

EST. 1987

SUNNY TRAVELS

TOURS & SAFARIS

Southern Africa

NAMIBIA
ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
ZAMBEZI



Classic Namibia

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DATE ROUTING

DAY 1 - SUNDAY WINDHOEK - KALAHARI DESERT

DAY 2 - MONDAY KALAHARI DESERT - FISH RIVER CANYON

DAY 3 - TUESDAY FISH RIVER CANYON - LÜDERITZ

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY LÜDERITZ - NAMIB DESERT

DAY 5 - THURSDAY NAMIB DESERT

DAY 6 - FRIDAY NAMIB DESERT - SWAKOPMUND

DAY 7 - SATURDAY SWAKOPMUND

DAY 8 - SUNDAY SWAKOPMUND - DAMARALAND

DAY 9 - MONDAY DAMARALAND - ETOSHA

DAY 10 - TUESDAY ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

DAY 11 - WEDNESDAY ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

DAY 12 - THURSDAY ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK - WINDHOEK

END OF TOUR

DURATION:

12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS

ROUTING

WINDHOEK - WINDHOEK

INCLUDES

11 BREAKFASTS, ACCOMMODATION, BOTTLED WATER ON BOARD, TRANSPORT, ENTRANCE FEES AND SIGHTSEEING AS SPECIFIED.

HIGHLIGHTS: FISH RIVER CANYON, NAMIB NAUKLUFT PARK, TWYFELFONTEIN, PETRIFIED FOREST, LIVING MUSEUM OF THE DAMARA, ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK.

ACCOMMODATION USED:

INTU AFRICA CAMELTHORN LODGE OR SIMILAR X 1 NIGHT

CAÑON VILLAGE OR SIMILAR X 1 NIGHT

OBELIX GUESTHOUSE OR SIMILAR X 1 NIGHT

ELEGANT DESERT LODGE OR SIMILAR X 2 NIGHTS

HANSA HOTEL OR SIMILAR X 2 NIGHTS

DAMARA MOPANE LODGE OR SIMILAR X 1 NIGHT

ETOSHA SAFARI CAMP OR SIMILAR X 1 NIGHTS

MOKUTI ETOSHA LODGE OR SIMILAR X 2 NIGHTS



DAY 1 – SUNDAY WINDHOEK – KALAHARI DESERT

Leaving Windhoek, we travel into the largest sand mass on Earth, the Kalahari Desert. The Kalahari is a vast semi desert of wind-blown sand held by a sparse mantle of thorn scrub making it the largest continuous stretch of sand covering 9 African countries. Unlike other true deserts, the Kalahari does receive erratic rainfall. For many therefor “thirstland” is a more fitting description. Lacking permanent surface water, the Kalahari is a challenging place to live except for those who have adapted to not only survive but flourish here. The Bushmen refer to it as the “Soul of the World”, an emotive description for this area! With its deep red sand dunes and endless grass plains interspersed with acacia’s and shrubs, it is still home to a surprising large amount of specially adapted wildlife. Enjoy the opportunity to experience the red dunes, wildlife and plants, in this desert environment on an optional nature drive

DAY 2 – MONDAY KALAHARI DESERT – FISH RIVER CANYON

We continue south through arid and extensive rocky plains. Visiting the unique Garas quiver tree forest you are welcomed by quirky man-made sculptures of scrap metal which set a contrast to this serene, timeless space with Quiver trees and aloes nestled amongst huge dolerite boulders, stacked in a mysterious way, the area is also aptly referred to as “Giant’s Playground”. We continue to our lodge, situated in close vicinity to the Fish River Canyon. Here we can explore the area on foot or on an optional guided nature drive in the later afternoon highlighting the Quiver trees, rugged landscape and impressive sweeping rock formations.

DAY 3 – TUESDAY FISH RIVER CANYON – LUDERITZ

Our morning starts on the edge of the Fish River Canyon where we gaze into this magnificent geological phenomenon. The Fish River Canyon is located in the northern part of the Nama Karoo and is the second largest canyon on earth, featuring a gigantic ravine that measures in total about 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 meters deep. The Fish River is the longest interior river found in Namibia, but its current flow is just a drop compared with the immense volume of water that poured down its length in ages past. We continue our journey past the Naute dam, where we shortly stop at the Naute Kristall Cellar and Distillery, to optionally taste some of the unique liquors (own account) or simply enjoy a delicious cup of coffee. Proceeding onwards we head towards the coastal town of Lüderitz. On the way to Lüderitz we stop at Garub, viewing point for the Wild Horses of the Namib Desert. Arriving in Lüderitz, we recommend a stop at the Diaz Café for an optional fresh and delicious seafood snack before heading out along the “Große Bucht” towards Diaz Point. Your hosts for the evening will have you enjoying a typical Namibian homestay feeling and atmosphere.

DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY LUDERITZ – NAMIB DESERT

Our morning starts with a visit to Kolmanskop ghost town. Kolmanskop is a deserted Diamond Mining Town in the Sperrgebiet National Park. Once an opulent and decadent town, a monument to the Diamond boom and built to last...until the diamonds ran out. Today Kolmanskop stands as a haunting monument to the thriving past, offering visitor’s unique photo motives into a bygone era. The journey continues across vast open plains, stopping for an optional light lunch in the small town of Helmeringhausen before heading further north along with the Tiras Mountain range to our lodge in the Namib Desert. The lodge is located close to Sesriem the gateway to Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon, with some of the highest dunes on Earth towering over the white desert plains. The afternoon can be spent relaxing at the sparkling pool, enjoying the vast open desert plains, or taking part in optional activities offered at the lodge.

DAY 5 – THURSDAY NAMIB DESERT

The morning demands an early start. Entering the Namib Naukluft National Park with sunrise, the first rays of sunlight paint the mountains of sand into a variety of apricot, red and orange, contrasted against a crisp blue skyline, enrapturing our senses, and providing an opportunity to capture this awesome landscape on film. You will be captivated by the surreal Deadvlei surrounded by some of the highest dunes on earth and Sossusvlei, where the dry Tsauchab River ends abruptly amongst dunes. Take the opportunity to walk up one of these majestic dunes to admire the desert landscape beneath. Thereafter we visit the Sesriem Canyon, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert. CONTINUE PAGE 05



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Illustration Purpose Only

DAY 6 – FRIDAY

NAMIB DESERT - SWAKOPMUND

After breakfast we continue our journey approaching the little settlement of Solitaire on the edge of the Namib Naukluft National Park, feeling like you have arrived in the middle of nowhere. Here it is worthwhile to enjoy a cup of coffee with the delightful apple-pie written about in so many travel books before travelling via the desolate, rolling hills of the Kuiseb Valley towards the Atlantic Ocean. Reaching the coastal harbour town of Walvis Bay, we visit the shallow lagoon, one of the most important wetland areas on the African continent and a RAMSAR World Heritage Site. Over 80% of the African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breath-taking picture when they appear in groups. Continuing along the scenic route between the dune belt and the Atlantic Ocean we reach Swakopmund, where the rest of the day is spent at leisure. With palm-lined streets and seaside promenades, Swakopmund is a popular holiday destination in Namibia. Its pleasant summer climate and long stretched beaches attract anglers and surfers from all over Southern Africa.

DAY 7 – SATURDAY

SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund is often fondly referred to as the “playground of Namibia”, it has numerous activities ranging from, adventure to exploring the fascinating features of the Namib Desert and the animals and plants that occur and survive here. Embrace the relaxed pace of this idyllic coastal town whilst enjoying coffee and freshly baked pastries in one of the many café’s. Alternatively explore the rugged, sweltering desert on a day tour, or view this awesome, environment from the air on a scenic flight. Find your inner child and push adrenaline to its limits with extreme adventures such as skydiving over the desert or quad biking and sand boarding on the dunes. Take time to get the feel of this quaint town with its historic buildings, museums, shopping arcades and beach bar that has transformed into its own personality by the vibrant use of colour and the bohemian lifestyle.

DAY 8 – SUNDAY

SWAKOPMUND - DAMARALAND

Today we first head east into the Erongo Mountain range to stretch our legs on a short informative bush walk with local Bushmen, whereby we listen to stories of the bushman culture, traditions and see some of their desert survival skills. Returning from the walk our journey continues through Uis past the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2.579m), into the Damaraland, one of the least populated and most geologically diverse areas in Africa. This harsh, rocky environment is home to the elusive desert elephant, the black rhino and free-roaming antelope species. We arrive at our lodge in the afternoon, where we have the remaining day at leisure.

