



NAMIBIA • 16-30 JUNE 2026

A Namibian Journey

A photographic safari through the Namib dunes, the Skeleton Coast, Damaraland, Etosha and the leopards of Okonjima.

Guided & photographed by **SafariWise**

THE JOURNEY

Fifteen days across Namibia

Over fifteen days in June 2026, a small group traced a line across Namibia — from the wind-carved dunes of Sossusvlei to the fog-bound Skeleton Coast, inland through the red rock of Damaraland, north to the great salt pan of Etosha, and finally to the leopards of Okonjima. What follows is a day-by-day account of the journey and a record of the wildlife encountered along the way.

DATES	DURATION	COUNTRY	GUIDING
16–30 June 2026	15 days	Namibia	SafariWise

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

16 JUN	Rooi Sand Lodge → Solitaire → Sesriem, Sesriem Canyon & Elim Dune
17 JUN	Dead Vlei & Sossusvlei · dune photography
18 JUN	Solitaire · Kuiseb Pass · Walvis Bay → Swakopmund
19 JUN	Walvis Bay dolphin cruise · Sandwich Harbour
20 JUN	Living Desert tour · Swakopmund saltworks
21 JUN	Mile 4 · Lichen Fields · Zeila wreck · Uis → Damaraland
22 JUN	Aba-Huab elephants · Twyfelfontein · Petrified Forest
23 JUN	Khorixas · Himba village · Outjo → Etosha
24 JUN	Etosha National Park · Okaukuejo Waterhole
25 JUN	Etosha National Park · extended game drive
26 JUN	Lodge walk · Uchu → Chiva Lodge, afternoon drive
27 JUN	Bird walk · lodge game drive → Okonjima Reserve
28 JUN	Okonjima · leopard & cubs · white rhino
29 JUN	Okonjima · brown hyena · leopards
30 JUN	Okonjima lion hide → Windhoek International Airport

The Namib

Tuesday 16 June ROOI SAND → SOLITAIRE → SESRIEM

We gathered at 7:30 for a short bird walk in and around the lodge gardens before we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast, coffee and tea. After enjoying the meal, we paid our bills, packed our bags, and departed from Rooi Sand Lodge at 10:00 a.m. The drive was a beautiful, scenic route through the desert landscape toward Solitaire. After a short break and a coffee stop, we continued on to Sesriem. We arrived in the early afternoon, settling into the lodge. Later, we did a short drive to Sesriem Canyaon and Elim dune where we had our sundowner drink—champagne in hand—as we watched the dunes glow in the sunset. Refreshed, we enjoyed a delicious dinner at 19:50, capping off a perfect day.

Wednesday 17 June DEAD VLEI · SOSSUSVLEI

This morning was an early start as we met at 6:15 and entered the park by 6:30. After about an hour's drive, we arrived at the Dead Vlei area. We parked and set off on foot, spending time photographing the ancient, dead trees in the valley. After returning to the vehicle, we had a brief drive and were lucky to photograph a magnificent oryx in the dunes, just beside us. We arrived at Sossusvlei, where we enjoyed a picnic breakfast of scones and other treats. Afterward, we returned to the lodge, arriving exactly at 13:00 for lunch. After a relaxing lunch, we took a short siesta and met again at 15:45 for an afternoon drive. We explored the dunes, focusing on those with sharp edges and striking shadow lines. We returned to the lodge by 19:00, bringing a full and unforgettable day to a close.

The Skeleton Coast

Thursday 18 June KUISEB PASS · WALVIS BAY → SWAKOPMUND

This morning, we met for breakfast at 7 a.m. After a leisurely meal, we departed the lodge at 8 a.m., having paid our bills and enjoyed one last coffee. We drove for just over an hour before stopping at Solitaire for a quick break—famous for its apple crumble pie and coffee. After photographing old vehicles, museum pieces, and wildlife, we continued through the Namib Desert, passing the Kuiseb Canyon and Kuiseb Pass. By 13:30, we reached Walvis Bay, where we had a lovely lunch overlooking the lagoon. Afterward, we spent time photographing flamingos and seabirds before heading further north along the scenic coastal route. We arrived at the Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund at 16:30. We have dinner at 19:00. Some mentionable wildlife include: Black backed Jackal, Oryx, Springbok, Ostrich, Ludwig's Bustard, Ruppel's Korhaan.



