



Cape Desert Safari (19SCDS11A) – Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Etosha NP, Game Drives
Spitzkoppe, Bushman Paintings
Sossusvlei Shuttle & Guided Walk*

Dune 45
Sesriem Canyon

***Highlights are included in the Adventure Pass**

Intended Itinerary

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only. This is a participation tour and travels together with the camping counterpart.

The description below assumes you have purchased the optional Adventure Pass for the tour.

Duration: 11 Days
Countries visited: Namibia and South Africa

Day 1:

Windhoek – Etosha National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 420 Km
Approx driving time: 8.5 hours

We make our way north to Etosha National Park, a vast reserve of over 20,000 sq km surrounding a central salt depression or pan. The pan is seasonally full of water, but specially managed waterholes sustain some 114 mammal and 340 bird species throughout the rest of the year. We spend two nights here, usually near a floodlit waterhole. Observers frequently see a range of night visitors including elephant, giraffe, zebra, even lion and hyena, making it one of the most memorable wildlife encounters in Namibia - a truly African experience and a highlight of any trip to Namibia. We have a short afternoon game drive on entering the park on our way to the accommodation.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 2:

Etosha National Park

Distance travelled: +/- 250 Km
Approx driving time: Full day including game drives

Today, we enjoy a full day game driving in this magnificent animal kingdom - taking in the park's main characteristic, the salt pan. Despite the dry nature of the terrain, the park sustains a wide variety of bird species including the large kori bustard, secretary bird and many other seed & insect eaters, as well as birds of prey.

After a full day game driving we return to our accommodation, or onto the next and enjoy our last evening around the floodlit watering holes, observing natural animal behaviour at its best.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo or Halali or Namutoni Camp - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 3:

Etosha National Park – Spitzkoppe

Distance travelled: +/- 420 Km
Approx driving time: 6 hours

We game drive out of Etosha National Park and turn south making our way to the beautiful Damaraland region where we explore the eerie Spitzkoppe where ancient bushman paintings are still visible. The giant boulder-like rock formations reach a peak at some 1800m above sea level and create a spectacular view. Take your time to explore the area and its delightful calmness. Keep an eye on the ever-changing colour of the rock, especially during sunrise and sunset, when they acquire intense red shades. The most impressive rock painting is "Bushman Paradise" and the natural rock bridge is a favourite viewpoint.

NB: Please take care if climbing onto the rocky outcrops. The surfaces have been smoothed by aeons of sun, wind and blown dust: they can be extremely slippery especially if you are not wearing suitable footwear.

The Spitzkoppe Rest camp lies at the base of the mountain and is owned and maintained by the local community to which all proceeds from our visit to Spitzkoppe go.

Accommodation: Spitzkoppe Community Camp - Twin shared canvas tents with mattress, sleeping bag and pillow provided with basic facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil



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Day 4:

Spitzkoppe - Swakopmund

Distance travelled: +/- 150 Km

Approx driving time: 3 Hours

Departing the granite infused Spitzkoppe, we make our way to the Atlantic coast and to Swakopmund. Swakopmund makes for a refreshing change with cooler Atlantic sea air, a taste of civilization and a swathe of exciting things to do and places to explore. Try some adventure desert-based activities like quad biking, sand boarding, skydiving (weather permitting). For those seeking a quieter life, enjoy the other side of Swakopmund: shops, restaurants, museums, the aquarium, art galleries or simply walk along the promenade admiring the ocean, the quaint German-style architecture and indulge in the town's café culture.

N.B: For the sake of practicality, meals in Swakopmund are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back for meal times. Swakopmund town offers a variety of bakeries and cafes with a selection of reasonably priced meals (allow ZAR 80-150 per meal). Relax and enjoy these days at your own leisure.

Please note that some clients may end their tour in Swakopmund.

Accommodation: Amanpuri - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 5

Day 5:

Swakopmund

Today is a free day to enjoy all this quaint seaside town has to offer - from the many optional activities to the German patisseries, cafés and restaurants.

Accommodation: Amanpuri - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Sandboarding - Stand Up US\$50
Sandboarding - Lay down US\$40, Quad Biking US\$55,
Skydiving US\$200, Deep Sea Fishing US\$120, Scenic Flights
US\$360, Swakopmund Township Tour US\$40, Dolphin and
Seal Cruise US\$60, Kayaking US\$60

Day 6:

Swakopmund – Sossus On Foot Camp

Distance travelled: +/- 260 Km

Approx driving time: 4.5 Hours

Continuing south, we cross over the Tropic of Capricorn, stopping for a photo opportunity en route to our stunning desert campsite in the Khomas region of Namibia.

