Namibia Trek
Trek through Damaraland to the Skeleton Coast

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Damaraland Skeleton Coast Trek, Namibia
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Exposed to the mercy of the elements, Namibia’s landscapes are not what you expect to find in Africa; deserts, tortured rock, open plains and a bleak and eerie coastline. The country is dominated by the Namib desert, where the world’s highest sand dunes march determinedly towards the sea in a dune field 300km wide. Despite these hostile environments Namibia is abundant with wildlife. It is the only place in the world where you can see desert elephants and where black rhino roam free.

Our trek will take us through Damaraland to the Skeleton Coast. As we gradually enter the oldest desert in the world, the formidable Namib that stretches north to south hugging the Skeleton Coast, it becomes clear that only the hardiest fauna and flora could survive on this harsh but amazingly beautiful landscape. The Namib Desert is a geologist’s paradise with many spectacular rock formations clearly exposed after thousands of years of erosion.

As we trek further towards the Skeleton Coast the landscape opens up with more extended views into the vast distance, giving you an idea of the scale of Namibia’s vastness. The landscapes in this part are carved and dissected by water erosion when the ground is worn away and gulley’s and channels are cut ever deeper into the surface, leaving exposed spectacular rock formations and a wonderful jigsaw puzzle built over many millions of years.

Namibia defines the meaning of epic scale. There is nowhere else on the vast African continent that quite compares with its rugged, almost lunar grandeur!
Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Namibia
Depart London for overnight flight to Windhoek the capital city of Namibia.

Day 2: Windhoek to Brandberg View, 2hrs trekking
On arrival we board our coach and transfer past Windhoek, and the towns of Okahandja, Omaruru and Uis, to reach our drop off point at the foot of the mighty Brandberg (burning mountain). From here we stretch our legs after the transfer and walk into camp.

Day 3: Brandberg View to Kalahari Dune Fields, 7-8hrs trekking
Heading out in a north-westerly direction we cross a vast grassy plain towards distant hazy blue mountains yonder. After about 12 or so km we drop down rather dramatically into a sandy depression where lunch will be awaiting. We then follow a sometimes rocky course up the other side of the valley on to a Kalahari dune field that will see us to camp. This vast Kalahari-like sand sea is covered in low shrub and Acacia trees that sustain desert elephant as well as animals like kudu, zebra, oryx, springbuck and ostrich.

Various volcanic rock intrusions break up the dunes to present a strong contrast in both the scenery and the flora which becomes more stunted and hardy.

Day 4: Kalahari Dune Fields to Quantagab, 7-8hrs trekking
Starting out on rather soft dune sand we trek west with the sun on our backs, crossing increasingly harsh rocky undulations until we reach lunch after more or less 10km. The terrain changes gradually to expose granite outcrops like uneven cauliflower beds, dropping down into the Quantagab valley where camp appears out of nowhere.

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Day 5: Quantagab to Doros, 7-8hrs trekking
Today we tackle the dry slopes and water courses which will lead us in a northerly direction into the very bowl of the caldera of the extinct Doros Crater. Here we will climb to the top of the rim to enjoy the spectacular view of the plains to the north-west below. A trail will lead us out onto the plains again where we will have lunch after not more than 13 km. The afternoon takes us further west and to camp.

Day 6: Doros to Hyena’s Den, 7-8hrs trekking
The view as we head out due west is stunning with a collage in blue, pink and purple, fading into distant mesas and ochre ridges lining the horizon under the morning sun. The sheer vastness and awesome desert colours diminish the slight rocky undulations into whisps of memory as we enjoy lunch in clear view of Mikberg (forked mountain). The afternoon brings us onto gravel plains where time in creation stood still; progress is slowed to short of standstill to take in the minute majesty of rock formations and weirdly coloured pebble arrangements, left undisturbed by man or beast for millennia, shuffling us rather hesitatingly into camp.
Detailed itinerary

Day 7: Hyena’s Den to Ugab, 7-8hrs trekking
Our last full day of trekking leads us due south across the gravel plains that crease gradually into rocky folds running north to south, eventually channelling us back towards the dry Ugab riverbed, with Brandberg still maintaining a strong presence beyond. We have lunch in a narrow valley hedged in by rocky ridges, this afternoon we drop down into the Ugab valley and camp.

Day 8: Ugab to Swakopmund, 3hrs trekking
Attempting our last bit of the trek we head out along the jeep track that leads us due south up the slope out of the Ugab valley to the point where our coach will pick us up again. From here we transfer across the desert to Swakopmund, an interesting seaside resort, with the general feeling of a small German village, stuck in time. When we approach the turrets, towers and pastel coloured buildings appear like a mirage on the skyline.

Tonight we celebrate our achievements with a special Gala Dinner.

Day 9: Depart for London
Free day to enjoy some of Swakopmund’s activities. Swakopmund is Namibia’s adrenalin capital, and offers a wide range of gut-curdling activities from sand boarding and quad-biking to skydiving and camel riding, plus seal watching and relaxing boat trips. Or you can simply spend some time exploring this fascinating German colonial town.

Late afternoon transfer back to Windhoek for our overnight flight to London.


Challenge grade
Moderate/Tough

Best time of year
February to October

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change
Why choose Ultimate Challenges?

- We have over 16 years experience running pioneering charity challenges e.g. Kilimanjaro, the Inca Trail, California Bike
- We choose the most unexplored and upcoming regions for our amazing expeditions
- We are built on a team of Senior Event Fundraisers
- Our team is driven to provide inspiring, life changing and effective fundraising events for our charity partners
- We use the best ground agents, the most experienced trek staff and doctors to ensure your supporters have a safe and memorable challenge
- We operate an Ethical Code of Conduct with all our ground handlers to ensure fair treatment of all our local staff. We have high health and safety expectations and all our partnerships are conducted with respect for local cultures and environmental concerns
- We offer an end-to-end service to ensure our charity partners are given full support from our experienced staff ensuring you maximise your income

Our pricing policy
We believe that we are very competitive and offer excellent value for money. However, it can be confusing when comparing prices, as small alterations in an itinerary, can make a substantial difference. We would be happy to review proposals you may have received from other tour operators, as we are confident that we can beat any genuine quote.

‘Choose your Tour Operator with your head, so your supporters can follow their hearts when they travel’