



**YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION**  
CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATURE

**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



# ELEPHANT CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: NAMIBIA

Sleep under the stars and get directly involved in this rewarding adventure in rural Namibia to conserve desert-dwelling elephants.



Volunteering  
experience in  
Conservation



[www.southernskyadventures.com](http://www.southernskyadventures.com)



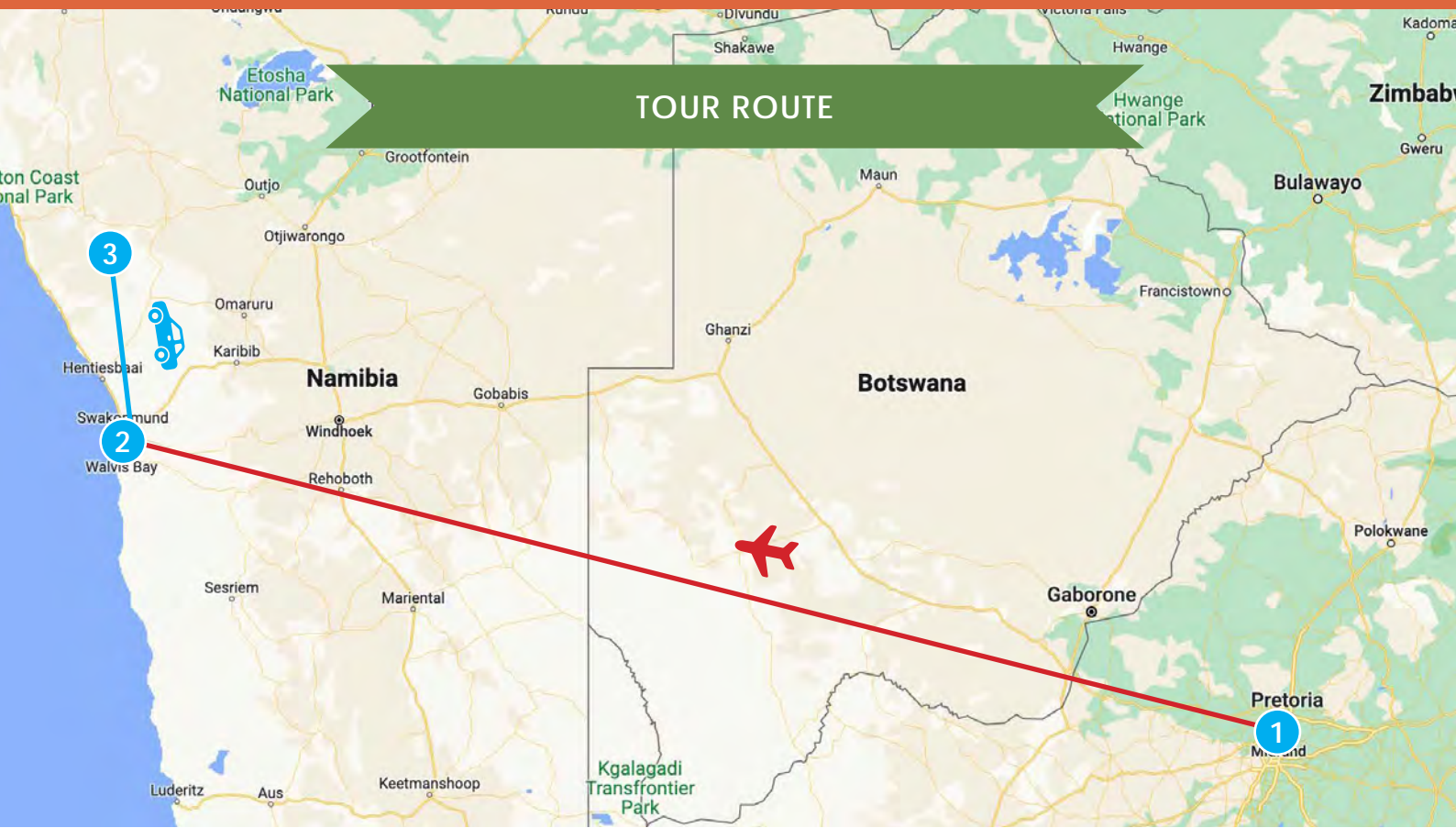
14 days/  
13 nights



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Projects



Wildlife



Discover



Sleepouts



## ACTIVITIES

Immersed in the vast desert landscapes of Namibia, you will be actively involved in conservation efforts that protect one of only two desert-dwelling elephant populations in the world!



### CONSERVATION PROJECTS

A key activity of this experience is collaborating with local communities to protect water points that have been damaged by elephants and to build new waterholes.



