



**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

# STUDENT TRIP NAMIBIA

18 Days | 17 Nights

South Africa | Namibia





# JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg is one of Africa's biggest and most vibrant cities. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa. Although not as famous as other South African destinations, there is plenty to do in Johannesburg and nearby Pretoria. The old city is a multi-cultural mixture of traditional medicine shops, Chinese restaurants, taxi ranks and ultra-modern skyscrapers. There are excellent museums, art galleries and organised tours of historical and political interest.





# WINDHOEK

Situated in Central Namibia, the cosmopolitan city of Windhoek serves as the capital of the country. It is home to an international airport and a plethora of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation options. The city is clean, safe and well-organized, with a colonial legacy that is reflected in its many German eateries and shops, and the widespread use of the German language.

Windhoek has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste an old fort, the 1896 Christuskirche Christ Church, and the more contemporary Supreme Court.







# GOCHAS

Located in the Hardap region of Namibia 110 kilometres southeast of Mariental, Gochas is a secluded village known for its remarkable desert landscape. This picturesque retreat is set amidst the rolling red dunes and white limestone formations of the Kalahari, and is said to be the smallest town in all of Namibia with just a few shops and limited accommodation options.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of adventure activities including: thrilling 4x4 excursions, cycling, hiking and wildlife viewing. The area is inhabited by unique birdlife, making it an ideal bird watching destination. Gochas is the home of the !Kharakhoen, a subtribe of the Nama people, who are known for being down to earth and friendly. Don't miss the opportunity to experience a traditional Boma style restaurant at one of the guesthouses, hotels or camps.



# KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK

Straddling the border of South Africa and Botswana, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is known as one of the jewels of the desert featuring an expansive wilderness scattered with grasslands and red dunes. For a different type of wildlife experience, many tourists head to this northwestern corner of South Africa, where the famous Kalahari Desert or, as it is now known, the Kgalagadi, starts.

The park is renowned for its predator and raptor viewing, and not surprisingly, its gemsbok, also called oryx; the elegant grey, black and white antelope with their rapier-like horns. Visitors can look forward to many activities including: watching the migrating herds of wildebeest and springbok, spotting other wildlife on a game drive or walking through the African bushveld on a guided walking safari with a park ranger.



# ORANGE RIVER

Rising from the beautiful Drakensberg Mountains in Lesotho, forming part of the international border between South Africa and Namibia, the Orange River is the longest river in South Africa. The Orange River Basin extends into Namibia and northern Botswana. The river snakes its way through one of Southern Africa's harshest environments bringing life to an area of sheer rugged beauty.

Aside from vineyards in the desert the river also creates a mobile playground from which to explore the area. This spectacular river created the diamond dune fields along Namibia's coast, by washing diamonds downstream from the Kimberly region over millions of years. Visitors can look forward to excellent whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and wonderful river cruises





# FISH RIVER CANYON

Carving out an epic rocky wonderland in the south of Namibia, the Fish River has created Africa's largest and the world's second largest canyon. Hot, dry and stony, the Fish River Canyon measures a whopping 160 kilometers in length, at times 27 kilometers in width and 550 meters in depth.

The awe-inspiring natural beauty of this ancient geological marvel draws visitors from around the globe. For those looking for adventure, the intense 85 kilometer Fish River Hiking Trail through 1.5 billion years of geological history will definitely thrill avid adventure enthusiasts, and for visitors looking to relax, head over to the canyon's southern end to enjoy a soak in the mineral waters of the renowned hot springs of Ai-Ais, or take in the spectacularly scenic views from Hobas Restcamp as well as numerous other viewpoints along its rim. Other popular activities include: scenic chartered flights, horse riding, nature drives and seasonal kayaking.







# SOSSUSVLEI

Located in the scenic Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red dunes to make this one of the most scenic natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven. This awe-inspiring destination is possibly Namibia's premier attraction, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 meters-some of the highest in the world.

These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts from around the globe. Sossusvlei is home to a variety desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes; explore Deadvlei, a white, salt, claypan dotted with ancient trees; or for the more extravagant, scenic flights and hot air ballooning are on offer, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime champagne breakfast amidst these majestic dunes.







# SWAKOPMUND

Set along Namibia's spectacularly scenic coast, the seaside town of Swakopmund is known for its wide-open avenues, colonial architecture, and its surrounding otherworldly desert terrain. Founded in 1892 as the main harbor for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort town, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy.

The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, adventure options, laid-back atmosphere and cool sea breeze make it a very popular Namibian destination. Visitors can look forward to a number of exciting activities including: quad biking, horse riding, paragliding, fishing, sightseeing and fascinating desert tours.



# BRANDBERG

Situated in northwestern Namibia, the Brandberg (Fire Mountain) Massif is Namibia's highest peak, at its zenith, the Königstein (King's Stone), standing at a whopping 2573 meters above sea level. Named for the vivid shade of orange it sometimes turns at sunset, this is undoubtedly the main highlight of the region. The Brandberg has been sacred to the San people for centuries.

