

Africa

**Namibia Highlights Luxury Fly-in Safari
(African Wildlife Safaris)
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Let the crowds pay top dollar for safaris in Botswana and South Africa; go instead to Namibia, the hidden jewel of southern Africa, perhaps even the entire continent. Etosha NP has one of the greatest concentrations of “charismatic mega fauna” (large mammals like lions, elephants, etc.) in the world. Namibia’s roads are among the best on the continent so you can even self-drive from the capital, Windhoek, to the park in just a few hours.

Etosha is only one of the many attractions Namibia has to offer. One of my favorites are the safari camps and game drives in Damaraland, north of Etosha, where you can see desert-adapted lions, elephants and rhinos up close.

Since this area doesn’t receive many visitors, the animals are not used to humans and you’re likely to

be the only visitors in sight. Being face-to-face with animals that can rip your face off or stomp you to death if they weren’t as scared of you as you are of them feels about as wild as you can bear. This is one of the best adrenaline-inducing experiences you can have while sitting still in a stationary vehicle without any sides.

Other highlights include some of the tallest and most colorful sand dunes in the world, a scenic desert that has been used for astronaut training and as the setting for the most recent Mad Max movie,

a barren coastline – the Skeleton Coast – littered with the hulks of ships run aground just a few dozen yards off shore, and one of the most luxurious safari camps I have ever stayed in on the crocodile-infested river that separates northern Namibia from Angola.

See the article “*Namibia: Raw and Wild*” and my blog posts under “Africa” for more information.

