

Namibia – Predators Direct!

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline itinerary

Day 1 – 2	Outbound flights; overnight Windhoek
Day 3 – 5	Ongava Reserve – day and night game drives and photo hide sessions
Day 6 – 9	Okonjima – game drives & wildlife tracking for rare and endangered species
Day 10	Travel to Windhoek
Day 11 – 12	Inbound flights

Hwange Extension

Day 11	Fly to Victoria Falls – Travel to Hwange
Day 12 – 14	Hwange National Park – Game drives, animal tracking and photography hides
Day 15 – 16	Inbound flights

Departs

June – September

Focus

Mammals & Photography

Grading

A. Mostly vehicle-based, with some on foot tracking

Dates and Prices

See website (tour code NAM09)

Highlights:

- Day and night game drives
- Specialist wildlife tracking for Leopard, Brown Hyena and Temminck's Ground Pangolin
- Superb lodges with excellent facilities
- Excellent photographic opportunities
- Led by expert local guides and naturalists



From Top: Lion at Ongava, Leopard at Okonjima, Cheetah in Etosha



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Introduction

This specialist safari is designed for those with a particular fascination for Africa's carnivores, combining Namibia's outstanding predator-tracking opportunities with an optional extension to Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. From the predator-rich plains of Etosha to Okonjima's pioneering conservation programmes, we will search for predators across a variety of habitats and gain a fascinating insight into the ecology and conservation of some of Africa's most iconic mammals. Lion, Leopard, Cheetah and Spotted Hyena all occur in the Etosha ecosystem, providing an exciting start to what promises to be a memorable wildlife adventure.

Our safari begins at Ongava Private Game Reserve, one of Namibia's premier wildlife reserves, situated on the boundary of Etosha National Park. Combining excellent accommodation with exclusive wildlife-viewing opportunities, Ongava is renowned for its healthy populations of both Black and White Rhinoceros, as well as its productive waterholes, which attract a constant procession of wildlife. Day and night game drives, extended sessions in a superb photographic hide and visits into Etosha National Park provide opportunities to search for Lion, Leopard and Cheetah, alongside Elephant, Southern Giraffe, Plains Zebra and a wealth of other mammals and birds. The reserve is equally rewarding after dark, when African Civet, Southern Small-spotted Genet, Honey Badger, Cape Porcupine and other nocturnal species may emerge from the bushveld.

We then move to Okonjima Nature Reserve, home to the renowned AfriCat Foundation and one of southern Africa's foremost centres for predator conservation. Here, specialist activities focus on radio-tracked Leopard and Brown Hyena, offering a unique opportunity to learn about the monitoring and protection of these remarkable carnivores. Night drives may reveal Caracal, Serval, African Wildcat, Cape Fox, Bat-eared Fox, Aardwolf, Honey Badger, Cape Porcupine, Aardvark and Southern Small-spotted Genet, while daytime activities include tracking White Rhinoceros on foot and searching responsibly for the extraordinary Temminck's Ground Pangolin. Leopard sightings are never guaranteed, but Okonjima's long-running research programme makes it one of the most reliable places in Namibia to encounter this elusive cat.

For those joining the Hwange extension, the predator-watching continues in one of Africa's greatest wildlife reserves. Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, is a stronghold for African Wild Dog and supports healthy populations of Lion and Leopard, a small population of Cheetah, Spotted Hyena and the scarcer Brown Hyena. Game drives, hide sessions and a night at the famous Dove's Nest sleep-out provide opportunities to experience the park both by day and after dark. Large herds of Elephant, Buffalo, Zebra and a variety of antelope sustain this predator-rich ecosystem, and time spent overlooking the park's waterholes can reveal fascinating interactions between predators, prey and scavengers, providing a fitting finale to an exceptional carnivore-focused safari.

NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather and other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Itinerary

Day 1

Fly Johannesburg

Today we depart London on an overnight flight to Johannesburg.

Day 2

Windhoek

Following a change of aircraft in Johannesburg, we continue to Windhoek, Namibia's capital, where we will meet our expert leader. On arrival, we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay, allowing time to relax and prepare for the wildlife adventures ahead before we set off north tomorrow.

