duration 3-5 Hours, 40-60 km, 220 Metres

Accommodation: Camping

Day 9:**Gai-Ais Fountain and Petrified dunes, Damaraland**

After breakfast, we cycle the surprisingly hard surface of the dry Ugab riverbed, to arrive for a tough ride up into the rocky side canyons of the Ugab River. The morning ride is challenging and can be considered a real off-road mountain bike experience. Old roads of abandoned tin mines in the area make it possible for us to explore an otherwise impossible to visit landscape. We may be lucky to see the famous desert adapted elephants which move up and down this part of the Ugab River. The area is also famous for the biggest free roaming Black Rhino population in Africa. These very shy animals are difficult to spot as they disappear at the first sign of human activity; we may be lucky however. We return to camp for a lunch and deserved rest, before we attempt the cycle up another side canyon onto the plains above, taking us to our campsite at the base of a petrified dune. The cycle up an ever widening gorge brings us onto higher ground with a lovely

view of the Brandberg Mountain and the table top hills of the ancient dune landscape. Cycle duration 3-5 Hours, 40-50 km, 240 Metres
Accommodation: Camping

Day 10:

Twyfelfontein

The cycles start from our special campsite with its views of the Ugab valleys and the Brandberg Mountain in the distance. It is likely that we have not seen any other people for the past few days in our own cycling paradise. Our cycle takes us on a scenic and adventurous cycle past the Doros Crater onwards to Twyfelfontein and its famous Bushman engravings. Our path brings us upon an ancient Petrified Forest site, a place where trees from a far away forest were brought to with a great rush of water and have turned into stone over the past millions of years. We should again see a variety of wild animals, including giraffe and possibly even hyena and cheetah on our cycle past the Doros Crater. The final last stretch includes some challenging up and down hill riding, all manageable if approached with caution. Cycle duration 4-6 hours, 35-55 km, 270 Metres

Accommodation: Camping

Day 11 & 12:

Etosha National Park

We enjoy a morning cycle to the famous rock engravings at Twyfelfontein and the geologically interesting "burnt mountain" and "organ pipes". We then transfer by vehicle via the Petrified Forest to the Etosha National Park. We spend a late afternoon and a full day doing our own safari through this famous park and its wide variety of wildlife. Etosha is one of the most special game parks in Southern Africa and is over 22000 Sq Km in size. Etosha means "great white place" and refers to the huge 5000 Sq Km salt pan that gives its name to the park. The park is teeming with different animal species, including lion, rhino and elephants. The landscape is also very special and different to what we have experienced on our tour thus far. No visit to Namibia is complete without spending two days in Etosha. We overnight in comfortable bungalows.

Okaukuejo is famous for its floodlit waterhole with its variety of game species quenching their thirst after long hours in the sun. Cycle duration 2-4 hours, 30-40 km, 190 Metres

Accommodation: Bungalows

Day 13:

Waterberg Plateau park

After an early morning game drive searching for lions, we enjoy a hearty game reserve breakfast and then drive via Otjiwarongo, where we stop for lunch, to the vicinity of sandstone cliffs of the Waterberg. We bike the final kilometers to this lovely restcamp, famous for its many permanent spring and the huge variety of fauna and flora found here. In the late afternoon we take a sundowner walk to the top of the plateau to enjoy an endless view over the Kalahari Desert.

Biking: 3-5 Hours, 40-60 km, 240 Metres.

Overnight: Double rooms

Day 14:

Return to Windhoek

In the morning we can consider another walk in this lovely area or another outing on our mountain bikes. We then travel via the well known wood carvers market at Okahandja to Windhoek and the International Airport. If there is time, we will include a short tour of the capital city, home to over 400 000 Namibians.