### WILDLIFE

The focus of this experience is on the desert-dwelling elephants of northern Namibia and you will have the unique opportunity to track and observe these gentle giants.



### RESEARCH

Learn about tracking the elephants and collect important information about different herds and their behaviour.



### SLEEP-OUTS

Be exposed to the wide-open, wild spaces of Africa! Participate in wild camping, cook over the fire and sleep under the majestic night sky.



### GROUP TREK

Participate in a multi-day trek, which is a wonderful opportunity to hike through Namibia's dramatic landscape and learn map reading and navigation skills.



### SCHOOL RENOVATIONS (OPTIONAL)

By raising extra funds at home, engage with schools and young children to uplift their classrooms, paint murals on walls and create awareness about living closely with wild elephants.

# WHY THE DESERT ELEPHANTS IN NAMIBIA?



Located in the southwestern region of Africa, Namibia is a semi-arid country that is home to one of only two populations of desert-dwelling elephants in the world. These elephants are not a separate species but have developed unique characteristics by adapting to the harsh climate and terrain of the desert.

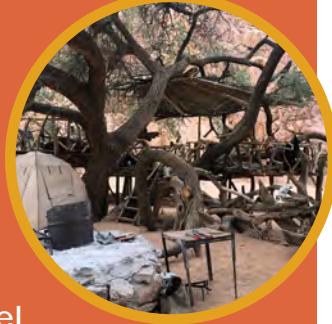
This volunteer program is situated in the Kunene region of Namibia, an area that was devoid of elephants for over 30 years as a result of poaching and war. Desert elephants returned to the area in the late 1990s but competition for land and water resulted in conflict between the elephants and the communities living alongside them.

This program was developed in partnership with an internationally recognized non-profit organization. Projects implemented promote both elephant conservation and the upliftment of local communities. This is a powerful opportunity for young people to engage in an important conservation challenge and to meaningfully impact on human-wildlife conflict.

## DAY TO DAY

### DAY 1

Depending on flight arrival to Walvis Bay, you drive immediately to Base Camp, which is a 4-5 hour road transfer, or you spend the night in Swakopmund and travel the next morning.



Drive to Base Camp and be introduced to Namibia's beautiful desert landscapes! Dinner will be waiting for you as you are given an overview of the program and receive important tips on living in the bush!

### DAY 6

Today you will finalise project activities, say goodbye to your new friends and pack up for your return to Base Camp. After a well-deserved shower, you can look forward to an afternoon of free time to unwind and relax. This is a chance to hang out, do laundry and enjoy down time in the beautiful base camp where you sleep on a tree platform under Namibia's red cliffs. This evening you will be briefed on your upcoming trek!



### DAY 2-5



The next four days of your program will be focused on volunteer projects that give back to the local community. You will keep busy in the early mornings and afternoons, with a midday break during the heat of the day to relax.

Meals will be cooked over a campfire and everyone gets involved in rotation. There are opportunities for hikes, and discussions and presentations will be around the fire to learn more about the desert elephant program. You will be sleeping under the stars!

**Volunteer Option 1: Building waterpoint protection walls!** You will travel to a rural village where you will contribute to building a wall around a water point to prevent elephants from causing damage, a simple and very effective solution to elephant-human conflict.

There will be the chance to meet the farmers and people of the area and hear about the problems they face living with elephants. Tasks involve collecting rocks and sand, mixing cement and physically building the wall! This is rewarding work with real impact.



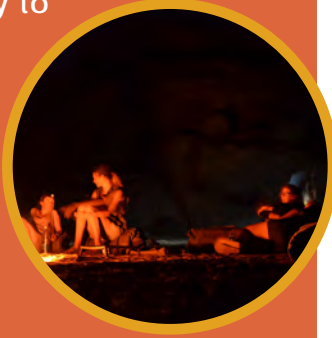
**Volunteer Option 2: School renovation project!** Two schools have been identified in the area where elephants are regular visitors, where there are over 250 children in attendance. By raising extra funds, visitors assist with much-needed renovating and upgrading of school facilities.

Activities often include painting and renovating classrooms and dormitory/ablation facilities. Renovation work is interspersed with information sessions on elephant safety and may include role play and murals! Lots of engagement with school children, sport and fun.

## DAY TO DAY

### DAY 7

Get up bright and early to start your trek through the Ugab River and surrounding desert. You will hike to the next camp location where you will be based for the next two nights. You will learn about the beautiful terrain that you will be traversing and you will receive a safety briefing on camping and walking in elephant territory. Tonight you sleep under the vast Namibian sky!



### DAY 8

Today the navigation training begins! You will spend time in and around camp, climbing hills and hiking in the surrounding area to understand the basics of map reading. In the afternoon there will be various exercises and games to help you get to grips with your map and compass!