Overnight: Windhoek

Day 3

Travel to Ongava Lodge – Night Drive

After breakfast, we leave Windhoek behind and head north towards the Etosha Pan. For the next three nights we will be based at Ongava Lodge, beautifully situated within the private Ongava Game Reserve on the southern boundary of Etosha National Park. Set among granite outcrops and mopane woodland, the lodge overlooks a vast expanse of bushveld and provides a superb base from which to explore one of Namibia's richest wildlife areas.

Accommodation is in spacious, air-conditioned chalets with private facilities, a sitting area and a private veranda overlooking the reserve. The main lodge incorporates a lounge, dining area and swimming pool, all designed to make the most of the open views and peaceful setting. Wi-Fi is available in the main areas, although the reserve's real appeal lies in its sense of space and its impressive diversity of large and small mammals, and its colourful and varied birdlife.

A particular highlight of our stay is Ongava's celebrated waterhole and photographic hide. Following lunch, we will begin our exploration of the reserve from this excellent vantage point, which offers close-up views of wildlife as it comes to drink. The hide can be productive throughout the day, but the cooler hours of the morning and evening often provide the greatest activity. Lion, Elephant and a wide variety of birds are regular visitors, whilst Ongava is especially renowned for its healthy population of Black Rhinoceros. Throughout our stay, we will have unrestricted access to the hide, allowing keen photographers and wildlife-watchers to make the most of every opportunity.



Lioness at Ongava Watering Hole

As darkness falls, we set out on our first safari activity, a guided night drive through the reserve. Travelling in an open-sided vehicle and using spotlights to locate wildlife, we search for the fascinating nocturnal species that emerge after sunset. Bushbabies may be seen bounding through the trees, while owls and nightjars hunt along the tracks. African Civet, Southern Small-spotted Genet, Cape Porcupine, Honey Badger and Black-backed Jackal are all possibilities, and with luck we may even encounter a Black Rhinoceros moving silently through the darkness. This exciting introduction provides our first taste of the exceptional wildlife that makes Ongava one of Namibia's premier private reserves.

Overnight: Ongava Lodge

Day 4

Ongava – Game Drive & Wildlife Walk

We will set out early this morning to explore Ongava Private Game Reserve, accompanied by expert local guides whose knowledge of the reserve's wildlife and habitats will add greatly to our safari experience. Driving through a mosaic of mopane woodland, open grassland and rocky bushveld, we will search for some of Ongava's most sought-after mammals. The reserve supports healthy populations of both Black and White Rhinoceros and offers excellent opportunities to encounter Lion, African Elephant, Southern Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Greater Kudu, Oryx, Springbok and Common Warthog. Black-backed Jackal and a variety of smaller mammals may also be seen. Along the way, we will visit several of Ongava's productive waterholes, where concentrations of wildlife often gather, and photographic opportunities can be outstanding.



African Wild Cat

Birdlife is equally rewarding. The reserve hosts a rich selection of characteristic Namibian bushveld species, and we will be on the lookout for hornbills, starlings, rollers, shrikes and weavers. Raptors are often prominent and may include Bateleur, Tawny Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk and several species of vulture. Depending on recent rainfall, the open plains can also support bustards, coursers and other species adapted to Namibia's drier landscapes.

Later this afternoon, we will exchange the safari vehicle for a guided walk with an experienced ranger. Exploring on foot offers a very different perspective, allowing us to experience the bush at a slower pace and appreciate details that are easily missed from a vehicle. As we make our way through the scrub, our guide will interpret tracks, droppings and other signs of animal activity, revealing the stories written across the landscape. We will learn how wildlife uses its habitat, how different species communicate, and how the alarm calls and subtle sounds of the bush can betray the presence of nearby animals. Subject to conditions and at the ranger's discretion, there may be opportunities to approach larger mammals on foot, perhaps Elephant, Giraffe or even rhinoceros, always at a respectful distance and with safety as the foremost consideration. Encounters such as these are among the most memorable experiences that Africa has to offer, providing a vivid appreciation of the scale, power and presence of these remarkable animals in their natural environment.

Overnight: Ongava Lodge

Day 5

Ongava – Etosha National Park

We will make an early start this morning, entering Etosha National Park as the gates open and the first light spreads across the landscape. The cool hours after dawn are often among the most productive for wildlife-viewing and provide an excellent opportunity to experience the park at its most active. During our exploration we will travel through a variety of habitats, from the immense saltpan that dominates the centre of the park to grassy plains, marshes and open acacia savannah.



