



CHARLY'S DESERT TOURS

Operators of Namib Desert Tours and Overland Safaris since 1966



KAOKOVELD ("Wild Landscapes yet Tranquility")

2 Weeks (14 Days / 13 Nights)

Best time to travel: April – October

DAYROUTE:

- 1 – Windhoek
- 2 – Grootberg/ Palmwag
- 3 – Grootberg/ Palmwag
- 4 – Purros
- 5 – Purros
- 6 – Opuwo
- 7 – Opuwo
- 8 – Epupa
- 9 – Epupa
- 10 – Swartbooisdrift/ Ruacana
- 11 – Swartbooisdrift/ Ruacana
- 12 – Damaraland/ Hobatere
- 13 – Windhoek Area
- 14 – End of Safari/ Departure

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:

Kaokoveld, Purros, Himba, Culture
Desert Elephants and Desert Lions (with luck!)
Landscapes, Mountains, Valleys, Scenery
Kunene River, Epupa Waterfalls
Damaraland

KILOMETERS:

Windhoek – Palmwag = 605 km
Palmwag – Purros = 220 km
Purros – Opuwo = 235 km
Opuwo – Epupa = 200 km
Epupa – Swartbooisdrift = 100 km
Swartbooisdrift – Hobatere = 245 km
Hobatere – Windhoek = 545 km
Empty Trips = 400 x 2 = 800 km
Total Km = 2950 km
Concession Drive = 85 km

ACCOMMODATION:

Windhoek:
Auas Game Lodge
Alternative: Olive Grove Guesthouse
Damaraland:
Grootberg Lodge
Alternative: Palmwag Lodge
Purros:
Okahirongo Elephant Lodge
Alternative: Overnight Camping
Epupa:
Omarunga Camp
Alternative: Epupa Falls Lodge
Swartbooisdrift/ Ruacana:
Kunene River Lodge
Ruacana Eha Lodge
Damaraland/ Hobatere:
Hobatere Lodge
Alternative: Rustig Toko Lodge
Windhoek Area:
Auas Game Lodge
Alternative: Okapuka Ranch

ITINERARY

Day 1)

Arrive at the International Airport, Hosea Kutako at Windhoek.
Meet and Greet by a Charly's Desert Tours Representative or your Tour Guide.
First overnight stop is in Windhoek
Overnight at the Olive Grove Guesthouse (Alternative: Hotel Thule)
After check-in at the guesthouse/ hotel, the rest of day is spent at leisure.
Visit the capital of Windhoek, museums, shops and places of interest.
Dinner can be booked at the Gourmet Restaurant; alternatively you can have dinner at the guesthouse/ hotel.
BB – Olive Grove Guesthouse
Bed & Breakfast – included
Lunch & Dinner – at own costs

Olive Grove Guesthouse

Location: Olive Grove is a small, up market establishment situated close to the Windhoek city centre in a quiet, peaceful area. The friendly and efficient staff is always on hand to ensure that the visitors' stay is a comfortable and enjoyable one.
Accommodation: There are 10 en-suite rooms and 1 executive suite. Whilst each room caters for the every need or the most discerning traveler, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance. After all, luxury should be subtle.
Facilities: One of Olive Grove's main features is the large verandah in front of every room, with table and chairs for al fresco dining. The open-air lounge, spa bath, plunge pool and tranquil garden all invite the visitor to unwind and relax under Namibia's open skies. The inside lounge is tastefully decorated, with comfortable chairs and a fireplace in front of which to relax. The stunning open plan kitchen creates a homely feel while providing tasty meals.

Alternative:

Hotel Pension Thule

Location: High up on a hill above the city of Windhoek, the hotel offers unsurpassed views from all rooms, restaurant and the terrace, which is a famous place for sundowners.
Accommodation: Comfort is the keynote in the air-conditioned guest rooms which are fitted with a work area, channel television, a mini-bar, safe, coffee and tea-making facilities, hairdryer, and heated bathroom floor and towel rails.
Facilities: An a la carte restaurant offers international style cuisine with a Namibian flavour. On a fine day you can see forever and an adjoining balcony is perfect for alfresco dining with the starry sky above, or a leisurely breakfast. A sparkling pool with a view is teamed with a shady thatched Lapa.