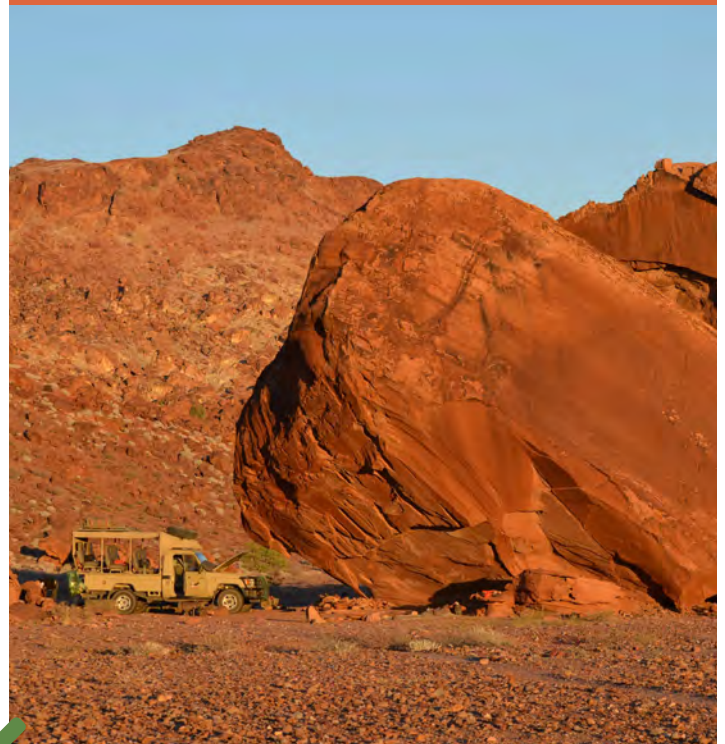
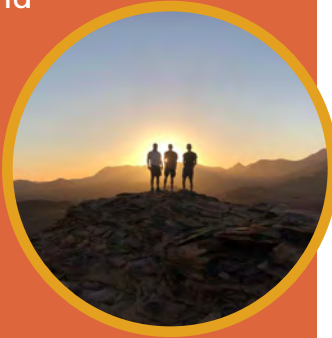
### DAY 10

You will embark on a circular hike to test your navigation skills and work together as a team. The afternoon will focus on survival skills and identifying a team leader for the solo trek the next day. You will perfect your cooking over the fire and enjoy another night under the stars.



### DAY 9

You will get up early and leave this camp to hike approximately 15kms to your next destination. This is where you will be based for the next two nights. Along the way there are many geographical features that will help you to familiarise yourself with the area. You will have a midday break and lunch under a big tree near a traditional farm where you will have the opportunity to meet the family and learn about their life!



## DAY TO DAY

### DAY 11

Today is the big day! The group will set out - on their own - to trek back to base camp. The team will receive a set of 27 coordinates to plot on the map, which will assist them in navigating their route. Key points must be reached and then the team will work together to successfully complete the challenge. Base camp, showers and warm food will be waiting for you!



### DAY 12

After a lazy morning and leisurely breakfast, you will enjoy a day of elephant tracking! This is an opportunity to identify different elephant herds, collect data on their location and take photos for identikits. Enjoy the time spent with these gentle giants, observing their behaviour and being reminded of the importance of their protection.



### DAY 13

Your last morning at camp will include a relaxed breakfast and time to pack up. You depart late morning for Swakopmund, where you will settle into your accommodation and have the remainder of the afternoon free to explore the local town. Complete your adventure with a final group dinner and share stories of your time together!



### DAY 14

After breakfast, pack up and prepare for your final journey home.



# TERMS

## INCLUDED

- 12 nights camping with all equipment provided
- 1 night stay in Swakopmund
- All food and activities
- Domestic flight and ground transfers
- Program certificate

