

Discover Travel

Dunes and Delta Discovery

23-day Escorted Tour

Tour Dates: 01 June – 23 June 2021



Experience.
The Difference.

Namibia is an absolute must for the keen photographer. The country is a kaleidoscope of colour, begging to be captured on camera. In Damaraland and north-western Namibia, echoes of its ancient geological history are in the mountains, dried up rivers and rock formations. Sossusvlei, with its shifting sand dunes is a wonder to behold and for wildlife encounters, Etosha National Park is one of the premier parks in Africa with a number of species not encountered elsewhere, all meeting at the waterholes to drink.

Zimbabwe's magical Victoria Falls straddling Zambia and Zimbabwe, at a width of 1.7 km and height of 108 m, they form the largest sheet of falling water in the world.

Botswana is home to Africa's most richly populated wildlife areas, with an unsurpassed variety of animals. The country offers the best concentrated safari experiences, and due to its largely roadless wilderness areas lends itself to the fly-in safari. The country's highlights are in the remote wilderness areas including the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park and Savute.

Highlights:

- The incredible sand dunes of Sossusvlei
- German-influenced colonial town of Swakopmund
- Etosha Pan and National Park
- Ancient geology and landscapes of Damaraland
- Himba tribe of Southern Etosha National Park
- AfriCat Wildlife Sanctuary
- Majestic Victoria Falls
- Sundowners on Zambezi River cruise
- Wetlands of the Okavango Delta
- Chobe National Park Safaris

Inclusions:

- Economy class return airfares from Christchurch
- 3-4 star lodges/camps
- Personal meet & greet at all airports and airstrips
- All transfers in either shared or private vehicle transport as per itinerary
- Victoria Falls sightseeing tours/excursions including entrance fees with English-speaking guides
- Scheduled/shared light aircraft flights within Botswana as specified in the itinerary
- All National Park & Concession/Conservation fees
- Safari activities as shown in the itinerary - generally twice daily game activities and scheduled activities at safari lodges/camps unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary
- Services of the professional lodge rangers, trackers guides and camp staff at safari lodges/camps
- Meals as shown in the itinerary: (B)(L)(D) B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner
- Beverages - only if specified at certain lodges & camps
- Sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary
- Gratuities/tipping
- Tour escort

Flight schedules yet to be confirmed. Indicative routing:

Christchurch-Sydney-Johannesburg-Windhoek // Maun-Johannesburg-Sydney-Christchurch.

Day 1 DEPART CHRISTCHURCH

Depart Christchurch early morning, via Sydney, arriving Johannesburg early evening. Overnight airport transit hotel.

Day 2 ARRIVE WINDHOEK (D)

Depart Jo'burg mid-morning. Upon arrival in Windhoek, after arrival formalities, transfer by private vehicle to your hotel, where you'll spend 2 nights enjoying the facilities – a chance to acclimatise to "Africa time"!



Day 3 WINDHOEK (B)(D)

At leisure today with a Welcome Dinner included this evening with your private naturalist guides at a local restaurant.

Day 4 WINDHOEK > SOSSUSVLEI (B)(L)(D)

Today you will commence your privately guided 10 day Ultimate Namibia Safari. You will travel in luxury air-conditioned safari vehicles with a maximum of seven group members per vehicle and mineral water supplied onboard. Your professional and experienced safari guides will enhance your enjoyment of this unique country by making it a fascinating and stress-free journey of discovery amidst very dramatic scenery.

At around 8.00 am you will be collected from your accommodation to begin your drive southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below, stopping for a picnic lunch at a scenic location along the way.

Arrive at your lodge mid-afternoon for a two night stay. From the lodge you will explore the remarkable sights of the Namib Desert with your guide. If there is still time today, your guide will take you to visit Sesriem Canyon, a nearby geological attraction, or explore Elim Dune. If you prefer, you can just relax and soak in the scenic and tranquil surroundings at the lodge.

Day 5 SOSSUSVLEI (B)(L)(D)

Rise early for a magical excursion with your guides in the Namib Naukluft National Park, normally setting off before sunrise to capture the dunes whilst the light is soft and shadows accentuate the towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world, and your guide will give you an insight on the formation of the Namib Desert and its myriad of fascinating creatures and plants that have adapted to survive these harsh environs.



Once you have explored Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and surrounding dune fields to your heart's content you can enjoy a relaxed picnic brunch in the shade of a camel thorn tree.

Return to your lodge in the early afternoon in time for a late lunch, with the option to visit Sesriem Canyon afterwards if you haven't already done so the day before. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.



Day 6 SOSSUSVLEI > SWAKOPMUND (B)(L)(D)

This morning after breakfast your guides will meet you to commence today's touring.