PLATE 01 Black-backed Jackal calling from a dune at first light

Friday 19 June WALVIS BAY · SANDWICH HARBOUR

This morning, we were collected from the charming Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund, and we set off toward Walvis Bay for a much-anticipated dolphin cruise. As we glided across the calm lagoon waters, a spectacle unfolded before us: playful dolphins leapt in the waves, and tens of thousands of Cape fur seals dotted the waters and shoreline. Meanwhile, pelicans soared above us, some even landing briefly on the boat. Onboard, we indulged in fresh oysters and crisp champagne, accompanied by an array of delicious snacks.

After the cruise, we embarked on a thrilling four-wheel-drive excursion to Sandwich Harbour. The towering dunes rose dramatically around us as we ventured deeper into the desert. Each dune seemed to paint a different shade of gold in the afternoon light, offering us spectacular views of the vast Atlantic coast. It was a truly unforgettable adventure, blending ocean wonders with desert.

Saturday 20 June LIVING DESERT · SWAKOPMUND SALTWORKS

This morning, after a relaxed breakfast, we were picked up at 8 a.m. from the Hansa Hotel by Tommy's Living Desert Tours. Our guide, with a wealth of local knowledge, led us into the golden dunes surrounding Swakopmund. With incredible precision, we discovered some of the desert's smallest residents: dancing lizards, and Namaqua chameleons, each perfectly adapted to this arid landscape. After marveling at these tiny desert marvels, we returned to the hotel by 12:30 for a well-deserved lunch, our minds full of wonder at the desert's hidden life. After lunch we venture to the saltworks north of Swakopmund to photograph some Flamingos. We found a willing group of Greater Flamingos that displayed well. We return to the hotel at 15:00, affording some time to explore this stunning little town with its German architecture and feel.

Sunday 21 June SKELETON COAST · ZEILA WRECK → DAMARALAND

We were picked up at the Hansa Hotel at 8 o'clock in the morning and began our journey north along the coast. Our first stop was the saltworks at Mile 4, where the early morning light was simply magical. We photographed graceful greater flamingos and a variety of other water bird species. Continuing up the Skeleton Coast, we arrived at the renowned lichen fields—one of the largest lichen fields in the world. These ancient organisms blanket the desert floor, vibrant even in this harsh landscape. After marveling at the lichens, we pressed on to the Zeila shipwreck. This iconic wreck, half-buried in sand, stands as a ghostly reminder of maritime history. After spending time capturing its eerie presence, we drove on to Henties Bay for a refreshing break, refueling with diesel and savoring fresh coffee. Energized, we turned inland, heading east into the desert. We reached Uis by lunchtime, enjoying a delightful meal in this small town. After lunch, we ventured deeper into the desert—Damaraland—searching for desert elephants.

Though we only found scattered dung, the vastness of the landscape was awe-inspiring. By 16:00, we arrived at our lodge in Damaraland, just outside of Khorixas. After checking into our rooms and relaxing, we gathered at 18:30 for a pre-dinner drink and a wonderful evening meal.

Damaraland

Monday 22 June ABA-HUAB · TWYFELFONTEIN · PETRIFIED FOREST

We began the day with a hearty breakfast at 7:00 a.m., gathering our things before departing the lodge just before 8. The drive west through Damaraland was breathtaking—we made a few stops along the way to capture the vast desert landscapes in photos.

By mid-morning, we arrived at the Aba Huab River. After a short convenience break, we set out in search of the elusive desert elephants. Our luck was exceptional—we quickly spotted a family of five desert-adapted elephants. We watched them intently, photographing them as they fed, and one young bull even came so close that he gave the car a gentle nudge.

After spending quality time with these gentle giants, we took a relaxing coffee break by the river under a giant acacia tree. Refreshed, we then hiked for about an hour at Twyfelfontein, admiring its awe-inspiring rock engravings. These ancient petroglyphs—dating back thousands of years—told the story of the San people, with depictions of animals and ritual symbols.

