

NAMIBIA - DAMARA RIDE - DAMARA ELEPHANT SAFARI

ITINERARY

Day 1

The meeting point for the ride is Windhoek.

On the first day of the ride your flight can arrive at Windhoek International Airport at any time. You will then be transferred to a guest house just outside Windhoek. Check-in at the guesthouse is usually from 13:00. If you arrive before this you can make use of the main facilities until your room is ready.

On departure day flights should depart Windhoek after 15:00.

Arrive at your guesthouse and meet the rest of your riding group. A Namibia Horse Safari Company representative will conduct a briefing about the riding adventure ahead.

Overnight River Crossing Lodge. A comfortable lodge located on a pristine 6500 hectare reserve.



Day 2

The following is a sample itinerary to be used as a rough guideline of how the days might pan out. Usually you can expect to ride for somewhere between around 4 and 8 hours each day, covering 20-50 km over varied terrain. The route, overnight stops and hours in the saddle can change, but always with your best interests in mind.

After an early breakfast, journey north by road (c. 7 hours), with lunch en route, to the camp near the Aba Huab River.

In the afternoon, visit the World Heritage site of Twyfelfontein with its 5,000 year-old rock engravings



Overnight Damara Elephant - Aba-Huab Campsite. This camp is on the shaded bank of the seasonal Aba-Huab River near Twyfelfontein.



Day 3

With the rising sun on your back, set off on your westward journey towards the distant Atlantic.

Your riding adventure begins down the dry river bed passing under some magnificent Ana trees - the desert elephant love the seed pods of these trees.



Overnight Damara Elephant - De Riet Camp. This is a wild camp set up in the area of De Riet.



Typical wild camp set up

Day 4

After breakfast this morning, you will head off on the next step of your epic journey.

In these ephemeral river systems, the cycles of rainfall dictate the seasonal movement of game. Species may not be concentrated, but you could encounter elephant, rhino, oryx, springbok, and other desert-adapted game.



Overnight Damara Elephant - Viewpoint Camp. A wild camp set up near the Huab River.



Day 5

Today will be a similar pattern to the day before as you set off towards the mountains. At the end of the day it's time to feed and brush off your horse, then gather around the fire for dinner.



Overnight Damara Elephant - Deadwood Camp. A remote wild camp.

Day 6

As you cross the mountains enjoy the stunning views across the desert before you drop down into the Ugab ephemeral river.



Overnight Damara Elephant - Steilwand Camp. A wild camp on the West of Brandberg Mountain.



Day 7

Leaving the river valleys, cross the vast open plains, with the striking massif of the Brandberg Mountain forming a dramatic backdrop.



Overnight Damara Elephant - Skeleton Camp. A remote wild camp.

Day 8

Over the next couple of days you ride over the endless plains which allow for some faster-paced riding as you approach the Messum Caldera, the eroded remains of a massive collapsed volcano.



Overnight Damara Elephant - Koppie Alleen Camp. A remote wild camp.

Day 9

Enjoy another day riding across the open plains as you get closer to your final destination.

Your horse is more than your mode of transport as you traverse this magical place and by the time you reach the coast, you will have become firm friends!



Overnight Damara Elephant - Gecko Camp. A wild camp set up not too far from Messum Crater.

Day 10

Your last ride takes you across huge desert plains to the ocean at last - the formidable Skeleton Coast, so called for the wrecked hulks of stranded ships which dot this rugged coastline.

The cold upwelling Benguela current results in some diverse weather conditions, from hot desert easterlies to cold south Atlantic westerlies and lots of fog - this is a place of real extremes!

Your last night is spent at a house near the beach in the Henties Bay area.



Overnight Hentis Bay Beach House. A private home on the Beach in Hentis Bay.



Day 11

After breakfast you will be transferred back to Windhoek for your flight home (a journey of c.5-6 hours).