The fascinating drive today takes you northwest through awesome and ever-changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will meet the coast at the port town of Walvis Bay and then continue north to Swakopmund where you can enjoy the pleasant seaside location and cooler coastal air for the next two nights.

There will be time this afternoon to explore the town and wander along the waterfront on foot before heading off to dinner with your guides at a popular restaurant which specialises in fresh seafood.



Day 7 SWAKOPMUND (B)(L)(D)

After an early breakfast your guide will drive you along the scenic coastal road back south to Walvis Bay for a memorable kayaking adventure within the outer lagoon.



After meeting your kayaking guide you will be taken on a short scenic drive to Pelican Point to see its lighthouse and windswept beauty, stopping briefly at the salt works to view the variety of birdlife on your way to the launch point. Kayaking* is an ideal way of seeing Cape fur seals, Heaviside and bottlenose dolphins, pelicans, flamingos and a wide variety of other sea birds. If you are lucky, there is also a chance of seeing whales, leatherback turtles and sunfish. During the course of the day the guide will stop and inform you about the environment. Light refreshments will be served on the beach. **Kayaking excursion: limited numbers – ask for details.*

If kayaking does not appeal, you have the choice to partake in a motorised boat seal and dolphin excursion within the outer lagoon and harbour, with the chance of seeing the same variety of wildlife as on the kayaking expedition. Snacks will be served, along with local sparkling wine and fresh oysters, before returning to the jetty at around midday.

At the conclusion of your kayaking or motorised boat excursion, you will have the opportunity to explore the waterfront area of Walvis Bay further before returning to Swakopmund for an afternoon at leisure. Activities such as camel rides, scenic flights, quad-biking in the coastal dunes, tandem or solo sky diving and more can all be booked at an extra cost.

In the evening you head off to dinner with your guides at one of the popular restaurants in Swakopmund.

Day 8 SWAKOPMUND > DAMARALAND (B)(L)(D)

Continuing on your safari today, the road takes you north and east into the wonderful and diverse region of Damaraland. Pass Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg which peaks at 2,573 metres above sea level, and take time to view game and absorb the vastness of the scenery along the way.

Damaraland is typified by displays of colour, magnificent table topped mountains, rock formations and bizarre-looking vegetation. The present day landscape has been formed by the erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains and ancient river terraces. It is the variety and loneliness of the area as well as the scenic splendour which will reward and astound you, giving one an authentic understanding of the word 'wilderness'.

If time allows this afternoon your guide will take you to visit the nearby attractions and geological sites of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings (recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes - if not, there is plenty of time to see them tomorrow.

Day 9 DAMARALAND (B)(L)(D)



After an early breakfast you will be treated to an exciting 4x4 excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab River valleys to explore this remarkable region and to search for game, including the elusive desert adapted elephants, if they are in the area. Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. As the elephants are mostly active in the mornings you will normally have the best chance to see them then before returning to camp for lunch. However, if all the safari participants agree, you also have the option to take a picnic lunch and stop to enjoy that in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed, ideally while watching a herd of elephant browsing nearby.



Your guide will arrange a visit to Twyfelfontein and other nearby attractions at a suitable time if it wasn't possible, yesterday. On return to camp there should be time to take a walk into the local area with your guide if desired, or simply relax and enjoy some leisure time.

Day 10 DAMARALAND > SOUTHERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK (B)(L)(D)



Today, after a very early breakfast, set off on your journey to Etosha National Park, travelling via the scenic Grootberg Pass. Along the way your guide will take you to visit a local Himba settlement – you may have to search for a while as these semi-nomadic Himba move about often. They are one of the last truly traditional peoples of Namibia and have little time for conventional practices. Here you will learn about the customs and traditions of this very proud nation, visit Grootberg Primary School and be given insight into their beliefs, way of life and everyday routine.

After visiting the Himba and school, travel east through the small town of Kamanjab before heading on towards tonight's lodge. A picnic lunch will be enjoyed en-route and arrival will be in the very late afternoon or early evening, after a long but rewarding day.



Day 11 SOUTHERN - EASTERN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK (B)(L)(D)



Today is dedicated to a full day of exciting game viewing within the central section of Etosha National Park from your private safari vehicles as you make your way from the southern Andersson's Gate to Halali (where you may stop for lunch) and then on across via selected waterholes such as Goas, which are particularly good for game viewing, to Namutoni Camp in the east.

We leave the park before sunset and head out to stay at a different lodge, situated on the eastern edge of the Etosha National Park, with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole where game comes and goes throughout the day and night.