Cheetah in Etosha



Lion in Etosha

Etosha supports an impressive diversity of large mammals, and we can expect to encounter Elephant, Southern Giraffe, Blue Wildebeest, Springbok, Gemsbok, Greater Kudu, Red Hartebeest, Black-faced Impala and Plains Zebra. Smaller species such as Steenbok and Damara Dik-dik are also present, although they often require a more careful search. The park is equally renowned for its predators and, with luck, we may encounter Lion, Leopard or Cheetah. The early morning period can be especially rewarding for more elusive mammals, and we will be keeping a watchful eye for Bat-eared Fox, Cape Fox, Spotted Hyena and other nocturnal species before they retire for the day.

One of Etosha's greatest attractions is its network of waterholes, which draw wildlife from across the surrounding plains. By spending time at the most productive sites, we can enjoy the constant comings and goings of animals arriving to drink, often providing excellent opportunities to observe natural behaviour at close quarters. It is not unusual to see Elephant, Southern Giraffe and antelope gathering around the same waterhole, while predators may appear unexpectedly to add an extra dimension to the scene. These quiet periods of observation often produce some of the most memorable wildlife encounters and photographic opportunities of the tour.

After a rewarding day in the national park, we will return to Ongava Lodge for dinner before spending time at the lodge's excellent photographic hide. As darkness falls, the floodlit waterhole attracts a different cast of visitors and offers a fascinating glimpse into the reserve's nocturnal world. Cape Porcupine, African Civet, Southern Small-spotted Genet and Black-backed Jackal are all possible, while the calls of night birds and the sounds of the bushveld provide a wonderful backdrop to the experience. It is a peaceful and atmospheric way to end another memorable day in Namibia. Ongava



Southern Small-spotted Genet

Overnight: Ongava Lodge

Day 6 Travel to Okonjima Nature Reserve – Leopard Tracking

This morning we will leave Ongava and begin our journey south to Okonjima Nature Reserve, one of Namibia's premier wildlife destinations and an internationally recognised centre for conservation research. The reserve is home to the AfriCat Foundation, whose pioneering work has helped to improve understanding of Namibia's large carnivores while promoting coexistence between wildlife and local communities. Today, the organisation's activities encompass long-term ecological research, habitat restoration and the conservation of a range of threatened species.

Our base for the next four nights will be Okonjima Plains Camp, attractively situated beside one of the reserve's busiest waterholes. Centred around the beautifully converted Barn, which houses the reception, lounge, restaurant and viewing deck, the camp offers exceptional opportunities for wildlife-watching throughout the day. Whether enjoying breakfast on the terrace, relaxing with a coffee or unwinding before dinner, there is always the possibility of animals appearing at the water's edge.

The camp's spacious, air-conditioned rooms are well-appointed and enjoy views across the surrounding bushveld. Each features private facilities, a seating area and tea- and coffee-making facilities, providing a welcoming retreat after a day in the field.

For those wishing to explore independently, a network of well-maintained self-guided trails winds through the reserve. These walks offer an opportunity to experience the scenery, birdlife and smaller inhabitants of the bush at a leisurely pace, revealing aspects of the reserve that are often overlooked during vehicle-based activities.

The waterhole itself is a constant source of interest. Regular visitors include Plains Zebra, Southern Giraffe, Greater Kudu, Oryx, Red Hartebeest, Springbok, Common Warthog and Black-backed Jackal, while birdwatchers can expect a steady procession of doves, sandgrouse, hornbills, starlings and raptors. After dark, the floodlit waterhole often attracts more secretive species, such as Cape Porcupine and Southern Small-spotted Genet, creating a wonderfully atmospheric setting and providing memorable wildlife encounters from the comfort of the lodge.



After settling into camp, we will join our first specialist tracking activity, focusing on one of Okonjima's most iconic residents: Leopard. Accompanied by expert local guides, we will venture into the reserve in search of individuals that form part of AfriCat's long-term monitoring programme. A number of adult Leopards are fitted with radio collars, allowing guides to use telemetry equipment to determine their approximate location. While this greatly increases our chances of success, these remain entirely wild animals ranging freely across the reserve, ensuring that every encounter retains its sense of unpredictability and excitement.

