

Walvis Bay, Namibia - Africa Cruises

The 'Diamond of Africa' is a country of stark beauty and contrasting landscapes. It is home to the world's oldest desert, the world's highest sand dunes, and a diversity of people that have created an intriguing blend of cultures and traditions. Found between the sand dunes of the Namib Desert and the Atlantic Ocean, the large natural lagoon of Walvis Bays is home to prolific birdlife.

Excursions

Please note: The shore excursions listed are typical for this port. The full programme of shore excursions available for your cruise will be displayed on Cruise Personaliser at least 12 weeks prior to departure.

- **Living Desert**

A unique opportunity to discover The Namib Desert, the oldest desert in the world.

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The word Namib means place of emptiness, and this tour shows the life in this desolate landscape by 4x4 vehicles. The scenic drive will take you to the famous Namib Desert to search for the living creatures of the desert. Your knowledgeable guide will help seek out the elusive Palmato Gecko and Desert Sidewinder, both inhabitants of the dunes. Follow the caterpillar tracks across the dune slip-face to possibly find a Sidewinder lying submerged in ambush for an unsuspecting Aporasaura Sand Diving Lizard.

The 4x4 drivers will drive you over the mighty dunes, stopping to teach you about the flora whilst allowing ample opportunity for photography to capture amazing memories of this unique part of the planet. A stop will be made at Sundowner Dune for refreshments and to relax and take in the magnificent views. Discover where the Fish Moths live, and even hear a dune roar during the adventure. There might even be the opportunity to spot the Damara Tern, an endangered bird, before taking the coastal road and returning to the ship.

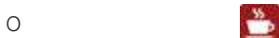
Tour code

WVB_008

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

5¼ HOURS

- **Sandwich Harbour by 4x4**

Exceptional views and an exhilarating journey by 4x4 make this an unforgettable tour.

[Hide](#)

Board your 4x4 vehicle for the journey south to Sandwich Harbour. Wedged between the sea and the Namib Dunes, Sandwich Harbour is one of Southern Africa's richest and unique wetlands. The extensive mudflats are a wildlife lover's dream due to the concentration for migratory shorebirds, waders and flamingos.

Pause briefly en route at the Walvis Bay Lagoon to photograph the masses of flamingos and other birds that inhabit one of the biggest natural wetlands in the Southern Hemisphere.

On the approach to Sandwich Harbour you'll be greeted with the sight of giant sand dunes running straight into the ocean. These giant dunes must be crossed to reach Sandwich Harbour so hold on tight as your experienced driver/guide steers you over the dunes on a thrilling ride.

Have your camera ready as you explore the unique landscape which is just waiting to be discovered. Afterwards your driver/guide will find a suitable place to stop to allow you to enjoy a refreshing glass of sparkling wine or soft drink refreshment.

The return journey is certainly not for the faint-hearted. It will really test the power of your 4x4 vehicle against the dunes, with a 130-foot-high Roaring Dune being the main challenge.

Tour code

WVB_012

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

4½ HOURS

• Treasures of Namibia

Discover the treasures of the Namib Desert during this memorable off-road adventure, and enjoy a stop at spectacular Walvis Bay.

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Your coastal drive heads towards Swakopmund, and then east to the Namib-Naukluft Park. The Namib is one of the oldest deserts in the world, home to the world's highest-shifting sand dunes and adorned with a kaleidoscope of vivid colours. Upon arrival, explore the unique plant life and terrain of this arid region.

Continue through the Swakop River Valley and the Moon Landscape. This vastly-eroded valley has an appearance similar to that of the moon's surface, created by the winds that reduced mountains to spectacular rock formations and sand. Proceed for a visit to Welwitschia Valley, where thousands of Welwitschia plants are scattered about. A stop will be made to view these fascinating plants, along with a variety of interesting lichen plants before enjoying a glass of sparkling wine.

Re-board your off-road vehicle for the return drive along the dune belt to Dune 7, and on to Walvis Bay. En route, a brief visit will be made to the Walvis Bay Lagoon and the tidal flood plains.

Tour code

WVB_002

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

5 HOURS

• Mondesa Township

Experience the reality of conditions of those living in the Mondesa township, as well as the great spirit of the people and their children.

[Hide](#)

Drive along the coastal road, to the Mondesa Township in Swakopmund, which was established in the early 1950's to provide housing for Owambo, Damara and Herero people working in Swakopmund.

Discover another world as you enter Mondesa, a side of town that is more African, more complex and, with the assistance of your specialist guide, will become much more personal. Mondesa is a township where poverty and unemployment is high and where low income families live. By opening their lives to travellers and visitors, the township community raises awareness and can provide opportunities for growth, friendship, support and a greater understanding between varied cultures.

This unique cultural experience depicts a different style of life; each customised tour lasts about three hours with the aim of immersing visitors in township life. All interaction with the community is done in a non-intrusive manner respecting their privacy at all times. Learn some history, bridge the cultural gap through understanding, watch a demonstration of Mahango preparation, taste some unusual food and enjoy the children dancing.

Tour code

WVB_009

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

Duration

4½ HOURS

• Seal & Dolphin Cruise

Experience the spectacle of meeting dolphins and seals on this thrilling wildlife cruise.

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Take a short drive from the harbour to the jetty, where you'll board an open ski boat for a cruise on the Walvis Bay Lagoon. Cutting across the Lagoon, you may catch a glimpse at the inquisitive seals which may swim up to the boats for a bit to eat.

At Pelican Point, there is a large seal colony and schools of dolphins, which swim alongside the boats, providing entertainment. Dolphins sighted are the Heavyside and Bottlenose.

For bird lovers, apart from seeing pelicans and cormorants, there are also common sightings of the White Chinned Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Cape Gannet and Black Oystercatcher.

To round off the trip, sparkling wine, soft drinks and open sandwiches will be offered.

Tour code

WVB_003

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

4 HOURS

• Swakopmund Tour

Visit Swakopmund, a stunning town located at the mouth of the Swakop River.

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Enjoy a short orientation tour at the fishing port of Walvis Bay, including a brief visit to the lagoon and tidal flood plains where, at certain times of the year, you can see flocks of pelicans and other water birds.

Travel to Swakopmund, with a stop en route at Dune 7, the highest sand dune in the area. Built by the coast next to the sea, Swakopmund is a beautiful town situated at the mouth of the Swakop River and is often described as 'a slice of Germany on the edge of the desert'. Many buildings date back to the turn of the century and are now national monuments, reminding you of the town's German colonial past.

During your tour, pay a visit to the Swakopmund Museum and the Karakulia Weavery, where the wool of Karakul sheep is spun, dyed and woven into rugs and wall hangings. You'll also have the opportunity to browse in the Brauhaus Gallery, which is a small shopping arcade in the centre of town.

Tour code

WVB_007

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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SHOPPING

Duration

5 HOURS

• Moon Landscape & Welwitschia Valley

Venture to Namib Naukluft Park to discover of the treasures of the Namib.

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Your scenic coach drive will take you to the Namib passing by endless waves of sand dunes, stopping for a photo at Dune 7.

Turn onto the Welwitschia Drive where the landscape becomes dotted with the extraordinary Welwitschia Mirabilis plant. These prehistoric plants that are unique to Namibia, have adapted to their harsh habitat, they only produce two leaves in their lifetime and have a lifespan of over 500 years.

Continue onto the 'lunar landscape' of this vast area of eroded valleys where you can almost imagine you are on the moon. Enjoy the breath taking views, before driving onwards to Walvis Bay via the coastal road, passing sand dunes on one side and the sea on the other.

Tour code

WVB_010

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

Duration

4½ HOURS