Day 12 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK (B)(L)(D)

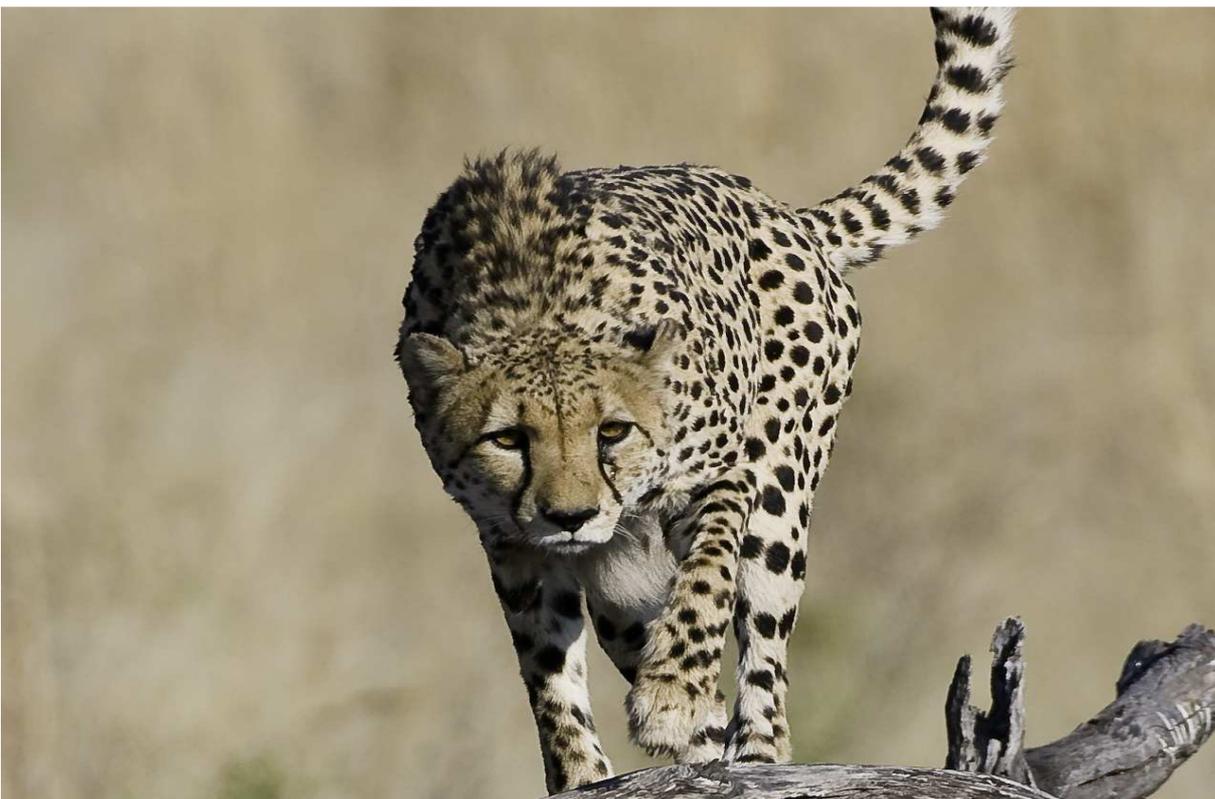
Today is also dedicated to memorable game drives but within the eastern section of Etosha National Park with your guides, including a picnic lunch inside the park. We leave the park before sunset to return to our lodge, with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening is spent at leisure.



Day 13 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK > WINDHOEK (B)(L)(D)

An early departure this morning will take you south from our lodge via Tsumeb, Otavi and Otjiwarongo to reach Okonjima's AfriCat Day Centre, a wonderful highlight with which to conclude your safari.

The AfriCat Foundation is a wildlife sanctuary which focuses on the research and rehabilitation of Africa's big cats, especially injured or captured leopard and cheetah. Arrive in time for lunch before embarking on an exciting and informative game drive and tour of the centre. Here you will learn about the function and vision of the AfriCat Foundation and will also get to meet some of the Foundation's special carnivore ambassadors.



After the excursion and freshening up, the journey continues further south to arrive back in Windhoek in the late afternoon, just as the sun is setting.

Take time to relax before dinner which can either be enjoyed at the hotel's restaurant, or out at one of the popular restaurants in town together with your private naturalist safaris' guides. After dinner, you bid your guides a fond farewell.

Day 14 WINDHOEK > VICTORIA FALLS (B)(D)

Today we fly from Windhoek to Victoria Falls Airport.

Upon arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, after arrival formalities, we are transferred by private vehicle to our accommodation.



