



Bike-Adventure in the wilderness of Namibia

Namibia's Capital Windhoek

Arrival – City tour - relaxation

The Dunes of Sossusvlei

The ultimate desert experience

Namib Naukluft National Park

exciting mountain trails

Swakopmund on the Skeleton Coast

Catamaran cruise on the Atlantic Ocean

Huab Wilderness Adventure

Secluded trails in Damaraland

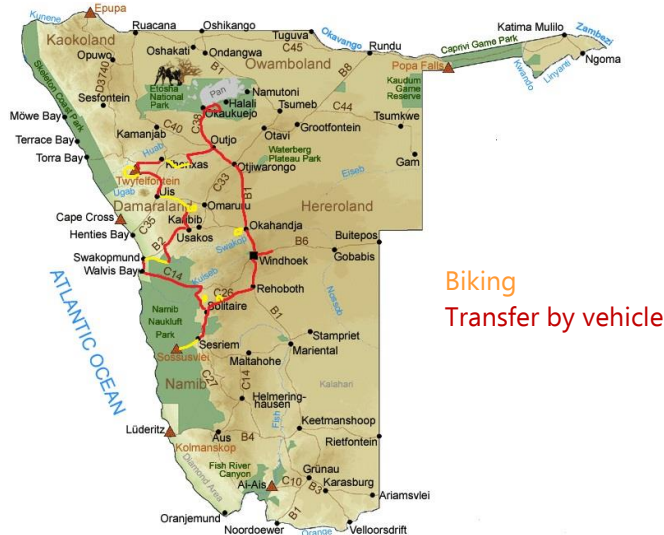
Safari in the Etosha National Park

World famous game park



MOUNTAIN BIKE NAMIBIA

Namibia Classic Bike Tour 2024 / 14 days (13 nights)



Namibia is a country of breath-taking landscapes and untouched nature with endless roads and trails. With Mountain Bike Namibia, our guests have the opportunity to explore the country, meet its people and see the sights from the saddle of their bikes. We choose roads and trails that are quiet and safe to cycle, in the most scenic areas.

The sun's rays light up the dunes of the Namib Desert in a play of light and shadows. Rare plants burrow their roots deep into the Namibian soil in search of precious moisture. We experience the barren beauty of the desert landscape full of contrasts from the saddle of our bikes. We are fascinated by the huge red dunes of Sossusvlei, the deserted beaches along the Atlantic Ocean, the endless horizons of the savanna and the mountain ranges with bizarre rock formations. Nature provides the backdrop for an unforgettable adventure and Mountain Bike Namibia adds the colours.

NAMIBIA CLASSIC bike tour Highlights

- The Auas Mountains near Windhoek
- The Khomas Hochland
- The Naukluft- and Tsaris-Mountains
- The dunes and gravel plains of the Namib Desert
- Blutkoppe, the Moon-landscape and Spitzkoppe
- The Brandberg-Mountain area-the highest mountain in Namibia
- Damaraland
- Game drives in the Etosha National Park
- Biking on single trails in a nature reserve north of Windhoek

Itinerary:

Day 1

(-/-/D)

Arrive in Windhoek

Guests and bicycles are transferred to a guesthouse on the outskirts of Windhoek. The afternoon is spent relaxing, assembling the bicycles and testing equipment. If there is time, we do a short test ride in the Avis Dam area, on quite roads and gravel roads/trails. We explore the historic and cultural highlights of the Namibian capital on a short city tour. We experience the contrasts between the architecture from colonial times and the informal settlements on the outskirts of town, where most of the people live. We enjoy dinner at the well-known Joe's Beerhouse.

Accommodation: Ti Melen Guesthouse

Day 2

(B/L/D)

Windhoek – Namibgrens Guestfarm on the edge of the Namib escarpment

We depart from Windhoek and travel westwards into the great outdoors. We continue through the Khomas Hochland to reach the Rantberg Mountains on the edge of the Namib Desert. The road to Namibgrens and Spreetshoogte Pass is one of the lesser traveled roads and allows a scenic bike ride on a good surface, ideal as a warmup and to get used to the bikes and terrain at the start of our bike tour. We bike into this scenic farm in an area on the edge of the Namib escarpment, mountains that run south-north along the Namib desert. In the afternoon and/or the following morning we bike a jeep trail (two single trails running next to each other) and explore the farm. The route takes us through an area dotted with granite inselbergs and interesting vegetation to a viewpoint that allows us to marvel at the vast Namib desert and dunes in the distance below. It is an adventurous and slightly challenging cycle. We return to our comfortable Klipspringer chalets to enjoy a sundowner and look forward to a fine dinner.