The activity provides a fascinating insight into the ecology of this remarkable predator and the challenges involved in its conservation. Along the way, we will learn about territorial behaviour, population monitoring and the important role that Leopards play within Namibia's ecosystems.

Even if a sighting proves elusive, the experience offers a unique perspective on the reserve's conservation work and a deeper understanding of one of Africa's most charismatic mammals. With its combination of excellent habitat, dedicated research and expert guiding, Okonjima is widely regarded as one of the finest places in Namibia to search for Leopard.



Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp

Day 7

Okonjima – Game Drive & Brown Hyena Tracking

We will make an early start this morning for a guided game drive through Okonjima Nature Reserve, accompanied by expert local guides whose knowledge of the reserve's wildlife and ecology adds a fascinating dimension to every sighting. The reserve supports a healthy population of plains game, and we are likely to encounter Greater Kudu, Oryx, Springbok, Impala, Southern Giraffe and Plains Zebra, together with Common Warthog, Chacma Baboon and Black-backed Jackal.

Birdlife is equally rewarding. The acacia-dominated thornveld provides habitat for a colourful array of species, including Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Crimson-breasted Shrike, African Grey Hornbill and Red-billed Buffalo Weaver. Raptors are often prominent and may include Pale Chanting Goshawk, Tawny Eagle and the ever-impressive Bateleur. In more open areas we will look for Kori Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan and other characteristic birds of Namibia's central plains.

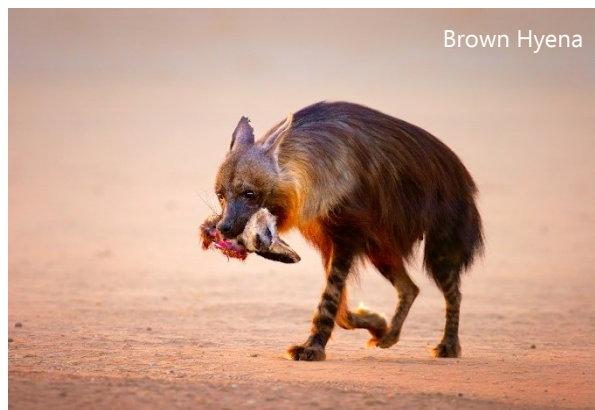
With no particular target species, this excursion offers an opportunity to appreciate the reserve as a whole, from its scenic landscapes and diverse birdlife to the wealth of mammals that inhabit its thornveld and grasslands. There will be ample time to pause for wildlife observation, photography and simply to enjoy the atmosphere of the African bush.

Later this afternoon, our attention turns to one of southern Africa's most enigmatic carnivores: Brown Hyena. Far less frequently encountered than Spotted Hyena and largely nocturnal in its habits, this remarkable species plays an important ecological role as both scavenger and opportunistic predator. Okonjima is one of the best places in Namibia to learn about and, with luck, observe this elusive mammal.

Accompanied by experienced guides, we will explore the reserve in search of known individuals, occasionally aided by tracking collars that allow researchers to monitor their movements across extensive home ranges. Along the way, we will gain a deeper understanding of Brown Hyena ecology, behaviour and social structure, as well as the challenges involved in conserving a species that remains poorly understood throughout much of its range.



Brown Hyena



Brown Hyena

As with all wildlife encounters, sightings can never be guaranteed, but time spent searching is seldom unrewarding. The reserve's varied habitats support an abundance of other wildlife, and the experience offers a valuable insight into the work being undertaken at Okonjima to better understand and protect Namibia's carnivores. Whether we enjoy prolonged views of a Brown Hyena or simply learn more about its secretive way of life, the excursion provides a fitting conclusion to our time in this exceptional reserve.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp

Day 8

Okonjima – Game Drive & Night Drive

This morning we will set out on a game drive. The cooler early hours offer an excellent opportunity to search the open plains and acacia woodland for the reserve's diverse wildlife, including Southern Giraffe, Zebra and a variety of antelope, as well as the area's rich birdlife and, potentially, more predators.