After the hike, we arrived at Twyfelfontein Country Lodge for a well-earned lunch. Post-lunch, we drove back toward Khorixas, stopping for a serene stroll at the Petrified Forest. Here, ancient fossilized trees lie scattered in the desert, a silent testament to time.

We reached Lodge Damaraland just after 5 p.m., settled into our rooms, and took the evening to refresh. At 7 p.m., we met once more for a delicious dinner, reflecting on an extraordinary day full of nature and history.

Tuesday 23 June KHORIXAS · HIMBA VILLAGE · OUTJO → ETOSHA

This morning, we began with a gentle start at 7:30 a.m., meeting for an early coffee and some birdwatching. After soaking in the peaceful morning atmosphere, we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at 8:15, savoring every bite.

We packed up at around 9:00 a.m. and began our drive through the town of Khorixas. Not long after, we visited a traditional Himba village, where we were welcomed with warmth and hospitality. The Himba people are a semi-nomadic tribe indigenous to northern Namibia. Known for their distinctive red-ochre body paint and intricate hairstyles, the Himba maintain a rich cultural heritage, tied closely to their livestock, beadwork, and spiritual practices. Guides explained their daily life, from tending cattle to their deep respect for ancestors and nature.

After this cultural immersion, we continued north, arriving at a cozy lodge just before 11:00 a.m., where we took a refreshing break with cappuccinos and lattes. Once re-energized, we drove on to Outjo, where we stopped at a charming bakery for a delicious lunch.

After our meal, we refueled the vehicle in Outjo and continued north toward Etosha. By just before 16:00, we reached the lovely Etosha Taleni Village, close to the entrance of the park. After settling into our comfortable rooms, we met at 16:30 for a short bird walk on the grounds. With the sun setting, we returned to our rooms and gathered at 19:00 for a delightful dinner, reflecting on a truly special day.

Etosha

ABOUT THE PARK

Etosha National Park is one of Africa's premier wildlife destinations. Located in northern Namibia, it covers over 22,000 square kilometers. The park is known for its vast salt pan—one of the largest in the world—and it acts as a magnet for diverse wildlife. From elephants and lions to rhinos and giraffes, Etosha supports an astounding range of mammals and bird species. The park is also a critical sanctuary for black and white rhinos. It's a fantastic place to immerse yourself in nature, and each visit feels truly unique.

Wednesday 24 June ETOSHA · OKAUKUEJO WATERHOLE

After a bright start, we met for breakfast at 7 a.m. and departed the lodge just before 8. A short drive took us to the entrance gate of Etosha National Park. Once inside, we had a fantastic morning game drive, visiting several waterholes. We spotted springbok, black-faced impala, Burchell's zebra, Blue wildebeest, Southern giraffe, Oryx, Greater Kudu and even a couple of lions. The birdlife was incredible, too—we saw pale chanting goshawks, tawny eagles, African harrier hawk, Shikra, Red necked Falcon, Lanner Falcon, Black Winged Kite, Lapped faced vulture and white-backed vultures. After a few hours at Okaukuejo Waterhole—where we watched zebra and springbok carefully avoiding young lions—we enjoyed a relaxing lunch at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp. In the afternoon, we took a brief detour via another waterhole and exited the park around 3:30 p.m. Back at the lodge by 4, we relaxed, and then we gathered again at 7 p.m. for a delicious dinner. Etosha truly gave us a wonderful, wildlife-filled day.



PLATE 02 Black-chested Snake Eagle over the plains · Etosha National Park

Thursday 25 June **ETOSHA · EXTENDED GAME DRIVE**

Our day began bright and early, with breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. At our own leisure, we enjoyed breakfast and gathered at 7:15 a.m. to depart toward Etosha National Park. Upon arrival, the gate was still closed as we waited for the sunrise, but after a few minutes, we were able to enter.

