

NM001 “Simply Namibia” 17 Days

Your “Taste of Volunteering” project:



Your Volunteer Project is with **the OvaHimba people** in north western Namibia. Opuwo is the “capital city” in this remote part of Kaokoland. Opuwo is situated about 700km northwest of Windhoek, and 250 km from the Etosha National Park.

You will primarily be helping with building traditional homesteads (mud huts) or painting projects. Other areas where your assistance might be required is assisting with fixing water wells and with looking after cattle.

Trip Highlights:

- Kaokoland – Volunteer Project with the OvaHimba people
- Etosha National Park – an afternoon, two full days and an evening of game viewing
- San/Bushman encounters – game viewing
- Damaraland – Ancient San rock art
- Sossusvlei – oldest desert, world highest dunes

Day by Day Itinerary:

Day 1	Arrive Hosea Kutako Airport, optional Township tour	D
Day 2	Aabadi Bush Camp	B,L,D
Day 3- 5	Etosha National Park	B, L D
Day 6 - 10	Kaokoland (OvaHimba)	B,L,D*
Day 11	Fort Sesfontein	B,L,D
Day 12	Damaraland	B, L D
Day 13 - 14	Swakopmund	B
Day 15	Sossusvlei	B L D
Day 16	Garies Rest Camp	B L D
Day 17	Windhoek - Airport	B L

*No dinner is included on Day 6
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner



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Trip Description:

Day 1 ARRIVAL WINDHOEK AIRPORT [Hotel/Guesthouse or similar - - D]

You are met at the airport and transferred to the departure point hotel. You can book (and pay for) on arrival an optional ½ day Katutura Township tour with local guide (13h30-17h30). You have a rest of day (un-guided) at leisure to recover from the flight and have a welcome dinner at a restaurant.

Day 2 Aabadi Bush Camp [chalets/huts – B,L,D]

Our journey starts with visiting Aabadi Bush Camp, driving for about 2 hours. We have a stopover at the woodcarvers market in Okahandja, before proceeding to Aabadi and arrive in time for lunch. Joined by a San family in the afternoon, the hike in the bush takes us through the property, where you have an opportunity of getting a very close experience of how nature can provide in our daily needs and much more. This is a very intimate encounter of the San culture and should provide you with a true exchange of their way of life.

Day 3 - 5 Etosha National Park [Camping – B,L,D]

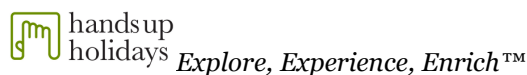
We drive through the mid central part of Namibia on our way to the Okaukuejo gate, our entrance to the world renowned Etosha National Park. An afternoon, two full days and an evening of superb game-viewing. MIDDAYS are very hot and are spent at the pool side. Days in the park are marked by early rises and late afternoons for game drives. We camp just outside the park each night.

Day 6- 10 Kaokoland [Camping – B,L,D]

Just after breakfast we leave Etosha through the Western Gate. This part of the Park is mainly reserved for research purposes and boasts rare species such as sable and roan. We head further up north, until we get to Opuwo, the Capital of the Kaokoland. We stop for a restaurant dinner at the Opuwo Country Lodge and camp at the lodge. Dinner is at your own expense. The next 4 days will see us helping with the Volunteer Projects in the OvaHimba community.

Day 11 Damaraland – Fort Sesfontein [Camping – B,L,D]

After working hard at the Volunteer Projects, we have a very relaxing day at Fort Sesfontein. Here you can pay a small fee, and leave with the camp staff in a 4WD vehicle in search of desert elephants in the Huanib River.



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Day 12 Damaraland – Aba-huab/Mowani [Camping - B,L,D]

This part of Namibia is one of the most beautiful: rugged with fascinating geological features. We are headed for Damaraland and camp at Mowani.

No activities for the afternoon, just relaxing by the campfire. Those of you interested in wanting to know more about the area can book an afternoon game-drive. Who knows you might encounter desert elephants!

Day 13 -14 Swakopmund [chalets Bx2 - -]

No rush at all as we head for the coast, we visit the seal colony at Cape Cross before arriving in Swakopmund. On arrival, the afternoon is free for everybody, just remember that we will go out in the evening as a group to some restaurant where you can spoil yourself at your choice of seafood. You might be spending the next day, doing one or the other activity being offered in Swakopmund, such as sand boarding, kayaking with seals or quad biking. It is always best to discuss your choice of activity with your guide the night before and he can help you arrange for bookings and pick up.

Again we are together for our last night in Swakopmund at a different restaurant for a last taste of seafood.

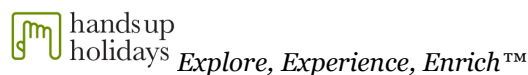
Day 15 Sossusvlei [Camping B,L,D]

Our first stop is Walvis Bay to see if we can spot some flamingo. This day takes us through landscapes that justify Namibia's description as the land of wide open spaces. The journey takes you through canyons as we close in on our destination. We have lunch either on the road or at Solitaire, before arriving at Sossusvlei. In the afternoon we visit Elim Dune for a sunset experience. We then go back to Sesriem, our camp for the night.

Day 16 Sossusvlei - Garies Rest Camp [chalets B,L,D]

This day is not an easy one, as we have to leave our camp VERY EARLY for a drive to Dune 45. The idea behind this early rise is to get to the top of the dune, and see the sun rising for the day. We will not be the only people wanting to have this experience, there are always so many people rushing for this. Back from the dune, we have breakfast, and drive further to do a 5 km walk in the desert to Sossusvlei. Those of you who don't want to walk can pay a small fee (optional) and take a "desert taxi". Back at camp for lunch, and we leave for our camp site for the night.

When we arrive at Garies Rest Camp, we have a 'sundowner' drink in the late afternoon. Those of you who can ride horses can do so or just play in the pool to



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recuperate from the long desert walk. After dinner you can settle in for the night's entertainment.

Day 17 **Tour ends [B,L]**

You can sleep late. Really you can. The only thing left for us today is to get up slowly, eat breakfast, relax, take a breather, and walk a bit on our own. Come back, take down your tent. Help us load it in the car and slowly we head back to Windhoek, where our safari ends. We are back between 14h00 and 16h00 in Windhoek. Of course we have lunch on the road!

NB: Please allow an additional US\$100 for meals not included and US\$100 for optional activities such as quad bike dune rides, dolphin cruises, sand boarding and so forth.

Comfort Level: 2/5 (1/5 during volunteering for 4 nights)

Accommodation is in a good quality chalets and huts. We offer assisted camping, with a cook, who also serves as a general assistant to your guide/driver.

Activity Level: 3/5

Min. Travellers per Group: 2

Max. Travellers per Group: 12

Police Check Required? No

What to pack:

Sturdy boots

Sunscreen

Wide brimmed hat

Evenings can be quite cold, especially in the desert;

Days will be hot. Pack accordingly

Roads can be quite dusty, so make provision for your camera equipment

Swimming costumes

Malaria precaution advisable