



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

Huab Wilderness Adventure

Secluded trails in Damaraland

Safari in Etosha National Park

World famous game park



MOUNTAIN BIKE NAMIBIA

Namibia Classic Bike Tour 2021 / 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 in search of wild animals at Otjiwa Game Ranch

Itinerary:

Day 1

(-/-/D)

Arrive in Windhoek

Guests and bicycles are transferred to a Guestfarm 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 on the single trails of Farm Windhoek, a well-maintained mountain biking area in the hills on the outskirts of Windhoek. 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: Vineyard Country Lodge

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 travelled 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 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.

Driving distance 150 km Cycle duration: 3 h, distance: 40 km, altitude difference: 330 m

Accommodation: Namibgrens Guest Farm

Day 3

(B/L/D)

Over the Spreetshoogte Pass to the Tsauchab River Camp between the Tsaris- and Naukluft Mountains

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. We continue in our tour car along the Naukluft mountains to reach Tsauchab River Camp with its views of two unique Namibian mountain ranges towering above. We find our bungalows along the dry riverbed in this pristine nature area. After a short siesta in the shade of the huge fig trees, we depart on a challenging cycle in the foothills of the Tsaris/Zebra mountains. We find ourselves alone on a trail that leads us deep into the hills. A fun and challenging ride, we should see some wild animals, including herds of Hartmann's mountain zebra, kudu, ostrich, oryx and springbok. The area is geologically fascinating, one can clearly see the many sediment layers of an ancient sea, hence the name, Zebra mountains. We return to our camp to freshen up for a "braai" under the stars, a fine dinner on the open fire, a treat of world-famous Namibian meat, vegetables and fresh salad.

Driving distance 80 km Cycle duration: 3-6 h, distance: 40-60 km, altitude difference: 380 m

Accommodation: Tsauchab River Camp

Day 4

(B/L/D)

Tsauchab River – Sesriem and the foothills of the Gamsberg mountain

The world famous Sossusvlei is the main highlight in our program on this day. We bike out of Tsauchab River Camp on a jeep trail that takes us along the Tsauchab River to reach the main gravel road where we load the bikes for the remaining few kilometres to Sesriem, the gateway to Sossusvlei. Our visit to Sossusvlei we do in our tour car. We drive on a road that takes us deep into the dune sea, to a series of dried out vleis(which are filled with water every few years after good rains). The final few kilometres are through deep sand, a challenge

for our 4-wheel drive vehicle. We can walk part of the way, once we reach the actual Sossusvlei, we can climb the large dune that overlooks the vlei and the rows of dunes that stretch all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. We enjoy our picnic lunch under the ancient camelthorn trees that have survived here for hundreds of years. In the early afternoon we drive back to Sesriem and settle down in our car seats for the drive to our lodge north of Solitaire, on the road to Swakopmund. The evening is set aside for a relaxing sundowner and to reflect on the amazing day spent at in the dune seas of the Namib Desert.

Driving distance 300 km Cycle duration: 2.5 h, distance: 30-35 km, altitude difference: 290 m

Accommodation: Barchan Dune Lodge or Rostock Ritz Desert Lodge

Day 5

(B/L/-)

Via Blutkoppe to Swakopmund

The focus of the days bike ride in the Namib Naukluft Park is the semi-desert area east of the Blutkoppe granite inselberg. This is one the largest parks in Africa. We bike a jeep trail that takes us into a nature area that is home to a variety of desert-adapted animals including mountain zebra, oryx, kudu and springbok antelope, ostrich and other smaller mammals. The rare lappet-faced vulture breeds in the area, if we are lucky, we should see some of these birds along the way. Apart from the large camelthorn trees that follow the flow lines of the various dry ephemeral rivers, the area is dotted with granite inselbergs and other interesting rock formations, the Blutkoppe being the largest and most impressive of these. We bike to the Gembsbokwater waterhole where we can enjoy a picnic lunch and hope to see some of the animals that come to quench their thirst. We continue with our bikes to the Tinkas dam and the Blutkoppe inselberg. A scenic nature ride, it is a treat to have this vast area to ourselves as it is unlikely that we will see other people along the way. This is the beauty of the Namib Desert, it is such a vast area that we often find ourselves alone. Once we reach the Blutkoppe, we take a brisk walk up the bare rock face and in a short while we are 200 meters above the vast plains below, on a clear day we could see Swakopmund 80 km to the west and the Spitzkoppe granite inselberg 120 km to the north. After our quick descent, we load our bikes and drive the final kilometres on a good road to Swakopmund, along the Skeleton coast. We enjoy dinner at a fine seafood restaurant with a view on the restless Atlantic Ocean.

Driving distance 160 km Cycle duration: 4 h, distance: 40-60 km, altitude difference: 300 m

Accommodation: Swakopmund Plaza Hotel

Day 6

(B/L/-)

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: Swakopmund Plaza Hotel

Day 7

(B/L/D)

Spitzkoppe and the Erongo Mountains

We bike out of town and within minutes find ourselves biking single trails along the Swakop river 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 here 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, the Erongo Mountains and the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain. We bike a gravel road to reach the rock bridge formation at the Spitzkoppe, one of the more interesting sights to visit with a unique view of the Spitzkoppe and neighbouring Pontok mountains. After exploring the surrounding rock formations, it is time to take the short drive to our lodge.