Accommodation: Namibgrens Guest Farm

Biking distance: 40 km, **Altitude:** 300 m

Travel distance: 180 km

Travel time: about 2.5 hour + photo stops

Day 3

(B/L/D)

Spreetshoogte Pass and the Sossusvlei Dune Sea

After an early breakfast, we bike from the farm on winding road that takes us to the famous Spreetshoogte viewpoint that overlooks the wide-open plains of the Namib Desert below. The ride down the pass is a thrilling steep downhill experience, after a few kilometres we reach a quiet country road that leads us to the start of the dune sea and to Solitaire, an oasis in the desert, famous for its apple pie and wild west town character.

At Solitaire we load our bikes and drive the 80 km to our next accommodation, the Desert Quiver Camp, at the gates of Sesriem.

Around noon, when the temperatures decrease, we visit the Sesriem Canyon, we can do this on our bikes, if time allows, we can do a loop to Elim Dune and back to our lodge before sunset. "Sesriem" is Afrikaans and means "six straps". The name comes from the fact that a hundred years ago, hikers had to tie six straps of an ox team together to get water from the bottom of the canyon with a bucket. In Sesriem Canyon the geology is particularly interesting. Here, layers that formed millions of years ago come to light.

Accommodation: Desert Quiver Camp or similar

Biking distance: 50 km, **Altitude:** 300 m

Travel distance: 80 km

Travel time: about 1 hour + photo stops

Day 4

(B/L/D)

Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei

The world-famous Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei is the highlight of today. In our safari vehicle, we drive deep into the dune sea to reach various dried-out pans which fill up with water every few years after good rains. The last few kilometres are through deep sand, a challenge for our four-wheel drive vehicle. We may also want to walk

part of the way. When we reach Sossusvlei we can climb one of the up to 300m high dunes and enjoy the view over the clay depressions and the sea of dunes that stretches all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. We can also take a detour to the Dead Vlei where ancient dried-out camelthorn trees adorn the landscape.

Once we return to the vehicle, we enjoy a picnic under huge camel thorn trees, which have survived here for hundreds of years.

Afterwards we drive north towards the petrified dunes and the Namib Desert Lodge. The Lodge is situated at the foot of ancient, fossilised dunes with a view over diverse landscapes consisting of rocky plains, endless savannah, majestic mountain ranges and bright red sand. We get a good night's rest in preparation for tomorrow's adventure.

Accommodation: Namib Desert Lodge

Biking distance: Due to the increased traffic, we have made this a hiking day in the dunes. We could however bike 10-30 km to the Namib Desert Lodge, depending on the condition of the road and the traffic

Travel distance: 120 km

Travel time: about 1.5 hour – 3 hours + photo stops

Day 5

(B/L/D)

Cycling at the foot of the Rantberg Mountains/The Donkerhoek Trails, then to Swakopmund

In the morning we explore the wild and rugged area at the foot of the Rant Mountains with our bikes on single trails and Jeep tracks. We are alone in untouched nature and enjoy the surprising challenges and exciting downhill the trail has in store for us. Surely a few wild animals, like the endangered Hartmann's mountain zebra or antelopes like kudu, oryx or springbok cross our path. We have about 50 km of trails to ride through some of the harshest, yet most beautiful Namib landscape.

After a picnic lunch under the camelthorn trees, we continue to Swakopmund. If there is time, we can drive through the Namib Naukluft Park via the Blutkoppe to Swakopmund. These scenic desert plains are home to a large variety of desert adapted animals including oryx and springbok antelope as well as giraffe, ostrich and other animals. One of the lesser travelled but more spectacular landscapes of the Namib desert, the gravel plains making way for the dune seas that lies along the coast.