The Tsisab Ravine at its base is permeated with over 45 000 ancient San rock paintings, including the famous 'White Lady'. Visitors flock here to view this unique bushman painting, said to be over 2000 years old. Other popular drawcards include its untouched natural beauty and its free roaming wildlife such as mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, and desert elephant.







# OKONJIMA NATURE RESERVE

Midway between the spectacular Etosha National Park and the capital city of Windhoek, lies the well-known Okonjima Nature Reserve. The 22 000 ha nature reserve is home to AfriCAT, a carnivore sanctuary, which gives the captive cats a second chance to be released back into the wild and become completely independent hunters in a protected area right in the middle of commercial cattle farmland.

Visitors can enjoy a stay at a variety of excellent accommodation options including everything from luxury villas to secluded camping. Enjoy thrilling cat tracking guided safaris, leopard-spotting, off-road night drives and learn about local San culture along the Bushmen trail.

- A City Lodge OR Tambo
- B Windhoek Game Camp
- C Kamelruhe Guesthouse
- D Mata Mata Rest Camp
- E Orange River Lodge & Country Estate
- F Hobas Camp
- G Sesriem Campsite
- H Tiger Reef Campsite
- I Brandberg Rest Camp Lodge
- J Okonjima Lodge





# DAY 1 : JOHANNESBURG

A member of the Southern Sky Adventures team will meet the group upon landing at the Johannesburg Airport in the late afternoon. The group leaders can get SIM cards, stock up on needed supplies and scout out a good restaurant in the airport for dinner. The group will be taken to the City Lodge Hotel where they can check in, shower and gather again for dinner in the airport.





## DAY 2 : WINDHOEK

The group will eat breakfast in the hotel and head back over to the airport where we will take a flight to Windhoek, Namibia.

As soon as we arrive at Windhoek airport, our guide and overland truck will pick us up and take us to our accommodation for the evening. We get a chance to settle in after our flight and then receive a briefing from our tour leader about the great adventure ahead. We have ample opportunity to ask questions and stock up on snacks and refreshments for the road ahead tomorrow. Tonight, we have dinner at a famous restaurant in Namibia called, Joe's. Here we can sample some of the delicious local delicacies before a well deserved rest.





## DAY 3 : GOCHAS

### Gochas – Community Service

We will make an early start as we have a four and half hour drive ahead of us, we are traveling South East from Windhoek to the edge of the great Kalahari dunes to a town called, Gochas . This village has been the main settlement of the Kharakhoen, a sub tribe of the Nama people for many decades.

The Nama are the largest group of the Khoikhoi people, most of who have largely disappeared as a group. Music, dancing, poetry and storytelling are very important in Nama culture and many stories have been passed down orally through the generations. Here we will stay for 2 nights working on a community project to improve the local school and sports facilities. We also can learn about local culture.



## DAY 4 : GOCHAS

The efforts to improve the local school facilities and sports fields could consist of painting school rooms, construction, clean up, stocking supplies or just playing with the children on the playground.





## DAY 5 : KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK

### Kgalgadi Transfronteir Park – Game Viewing

After a fulfilling 2 days in assisting the local community in Gochas, we make an early start for the drive across the border into South Africa for our next 2 nights at Mata Mata camp, Kgalgadi Transfrontier Park. We arrive at camp around lunch time, set up our tents and head out for an afternoon game drive, there is also a game hide near the campsite from which to view animals at a watering hole. The best time to view game is early morning and late afternoon and so we get up early the next day for a day out in the park. We head North towards Nosob camp where we will have lunch and then slowly make our way back down to our campsite in the afternoon. We can expect to see giraffe, zebra, gemsbok, springbok, hopefully a lion or 2 but nature holds all the cards and it is not a zoo so we should hope for the best and keep our eyes open.



# DAY 6 : KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is a vast wildlife preserve in the Kalahari Desert region of Botswana and South Africa, bordering Namibia to the west. It's characterized by red dunes and dry rivers. Wildlife includes migrating herds of wildebeest and springbok, plus predators like raptors and black maned Kalahari lions.







# DAY 7 : ORANGE RIVER

## Orange River – Rafting Tour

We leave Kgalgadi Transfronteir park behind us and make our way further south towards the great Orange River, it is a long day's drive and we will have lunch on the road. We are heading for a place called Noordoewer from where we will start our rafting tour the following day.





# DAY 8 : ORANGE RIVER

Our rafting trip will see us paddling and floating along the mighty Gariep (the Orange River) through the deserts of the Richtersveldt. We set out on our rafting adventure with all your necessities on the raft with us.







## DAY 9 : ORANGE RIVER

We will paddle in 2-man inflatable rafts which are very easy to handle and very comfortable. We will spend the next 4 nights along the banks of the river, camping where the guides find a suitable spot. There are no facilities along the river and you will experience raw nature by bathing in the river and eating around the camp fire at night. You don't even have to bring your tent along and can sleep out under the blanket of more stars than you could ever imagine.