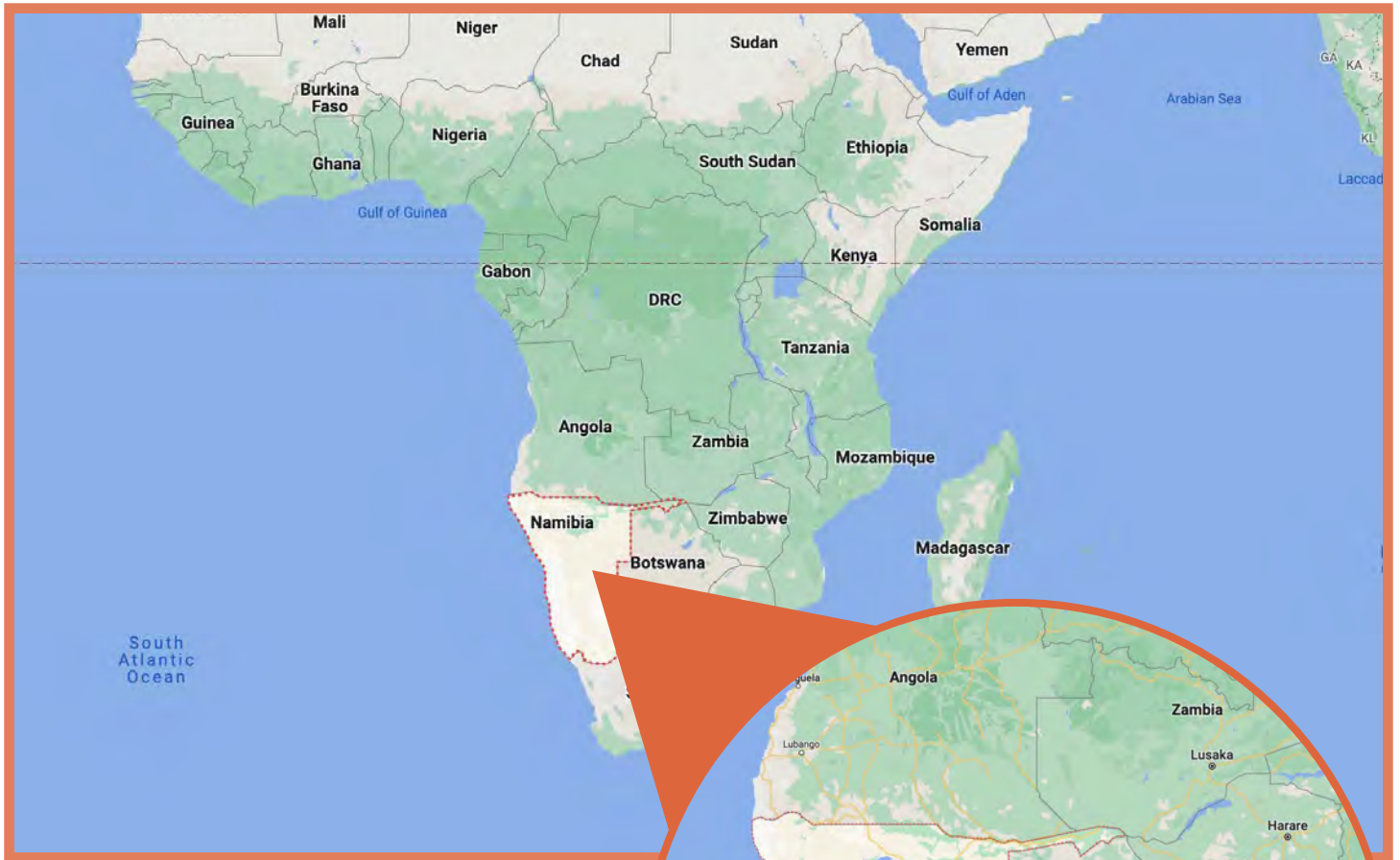
## EXCLUDED

- All international flights
- Visas if required & travel insurance
- Extra materials needed for school renovations
- Items of a personal nature

*IN YOUR WILDEST  
DREAMS*







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\*All itineraries can be adjusted/customized to suit your specific needs

Photos were provided by Youth 4 Conservation and Elephant Human Relations Aid

# ABOUT US

## SOUTHERN SKY ADVENTURES

For almost two decades Southern Sky Adventures has introduced discerning travelers to the sheer magnificence of AFRICA. A land of warm welcomes, breath-taking sunsets, pristine wilderness areas and diversity as colorful as the local artwork.

Our tailor-made and expertly-guided safaris showcase Africa's finest hidden gems, the elusive BIG 5, wild remote locations and a natural space to unplug from the stress of modern-day living. We pride ourselves on the delivery of exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime and truly memorable travel experiences for not only families, honeymooners and friends but also business travelers, school- & university groups and adventure seekers.

Although passionate about travel, we care deeply for the preservation of these untouched wild areas, the inhabiting wildlife and the surrounding communities. Sit back, relax and allow our team of destination specialists to design and deliver your dream vacation!

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  Southern Sky Adventures

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## YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION

Youth 4 Conservation is a non-profit organization based in South Africa, committed to creating meaningful conservation experiences for youth while ensuring tangible impacts on the ground.

We began with a vision to connect young people, through their schools and youth groups, to immersive conservation experiences in Africa. This provides an opportunity for personal enrichment while also providing direct support to important conservation projects. This is what we call a 'win-win'!

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  Youth 4 Conservation

 [www.youth4conservation.co.za](http://www.youth4conservation.co.za)