Accommodation: Sossus On Foot Camp - Twin shared canvas tents with mattress, sleeping bag and pillow provided with basic shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Desert Experience US\$25

Day 7:

Sossus On Foot Camp – Sesriem area

Distance travelled: +/- 280 Km

Approx driving time: 4.5 Hours

This morning we leave our desert camp early and enter the National Park to trek to the top of famous Dune 45. It's a spectacular sight but be warned, it's not an easy feat to reach the top as some dunes are over 300m high! After a well-earned breakfast we continue deeper into the park for a short shuttle ride and nature walk to 'Dead Vlei', amidst the giant sand dunes – a real glimpse of Namibia's unspoilt natural environment. Bring your camera – the shifting colours of the desert as the sun climbs throughout the mid/late morning offer some brilliant photographic opportunities. Departing from the dunes, we stop off at the smaller Sesriem Canyon where the multiple layers of rock and pebbles make for an interesting insight to what lies beneath the mountains of sand. Thereafter we make our way to our accommodation for the night.

Accommodation: Little Sossus Lodge - Twin share accommodation with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 8:

Sesriem area - Fish River Canyon

Distance travelled: +/- 430 Km

Approx driving time: 6 Hours

Today we drive south through barren and rocky landscapes, dotted with quiver trees, to the world's second largest canyon. Fish River Canyon is one of the natural wonders of Africa, some 500m deep and over 160km long. Again, there are plenty of opportunities for keen photographers as we spend time around this area and visit the canyon's infamous sharp river bend known as 'Hell's Corner.

Accommodation: Canyon Road House - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes



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Optional Activities: Nil

Day 9:

Fish River Canyon – Orange (Gariep) River

Distance travelled: +/- 180 Km

Approx driving time: 3.5 Hours

Leaving the mighty Fish River Canyon, we travel south to the Gariep (Orange) river. Our campsite lies on the banks of the river on the Namibia side. On arrival we have the opportunity to partake in an optional canoe safari on the river to see the striking Richtersveld scenery, or simply relax on the water's edge at camp.

Accommodation: Umkulu Camp - Twin share accommodation with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Canoe Safari US\$40

Day 10:

Orange (Gariep) River – Cederberg Region

Distance travelled: +/- 400 Km

Approx driving time: 8 Hours

This morning, we cross the border into South Africa and continue south passing through Namaqualand, well known for its prolific display of wildflowers that occur in spring (best seen between August – September). We camp at a

picturesque campsite nestled near the Olifants River. Here we have the opportunity to sample some of the beautiful wines of the region.

Accommodation: Highlanders Camp - Twin share accommodation with en-suite facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: No

Optional Activities: Wine Tasting US\$10

Day 11:

Cederberg Region – Cape Town

Distance travelled: +/- 260 Km

Approx driving time: 4.5 Hours

We leave the scenic Cederberg area and travel south, passing the rich fruit growing area of Citrusdal and the spectacular views as we meander down the Piketberg Pass to the Western Cape Province. We continue to cosmopolitan Cape Town - without a doubt one of the world's most beautiful cities, where our tour ends. If time allows we recommend you spend a few days exploring the city and surroundings. Take advantage of the variety of activities normally available here.

Accommodation: Not Included

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes (Cape Town Accommodation)

Optional Activities: Nil

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Accommodated Overland Tour

This is a participation tour and your help will be needed in assisting with the various day to day duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck tidy (usually on a rota basis). But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip. Our accommodated tour option travels together with the camping counterpart.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to 'expect the unexpected' in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile. Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

Africa provides an ever-changing environment, power failures, water and fuel shortages, temperature fluctuations, and other uncontrollable / unplanned situations do occur. You will need to remain flexible, understanding and good-humoured. "African time" can be difficult and frustrating for those who are used to a very structured life, so this is something to keep in mind!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

All tour highlights, twin share accommodation (8 nights), twin share tents (2 nights), fully equipped safari vehicles, cooking equipment, mattresses, sleeping bag and pillow for camping nights, service of two crew, all road and vehicle taxes, all ground transportation, meals as indicated.



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WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Adventure Pass Activities and Excursions (optional), visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks and items of personal nature. NB Dinner in Windhoek, lunches and dinners in Swakopmund are not included.

ADVENTURE PASS: Every Overland tour has an Adventure Pass which is paid to your tour leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour (or pre-paid by arrangement prior to your tour at the time of booking). This is separate and in addition to the Tour Price. The Adventure Pass is paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes). The Adventure Pass covers selected park entries, activities and excursions along the way where payment goes directly to the supplier. The purpose of the separate payment is to ensure local suppliers benefit directly from the income.

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS: These are optional activities that are booked during your holiday and paid directly to the provider while on tour. These options offer a variety of experiences and allow you the freedom to decide what activities you would like to do.

