

# Namibia Bike

Bike through Damaraland to the Skeleton Coast



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# Damaraland Bike, Namibia

## Bike through Damaraland to the Skeleton Coast

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 bike challenge 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 cycle 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 gully'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: Arrive Windhoek, Namibia

On arrival we are met by our guides and transferred to our hotel just outside of the city. This afternoon we will have our bike fitting. Tonight we will have a briefing about the challenge ahead. Dinner and overnight hotel.

## Day 3: Windhoek to Spitzkoppe to Uis

**Distance: 60-70kms**

After an early breakfast we will transfer approximately 3.5hrs inland to the Matterhorn of Namibia, the huge granite inselberg called Spitzkoppe, the start of our epic biking challenge! We jump on our bikes and cycle along good quality, quiet gravel road to Uis a small tin mine town not far from the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain at almost 2600 meters above sea level. Overnight camp.

## Day 4: Uis to Madisa

**Distance: 70 kms**

Up early for breakfast in camp. Today's ride is quite a challenge but achievable as we follow quiet roads all the way to Madisa which is located in prime desert elephant country.

## Day 5: Madisa to Twyfelfontein

**Distance: 60kms**

This morning we are up early and on our bikes with the aim to getting to camp for lunch. This morning's biking is along quiet gravel roads and jeep tracks with spectacular panoramic views of stark plains, ancient valleys and the soaring inselberg of the Brandberg Mountains. We have lunch at our camp in at Twyfelfontein. After lunch we will head out on a nature drive in an open vehicle in search of desert elephants in the Huab River area. Desert adapted elephants are found in only two locations in the world, in Mali and in the northern reaches of Namibia. Overnight camp.

## Day 6: Twyfelfontein to Ugab River

**Distance: 60-70kms**

Today we cycle in to the wild, westwards towards the Skeleton Coast on little used Jeep tracks to reach the Save the Rhino Campsite in the Ugab River. The area we bike through is wild and scenic, there is the possibility to see desert elephants and other animals, including the tracks of lions and the endangered black rhinoceros. Overnight camp on the Ugab River.



# Detailed itinerary

## Day 7: Ugab River to Atlantic Coast

**Distance: 70kms**

Today we cycle out of the river valleys of the Ugab River and along the Messum Crater which is one of Damaraland's most remote natural attractions comprising of two concentric circles of hills created by a collapsed volcano in the Goboboseb Mountains. The crater measures more than 20km in diameter, creating a vast lost world that we may have all to ourselves. Our finish point today is in our camp on the Atlantic Coastline.

## Day 8: Ugab to Swakopmund

**Distance: 50kms**

Our final day in the saddle! This morning we bike on a tar road along the Skeleton Coast to Cape Cross, our finish line, famous for the large seal colony found here. We will enjoy lunch before our transfer to Swakopmund. Tonight we celebrate our achievements with a special Gala dinner.

## Day 9: Free day Swakopmund

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.

## Day 10: Depart Swakopmund

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

## Day 11: Arrive London

## Challenge grade

Moderate/Tough

## Best time of year

February to October

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*This itinerary is complex and subject to change*

