



ADVENTURE
EDELWEISS TOURS

ADVENTURE NAMIBIA

A motorcycle adventure for explorers and nature lovers



RIDING DAY 1 : WINDHOEK / GOCHEGANAS - MARIENTAL

Standard Route (300 km / 186 miles)

You could travel from Windhoek to Mariental on the B1 in just under three hours and pass the time there at the Hardap Dam, for example by fishing or hiking. Unfortunately, swimming is not allowed in the reservoir. However, the B1 is the country's main road and therefore sees a lot of traffic, at least by Namibian standards. The road is also dead straight and quite boring, the landscape is completely flat. Further east, it is not quite so monotonous, and you can practice riding on gravel, as we will be doing this extensively on this tour.

Mariental, our destination, was founded in 1894 by a German settler, Hermann Brandt, who named the village after his wife Maria.

Highlights:

#1: Hardap Dam



Created in 1963 while Namibia was under South African occupation, Hardap Dam is the largest dam in the country. The reservoir dams the Fish River (yes, the same river as the Canyon) and is home to numerous examples of wildlife and also provides water to irrigate 2500 ha of wheat, maize, lucerne, cotton, grapes and vegetables, all cultivated on small holdings. As you can imagine, its presence gave a

real boost to the economy of Mariental, but the town was also flooded a few times. So since 2006 the dam's water level is kept at a maximum of 70% of its capacity.

The Hardap Dam was first proposed in 1897 by German geologist Dr Theodor Rehbock but it took a number of surveys and a further 63 years before construction began!

RIDING DAY 2 : MARIENTAL - SOLITAIRE

Standard Route (360 km / 224 miles)

Today we first head to Maltahöhe, still on asphalt, where we freshen up and refuel our motorcycles. In a country like Namibia, you should never ride past a petrol station but always stock up.

Then we take gravel under our tires, wonderful curves lead us over the Zorishoogte Pass, then the road turns north. This is one of the most picturesque roads in the whole country! We therefore recommend that you take your time and take photos as you please. But try to reach the lodge before sunset, not only for safety reasons of course, but also because the scenery around our lodge is breathtaking!

Highlights:

#1: Zarishoogte Pass



Zarishoogte Pass is a high mountain pass at an elevation of 1.630m (5,347ft) above the sea level, located in the Tsaris Mountains of central Namibia. The road to the summit, also known as Tsaris Pass, is gravel and can be also quite steep, so pay extra attention. And, when you reach the bottom, stop for a beautiful shot of the plateau!

RIDING DAY 3 : SOLITAIRE

Standard Route (140 km / 87 miles)

Today you could take the opportunity for a rest! Either you decide to sleep in a little and enjoy the tranquillity of the desert or you can get up early to take the bus to Sossusvlei.

Over the years, the breathtaking scenery has made this a top travel destination. If it rains enough, as it did in 2011, the Tsauchab River will flow through the Sesriem Canyon to fill the basin. It is these gigantic dunes, the highest in the world, with their different colors and hues, that prevent the river from flowing further into the Atlantic Ocean. You should definitely climb one of these dunes!

We'll be back in the afternoon and if you really want to ride your motorcycle, there is the option of going to Spreetshoogte Pass, the steepest pass in Namibia, from where you can admire the spectacular view of the neighboring Namib.

Highlights:

#1: Namib-Naukluft National Park



The Namib-Skeleton Coast National Park covers large parts of the Namib Desert (the oldest desert in the world) and protects the vast sea of sand as well as mountains, gorges, and the wild, desolate coastline.

With a total area of 107,000 km² (41,500 square miles), the Namib-Naukluft is the largest protected area in Africa and the eighth largest in the world. The national park stretches along the entire 1,570 km coastline of Namibia from the

Orange River in the south to the Kunene River in the north. It was created in 2010 through the merger of several national parks and protected areas.

Up to 200 bird species have been recorded in the area and the following mammals are also frequently seen: Steenbok, Springbok, Oryx, Kudu, Mountain Zebra, Daie Rat, Chacma Baboon, Rock Thatie, Klipspringer. The drive through the Namib-Naukluft is an unforgettable experience for us!

RIDING DAY 4 : SOLITAIRE - SWAKOPMUND

Standard Route (300 km / 186 miles)

After relaxing for a day, we are ready for another good stretch of gravel roads! There is a whole lot of nothing between Solitaire and the coast, so make sure your tank is full and your side cases hold enough water! About halfway, we cross the Tropic of Capricorn. Definitely the time for a picture! A few miles after the very scenic Kuiseb pass you will start feeling the air cooling down which means we get close to the coast and soon hit asphalt again. The temperature drop can be really strong, carry an extra layer with you!

