9-Day Northern Namibia, Etosha, Himba and Ruacana Falls Safari

Namibia



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
9 days, 8 nights	**Namibia**	**USD 3,700 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 9-day, 8-night Namibia safari and cultural tour explores northern Namibia: Etosha National Park, an Ovambo village, Ruacana Waterfalls, the Himba people around Opuwo, and the Waterberg Plateau.

You start with a Windhoek city tour, spend a full day in Etosha, visit Ongula Village, travel to Opuwo via Ruacana Waterfalls, spend a day with the Himba, relax at Waterberg, and return to Windhoek for your flight on day 9.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival in Namibia: Windhoek City Tour

Upon arrival in Windhoek, you will be warmly greeted by our professional guide. Before heading to your accommodation at Weinberg Windhoek, you will receive your tour documents and participate in a briefing to prepare for the journey ahead.

After check-in, embark on a Guided Windhoek City Tour, which offers insights into the capital's history, architecture, and cultural landmarks. In the evening, relax with a delicious dinner at the iconic Joe's Beerhouse, known for its lively atmosphere and authentic Namibian cuisine.

Accommodation

- Midrange: Arresbusch
- Luxury: The Weinberg Hotel Windhoek – or similar

Day 2

Journey to Etosha National Park

Early breakfast and departure for the renowned Etosha National Park (South), one of Africa's top wildlife destinations. Along the way, we'll make a quick stop at the Okahandja Open Market, a vibrant cultural hub where local artisans display a variety of handcrafted wood carvings, souvenirs, and traditional crafts.

Upon arrival at Etosha, check into your lodge to refresh before heading out for an evening game drive within the park. As the sun sets and temperatures cool, wildlife activity increases this is the perfect time to spot predators on the move and nocturnal species.

Return to your lodge for a restful night surrounded by the sounds of African wilderness.

Overnight: Okaukuejo Resort – or similar

Day 3

Full Day Exploration of Etosha National Park

Early breakfast at your lodge. Today is dedicated to a full-day game drive in the eastern region of Etosha National Park, a wildlife-rich area known for its expansive salt pan, open grasslands, and abundant animal sightings accompanied by your safari guide.

Throughout the day, explore various waterholes and ecological zones that attract a wide range of species including elephants, giraffes, lions, rhinos, zebras, wildebeest, and many birds. Your guide will share fascinating insights into animal behavior, tracking techniques, and the park's unique ecosystems as you navigate the diverse terrain searching for memorable wildlife encounters. A packed lunch will be enjoyed at a scenic picnic site within the park. Later, return to your lodge and spend the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Etosha King Nehale Lodge – or similar

Day 4

Immersive cultural tour of Ongula Village

Today, you depart for Ongula Village to immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of the Ovambo people. During this visit, you will experience authentic Ovambo traditions, including traditional dances, crafts, and local customs, guided by knowledgeable community members who will share stories and insights about their way of life. This cultural encounter provides a rare chance to connect with the community, learn about their history, and witness daily village life up-close.

After a fulfilling day of cultural exploration, transfer to your lodge, where the evening is yours to relax at your leisure.

Overnight: Ongula Village Homestead Lodge – or similar

Day 5

Journey to Opuwo via Ruacana Waterfalls

We start early with breakfast before embarking on a scenic drive to Opuwo, the vibrant administrative town of the Kunene region. Along the way, experience changing landscapes and observe rural life in northern Namibia.

Make a stop at the spectacular Ruacana Waterfalls, one of Namibia's most impressive natural wonders. Enjoy the stunning views, explore the surrounding area, and take memorable photos of the cascading waters.

After this refreshing stop, continue to Opuwo, where the evening is free to relax at your leisure.

Overnight: Opuwo Country Lodge – or similar

Day 6

Full Day Himba Cultural Experience

Today promises adventure as we set out on a full day Himba excursion. Traveling into the heart of the Himba homeland, guests will be welcomed into traditional villages, where time-honored customs are still preserved in their purest form. The day provides a rare opportunity to engage with community members, learn about their intricate hairstyles and symbolic attire, and hear stories passed down through generations.

The Himba are one of Namibia's last tribes striving to preserve their ancient customs in the modern world. Known for their distinctive look each element reflecting practicality, age, or status they offer visitors a fascinating glimpse into daily life. Interactions are often mutual, with guests also answering questions, fostering a deeper cultural exchange.

As the sun sets, return to the lodge, where the warmth of the evening awaits. The day ends with a sumptuous dinner at the lodge, a perfect moment to reflect on the rich experiences shared.

Overnight: Opuwo Country Lodge or similar

Day 7

Jouney to Waterberg Plateau National Park

After a hearty breakfast, embark on a scenic trip to the majestic Waterberg Plateau, a striking sandstone formation rising dramatically from the plains. Enjoy the changing landscapes and look out for local wildlife along the way.

Upon arrival, the afternoon is yours to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings, complemented by the sounds of native birds calling through the trees. As evening falls, the lodge is illuminated by the warm glow of sunset, creating a perfect setting for a leisurely dinner.

Overnight: Waterberg Plateau Lodge – or similar

Day 8

Journey back to Windhoek

Following breakfast, take a scenic drive back to Windhoek, Namibia's lively capital. Upon arrival, check into your hotel to unwind.

The rest of the afternoon is free for you to relax by the pool, explore local shops, or enjoy the city's vibrant atmosphere.

In the evening, indulge in a delicious dinner at the renowned Cape Town Fish Market, where a variety of flavorful dishes await.

Accommodation:

- Budget: Arresbusch
- Luxury: The Weinberg Hotel Windhoek – or similar

Day 9

Transfer to Hosea Kutako International Airport

After breakfast, transfer to Hosea Kutako International Airport for your departure. We hope you had a memorable and enjoyable tour, and wish you a safe journey home.

Meal Plan: Breakfast only

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- Park fees
- All activities
- All accommodation
- A professional driver/guide
- All transportation
- All Taxes/VAT
- Round-trip airport transfer
- Meals
- Drinking water

Cost excludes

- International flights (From/to home)
- Additional accommodation before and at the end of the tour
- Tips (Tipping guideline US$10.00 pp per day)
- Personal items (Souvenirs, travel insurance, visa fees, etc.)
- Government imposed increase of taxes and/or park fees
- Travel Insurance

GOOD TO KNOW

- Packing for Safari? Keep it simple!
- Bring comfortable, lightweight clothes in natural colors like khaki, olive, sand, and earth tones. Pack layers too: mornings can be surprisingly chilly, while the middle of the day gets hot. You don't need a fresh outfit for every day, since most lodges and camps can arrange laundry service.
- Don't forget your sun protection: a good hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Comfortable shoes are enough for most safaris. Heavy hiking boots are only needed if you're doing a walking safari, primate tracking, or mountain climbing.
- A good pair of binoculars is a must. A camera is great, but binoculars will transform the way you experience wildlife, especially birds and animals that are far away.
- For luggage, we recommend a soft-sided bag over a hard suitcase. It fits much more easily into safari vehicles and small aircraft, where space is tight and weight is often limited to 15 kg.
- Most importantly, don't overpack. Travel light and enjoy the adventure!

Ready to book this safari?

Request a quote and we will tailor it to your dates and group: **gorillatreking.com/safari/9-day-northern-namibia-etosha-himba-and-ruacana-falls-safari/**

Uganda: +256 772 784381 | +256 704 890296 Namibia: +264 81 591 8824

Email: **bookings@gorillatreking.com**

Starting prices are per person and depend on season, group size and availability; request a quote for exact pricing. Itineraries can be adjusted to suit your plans.