We kicked off a wonderful, extended game drive, heading north and west to explore multiple waterholes. Our first stop was at Okaukuejo Waterhole, where we paused briefly, though there wasn't much animal activity at the time. After a quick visit and a chance to use the facilities, we set off on a scenic drive, encountering vast plains brimming with wildlife. We spotted zebra, wildebeest, springbok, and ostriches, all offering incredible photographic opportunities, along with some beautiful birds perched close to the road.

We returned to Okaukuejo for a relaxed lunch at 12:30 p.m. After recharging, we went back to the waterhole and spent time observing springbok, black-faced impala, kudu, wildebeest, and Burchell's zebra coming in to drink. It was a serene, almost meditative experience.

At 3:00 p.m., we left the waterhole, taking a short detour to another spot on the way out. We returned to the lodge by 4:30 p.m., having spent a truly memorable day in Etosha National Park—arguably the Rolls-Royce of all game parks in Africa. We reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for a delightful dinner, reflecting on a fantastic day out in the bush.

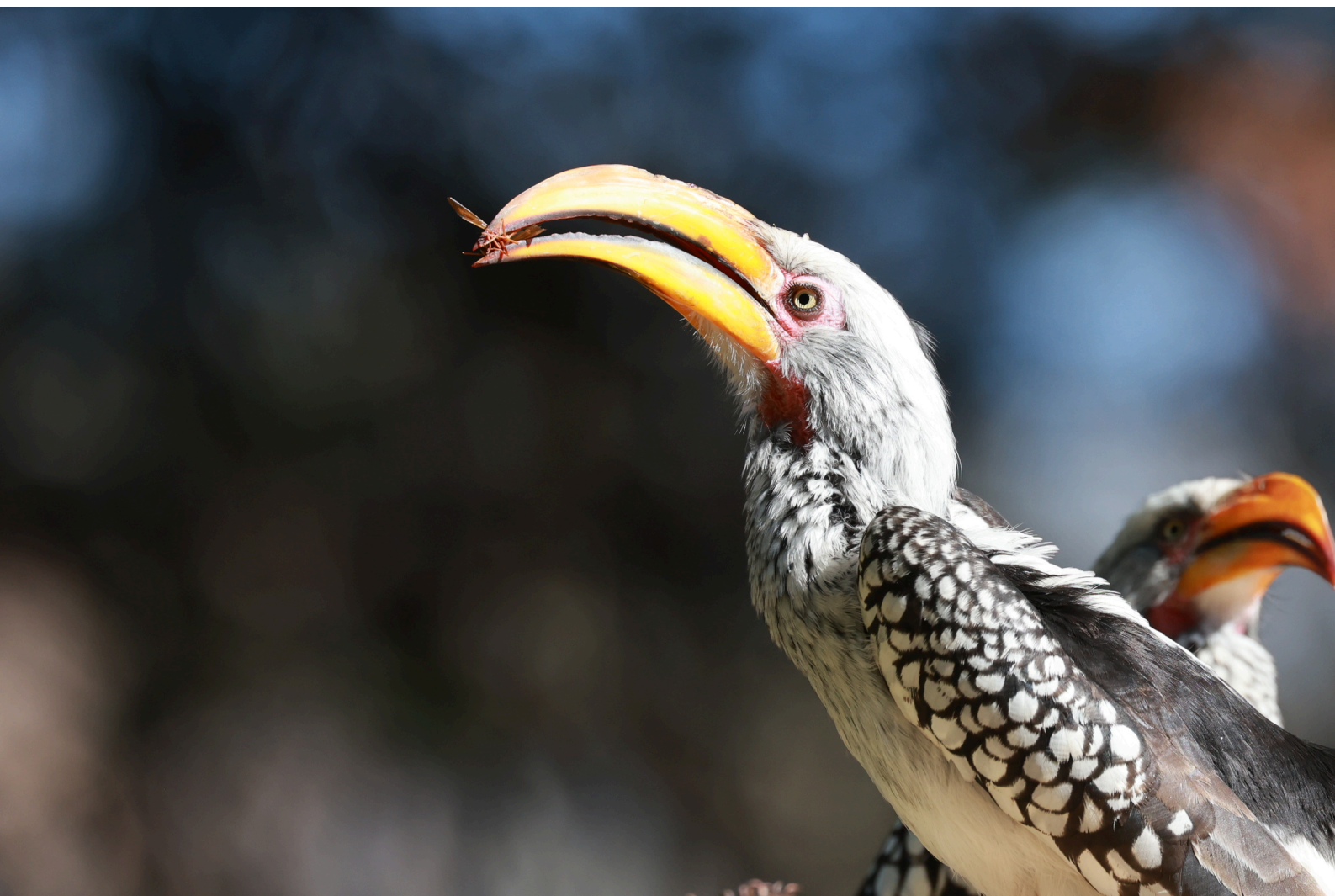


PLATE 03 Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill with the morning's catch · Etosha

Friday 26 June LODGE WALK · UCHU → CHIVA LODGE

We met at 8 o'clock in the morning after a refreshing early coffee. We took a short walk around the lodge premises, spotting fantastic photographic opportunities. Notably, a pearl-spotted owl perched high in a bare tree gave us exceptional shots. We finished our walk by 8:35 and headed into the breakfast room for a delicious meal. After breakfast, we packed up and departed the lodge at 9:30. We drove south, stopping in the town of Uchu at a charming bakery for a warm coffee and a quick pastry before we continued on to our next stop, Chiva Lodge. We arrived by 18:00, settled into our rooms for a short siesta, and then gathered again at 16:00 for coffee and tea. The afternoon game drive was spectacular—we encountered a variety of animals, including some new species we hadn't seen before. We returned by 18:45, and the day culminated with a well-deserved dinner. What an absolutely stunning day!

Okonjima

Saturday 27 June BIRD WALK · LODGE DRIVE → OKONJIMA RESERVE