Our next stop is Walvis Bay, where we can probably also see some flamingos by the coast. From there it's not far to Swakopmund.

Highlights:

#1: Kuiseb Pass



The Kuiseb Pass is a 20 kilometre stretch of the C14 and runs along the border of Namib-Naukluft Park roughly halfway between Solitaire and Walvis Bay. This area is hilly and quite rugged, marked by uplifts of the earth which have exposed sedimentation layers that have bent, cracked and burst through the Earth's surface, leaving endless jagged lines, roughly formed hills and genuinely unique geology and landscape. Riding the pass is dramatic, seemingly endless, but exquisite, especially if you don't mind feeling humbled by the grandiosity of nature. Lots of opportunities for photos!

#2: Swakopmund



Swakopmund was once a port of great importance, despite the lack of a sheltered bay, the shallowness of the coastal waters, and the strength of the surf. Lüderitz was too far away, however, and had no fresh water; and the seaport of Walvis Bay was back in British hands. Several years ago, the town was extensively restored and converted into an entertainment center, with a casino and luxury hotel. The

town of 30,000 inhabitants is still characterized by numerous colonial buildings, including the striking Woermann House from 1905. The former trading house in Bismarck Street. With its Damara Tower and its courtyard bordered by arcades, it houses the municipal library and art gallery today.

RIDING DAY 5 : SWAKOPMUND - UIS

Standard Route (250 km / 155 miles)

The road from Swakopmund towards Windhoek is perfectly asphalted and dead straight, so we can make good progress this morning. After about 120 km, however, we turn left and kick up dust again.

An unmistakable mountain appears in front of us, an inselberg that towers 700 meters above its surroundings: the Spitzkoppe, the "Matterhorn of Namibia". You can ride right up to its foot and even loop around it, which of course we do.

Afterwards, another remote gravel road awaits us, which takes us north towards Uis. We also cross the Omaruru River, which hopefully has no water in it, as there is no bridge here, of course.

As an alternative to the inland route, you can also follow the deserted coast to Henties Bay and then take the dead-straight C35 to Uis.

Uis is a mining town where tin used to be mined and rare earths are mined today. There are also thought to be rich lithium deposits in the area, so the landscape here could change quite a bit in the next few years.

Highlights:

#1: Spitzkoppe



North-east of Swakopmund is the stark grandeur of The Spitzkoppe (German for 'sharp head'), one of Namibia's most recognizable landmarks. The summit of this imposing granite rock formation (1,728m) was first scaled only in 1946, and its shape has inspired its nickname, the Matterhorn of Africa. The peaks stand out dramatically from the flat surrounding plains and the site is so beautiful and other-worldly that it was chosen as the backdrop to a few films, including Stanley Kubrick's 2001 Space Odyssey.

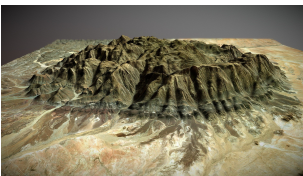
RIDING DAY 6 : UIS - ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Standard Route (350 km / 217 miles)

Another long day of gravel riding lies ahead of us, through the dry emptiness of northern Namibia. We start out by passing the Brandberg, an isolated mountain that is home to Namibia's tallest peak, the Königstein (2,573 m or 8,442 ft), meaning "King's Stone" in German. "Brandberg" means "burning mountain" and refers to its glowing color which is sometimes seen in the setting sun. Brandberg Massif is a paradise for hikers, unfortunately, there are no motorcyclable mountain passes there. In order to see and marvel at its main draw, the large number of ancient rock paintings, you have to swap your riding for your hiking boots...

Highlights:

#1: Brandberg



The Brandberg massif, which has an average height of 2500 m, towers up to 2000 m above its surroundings. It is impressive to see the huge, 30 km long and 23 km wide massif rising out of the plain from a distance, and when the sun shines on the Brandberg from the west, it glows as if it is "burning".

The Brandberg is famous for its many rock carvings, which are said to number 50,000 and are scattered all over the massif. Some of these drawings, which are between 2000 and 4000 years old, can be found in places that are difficult to access. Today it is certain that the drawings were made by the San (Bushmen) who lived here a long time ago. In addition to depictions of warriors and hunters, there is a large number of different animals, a sign of the abundance of game at that time.