## DAY 10 : ORANGE RIVER

The paddling is easy going and most time is spent swimming, relaxing or even fishing. You can even try a nappy run (swimming down one of the rapids wearing your life jacket as a nappy) to get the adrenalin flowing.







# DAY 11 : FISH RIVER CANYON

After our unforgettable rafting trip, we get picked up next to the river by our overland truck and make a short trip to Ais- Ais Hot Springs where we make lunch and get the opportunity to swim in the hot springs before we continue our journey to the Fish River canyon. Once we arrive at Hobos campsite we setup our tents before driving to the view point of the Fish River canyon, just before sunset.

The Fish River is, at 650 kilometers, the longest river in Namibia. The Fish River canyon, situated along the lower reaches of the Fish River, is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia and has become a popular hiking destination. It is the largest canyon in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia. It features a gigantic ravine, in total about 100 miles (160 km) long, up to 16 miles (27 km) wide and in places almost 550 meters deep.

# DAY 12 : SOSSUSVLEI

We have an early start from the Fish River canyon and another long day on the truck ahead of us, we are on our way to the heart of the Namib Desert. We reach Sesriem campsite in the late afternoon and setup camp. This campsite is beautifully situated at the entrance to the Namib Naukluft Park, near of the Sesriem Canyon and approximately 37 miles (63 km) from Sossus vlei. 20 camping sites in the shade of ancient camel thorn trees are available.







## DAY 13 : SOSSUSVLEI

At the entry to Sossusvlei is Sesriem Canyon, where centuries of erosion have incised a narrow gorge about 1 km in length. At the foot of the gorge, which plunges down 30 to 40m, are pools that become replenished after good rains. Sesriem derives its name from the time when early pioneers tied six lengths of rawhide thongs together to draw water from the pools. Interesting to see are the various layers of sediment rock that form the surrounding desert floor. Sossusvlei, Namibia's famous highlight in the heart of the Namib Desert, is a huge clay pan, enclosed by giant sand dunes. Some of the spectacular hills of sand are, at a height of 300 meters, the highest in the world. Only after a heavy rainfall, which is a rare event in this area, does the vlei fill with water. As the clay layers hardly allow any water infiltration, a turquoise lake will remain for quite some time. The dunes of the Namib Desert have developed over a period of many millions of years. We will discover all of this and more the next day after a good night's rest.



## DAY 14 : SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund – Adventure Activities, Sandboarding, Quad biking, Skydiving

After a spectacular sunrise in the desert, we continue our journey to Swakopmund. En route you can visit the oldest plant in the world: the Welwitschia Mirabilis in the Moon Landscape. Swakopmund, Namibia's second biggest town and traditional "summer capital", is one of the most surreal places in this land of contrasts. You approach the town through the endless expanses of the Namib Desert, one of the world's largest wilderness areas. It is known as the "Jewel of Namibia", glistening in the sunshine, tucked between ocean and desert.





# DAY 15 : SWAKOPMUND

While Swakopmund is small in the global sense, it is big when it comes to hospitality. Here, where desert and sea meet in perfect harmony, there is plenty to do for the youth and Swakopmund offers a relaxed atmosphere for the older generation. The town is a precursor of history, an oasis for the soul, a place for encounters and consciousness. With its mild climate, the natural unspoilt beauty of its surroundings, friendly and healthy people, sun bathed in tradition, Swakopmund is a good place to relax in. Activities available include sand boarding and skiing, quad biking, camel rides and off road driving as well as a host of other attractions, including excursions by boat to see dolphins and seals, shore based angling (some of the best in Africa). We will spend two nights here, giving ample opportunity to experience all Swakopmund has to offer.



## DAY 16 : BRANDBERG

After two nights in the adventure capital of Namibia, we head back to the road and head for Brandberg, or the 'Burnt mountain'. The Brandberg is a spiritual site of great significance to the San (Bushman) tribes. The main tourist attraction is The White Lady rock painting, located on a rock face with other art work, under a small rock overhang, in the Tsisab Ravine at the foot of the mountain.

The ravine contains more than 1,000 rock shelters, as well as more than 45,000 rock paintings. To reach The White Lady rock painting, it is necessary to hike for about 40 minutes over rough terrain, along the ancient watercourses threading through the mountain. We arrive at Brandberg at around lunch time and hike up to the rock art in the afternoon.





# DAY 17 : OKONJIMA NATURE RESERVE

## Otjiwarongo -Cheetah Conservation Project Visit

Our second to last day has arrived but the adventure is far from over, we make our way to Otjiwarongo today, where another highlight of the tour awaits us. We are spending the night at a Cheetah sanctuary which holds many surprises for everyone. There are unlimited opportunities to see these beautiful carnivores in their natural environment within the huge Okonjima Nature Reserve, as well as to witness the critical conservation work undertaken by the AfriCat Foundation, which researches and rehabilitates cheetahs, wild dogs, and hyaenas.







## DAY 18 : END OF ITINERARY

Our last day has arrived and we will have an early start and make our way down to Windhoek where we will go straight to the airport for departure, depending on our flight times out of Namibia. Sadly, we must say good bye after an amazing tour of Namibia!