Dinner this evening (table d'hôte) is included at our lodge's restaurant which is open on three sides and overlooks a game-rich waterhole, offering a unique opportunity to view elephant and other wildlife as you enjoy your meal – truly some of the finest dining in Victoria Falls.



Day 15 VICTORIA FALLS (B)(D)

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a private tour of the Falls on the Zimbabwe side.



Your tour begins with a visit to the Victoria Falls Map Room where your guide will explain the fascinating history, layout and geology of the falls. Afterwards, make your way on foot to the David Livingstone Statue and then onwards through the flourishing rainforest to the beautiful view points of Cataract View, Devil's Cataract, the main falls and then lastly to the Eastern Cataract. During your walk through the rainforest, you will have the opportunity to view the numerous birds, butterflies and smaller animals that have settled in these lush surrounds as well as view huge mahogany, wild fig, sausage trees and delicate orchids.

At the conclusion of your visit return to your lodge for some free time through to mid-afternoon.

This afternoon you will be collected for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi. Sail upstream to celebrate the setting African sun. Share in the end of day ritual which sees wild herds streaming to the river banks for their last drink. Flocks of birds skim the waterline as the sun sets behind the African skyline. Enjoy the range of beverages served with an accompaniment of delectable hors d' oeuvres. Make sure you have your camera with you to capture some special moments!



At the conclusion of your cruise, you will be returned to your lodge to enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Day 16 VICTORIA FALLS > SAVUTE (CHOBE NATIONAL PARK) (B)(D)

Today you will be collected from your lodge and transferred by scheduled/shared service to Kasane Airport in Botswana. From Kasane you will take a scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Savute Airstrip in the far west of Chobe National Park.

On arrival you will be met and transferred with fellow guests to your lodge.

Day 17 SAVUTE (B)(L)(D)

Activities are organised around game drives throughout the Savute area in open 4x4 safari vehicles. Many trips will incorporate a visit to the Savute Marsh to give you a chance to see the historic presence of the Savute Channel at the marsh against a backdrop of teeming wildlife. Guests can also enjoy a visit to the ancient San rock paintings at Gubatsa Hills – a small hilly outcrop which forms a prominent landmark in the otherwise flat landscape.



Savute, a remote and wild corner of Chobe National Park, stretches from the park's northern boundaries to the Linyanti River. The area's main feature is the mysterious Savute Channel, which flows and dries up seemingly unrelated to the rainfall. Dry and arid for almost 30 years, animals in the area were sustained by artificial waterholes. The Savute Channel started flowing again in 2009, but stopped again about three years ago.



Savute is a famous battleground for lions and spotted hyena, and guests can also enjoy frequent sightings of zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, giraffe, tsessebe and kudu. You will also learn about the vegetation of the region and the behaviour of the animals that you come across. In some cases, the guides will be able to identify individual animals and let you know about their history and habits.



Day 18 SAVUTE > OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Today you will be transferred with fellow guests to Savute Airstrip for your scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to the Okavango Delta. On arrival you will be transferred with fellow guests to your accommodation.

Day 19 OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Enjoy a full day of water-based activities from Camp Okavango.

Water-based activities are conducted by experienced professional guides who will expertly navigate guests through the many meandering, reed-lined waterways. Roam the vast expanses of water from the comfort of a modern motorboat or explore the intricacies of the Okavango Delta the quiet old-fashioned way, in the traditional mokoro (dugout canoe).



For those wanting to get a little closer to nature, guided bush walks are conducted on a number of the nearby islands, offering an opportunity to track some of the larger land-based species that inhabit this water wilderness. Birding opportunities are outstanding and anglers may put their skill against bream and tiger fish.

Please note: As our camp is located in the heart of the Okavango Delta, activities on offer are based around a water experience. These activities are walking activities, guided mokoro excursions and boating trips. For guests to fully enjoy this experience, they require a certain level of basic fitness and the ability to walk a reasonable distance. For the mokoro activities, guests require the flexibility to be able to sit flat on the ground (the mokoro has a seat, but this seat is on the floor of the mokoro). Guests with walking difficulties may struggle with some of the activities on offer.



Botswana's magnificent Okavango Delta is a maze of lagoons, lakes, hidden channels, islands forested with palms and wide grassy floodplains covering an area of over 16,000 km² in flood and shrinking to less than 9,000 km² in the dry season. Trapped in the parched Kalahari sands, the fresh water oasis attracts wildlife that depends on the permanent waters of this unique wilderness. The water supply comes from the Okavango River that flows over 1,000 km from its source in Angola before disappearing beneath the sands of Botswana, creating a lush inland delta in the midst of this otherwise arid country. The Okavango Delta is in a constant state of flux, expanding and contracting according to the rainy season. While some parts of the delta remain permanently flooded, others only experience high water levels from May to September, when rainwaters from Angola reach the outer stretches of the Okavango. The permanent swamp areas that make up a third of the delta are lush and green, with groves of wild date palm, papyrus and water lilies growing around deep lagoons lined with riverine forest. Seasonal swamps, on the other hand, contain a network of small channels that cut their way through papyrus and reed beds to create islands of all shapes and sizes. As the floodwaters recede, the islands grow large until, eventually, water only remains in depressions in the landscape, which turns into open grassland.



