



EXPERIENCE

Land Rover Experience: 10 Day Skeleton Coast Route

DAY 1 ARRIVAL AT WINDHOEK to ETOSHA

Welcome to Namibia. Our local guide will meet you at **Windhoek International Airport** on your arrival. You'll be transferred by shuttle to where you'll have your briefing and can familiarize yourself with your vehicle. Everyone will have the opportunity to get acquainted with their Land Rover and get used to driving on the left-hand side of the road.

We'll depart to our first destination, starting with an easy leisurely drive on tarred roads as we head north, then slowly introducing our first dirt roads as we reach our lodge, which is very close to the southern gate of **Etosha National Park**.

The meaning of Etosha is 'place of dry water', but it offers several waterholes. The meeting place for a variety of species. In the afternoon, we'll go on a game drive with the lodge to experience our first taste of 'Wildlife Namibia' that gathers to quench their thirst at the end of a hot day.

That evening, we'll sit very close to one of the few waterholes and watch numerous wild game emerging from the darkness whilst also experiencing the magic of **a starry African night** – intensified by the distant roaring of a lion.

DAY 2 ETOSHA WEST

After a hearty breakfast, we'll start our full day of '**Game Driving**' through Etosha National Park coming from the southern side heading towards the west. This part is also known as **the 'Wild West'** as it's not on the main tourist route through Etosha. The terrain is rugged, the vegetation is greener than the better-known sides, and there is a very good chance that you can encounter two rare species that are only found in this section of the park: the Blackfaced Impala and Hartmann's Mountain Zebra.

Etosha is unique and it's one of the most accessible game reserves in Namibia and Southern Africa. The speed limit is only 60 km/ph for good reason. The driving today will be leisurely as you **witness exciting African Wildlife** either crossing the road, grazing nonchalantly on the plains, or drinking at one of the many water holes along the way. There is also always a good chance of seeing Elephants and Lions.

We'll spend the night here at our lodge which is nestled on the banks of the Otjovasandu River. Which only lies a few kilometers from **the Galton Gate**, which we need to reach before sundown as self-drive vehicle movement at night is prohibited. The lodge offers an optional night safari drive where you have the opportunity to encounter nocturnal animals like the bat-eared fox, aardwolf and genet.

DAY 3 EPUPA

We'll depart Etosha today and head north to **Epupa Falls** on the Kunene River.

This drive will teach you to master more dusty and challenging roads along the way, but all worthwhile for an extraordinary experience.



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Situated in the Kaokoland area of Namibia, Epupa Falls is set near the border of Angola. Named by **the Herero people** after the spray it creates, Epupa means “waterfalling”. The falls consists of a series of little waterfalls created by the Kunene River as it drops 40 meters, creating hundreds of natural pools that provide the Himba people and visitors with a fantastic recreation spot. These incredibly beautiful falls create a spectacular contrast to the arid desert and rugged surrounding mountains.

We can look forward to discovering this unspoiled environment, including the majestic Baobabs and Wild Fig trees.

DAY 4 MARIENFLUSS

We'll say goodbye to the freshness of the river today and start our journey southwest towards the harsh and unforgiving environment of **the Skeleton Coast**, which holds its own beauty.

This is where the real fun begins! Our direction will be motivated by our collective abilities and sense of adventure as we head off the beaten track towards **Van Zyl's pass and the Marienfluss**.

Here we'll get another demonstration of the unparalleled off-road mobility of our Land Rovers. The route leads us through Namibia's beautiful changing landscape from shores and sandy roads to **the stunning remote Hartmann Valley**, a desolate yet entrancing moonscape of sand and rock. The valley is home to **the Himba**, one of the last true nomads in Africa. A cultural experience with the local Himba people is very rewarding. One of the last truly nomadic tribes in the world, their traditions and dress are fascinating to witness.

In the late afternoon, we'll put up our tent and enjoy a beautiful sundowner around the campfire. We can simply relax and enjoy the peace and quiet as well as clear night skies which are amongst some of the most pristine in the world with their starry skies.

DAY 5 SKELETON COAST

There aren't many things that beat the feeling of being woken up by noisy Spurfowl in the morning, as they rummage through your campsite looking for any crumbs that may have been left from the previous nights' dinner. Then stepping out of your tent to the sight of pink and yellow skies as the sun rises, only to find that one of your shoes is missing from a curious Jackal that also raided your camp for scraps.

Namibia is a camping paradise. This is why we include 2 nights of wild camping on this journey. For the eternal photographers and the adventurous at heart, you are in heaven! On the road, the never-ending same (yet different) surroundings will keep you spellbound. It's amazing to see what survives in the desert, and we can never guarantee, but there is a great chance to see desert-adapted Wildlife such as Rhino, Lions, and the shy Brown Hyena also known as the Strand Wolf.