Day 2)

Today your journey starts and you drive a long way into Damaraland.
If time allows it, you can stop in Okahandja at the Woodcarvers' Market.
Thereafter, you depart further via Otjiwarongo, Outjo and Kamanjab to Grootberg/ Palmwag.
Overnight at the Grootberg Lodge (Alternative: Palmwag Lodge)
DBB – Grootberg Lodge
Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included
Guided Tour: lunch en-route – included
Self-Drive Safari: Lunch en-route – at own costs
Optional activities – at own costs

Grootberg Lodge

Location: Grootberg Lodge lies at the edge of the Grootberg Plateaus, offering a spectacular view over the Klip River valley.
Accommodation: 11 thatched chalets all with a view over the valley each with bathroom en-suite and small terrace.
Facilities: Restaurant, Lounge, Swimmingpool
Activities: 12000 Ha was given to the Khoadi /Hoas community to develop this area into a conservation area, whereas they will have their benefit from. The area can be explored either by vehicle on guided trips or by foot. Desert elephants, black rhinos as well as lions make this vast area their home.

Alternative:

Palmwag Lodge

Location: Palmwag Lodge is located at the Uniab River, a seasonal dry riverbed. Palms wave in the dry desert air whilst making this an oasis in this arid landscape. Different species of game are here at home, including the famous desert elephants.
Accommodation: 32 beds in thatched bungalows or luxury tents, as well as camping.
Facilities: Restaurant, Swimmingpool and a "Pool Bar".
Activities: Many activities such as: Guided walking trails, game drives, nature drives, day trips in to the concession area, and more.

Day 3)

Day at own leisure.
Relax or take part in the optional activities offered from the lodge, for example searching for the desert elephant.
Overnight at Grootberg Lodge (Alternative: Palmwag Lodge)
Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included
Lunch – included
Optional activities – at own costs

Day 4)

After an early breakfast, your journey takes you into Kaokoveld.
Overnight at the Okahirongo Elephant Lodge (Alternative: Wild Camping)
In the afternoon after you have checked in at the lodge, you can either relax at the pool or take part in the activities offered from the lodge.

(Alternative: Instead of staying at the lodge you can also overnight in the wild.)

FB (Full Board) – Okahirongo Elephant Lodge

Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner as well as scheduled activities – included

Lunch en-route – at own costs

Optional activities – at own costs

Okahirongo Elephant Lodge

Location: Okahirongo Elephant Lodge lies in the wilderness of the Kaokoveld, in near Purros Conservancy.

Accommodation: 7 luxury suites with bathroom as well as an outside shower and private balcony.

Facilities: Homemade meals with a collection of good wines are being served in the dining room. Lounge, Library, swimming pool and terrace can be used.

Activities: Walking trails, Guided Game/ Nature drives, birdwatching, cultural tours as well as a visit to the „Desert Lion Project“ are on offer.

Alternative:

Camping in the Wilderness

(For those that have the adventurer in them, can instead of staying at the lodge overnight in the wilderness in a tent.)

Location: Near Purros on at the banks of the Hoarusib dry riverbed.

Accommodation: Fully equipped tents, sleeping rolls with bedding, Full board – all meals are served at the camp.

Facilities: A camp with all the basic necessities, making the stay in the wilderness not „far from home“.

Activities: Game/ Nature drives, searching for the desert elephants (with luck), walking trails, Sundowners and a visit to the Himba people.

Kaokoveld

Located in the far north-west, Kaokoland (also called Kaokoveld) is one of the relatively untouched regions in Namibia. The almost inaccessible area south of the Kunene River is home to the Himba ethnic group, who has kept their ethnic individuality and culture in the seclusion of Kaokoland.

Day 5)

Day at leisure. Take part in the activities offered.

FB (Full Board) – Okahirongo Elephant Lodge

Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner as well as scheduled activities – included

Optional activities – at own costs

Day 6)

Today you depart for Opuwo.

You will drive back on the same route that you came via Sesfontein further onto Opuwo.