Driving distance 100 km Cycle duration: ca. 4-5 h, distance: 45-60 km, altitude difference: 400 m

Accommodation: Hohenstein Lodge or alternative

Day 8

(B/L/D)

To Brandberg Mountain and the Brandberg White Lady in Damaraland

We wake up with to first warm rays of the sun, surrounded by granite rocks that reach into the blue sky. The landscape around the Spitzkoppe with its neighbouring granite mountains, the so-called Pontoks, is unique in Namibia. After a hearty breakfast we ride our bikes around the Spitzkoppe and northwards on a firm jeep track/nature trail, with a view of the impressive Brandberg, towards Uis. The ride takes us past small settlements of local farmers of the Damara tribe. The region is rich in semi-precious stones found in the many granite rocks. They represent one of the most important sources of income for the local people, as they cannot only rely on agriculture in this dry semi-desert area. Once we reach the main gravel road to Uis, we load the bikes and drive the remaining kilometres to our lodge at the Ugab River which meanders just north of the Brandberg all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Brandberg massif is the highest mountain in Namibia, its highest peak, the Königstein, is 2,573 metres above sea level, with the volcanic massif protruding about 700 metre from the surrounding area. The Brandberg is famous for the many bushman paintings found here, the most famous of these being the "White Lady", a painting of a shaman/medicine man on a wall that has numerous other paintings. The paintings are so prolific that one finds them in many of the caves and overhangs that one discovers on closer inspection. Our lodge is situated not far from the Ugab river which often reaches the Atlantic Ocean during the rainy season. The dry riverbed is home to the desert-adapted elephants and with a little luck, we should see some of them walking past our lodge or at one of the waterholes further down the river. After a sundowner, we look forward to a refreshing shower and a fine dinner with a view of the Brandberg mountain.

Driving distance 90 km Cycle duration: 3-5 h, distance: 45-60 km, altitude difference: 490 m

Accommodation: Brandberg White Lady Lodge or Uis Guesthouse

Day 9

(B/L/D)

Twyfelfontein-home of the desert elephant and the famous rock engravings

On some days, the fog from the coast reaches all the way inland to the Brandberg. The Ugab River and other ephemeral rivers of north western Namibia are referred to as linear oasis, the reason for this is they offer shade, food and spring water to the animals and birds of the desert. We cycle along the Ugab River and northwards on farm roads and trails, with the Brandberg behind us and the petrified sandstone rocks and volcanic rock of the Etendeka Plateau to the north. We reach the small village of Sorris Sorris. From here we continue in our tour vehicle to reach the sandstone and granite hills south of Twyfelfontein. The vegetation here is appealing to the eye Mopane woodland, in a granite boulder rich area that is often visited by the desert-adapted elephants. After an eventful day we enjoy a well-deserved sundowner in a unique scenery. We can spend some time at the pool or take a walk into the surrounding woodland to enjoy the views to the south and west.

Driving distance 80 km Cycle duration: 3.5 h, distance: 30-40 km, altitude difference: 690 m

Accommodation: Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp or alternative

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 through 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 date 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.

Driving distance 40 km Cycle duration: 3-5 h, distance: 45-50 km, altitude difference: 620 m

Accommodation: Twyfelfontein Adventure Camp or alternative

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. 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.

Driving distance 250 km Cycle duration: 2.5 h, distance: 35 km, altitude difference: 290 m

Accommodation: Taleni Etosha Village or similar

Day 13

(B/L/D)

Otjiwa Game Ranch

We depart from Etosha to travel via Otjiwarongo to a game/wildlife ranch in the central north of Namibia. After lunch and a siesta, we are taken on our final biking adventure. The hard Kalahari sands of this bush savannah are ideal to bike on and we go in search of the many different wild animals found here, including the rare white rhinoceros, giraffe and various species of antelope. It is an experience that combines riding bikes on good jeep tracks and at the same time finding and viewing animals in their natural habitat, the African bush. Our final sundowner in Africa is enjoyed at the lodge before a fine dinner under the stars.

Driving distance 210 km Cycle duration: 1 - 2 h, distance: 10 - 20 km, altitude difference: 100 m

Accommodation: Otjiwa Game Ranch

Day 14

(B/-/-)

Departure

Depending on the time of our departure flight we may still have time for an early morning walk or bike ride. On the way to Windhoek we will stop at the wood-carvers market to see if we can find something interesting to buy. We pass through the city of Windhoek on the way to the airport, if there is time, we can do some sightseeing or some more shopping/looking around before the final 40-minute drive to the airport.

Driving distance 250 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
- 13 lodge/hotel nights
- All entrance fees and activities as described in the itinerary.
- Professional German/English-speaking tour guide with an assistant/driver
- Mineral water while driving / biking

Excluded

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

Tour dates 2021 (from/to Windhoek):

- 17-30 April 2021
- 26 June to 9 July 2021
- 18 September to 1 October 2021
- 23 October to 5 November 2021

Price from/to Windhoek:

Recommended selling price:

Per person sharing ZAR 61'700

(approx. CHF 3'120 or about EUR 3'030)*

Single supplement ZAR 6'900

(approx. CHF 360 or about EUR 340)*

Mountain Bike Rental ZAR 6'600 (Scott Spark 960 full suspension MTB with 29-inch rims)

(approx. CHF 340 or about EUR 325)*

Price as per exchange rates 22 April 2020(these could change)

Participants minimum 4 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 960 Model with 29-inch rims (our rental bike)



Tour Operator in Namibia:

Namibia Individual Travel cc
Franzpeter Ackermann, PO Box 1917, Swakopmund, Namibia,
Mobile +264 81 279 5339, Email: info@nit.com.na
Andrew Bassingthwaighte, 9 Erma Street, Windhoek, Namibia,
Mobile +264 81 128 4900, Email: andrew@nit.com.na
www.nit.com.na
www.mountainbikenamibia.com