EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Comfort Itinerary Version (TMNA2)

WILDLIFE

TOURDURAT
18
DAYS

Tour Type: Tailormade

tour Code: TMNA2

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	2 nights Lodge 2 nights Hotel 2 nights Comfortable Lodge 2 nights Standard Lodge
Included Meals:	11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
Transport:	
Countries:	Namibia

Tailormade Highlights of Namibia

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you’re travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Depart the UK

Depart the UK for Namibia.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Windhoek

Upon arrival, you will be met and be taken to your hotel in Namibia's colourful capital

Included Meals: None

DAY 3 Drive to the Namib Desert

This morning you collect your rental car and head south-west to the Namib Desert. You'll travel over the Eros Mountains, past the Naukluft Mountains, open plains, small towns and open savannahs before you reach the great red sand dunes of the desert.

Overnight: **Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 In Sossusvlei

Spend a day discovering this spectacular natural landscape. Rise early to climb the largest sand dunes in the world, some more than 300m tall, and watch a magnificent sunrise over the desert. Take in your amazing surroundings and explore the Dead Vlei, an ancient river pan housing 900 year old scorched tree trunks. As the day cools off we suggest a drive to Sesriem Canyon for a short visit.

Overnight: **Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Drive to Swakopmund

Leaving the desert behind, you drive to the Atlantic coastal town of Swakopmund located on the Skeleton Coast, Namibia's premier coastal resort. We recommend a stop at Walvis Bay where you will have a chance to see flamingos and other bird life in the lagoon before continuing the short drive to Swakopmund.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 In Swakopmund

Swakopmund is the adventure capital of Namibia; a range of excursions and activities are available here from golfing to boat cruises. Or you may choose to spend a lazy day relaxing in one of the many restaurants, cafes, art galleries and museums in the town. Cape Cross, one of the world's largest and most impressive seal colonies, is easily accessible on a day trip.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 Drive to Damaraland

Continue inland into the desert to Damaraland, one of the most scenic areas of Namibia where open plains and distant mountains give it a magical feel. Travel on the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and then on to your lodge.

Overnight: **Comfortable Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 Drive to Grootberg

Drive to Twyfelfontein, Namibia's first World Heritage Site and witness over 2,000 amazing rock engravings carved by the Stone Age hunter-gatherers who inhabited the area over 2,000 years ago. Visit Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes, both formed as a result of geological and volcanic activity, before heading north-east towards the Grootberg area of Damaraland.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 Himba Tribesmen, Etosha National Park

A short drive takes you to the town of Kamanjab where you can visit the Himba Tribesmen. This is the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia. These tribes-people have migrated here and are following their traditional way-of-life in their village. In the afternoon drive to Etosha National Park and enjoy your first game drive on your way to Okaukuejo Resort. Okaukuejo is famous for its waterhole where black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope can be seen.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Etosha National Park

Today is a full and exhilarating day of game driving to the eastern area of the park - a great way to experience more of the park and see even more wildlife! Head to the centre of the national park, stopping en route at watering holes where you may be able to spot large herds of animals, including springbok, zebra, wildebeest and giraffe, before arriving at your lodge in the eastern region of Etosha.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Waterberg Plateau Park

Depart Etosha this morning and drive south to Waterberg Plateau. En route you pass Lake Otjikoto, a lake of intrigue and mystery, where German forces dumped their military equipment in 1915, examples of which can now been seen at the nearby Tsumeb Museum; one legend says the lake is bottomless, while another tells the tale of mouth-breathing fish living in the upside-down shaped lake. Continuing on your journey, you arrive at The Waterberg, a sandstone mountain which rises over 200m from the surrounding plains and is Namibia's only mountain game park. There are various trails to walk along searching for the elusive Damara Dik-Dik and a good variety of birds.

Overnight: **Comfortable Lodge**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12 Drive to Windhoek

Drive back to Windhoek for a night in Namibia's capital. Why not shop for those last-minute souvenirs?

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 Depart Namibia

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Arrive in the UK

Arrive back in the UK.

Included Meals: None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch,6 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Namibia

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Namibia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.80

Foreign Exchange

Namibia

ATM Availability: Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Credit Card Acceptance: Limited.

Travellers Cheques: Are difficult to exchange and should be used as back up

Local Currency: Namibian Dollar. South African Rand is legal tender in Namibia.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: USD are readily exchanged in Namibia and GBP to a lesser extent. Take your money in a combination of ATM cards and cash

Where to Exchange: On arrival.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Vaccinations & Protection

Namibia

Nothing compulsory, but we do recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Namibia

With a staggering 300 days of sunshine each year, Namibia is a year-round destination, although some may prefer to avoid the heat of high summer. The cold Benguela current keeps the Atlantic coast of the Namib Desert cool and rain-free for most of the year, with a thick coastal fog that lends a mysterious edge to the area. January and February are the hottest months, when daytime temperatures in the heart of the Namib can exceed 40ºC (104ºF), but nights are usually cool. Winter nights can be fairly cold, but days are generally warm and pleasant.

Luggage allowance on tour:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

Country details

Namibia

Population: 2,108,665

Size of Country: 825,418 sq km

Major Language: English, Afrikaans, German

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Electric Supply & Plugs

Namibia

3 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is ‘Available’ or ‘Guaranteed’ we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2. 3/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 3.

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