There's a wide choice of sites all over Namibia for seasoned campers, as well as for nervous novices on their first camping holiday, **from luxury campsites under shady**



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trees and grassy lawns, to wild places in rivers next to tall banks leftover from previous rainy seasons.

In the late afternoon, we'll reach our campsite, where we'll enjoy a sundowner with one of **the most breath-taking sunsets** whilst relaxing around the magical campfire. And what could be better than camping under the Milky Way? One of the spectacular features of the southern night sky, best viewed under some of the world's darkest skies in Namibia. This is million-star accommodation!

DAY 6 SKELETON COAST

Today we'll spend the day in **the fascinating Skeleton Coast National Park**. We'll drive along sandy roads and over dunes towards the beach. The fog-shrouded beaches of this sprawling and remote wilderness area are littered with shipwrecks and whale skeletons.

This is where we'll have our first deep sand driving experience. We'll learn how to read the terrain and put the world's most capable vehicle to the test. We'll then head to our remote lodge where we'll stay for the next two nights.

We'll be welcomed by a refreshing breeze from the cold Benguela current and then **the warm Namib desert sand** under our feet, as we settle in at the lodge and get ready for an included sundowner activity where we can take a break from driving and enjoy being driven to the roaring dunes.

After dinner, served at the heart of the lodge, we'll retreat to our rooms which are shipwreck-shaped cabins, nestled between the dunes with a view of **the Atlantic Ocean**.

DAY 7 SKELETON COAST

All activities today will be done with the lodge. One option is **a 4x4 full-day excursion to the Hoarusib River** with another opportunity to see desert-adapted Elephants and Lions or **explore the "Clay Castles"**. The Hoarusib is a dry river known for its steep canyon walls of black and red volcanic rock and strange makalani palms. The oasis character of the river valley and the high wildlife population of Hoarusib makes this one of the last true wilderness areas in Namibia.

Weather permitting, a delicious **lunch will be served on the vast empty beach**. For the rest of the day, you can relax and enjoy the exclusive lodge and surroundings or if you feel adventurous, they also offer **Quad-biking and Sandboarding activities**.

In the evening, we can expect yet another unbelievable sundowner followed by dinner.

DAY 8 SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast, we'll continue south through the Skeleton Coast National Park. The wind can sometimes be so strong here that you don't see the road due to the sand that is swept in, which makes for **a surreal driving experience**.



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We'll exit the park at the Ugabmund Gate and cross over the Ugab river, which we previously were very acquainted with by the Brandberg. We'll head to **Cape Cross**, where we'll visit the massive seal colony and learn about the history of the area. We'll be able to get very close to these fantastic animals in their protected reserve and have the chance to study their behaviours.

As we drive down towards Swakopmund, we will pass **Zeila Shipwreck** which you will be able to see from the main road. The Zeila was stranded on 25 August 2008 in the early morning hours near "Die Walle", a popular fishing spot about 14km south of Henties Bay. This old fishing trawler was sold as scrap metal to an Indian company by Hangana Fishing of Walvis Bay got stranded after it came loose from its towing line while on its way to Bombay, India shortly after it left Walvis Bay.

Swakopmund is a coastal town in Namibia, west of the capital, Windhoek. Its sandy beaches face the Atlantic Ocean. Established by German colonists in 1892, the towns' colonial landmarks include the Swakopmund Lighthouse and the Mole, an old sea wall. Next to the lighthouse, the Swakopmund Museum documents Namibian history. Inland, the elegant Swakopmund Railway Station, now a hotel, also dates to the colonial era.

Tonight, you will be treated to a mouth-watering dinner at a restaurant close to the beach.

DAY 9 BACK TO CIVILIZATION

After breakfast, we'll use the morning to drive our Land Rovers around the Swakopmund area to get that last exhilarating feeling of **offroad driving**. Swakop is a playground for 4x4's and we'll have a lot of fun driving on **the beach and teasing the shoreline**. We then hit the tar road back to Windhoek. In the evening, we come together for **a farewell dinner** and to share stories and highlights of our time spent in Namibia.

DAY 10 WINDHOEK

Experience the thriving capital, **Windhoek**, on the final day of the trip. While strolling through the capital of Namibia you can experience the flair of the colonial era „German Southwest“. Many monuments bring back these times to mind but Windhoek is not only shaped by history and culture but also by modern trends. Since the independence of Namibia in 1990, the capital city has expanded at a fast pace. Many modern buildings emerged, which fit well into the general townscape.

Depending on your flight time, you'll have the morning to relax and enjoy the nature around this wonderful place. And possibly get a little shopping done too. **The Land Rover team will transfer you to the airport**. Then it's time to say goodbye!

We hope you had a great time with us in Namibia and have made many exciting memories. Have a safe journey and we hope to see you again on one of our future Land Rover Experience Adventures.