We will return to Okonjima for lunch and a leisurely afternoon. There will be time to relax around the camp, enjoy the lodge's facilities or spend a few quiet hours watching the ever-changing activity at the waterhole, where a constant procession of wildlife often comes to drink.

After dinner, we will venture out once more, this time on a nocturnal game drive. As darkness settles over the reserve and temperatures begin to fall, a different cast of animals emerges from the shadows. The night drive offers an excellent opportunity to search for species that are seldom encountered during daylight hours, including Bat-eared Fox, Aardwolf, Honey Badger and Cape Porcupine. Owls may be found perched beside the tracks, while mammals such as Springhare and Scrub Hare often reveal themselves in the beam of the spotlight.

With luck, we may also encounter some of the reserve's more elusive predators, including Leopard and Brown Hyena, as they begin their nightly activities. Other nocturnal mammals recorded here include Caracal, Cape Fox, Southern Small-spotted Genet, Serval and Aardvark. As always, there can be no guarantees, but exploring the bush after dark is an exciting experience in its own right, offering a fascinating glimpse into a largely hidden world and providing a memorable finale to our stay at Okonjima.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp

Day 9

Okonjima – Pangolin Tracking & Game Drive

This morning we will head out for another game drive through Okonjima Nature Reserve, providing further opportunities to enjoy and photograph the reserve's rich wildlife. We will revisit some of the most productive areas while also exploring parts of the reserve that we were unable to cover during our previous excursion. As always, the diversity of habitats means that every drive offers the possibility of new sightings, whether mammals, birds or some of the reserve's smaller and often overlooked inhabitants.

Later in the day we will take part in our final specialist tracking activity, focusing on one of Africa's most remarkable and elusive mammals, Temminck's Ground Pangolin. Accompanied by an experienced guide and one of the reserve's dedicated pangolin guardians, we will explore the bush on foot during the late afternoon and early evening, when these predominantly nocturnal animals begin to emerge from their daytime shelters. For many visitors, the opportunity to search for a wild pangolin is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and undoubtedly one of the highlights of any visit to southern Africa.



Temminck's Ground Pangolin

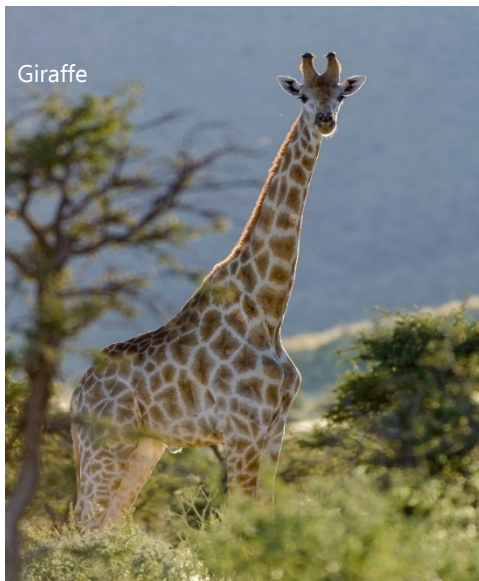
Tracking is conducted quietly and with great care, relying on the expertise of those who monitor these animals on a daily basis. By interpreting tracks, feeding signs and other subtle clues, our guides gradually build a picture of the pangolin's whereabouts. Depending on the size of the group, we may divide into smaller parties to minimise disturbance and ensure the best possible experience for both participants and wildlife.

Encounters can never be guaranteed, and part of the excitement lies in the search itself. Walking through the bush with skilled trackers provides a fascinating insight into the challenges of studying and conserving one of the world's most threatened mammals. Along the way, we will learn more about the pangolin's unique biology, behaviour and the conservation efforts being undertaken to safeguard the species. Should we be fortunate enough to locate a pangolin, observations will be conducted from a respectful distance and under the close supervision of our guides to ensure the animal's welfare is never compromised. Watching a wild pangolin as it goes about its nightly activities is a truly special experience and a fitting finale to our time at Okonjima.

Overnight: Okonjima Plains Camp

Day 10

Travel to Windhoek



We will enjoy a relaxed breakfast this morning, with time to savour our final hours at Okonjima and perhaps watch the activity around the camp's ever-popular waterhole. This is often an excellent opportunity for some last wildlife observations, as antelope, giraffes and a variety of birds come to drink before the heat of the day builds.