DAY 9 – MONDAY

DAMARALAND -ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

During the cooler hours of the morning we start our adventure filled day in the company of a local Damara guide, who takes us to Twyfelfontein, a UNESCO heritage site where Bushman communities engraved and painted over 2.500 pictures some 6.000 years ago! After a visit to the nearby Living Museum of the Damara, we proceed to the Petrified Forest - a geological phenomenon depicting the creation and metamorphosis of wood into stone amongst some of the oldest landmasses on Earth. Here we also see the Welwitschia mirabilis plant – the oldest living desert plant on Earth. Our onward journey takes us to the wildlife heaven of Namibia - the Etosha National Park. We check into our lodge located on the border of the Etosha National Park and can unwind after the adventure filled day alongside the pool.

DAY 10 – TUESDAY

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the Etosha National Park, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. The park is home to 4 of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. The Park was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist. Despite the size of the Etosha National Park, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to visitors. Game viewing in the park is largely focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, in excess of 340 bird species.

Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx, eland, as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. An extensive network of roads link the over 30 water holes allowing visitors the opportunity of an extensive game viewing safari over the stretch of the park as each different area will provide different encounters.

DAY 11 – WEDNESDAY ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Today your guide again takes you on a game drive in the Etosha National Park, or optionally you can book an open game drive park drive with the lodge. We may encounter animal species we have not seen the previous day and look forward to any new surprises at the different waterholes visited. The Etosha Pan dominates the park. This salt pan desert, which is nearly completely enclosed by the park and is lined by numerous watering holes, is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km in places. During Etosha's notorious dry spells the pan is a deathly place, lying parched and cracked under the molten African sun. It is claimed that game viewing is best during the dry spells as animals will then congregate closer to water. But even in the rainy season the park remains an abundant wildlife haven. You then have the pleasure of experiencing the rebirth of life as the young foals, cubs and chicks are seen frolicking with their parents and the sprouting new green shrubs and grasses create a pleasing green oasis. In the afternoon we travel back to our lodge, where we enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

DAY 12 – THURSDAY ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, we travel back through the centre of the country exposing bush land savannah to the capital in the centre of the country. Time permitting, en-route we may stop at the famous wood carvers market in Okahandja or the craft market in the main street in Windhoek to pick up the last few souvenirs. Windhoek is a cosmopolitan melting pot of European architecture with African culture, with a variety of excellent restaurants to choose from. You will be dropped off at your accommodation of choice, or transferred to the airport for your outward flight.

Sunny Travels (est. 1987) is a tour company based in Mumbai, India. We are proud Southern Africa Specialists. We offer guided & individual Africa tours and safaris, day tours & tailor-made tours in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique besides Kenya & Tanzania.

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Welcome to

ETOSHA & ZAMBEZI

Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DURATION:
10 Days/9 Nights

ROUTING
WINDHOEK – VICTORIA FALLS

INCLUDES
9 breakfasts, accommodation, transport in air-conditioned vehicles, entrance fees and sightseeing as specified.

Accommodation used:
Mokuti Etosha Lodge or similar x 2 nights
Taranga River Lodge or similar x 1 night
Shametu River Lodge or similar x 2 nights
Namushasha River Lodge or similar x 1 night
Chobe Safari Lodges or similar x 1 nights
Shearwater Explorer Village or similar x 2 nights

DAY 1 – WINDHOEK – ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
DAY 2 – ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
DAY 3 – ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK – KAVANGO REGION
DAY 4 – KAVANGO REGION – MAHANGO NATIONAL PARK
DAY 5 - MAHANGO NATIONAL PARK
DAY 6 – MAHANGO - BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK
DAY 7 – CHOBE NATIONAL PARK
DAY 8 - CHOBE – VICTORIA FALLS
DAY 9 – VICTORIA FALLS
DAY 10 - VICTORIA FALLS - DEPARTURE

DAY 1 – TUESDAY

You will depart Windhoek in a northerly direction, passing cattle farming areas and bushland to the Etosha National Park, famous for its vast amount of wildlife and unique landscape. In the late afternoon, once we have reached our camp located on the outside of the National Park, we have the remainder of the day at leisure.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY

The day is devoted purely to the abundant wildlife found in the Etosha National Park, which surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan. The park is home to 4 of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. The Park was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor, von Lindequist. Despite the size of the Etosha National Park, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to visitors. Game viewing in the park is primarily focussed around the waterholes, some of which are spring fed and some supplied from a borehole, ideal places to sit and watch over 114 different game species, or for an avid birder, more than 340 bird species. Popular game species such as giraffe, blue wildebeest, plains and mountain zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, antelopes such as kudu, oryx, eland, as well as some of the endangered species such as Black rhino, cheetah and the black-faced impala are all found here. An extensive network of roads link the over 30 water holes allowing visitors the opportunity of a comprehensive game viewing safari throughout the park as each different area will provide various encounters.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