Accommodation: Hotel Pension Rapmund

Biking distance: 30-50 km, **Altitude:** 200 m

Travel distance: 270 km

Travel time: about 4 hours + Photo stops

Day 6

(B/L/D)

Swakopmund

After breakfast, we depart to Walvis Bay and undertake an adventurous morning catamaran trip on the Atlantic Ocean. This enjoyable and eco-friendly excursion takes us within metres of the seals, pelicans, two different species of dolphin and a variety of different sea birds. On our return to Swakopmund we have an afternoon to enjoy this historically interesting town with some great shops, a museum and a wide range of outdoor activities such as sightseeing flights, quad biking, dune boarding and fat biking in the dunes. The daily scenic flight over the Namib sand sea all the way to Sossusvlei, is a great way to experience the Namib Desert from above and departs every afternoon from the Swakopmund airport.

Apart from the interesting activities available, we use the time to repair bikes, do maintenance on the tour cars and our guide purchases supplies that may be needed on the northern part of the tour. Guests also have a little time to themselves to reflect on the past few days, take it easy and recharge to be fit and ready for the adventurous days ahead.

Accommodation: Hotel Pension Rapmund

Travel distance: 90 km

Travel time: about 80 Minutes

Day 7

(B/L/D)

Spitzkoppe and the Erongo Mountains

We are transferred by car to the nearby Moon Landscape and within minutes find ourselves sandy but firm trails along the Swakop ephemeral riverbed and into the Moon Landscape. This unique area, known as the "Badlands", borders the linear coastal dunes and the gravel plains found further inland to the east. A labyrinth of bike trails in an area that feels and looks like the moon, we ride a desolate route to reach one of the farms along the river. From here we ride a route through the hills and side canyons of the Swakop river to reach Goanikontes Oasis and the comforts of a rustic restaurant and lodge under the large palm trees. The infrastructure dates back to colonial times, when the first German immigrants started farming here to provide Swakopmund with fresh produce.

From Goanikontes we drive eastwards to reach the southern part of an area called Damaraland, home to the Damara tribe. The area includes three large granite inselbergs/mountains, namely the Spitzkoppe (which we drive past, can take photos of), the Erongo Mountains and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain. If there is time, we can bike the remaining kilometres on quiet country roads to reach our campsite at the Erongo mountains.

Accommodation: Erongo Rocks Camp, Camping

Biking distance: 40-60 km, **Altitude:** 560 m
Travel distance: about 170 km
Travel time: about 3.5 hours + photo stops

Day 8

(B/L/D)

Biking on the single trails of Ai-Aiba Lodge and further towards Uis and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain.

The landscape of the private farm is spectacular and invites you to explore and discover. A network of jeep tracks and well-marked trails has been developed for your leisure. The trails and paths can be used for outdoor adventures such as hiking, trail running, mountain biking, bird watching, photography or exploring the beautiful surroundings. We can take a walk to the rock paintings or visit the nearby San Living Museum. These Bushmen live as they have for the last 500 years.

The farm is home to a wide variety of free-ranging wildlife and birds, some of which are found only in the Erongo Mountains.

Working with experienced trail builders, Erongo Rocks and Ai-Aiba have developed a trail network that allows mountain bikers to explore the spectacular scenery of the Erongo region at their own pace. These are some of the most scenic mountain bike trails in Namibia. These mountain bike trails are suitable for riders of all levels, but the emphasis is on enjoyable, flowing, and scenic riding.

Currently, there is a beautiful 24 km route that is mainly on jeep tracks, as well as a few more kilometres of purpose-built single-track trails that are suitable for riders of all levels. In addition, there are several turn-offs to the granite rocks of the terrain, aimed at experienced riders looking for a more adventurous route.

Accommodation: Erongo Rocks Camp, camping

Biking distance: 50 km, **Altitude:** 300 m
Travel distance: 20 km
Travel time: 20 min

Day 9

(B/L/D)

Biking away from the Erongo mountains via the tin mining village of Uis to Twyfelfontein

We wake up to the first warm rays of the sun, surrounded by granite rocks that reach up to the blue sky.