Later, we will bid farewell to Okonjima and begin the approximately 3-hour journey south to Windhoek. Travelling through the scenic landscapes of central Namibia, we will have time to reflect on the many wildlife encounters and conservation experiences of recent days before arriving back in the capital, where our memorable Namibian adventure draws to a close.

For our final night in Namibia, we will stay at a comfortable lodge on the outskirts of Windhoek. Set within attractive gardens, it provides a peaceful and relaxing setting in which to reflect on the many highlights of our journey, from Etosha's wildlife-rich plains to Ongava and Okonjima's impressive predators. The lodge grounds can be surprisingly rewarding for birdwatching, often attracting a variety of common garden and bushveld species. As evening approaches, there may be time to enjoy one final African sunset and, weather permitting, admire the clear, star-filled skies for which Namibia is justly renowned.

Overnight: Windhoek

Day 11 – 12

Inbound Flights

Today we will travel back to Windhoek Airport and catch our return flights home.

Post-tour Hwange Extension

(The minimum number of participants required to run this extension is four; however, we may still be able to operate it with fewer guests for a small per-person supplement.)

Day 11

Fly to Victoria Falls – Travel to Hwange National Park

For those joining the post-tour Hwange extension, we will bid farewell to the main group at Windhoek Airport before taking a short flight to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. From here, we will travel south to The Hide Safari Camp in Hwange National Park. Covering 14,650 square kilometres, Hwange is Zimbabwe's largest national park and supports an exceptional diversity of wildlife, including a remarkable 108 mammal species.

Accommodation at The Hide Safari Camp has an intimate and exclusive feel, with a maximum capacity of 16 guests in spacious, comfortably furnished en suite tents. Each tent has a private veranda overlooking the camp's wildlife-rich waterhole. The tents are arranged around the main lodge, which features comfortable lounge and dining areas, an upstairs viewing deck and a small plunge pool, all positioned to take full advantage of the views across the surrounding woodland and vlei. The camp lies within a private concession on the eastern boundary of Hwange National Park, an area renowned for its rich and varied wildlife.

Lioness in Hwange NP



One of the camp's highlights is its unique waterhole hide, reached via an underground tunnel from the main lodge. This discreet, eye-level viewpoint allows exceptionally close and unobtrusive views of wildlife as it comes to drink at the only permanent water source in the immediate area. African Elephant, Southern Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Impala, Common Waterbuck and Greater Kudu are frequent visitors, while Lion may occasionally appear, and African Wild Dog has sometimes been recorded hunting nearby.

With direct access from the lodge, there will be ample opportunity to spend time in the hide between activities, whether for early morning birdwatching, an afternoon of wildlife photography or an evening vigil as the fading light brings a different cast of visitors to the waterhole. The hide provides an outstanding location from which to observe natural behaviour and is often one of the highlights of a stay at Hwange.

Overnight: The Hide Safari Lodge

Day 12 – 14

Hwange National Park

Over the next three days we will enjoy a range of activities offered by the lodge, with the opportunity to participate in up to four excursions each day. From game drives and guided walks to specialist tracking activities and overnight sleep-outs, there is no shortage of ways to experience Hwange's remarkable wildlife.

Game drives provide an excellent introduction to the park's rich mammal fauna. Elephant is Hwange's signature species and can often be seen in impressive numbers, particularly around the camp waterhole. Other regularly encountered mammals include African Buffalo, Southern Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Greater Kudu, Common Waterbuck and Common Warthog. The park is also particularly rewarding for antelope enthusiasts, with possibilities including Sable Antelope, Roan Antelope, Common Eland, Tsessebe and Reedbuck.



Predator-viewing can be equally rewarding. Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Spotted Hyena and African Wild Dog all occur in the area, and Hwange supports Zimbabwe's most significant population of

the latter species. A sighting of these highly social and endangered predators would be a particular highlight. Night drives may reveal some of the area's more elusive inhabitants, including African Wildcat, Serval, Southern Small-spotted Genet, Honey Badger, Cape Porcupine, Bat-eared Fox and Springhare, while Brown Hyena and Aardvark remain exciting, if much less likely, possibilities.