DAY 3 – THURSDAY

After breakfast, travel north towards Namibia's lush Kavango region. En route, you will pass numerous villages lining the roadside. Arrive at the lodge just outside to Rundu, known for its rich selection of hand-made wooden crafts. With its magnificent woodlands and perennial rivers, the Kavango region contrasts sharply with the rest of Namibia. Large swathes of tall woodland, riverine forests, floodplains and reed-lined channels dominate the area. This is also the area where you will see many of the traditional huts and homesteads still in popular use today. At our lodge, we can enjoy an optional Sundowner boat cruise on the Okavango River.

KAVANGO REGION

DAY 04 FRIDAY

MAHANGO NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, follow the route of the Okavango River into the Zambezi Region. Lush, green, riverine – that is what the Zambezi region looks like. This juxtaposition is what makes Namibia the “Land of Contrasts”. The area is typified by perennial rivers and large forests of trees. Whereas most of Namibia is arid, this area is lush, the soil rich and the wildlife plentiful. It is a lively hotbed where one can see subsistence and cattle farming and the well-known traditional wood carvings. From the banks of the Okavango River directly at the footsteps of our lodge we have a magnificent view onto the Popa Falls, a series of small rapids in paradisiacal environment before arriving at our lodge on the banks of the Okavango river and close to the Mahango National Park where the following two nights are spent along the lush vegetation. The rooms award uninhibited views onto the Buffalo Park across the river. Optionally you may enjoy a late afternoon boat cruise on the Okavango River or short walk to a local Habukushu village. The lodge also offers Wellness treatments.

MAHANGO NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, we travel into the Mahango National Park. Being Namibia’s smallest but most densely populated National Park, the visit will be rewarding in terms of wildlife and bird watching. The Mahango Game Park has a high number of elephants, as well as fair numbers of antelopes which are scarce or not seen in other parts of Namibia. These include the roan and sable antelope, tsessebe and the red lechwe. The park is also home to several sitatunga. The Mahango National Park is an excellent destination for bird watching with over 400 species to be spotted. intelligence having fun.

DAY 05 SATURDAY

DAY 06 SUNDAY

BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

Depart the Mahango National park and travel across the Zambezi Region, (previously called Caprivi) to the lush woodlands of the Kwando River. Hundreds of elephants, large Buffalo herds and numerous antelopes roam these majestic riverine woods. With over 400 species of birds, this area counts as one of the best birding hotspots in the whole of southern Africa. After settling in, you can optionally participate in an afternoon nature drive that takes you into the Bwabwata National Park. Should the road conditions here permit, enjoy a scenic stop at the famous Horseshoe bend, where at times hundreds of game species gather to quench their thirst.

DAY 7 – MONDAY

CHOBE

After breakfast, travel across the border to Kasane, a small and bustling town right on the edge of the Chobe National Park. The accommodation for the following two nights are in a special corner of the African wilderness, where two mighty rivers meet, a wetland paradise that is a haven for nature and wildlife. Discover the wonders of this magical destination. Here wildlife roams freely in profusion and diversity. It is home to the largest concentration of elephant in Africa, while other game consists of large herds of buffalo, puku, lechwe, bushbuck and kudu. Other significant species such as lion, leopard, wild dog, sable and roan antelope are encountered in many areas of the adjacent game reserve. In the afternoon we recommend an optional Chobe sunset river cruise along the National Park to experience the multitude of game species found along the banks of the Chobe River.

DAY 8 – TUESDAY

VICTORIA FALLS

Before traveling across the border to Zimbabwe there is still time to optionally take part in an early morning game drive through the Chobe National Park, offered by the lodges own activity centre. With a cup of coffee or tea enjoy the sunrise and natures awakening before departing on an open game drive with lodge rangers, exploring the national park and see the forage of wildlife along the Chobe River such as elephants, Lechwe, Roan or Waterbuck. Returning to the lodge breakfast is served on the terrace overlooking the river. Then depart across the border to the vibrant town of Victoria Falls and one of the most spectacular natural wonders – the Victoria Water Falls. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the town and its collection of art and craft markets on foot.