The most famous rock carving, the White Lady, was discovered in 1917 by Reinhard Maack, the first European to climb the Königstein. The German explorer and universal scientist was active in many fields. (info-namibia.com)

RIDING DAY 7 : ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Standard Route (0 km / 0 miles)

This day is dedicated to African wildlife. Safari vehicles will take us through the park where you can see a plethora of wild animals like elephants, rhinos (white and black), buffaloes, giraffes, lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, meerkats, zebras, wildebeests, ostriches, vultures, eagles, marabous, flamingoes and so on and on and on. 114 mammal and 340 bird species live in the park, making it Namibia's number one wildlife reserve. At over 22,000 km² (8,600 sq miles), it is also one of the largest national parks in all of Africa. Make sure you bring a camera with a long lens and an extra set of batteries...

Highlights:

#1: Etosha National Park



Etosha National Park is unique in Africa. The main feature of the park is the salt pan, which is visible from space. Despite this, there is an abundant wildlife population that congregates at the waterholes, so animal sightings are guaranteed. In addition, Etosha National Park is one of the most accessible reserves in Namibia and southern Africa.

RIDING DAY 8 : ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK - MOUNT ETJO

Standard Route (270 km / 168 miles)

Today we have a relatively short route on the program, which we could cover almost entirely on asphalt. But don't worry, a bit of gravel is a must today and if you want, you can of course drive on other tracks.

Apart from a few low ridges, the country we drive through is completely flat right up to the horizon. The small town of Outjo, 100 km south of Etosha, is the first settlement on the way and looks like a huge city after all the emptiness. Otjiwarongo, 70 km further on, is even bigger, but there is nothing in between. At some point, Mount Etjo appears in front of us, immediately recognizable by its characteristic shape. We spend the night right at its foot.

Highlights:

#1: Mount Etjo



Mount Etjo, a 2,086 m high table mountain in the center of northern Namibia, has a special place in the history of the country. "Etjo" means "protection" in the local language and this is what they have always sought from its summit plateau, especially during the conflicts with the German colonial power. In April 1989, a United Nations committee met to confirm the terms of Namibia's independence. On March 21, 1990, the country finally became independent

from South Africa.

RIDING DAY 9 : MOUNT ETJO

Standard Route (0 km / 0 miles)

The area around Mount Etjo is wild and untouched. There are several private reserves here, including the Erindi Reserve, which covers over 700 km² and was recently sold to a Mexican businessman for the equivalent of 100 million euros. Private reserves are far less frequented by tourists than the large national parks. We will use this rest day to really relax and enjoy the African wildlife with all our senses.

Highlights:

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from South Africa.

#2: Game Drive



There are numerous national parks and other protected areas in Africa where the rich flora and fauna are protected from exploitation and destruction. The large wild animals in particular urgently need this protection and the costs for this are mainly generated by tourism. People from all over the world come to Africa and incur considerable costs to see lions, leopards, elephants, buffalos and rhinos (the "Big

Five"), as well as giraffes, cheetahs, hippos, ostriches, herds of wildebeest and zebras, hyenas and much more. Usually, they take part in so-called game drives, in open off-road vehicles or those with an opening roof, so that you can enjoy a clear view of the animals. They usually take place in the early morning and late afternoon hours. A fantastic, very impressive experience!

RIDING DAY 10 : MOUNT ETJO - GOCHEGANAS

Standard Route (220 km / 137 miles)

It only takes about two hours to ride from Mt. Etjo to Windhoek, so you could go straight there and spend the afternoon exploring this highly interesting city. But you could also leave the tarmac behind and tackle a few highly interesting dirt roads to really experience this unique, empty, sun-scorched country one more time. No matter what you decide to do, this last day will definitely be very interesting.

Highlights:


#1: Windhoek



Windhoek is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Namibia. It is located almost exactly at the country's geographical centre. The population of Windhoek in 2011 was around 300,000 growing continually due to an influx from all over Namibia. The charm of this city lies in its harmonious blend of African and European cultures. Windhoek is the social, economic, political, and cultural

centre of Namibia and is often described as one of the cleanest capitals in Africa. Visitors are surprised that this city, considered to be part of deepest Africa, offers all modern amenities and some may find it even a little too 'Western' for their African tastes!

Don't miss the chance to take a short walk and see the Alte Feste (Old Fortress) Built in 1890 and the Christuskirche (a Lutheran church opened in 1910) built in the gothic revival style with Art Nouveau elements.



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