EXTENDING YOUR TOUR: This tour can be extended to travel from Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Livingstone or Johannesburg. Ask your agent for more information.

ACCOMMODATION: Twin share accommodation with facilities (8 nights) twin share tents with sleeping bag, pillow and mattress (2 nights) some camps may have a bar or swimming pool. In most cases rooms are en suite but from time to time some rooms may be shared facilities where en suite is indicated.

TRANSPORT: 24-seater, self-contained, custom-built safari truck with on-board tables, plug sockets, freezer, water tank, library, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers. Travel times indicated are approximate and do not include stops en-route.

GAME PARK VISITS To maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience using local guides and smaller vehicles it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit.

Tour Preparation

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Windhoek (WDH) and Cape Town (CPT) are well served by a number of airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Windhoek. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour ends in Cape Town on Day 11.**

Meeting point in **Windhoek:**

Address: **Urban Camp**
Schanzen Street 2, Windhoek
Namibia

Contact Details: Tel +264 61 244 251
E-mail: booking@urbancamp.net

Pre- departure meeting: 18:00 prior to departure day

Tour start time: 07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point in **Cape Town:**

Address: **Ashanti Lodge, Gardens**
11 Hof Street,
Gardens
Cape Town, 8001

Contact Details: Tel +27 21 423 8721
E-mail: info@ashanti.co.za

Tour end time: late afternoon on Day 11

PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour starts in Windhoek on Day 1. If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of this part of Africa. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival but you can also pre book this with Acacia. There is a variety of activities and excursions in the Cape Town area you can arrange locally or with your Tour Leader.



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See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. **These prices are a guide line only and are subject to change so please check with Acacia or your agent for current prices.**

Description	Price (USD)	Description	Price (USD)
Windhoek – Urban Camp		Cape Town – Ashanti Lodge, Gardens	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn	\$ 35	Post tour accommodation – Twin/ double pppn	\$ 50
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn	\$ 65	Post tour accommodation – Single pppn	\$ 70
		Post tour accommodation – Dorm pppn	\$ 35

ADVENTURE PASS

Paid in the currency listed in the brochure or on the website (usually US dollars in clean, un-torn post 2008 edition notes) directly to your Tour Leader in Africa at the beginning of the tour, or pre-paid by arrangement, the Adventure Pass of this tour covers the following.

Sossusvlei 4x4 Shuttle	√
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LUGGAGE

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A power bank is useful for recharging electronic devices. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, issued when you book.

N.B: Acacia Africa has teamed up with SAVE (South Africa Volunteer Experience) which is a non-profit organization (NPO #088 104) that assists, develops and uplifts the local disadvantaged communities in and around the Dunoon Township of the Western Cape, South Africa. If you have any unwanted blankets, sleeping bags, clothing and shoes that you do not wish to carry after your travel, pop it into a bag and give it to our crew to donate to SAVE. Read more about SAVE <http://www.southafricavolunteerexperiences.org.za/>

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Please be aware that some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend you seek professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Namibia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	*	R
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

NB: To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice. Alternatively, contact Acacia for any queries or advise regarding vaccination requirements.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk. For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.



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Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Namibia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
S. Africa	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No											

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to: <https://acacia-africa.com/travel-info> for more details.

In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour for Activities and Excursions, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

Spending money is best carried as cash in US dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn, **post 2008** edition notes), Sterling or Euro which you then exchange into local currency on arrival and as you go. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.

Currencies are as follows: Namibia – Namibian Dollar; South Africa – Rand. Please note that Rand is legal tender in Namibia at the same rate of exchange as the Namibian Dollar.

ATM machines are found in Southern Africa. Please note they are sometimes unreliable (therefore should not be relied upon).

Credit cards can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash and some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

To give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability

Activity	Price (USD)	Activity	Price (USD)
Namibia		Tandem Skydive	\$200
Desert Excursion Walk	\$25	Swakopmund Township Tour	\$40
Sand Boarding – Stand Up	\$50	Dolphin and Seal Cruise	\$60
Sand Boarding – Lay Down	\$40	South Africa	
Quad Biking	\$55	South Africa, Wine Tasting	\$10
Kayaking	\$60	Orange River Canoeing	\$40
Deep Sea Fishing	\$120		
Scenic Flights	\$360		



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Responsible Travel

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites and accommodation we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

Contact Us

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Get Connected

WIFI on tour:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.

Join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and get connected with other Acacia travellers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Upload your travel stories to Acacia Live: www.acacialive.com

Find us on Instagram #acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel photographs!

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter! Or tag us at #AcaciasAfrica

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our **Camping & Accommodated Overland Tours, Small Group Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays**, please visit www.acacia-africa.com