Overnight at Opuwo Country Lodge (Alternative: Mopane Camp)

DBB – Opuwo Country Hotel

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included

Lunch (Picnic) en-route – at own costs

Optional activities – at own costs

Opuwo Country Hotel

Location: Opuwo Country Hotel/ Lodge is located outside Opuwo on a hill.

Accommodation: 28 luxury air-conditioned rooms and 12 standard rooms as well as camp sites are available.

Facilities: A restaurant, bar, lounge, reception and souvenir shop are all in the thatched main building.

Activities: With a view over the valleys and mountains spectacular sunsets. Here you can learn about the culture and traditions of the Ovahimba. Day trips are available, such as cultural excursions and much more.

Alternative:

Mopane Camp

Location: Located ca. 3 km outside of Opuwo, Mopane Campe lies at the edge of a high cliff bordering a seasonal dry river bed.

Accommodation: Accommodation, made up of 15 luxury safari tents all built above the ground and beneath the shade of Mopane trees. Each is equipped with bed(s), Veranda, and ensuite bathrooms with showers. Mopane Camp however has no electricity.

Facilities: Dinner will be served in the Boma. Here you will also find a bar, with a choice of different beverages, which invites you to a sundowner drink.

Activities: Birdwatching, visits to the Himba Villages, walking trails from the camp, through the river to learn about interesting stone formations.

Day 7)

Today you have the opportunity to visit a Himba village or take part in other optional activities that are offered.

Duration of Himba Village Trips: Ca. 3 hours

DBB – Opuwo Country Hotel

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included

Lunch (Picnic) – included

Optional activities – at own costs

Himba

Kaokoland is home to some 6000 Himba. These friendly people are closely related to the Herero and speak the same language. The Himba are herdsman, breeding mainly cattle and goats while leading a semi-nomadic life. They migrate with their herds to the different waterholes from season to season. For the Himba, clothes, hair and jewellery hold a special meaning

and form an important part of their tradition and culture. Even newborn babies are adorned with pearl necklaces while older children are given bracelets crafted from copper and decorated with shells

Day 8)

Today your journey goes further north to the Epupa Waterfalls, at the Kunene River, the border of Namibia and Angola. Here you overnight at the Omarunga Camp (Alternative: Epupa Falls Lodge)
FB (Full Board) – Omarunga Camp
Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner – included
Optional activities – at own costs

Omarunga Camp

Location: Omarunga Camp is located on the banks of the Kunene River, bordering Angola, in the far north of Namibia
Accommodation: In the shade of Mopane Trees, 10 comfortable furnished En-suite tents are scattered to offer the tranquility of nature. A Campsite is also available. Please take note: There are Crocodiles in the river – no swimming.
Facilities: Restaurant, bar and small swimming pool.
Activities: With a spectacular view over the Epupa Falls you can enjoy a sundowner trip to relax and enjoy the vastness of this beautiful landscape. Tours to a Himba Village and nature drives are offered, etc.

Alternative:

Epupa Falls Lodge

Location: Located at the banks of the Kunene River.
Accommodation: 9 Luxury tents each has its own electricity, is equipped with mosquito netting and has a balcony with a view directly on the river.
Facilities: The dining room and lounge face the river and as well as a deck with swimmingpool. There is a small bridge connecting the lodge with its own private island, where one can relax in hammocks or just sit and watch the birdlife alongside the river. Telephone/ Fax and Internet.
Activities: Himba Village tour, Sundowner, Rafting, Birdwatching boat trip, Excursion to the Epupa Falls, hiking trails

Day 9)

Today is spent at leisure. Take part in the different activities offered from the camp or just relax under the shade of the trees.
Overnight Omarunga Camp (Alternative: Epupa Falls Lodge)
FB (Full Board) – Omarunga Camp
Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner – included
Optional activities – at own costs

Epupa Waterfalls

The Epupa Waterfalls in the Kunene River are a succession of cascades where the river drops a total of 60 metres, over a distance of 1, 5 km's. As the river drops, it divides into a multitude of channels and forms rock pools

Day 10)

Today you drive along the Kunene River to your next destination.
Here you will spend the next 2 nights.
Overnight at Kunene River Lodge (Alternative: Ruacana Eha Lodge)
DBB – Kunene River Lodge
Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included
Lunch (Picnic) en-route – included
Optional activities – at own costs

Kunene River Lodge

Location: This lodge is located ca. 50 km from the Ruacana Waterfalls and 100 km from the Epupa Waterfalls on the banks of the Kunene River.
Accommodation: Luxury Bungalows and Standard Chalets and Campsites, all under large shady trees.
Facilities: Reception, Restaurant and Bar
Activities: Sundowner boat trips, birdwatching, walking trails, visit to a Himba Family and River trips such as White Water Rafting.