This morning, we met at 7:30 at the main building of the lodge. After a brief introduction, we began a bird walk, where we observed species like rosy-faced lovebirds, groundscraper thrush, red-eyed bulbul, grey-headed sparrow, and fork-tailed drongo, among others. After the walk, we returned to the restaurant area for breakfast at 8 a.m. Once we finished, we packed our bags, loaded the car, and set out on a game drive with the lodge. Over three hours, we encountered waterbuck, nyala, southern giraffe, blue and black wildebeest, oryx, springbok, Steenbok, and impala, along with a variety of birds, giving us wonderful photographic opportunities. After returning to the lodge, we enjoyed a lovely lunch, and in the early afternoon, we drove to our next destination, the Okonjima Reserve. Once we arrived, we settled into our rooms, and Richard and Robert set out on an afternoon leopard tracking activity starting at 15:30. Later in the evening, we gathered for a delicious dinner and a relaxing end to a full day.



PLATE 04 Slender Mongoose pausing on a termite mound · Okonjima Reserve

Sunday 28 June LEOPARD & CUBS · WHITE RHINO

This morning, we met at 6:30 for early morning coffee, tea, and freshly baked muffins, along with fresh fruit. We left the lodge at 7:00. The brisk winter air greeted us as we moved along the park on a game drive. We spotted a variety of animals: zebra, southern giraffe, oryx, greater kudu, springbok, steenbok, common duiker, impala, and waterbuck. Most notably, we tracked a female leopard with two cubs—a young male and female, about six months old. We followed the mother leopard for hours, photographing birds along the way. Though she led us on a mission, she never brought us to the cubs. By 11:00 a.m., we returned to the lodge for a hearty breakfast. After a short siesta, we met again at 15:00 for coffee, tea, and cake. At 15:30, we departed for an afternoon activity, searching for white rhinos. We enjoyed a fantastic sighting of two male white rhino bulls. As we wrapped up, we received news that the leopard cubs had been spotted on the far side of the reserve. Without delay, we crossed the vast 20,000-hectare reserve and finally spent time with the cubs—one in a tree, one on the ground—offering breathtaking photo opportunities. We spotted more mammals en route and ended the day with a sunset stop for a lovely sundowner. After a full day, we returned to the lodge for a delicious dinner—an absolutely wonderful day shared with great company. During dinner we had a great sighting of a Barn owl.