DAY 9 - WEDNESDAY

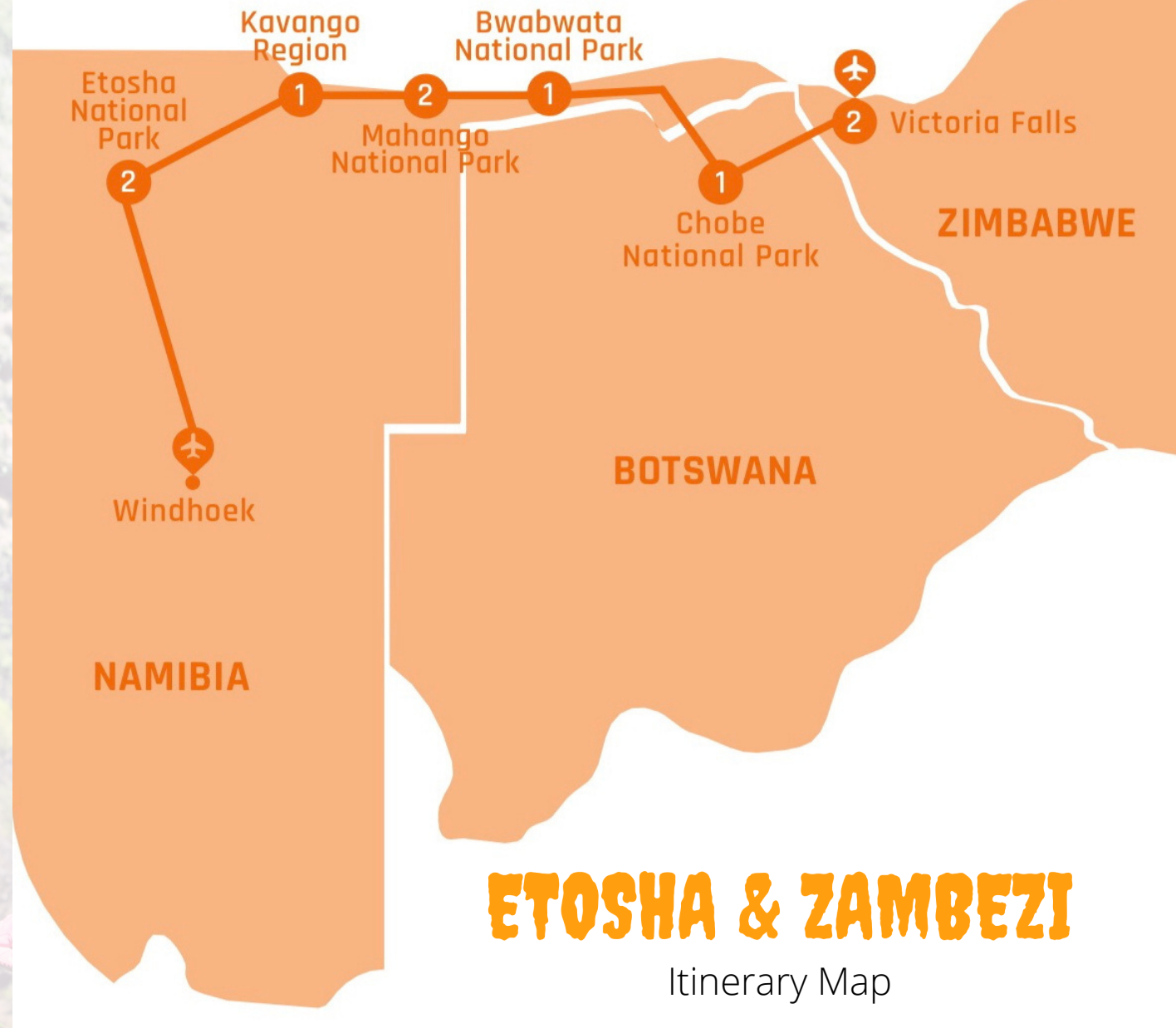
VICTORIA FALLS

Together with our guide, join a local guided excursion to Victoria Falls to discover why the Victoria Falls is one of the seven natural wonders on Earth as we explore it on foot. This dramatically beautiful event is accompanied by a deafening roar and fine spray that arcs up into the sky, giving the falls its local name: Mosi-oa-Tunya - the "Smoke that Thunders". Afterwards, visit a craft market where handmade crafts of the local inhabitants (optional can be purchased before returning to the hotel, located centrally in town. Here the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or participate in the adventure-filled optional activities.

DAY 10 - THURSDAY

DEPARTURE

Depending on your departure flight, your guide will transfer you to the Victoria Falls International airport.



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