Guided walks and tracking activities offer a different perspective on the African bush and provide an opportunity to hone our fieldcraft skills. Accompanied by an experienced guide, we will learn to interpret the many signs left by wildlife in the sandy soils. Elephant tracks, Lion and Hyena spoor, Buffalo hoofprints, Giraffe browsing signs, antelope dung middens and the delicate tracks of smaller mammals can all reveal fascinating insights into animal behaviour and movements.

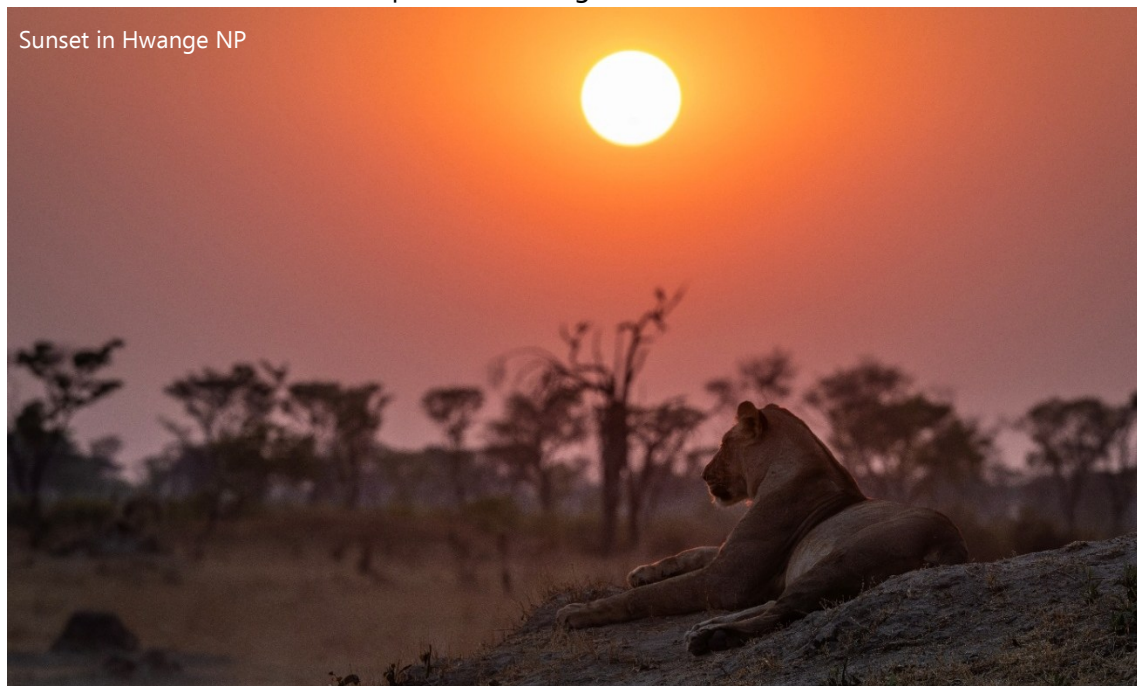
For those seeking a truly immersive wilderness experience, the Dove's Nest sleep-out offers the opportunity to spend a night overlooking the bushveld. From this private treehouse, we may watch Elephant approaching the waterhole, Southern Giraffe browsing among the trees or antelope gathering in the fading light. After dark, the sounds of the African night take over, with the distant calls of Lion, the whooping of Spotted Hyena and the evocative voices of African Scops Owl and Fiery-necked Nightjar providing a memorable soundtrack to an unforgettable night in the wilderness.

Overnight: The Hide Safari Lodge

Day 15 – 16

Depart Victoria Falls, Arrive Home

This morning we will bid farewell to Hwange and transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for our return flights home. As our African adventure draws to a close, there will be time to reflect on the many wildlife encounters and memorable experiences of recent days, from the vast landscapes of Namibia to the wildlife-rich woodlands and plains of Hwange National Park.



Tour Grading

Grade A – Most wildlife viewing and tracking will be conducted from safari vehicles. The only significant walking activities are the rhinoceros and pangolin tracking excursions at Okonjima. These are undertaken at a gentle pace with frequent stops, allowing ample time to enjoy the wildlife, learn from the guides and appreciate our surroundings. No exceptional level of fitness is required, although participants should be comfortable walking short distances over uneven ground.