PLATE 05 A female leopard and her cub in the last of the light · Okonjima Reserve



PLATE 06 A cub keeps watch from the fork of a camel-thorn · Okonjima Reserve

Monday 29 June **BROWN HYENA · LEOPARDS**

Our morning began at 6:30 with a warm cup of coffee or tea, accompanied by freshly baked muffins and seasonal fruit. At 7 a.m., we set off on our game activity as the sky was still dark. The crisp, cold air brushed against our cheeks and hands as we drove. Shortly after, we encountered a brown hyena, which we followed for some breathtaking photographic moments. Even more incredible, we spotted a leopard mother and her nine-month-old cub—such a rare and special sighting. We spent a long time with them, capturing every angle.

Throughout the drive, we also saw steenbok, springbok, impala, southern giraffe, and blue wildebeest. Greater kudu and oryx joined the list, along with an array of birdlife: tawny eagle, black-chested snake eagle, woodpeckers, and even the rare Monteiro's hornbill and white-tailed shrike.

As we returned to the lodge by 10:30, we were greeted by a beautiful brunch, where we basked in the morning sun. After a leisurely rest, we gathered again at 15:00 for coffee, tea, and cake. At 15:30, we departed once more for an afternoon activity, ready for more golden adventures.

Our afternoon game drive was absolutely incredible. We were treated to a spectacular display of plains game: we saw Burchell's zebra, southern giraffe, oryx, greater kudu, springbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, and the common dik-dik. As we continued, we were absolutely mesmerized by a mother leopard with her tiny cub—only about three months old. We stayed with them for quite some time, capturing beautiful photographs. The drive concluded as we ascended a mountain, overlooking the entire Okonjima Wildlife Reserve. As the sun set, we enjoyed our sundowners, before returning to the lodge for a delicious dinner. What a truly wonderful day.

Tuesday 30 June LION HIDE → WINDHOEK

This morning, we met at 7:30 for a coffee and a muffin at the lodge, followed by a relaxing birdwatching session around the area. At 8:30, we set off on our morning activity—a short drive brought us to a hide, where we waited in anticipation for two male lions to be fed. The photographic opportunities were absolutely spectacular as the lions approached. Between shots, we also enjoyed the subtle comings and goings of various birds. After the session, we returned to the lodge for brunch—a well-deserved break. After a leisurely coffee and some sun, we departed at 12:30 for the drive to Windhoek International Airport, bringing this incredible safari to an end.

Species checklist

Mammals and birds noted across the fifteen days, as recorded in the daily journal.

MAMMALS

- Lion
- Leopard
- Brown Hyena
- Black-backed Jackal
- Slender Mongoose
- Desert-adapted Elephant
- White Rhinoceros
- Southern Giraffe
- Burchell's Zebra
- Blue Wildebeest
- Black Wildebeest
- Red Hartebeest
- Greater Kudu
- Oryx (Gemsbok)
- Springbok
- Impala
- Black-faced Impala
- Nyala
- Waterbuck
- Steenbok
- Common Duiker
- Common Dik-dik
- Cape Fur Seal
- Dolphin

BIRDS

- Ostrich
- Greater Flamingo
- Great White Pelican
- Ludwig's Bustard
- Rüppell's Korhaan
- Pale Chanting Goshawk
- Tawny Eagle
- Black-chested Snake Eagle
- African Harrier-Hawk
- Shikra
- Red-necked Falcon
- Lanner Falcon
- Black-winged Kite
- Lappet-faced Vulture
- White-backed Vulture
- Pearl-spotted Owlet
- Barn Owl
- Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill
- Monteiro's Hornbill
- White-tailed Shrike
- Rosy-faced Lovebird
- Groundscraper Thrush
- Red-eyed Bulbul
- Grey-headed Sparrow
- Fork-tailed Drongo
- Woodpecker



UNTIL THE NEXT JOURNEY

*Thank you for travelling with us. May the dust
settle slowly, and the light stay golden.*

Guiding & photography by **SafariWise** · Namibia · June 2026