After a hearty breakfast, we set off on our bikes along lesser travelled gravel roads, with views of the impressive Brandberg, towards Uis. Our ride takes us past small settlements of communal farmers of the Damara tribe, who are indigenous to the area. The region is rich in semi-precious stones found in the granite rocks. They are one of the important sources of income for the local people, as they cannot rely solely on agriculture in this arid semi-desert area. The Brandberg massif, Namibia's highest mountain looms to the west. Home to the famous bushman painting, the White Lady of the Brandberg, we can consider a visit if there is time.

We load up our bikes and drive via the small mining village of Uis to Mowani Mountain Camp, where we set up camp for the next two nights. After a sundowner we look forward to a refreshing open-air shower and prepare for our next biking stage around the campfire.

Accommodation: Mowani Campsite, Camping

Biking distance: 30-40 km, **Altitude:** 350 m

Travel distance: about 200 km

Travel time: about 4-5 hours + breaks and photo stops

Day 10

(B/L/D)

Biking in Damaraland

The dry and rocky desert plain reaches west from Twyfelfontein to the Skeleton Coast. This remote region is home to a variety of wildlife - zebra, giraffe, oryx and kudu antelope, desert lion and the rare black rhino.

We cycle on gravel roads to reach remote valleys where, after good rainfall, small herds of rare mountain zebra and giraffe can be found. The fascinating geology gives us an insight into the time of the late Carboniferous to early Jurassic age, when the supercontinent Gondwana broke apart. We take our time to explore the flora that has uniquely adapted to this arid environment. Our guide will explain the particularities of the different Commiphora, Aloe and Acacia species.

The circular route takes us close to the volcanic Doros crater, further east to areas managed by the local population and up to the Twyfelfontein sandstone mountain range. We are accompanied by the silhouette of the Brandberg in the distance. The landscape is unique - a combination of granite, sandstone and volcanic rocks. The sandstone mountains of Twyfelfontein are the remains of an ancient desert that occurred more than 280 million years ago. More than 2500 rock drawings are engraved on over 200 rock slabs, the oldest of these dates back to the Stone Age, to a time when these mountains provided protection and water to the hunters. Twyfelfontein was ideal for rock paintings and engravings due to its flat and soft rock structures. Here you will find some of the most beautiful rock paintings in the world. Twyfelfontein has therefore been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Accommodation: Mowani campsite

Biking distance: 50 km,

Altitude: 300 m

Day 11+12

(B/L/D)

Etosha National Park

After many days in the Namib Desert of western Namibia, our journey takes us eastwards via Khorixas to the Ugab Terraces and the Vingerklip. An early start is necessary to complete the day and enjoy to the full. We bike this "Marlboro Country" along the banks of the Ugab River with views of the sedimentary rock formations created millions of years ago, one of the most unique one's being the finger like rock protrusion called the "Finger Rock". After lunch at the Vingerklip Lodge, we are transferred by vehicle to the entrance of the Etosha National Park. Etosha is one of the most special game parks in Southern Africa and is over 22000 km² in size. Etosha means "great white place" and refers to the huge 5000 km² salt pan that gives its name to the park. The park is teeming with different animal species, including lion, rhinoceros, and elephant. The landscape beautiful and different to what we have experienced on our tour thus far. No visit to Namibia is complete without spending two days at Etosha. We overnight in comfortable bungalows and spend our time on game drives to find the many animals that are found here.

Accommodation: Taleni Etosha Village or similar alternative lodge

Biking distance: 30-40 km, **Altitude:** 300 m

Travel distance: 250 km

Travel time: 4-6 hours

Day 13

(B/L/D)

Bike trails near Okahandja

After an interesting time in Etosha it is time to start the journey back to Windhoek. After breakfast we head south towards civilization, arriving in Okahandja after a 4-5 hour drive. The name is derived from Otjiherero and means "the place where two rivers flow into each other to form a wide one". Known for its large camel thorn trees, it is our last oasis before we prepare for our journey home. We enjoy the afternoon biking on the trails of the nearby farm Ongeama. On a network of jeep tracks and single trails, we bike this interesting nature area, home to a variety of antelope and other animals.