Focus

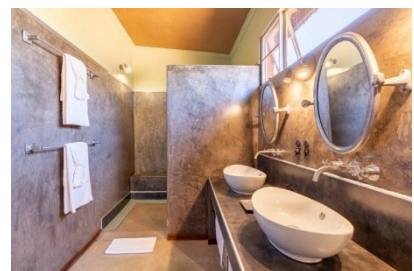
Most activities are undertaken at a relaxed pace from safari vehicles, allowing ample time to observe wildlife, enjoy the scenery and learn about the conservation work being carried out at Okonjima Nature Reserve. The emphasis is on quality wildlife experiences rather than covering long distances, and the itinerary includes generous periods of free time to relax at the lodge, watch wildlife at the waterhole or enjoy the camp's facilities.

Rhinoceros and pangolin tracking are undertaken on foot and involve walking over uneven ground. However, these excursions are unhurried and designed to enhance the wildlife experience rather than provide a physical challenge. Anyone with a reasonable level of mobility should have no difficulty participating. Overall, this is a relaxed holiday that combines excellent wildlife-viewing with a fascinating insight into one of Namibia's leading conservation areas.

Food & Accommodation Included in the Price



Ongava Lodge rooms © Andrew Morgan



Okonjima Lodge Plains Camp rooms

We will begin our holiday at the excellent Ongava Lodge, situated within the private Ongava Game Reserve on the southern boundary of Etosha National Park. Set amongst rocky outcrops overlooking a busy waterhole, the lodge provides a comfortable base from which to explore both Ongava and neighbouring Etosha. Regular visitors to the waterhole include Plains Zebra, Greater

Kudu, Oryx, Southern Giraffe and White Rhinoceros, making it an excellent location for wildlife-watching between activities.

We will also stay at the excellent Okonjima Plains Camp, where spacious, well-appointed rooms feature private en suite facilities and views across the surrounding bushveld. The camp provides a comfortable and welcoming base for our stay, with excellent wildlife-viewing possible directly from the lodge and its renowned waterhole.

All meals are included in the cost of the holiday, from dinner on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10. For those participating in the Hwange extension, meals are included through to breakfast on Day 14. Meals are taken at the lodge and are of a high standard, offering a variety of freshly prepared dishes served in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

Items of a personal nature, together with snacks, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, are not included in the tour price.

Weather

The climate across Ongava, Okonjima and Hwange during the main wildlife-viewing season from June to October is generally dry, sunny and highly conducive to safari activities. Rainfall is rare and vegetation gradually becomes sparser as the season progresses, concentrating wildlife around permanent water sources and making animals easier to observe. Daytime temperatures are usually pleasant, ranging from the mid-20s°C to the low 30s°C, although October can become noticeably hotter, particularly in Namibia. Early mornings and evenings are often cool, especially in June, July and August, and temperatures can occasionally fall to single figures before sunrise.

These dry-season conditions provide some of the best wildlife-viewing of the year. At Ongava and Etosha, mammals gather around waterholes as natural surface water becomes increasingly scarce, often resulting in spectacular concentrations of wildlife. Similar conditions prevail at Okonjima, where open bushveld and reduced vegetation improve visibility and aid wildlife tracking activities. In Hwange National Park, animals are drawn to permanent water sources throughout the concession, creating excellent opportunities for both wildlife observation and photography.

Participants should come prepared for a range of temperatures. Lightweight, breathable clothing is ideal during the day, whilst a fleece, jumper or light jacket is strongly recommended for early morning game drives, walking activities and evenings around camp. A sun hat, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes are also essential. With abundant sunshine, low humidity and generally excellent wildlife-viewing conditions, this period is widely regarded as one of the finest times to visit both Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Transport

Please assist our tour leaders (and guides) in ensuring that there is a rotation of seats around the safari vehicle(s) to allow each tour member to enjoy approximately equal time in the front. In order to be fair to all participants, we regret that we are unable to guarantee a perpetual front seat to those who might suffer from motion sickness or other concerns.

How to Book Your Place

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at www.naturetrek.co.uk, or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements, for example extension requests, at the time of booking.

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The Hide Safari Lodge , Zimbabwe Extension



The Hide Safari Lodge, Zimbabwe Extension