Day 20 OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

Today you will be transferred with fellow guests to the airstrip for your scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Xakanaxa Airstrip where you will be met and transferred to your camp. Enjoy the lodge facilities and relax.

Day 21 OKAVANGO DELTA (B)(L)(D)

A full day to enjoy scheduled game viewing activities in the diverse area around Camp Moremi. Explore African bush, large open savannahs, lush green forests, waterholes and papyrus filled Delta waterways. Enjoy tracking big game during morning and evening game drives, and boat excursions to discover bustling river life.



The area has abundant elephant, lion, leopard and hippo and is also well known for a vast number of antelope, including Impala, Kudu and Waterbuck. Birdlife is also prolific.

Game drives

Guest activities include morning and afternoon game drives throughout the many different ecosystems that the Moremi Game Reserve has to offer.



Motorised boating trips

Explore the Xakanaxa Lagoon and its surrounding channels by boat for a chance to enjoy the picturesque waters of the Okavango Delta



The only proclaimed wildlife reserve in the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve is also widely regarded as the most beautiful. Set aside in 1963 by the Batawana tribe, the reserve is rated as Africa's most beautiful wildlife sanctuary. Moremi Game Reserve has the most diverse habitat and animal populations in Botswana.

Covering approximately a third of the eastern portion of the Okavango Delta, the Moremi Game Reserve combines permanent waterways with drier areas, creating a reserve filled with unexpected contrasts and diverse wildlife. Although it is not one of the country's largest reserves, its tall mopane woodlands and spreading floodplains fringed with majestic palms make it one of Africa's most scenic wilderness areas. Riverine forests are dominated by jackalberry, mangosteen and sausage trees.



The richly varied habitats make Moremi the ideal place to combine typical savanna game viewing with leisurely cruises along lagoons and channels, and abundant bird watching. Dense riverine forests are home to shy leopard and deep lagoons are inhabited by hippo, while the semi-aquatic red lechwe and sitatunga antelope can be seen wading the shallows. Buffalo, giraffe, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal can all be spotted on the floodplains and among Moremi's drier areas. A birdwatcher's paradise, the rich and diverse habitat of the reserve is home to a surprising diversity of birds, with almost 500 species, from water birds to forest dwellers. The area is also well known for containing a significant percentage of Africa's wild dog, which are regularly sighted in the reserve.



Day 22 OKAVANGO DELTA > MAUN ②

Today we are transferred with fellow guests from our Camp to the airstrip for our scheduled/shared light aircraft flight to Maun Airport.

Depart Maun early afternoon for Johannesburg. After approx. 3.5 hours in transit, depart Jo'burg early evening, towards Sydney.

Day 23 - SYDNEY – CHRISTCHURCH

Arrive Sydney early morning. After approx. 3 hours transit, depart Christchurch early evening, arriving Christchurch before midnight, where your tour ends.

Not included:

- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Any meals/beverages not specified
- Airport portorage
- Items of a personal nature.

Tour price:

\$33, 995.00 per person solo occupancy (Only 1 solo traveller place available)

\$28, 895.00 per person twin-share

To secure your place: Send your \$8000.00 non-refundable deposit per person with completed Booking Form to Discover Travel, PO Box 2477, Christchurch; or email: ideas@discovertravel.co.nz

***CONDITIONS: Price** - should you wish to extend your stay, please talk to us. We are happy to provide post-tour arrangements. **Business Class Supplement** – available on request, please discuss with your Discover Travel Consultant. **Payments** - The price quoted is for payment by cash, cheque or direct bank transfer. Cheques: Should be made payable to 'Discover Travel'. Our postal address is PO Box 2477, Christchurch. **Bank Transfer:** 06 0801 0495605 02 - Discover Travel Worldwide Ltd, using 'Dunes Delta20' as a reference. **VISA or Mastercard** payments will incur a 2% convenience fee and American Express a 3% fee. In order to confirm your booking, a non-refundable deposit of \$8000.00 per person is required. **Final payment will be due no later than 01 February 2021.** Prices are based on a minimum group size of 13 passengers and a maximum of 20, excluding tour escort.