Accommodation: Okahandja Country Lodge

Bike distance: 20 - 40 km

Travel Distance: about 370 km

Travel time: 4-5 hours + breaks and photo stops

Day 14

(B/-/-)

Windhoek Departure Day

Unfortunately, our Namibia adventure is slowly coming to an end today. Depending on the time of our departure flight, we may still have time for a final bike ride or a morning walking in the Ongeama nature area. Before our departure to Windhoek, we can stop at the woodcarvers' market in Okahandja to look at the handmade carvings and buy some souvenirs. Alternatively, or better still, we can spend a little time in Windhoek before departing for the airport, the Craft Centre a special place and a final walk through the city centre may also be worth the while.

Driving distance 110 km



Included

- Meals and accommodations as stated or suitable alternatives
- All transport and transfers in the escort/safari vehicle
- Bike trailer for the transport of the bikes
- 9 lodge/hotel nights
- 4 luxury camping nights with comfortable tents, camping equipment including comfortable bedrolls (with sleeping bag, sheets, pillow and towel).
- All entrance fees and activities as described in the itinerary.
- Professional German/English-speaking tour guide
- Mineral water while driving / biking / on camping days

Excluded

- Flights
- Tips and Souvenirs
- Own drinks, Meals not mentioned
- activities not included in the above program
- Mountain Bike, Bike-helmet/bike gear

Dates 2024 (from/to Windhoek):

18 May to 31 May 2024

14 September to 27 September 2024

19 October – 01 November 2024

Price for the Bike Tour:

Per person sharing ZAR 84'900

Single supplement ZAR 6'400

Mountain Bike Rental ZAR 8'400 (Scott Spark 960 or Specialized Stumpjumper Alu full suspension MTB with 29 inch rims)

Scott Spark Strike E-ride, E-bike: ZAR 14'000

Participants minimum 6 and maximum 12

General Information:

Namibia is a large country and during our two weeks tour we travel about 2500 km. The trip is planned in such a way that guests cycle the most beautiful sections, thus avoiding long hours spent in the vehicle and spending more time on the bike in the great outdoors. The cycling is focused on off the beaten tracks, roads and trails. The tour follows the classic route meaning that most of the most famous highlights of Namibia are experienced on this tour.

Level of difficulty:

Level 1 – Beginners

Level 2 – Intermediate biking experience

Level 3- Advanced

Our tour would be considered a Level 2 tour. If we have beginners or more advanced riders along, we can adapt the tour to suit the abilities of the guests. For example, we can add a challenging extra ride on certain days for participants that need a little more action. This also allows experienced bikers to enjoy this tour with family or friends who have a different level of biking experience and fitness. Guests with less experience can ride as far as they can and then load their bike on the trailer and continue in the vehicle. The support vehicle is always near/close behind, should you require assistance.

Fixed departure dates and individually planned bike tours:

For the NAMIBIA CLASSIC BIKE Tour there are four fixed departure dates every year. The exact dates and travel itinerary can be found on our website: www.mountainbikenamibia.com.

Alternatively, we can work out a tailor-made tour for you, depending on your time available, level of difficulty, standard of the accommodation and the travel route.

Travel service, vehicles, and equipment

The NAMIBIA CLASSIC BIKE tour will be guided by an experienced bike guide. On most of the biking sections the guide will be joining you on his bike. A tour assistant will drive the support vehicle and assist the guests with all their needs, loading and un-loading the bikes and so on.

The NAMIBIA CLASSIC BIKE tour is ideal for groups with 4 to 12 participants. For smaller groups a Toyota Landcruiser 4x4 will be used, however for larger groups we use a 14-seater VW Crafter.

Our Scott Bikes, Model 960 (or alternatives with comparable quality standards) are equipped with 29-inch rims and full suspension and are regularly serviced and in good condition. These bikes are suitable for our local conditions. All bikes are equipped with tubeless tires, which are resilient and perfect for the local terrain. We leave nothing to chance and we make sure our guest have the ultimate biking experience. Specially designed trailers for transporting the bikes allow for easy loading, they have enough space for all the equipment and luggage.

Scott Spark 960 Model with 29-inch rims (our rental bike):



Tour Operator in Namibia:

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