Alternative:

Ruacana Eha Lodge

Location: As the name already says, this lodge is located near the Ruacana Waterfalls in the far north of Namibia.
Accommodation: 22 rooms, of which are 21 Double rooms and one family suite are equipped with bathroom, air-conditioning, television, Minibar and coffee/tea making facilities. 15 Camping sites.
Facilities: Restaurant, Lounge with bar, Swimmingpool, conference room, Gym, Volleyball and Squash court.
Activities: Trips to the Ruacana Waterfalls, - Ruacana Hydro-Power Station, - Himba Village, Walking trail to the Rock Pool, visit to Witsand and „Scenic Sundowner“.

Day 11)

Day at leisure
Take part in the optional activities offered
DBB – Kunene River Lodge
Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included
Lunch (Picnic) en-route – included
Optional activities – at own costs

Day 12)

Today you depart for Damaraland.

Here you overnight at the Hobatere Lodge (Alternative: Rustig Toko Lodge).

The afternoon is spent at leisure.

Take part in the optional activities offered from the lodge or relax at the lodge after the long drive.

DBB – Hobatere Lodge

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included

Lunch (Picnic) en-route – included

Optional activities – at own costs

Hobatere Lodge

Location: Hobatere Lodge liegt an der Westgrenze des Etoscha National Parks

Accommodation: 12 en-suite bungalows und ein rustikales Baumhaus an einer Wasserstelle.

Facilities: Restaurant, Bar and Swimmingpool.

Activities: Game drives are offered by day or night.

Alternative:

Rustig Toko Lodge

Location: Ca. 27 km northwest of Kamanjab in Damaraland.

Accommodation: 10 tastefully furnished rooms, each with its own bathroom, offer a view over the savannas. The „Omumbo-rombonga“ Campsite has all facilities necessary to accommodate campers.

Facilities: „African Dishes“, friendly service and atmosphere. Restaurant, Swimmingpool and bar.

Activities: The lodge offers game drives, guided bush walks and birdwatching.

Day 13)

Depart to Windhoek. This days journey will be yet another long trip.

En-route however you can visit the Crocodile ranch in Otjiwarongo or the Woodcarvers' market in Okahandja.

Overnight at Auas Game Lodge (Alternative: Okapuka Ranch)

DBB – Auas Game Lodge

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast – included

Lunch (Picnic) en-route – included

Optional activities – at own costs

Auas Game Lodge

Location: The 10.000 ha large Auas Game Lodge is located 45 kilometers from Windhoek and ± 55 kilometer from the International Airport, in the Auas Mountains.

Accommodation: The lodge offers 16 comfortable double rooms, each having its own en-suite bathroom and Television. Each room has its own

Facilities: Restaurant and swimming pool.

Activities: Experience wildlife either by hiking, Mountain-Bike trails or game drives

Alternative:

Okapuka Ranch

Location: The Ranch is located ca. 30 km north of Windhoek in the Otjihavera Mountains.

Accommodation: Individual Chalets all equipped with same necessities, with bathroom ensuite, tea/ coffee making facilities etc. Geräumige Chalets, mit Kaffee/ Tee Ausrüstung und eigenes Badezimmer.

Facilities: Restaurant, Wine cellar and conference facility

Activities: Game Drives, Mountain drives, Lion Feeding, walking trails, tennis court, Swimmingpool and helicopter "flip flights".

Day 14)

In time for your connecting flight, depart for the International Airport.

END OF THE SAFARI

The tour can also be reversed, in example start via Hobatere, and then over Grootberg back to Windhoek.