

AUTHOR TRAVEL AGENCY

GO TO STAR

BOTSWANA —

NAMIBIA



About travel

Go to Star author travel agency invites you to Botswana and Namibia.

People travel to the African continent for its primal nature: deserts, dunes, impenetrable forests and wild animals. There are two countries that are the best places to start exploring Africa: Namibia and Botswana. Travelling with Go to Star includes both of these regions, which are considered the safest.

Botswana is one of the few countries in Africa where we can find rivers, forests and desert — the famous Kalahari. Agriculture is underdeveloped here, so the migration routes for animals remain the same as they were millions of years ago. You can see wild predators in other countries, but only in Botswana, in the delta of the Okavango River, during a water safari you can watch lions swim across the river or hunt buffalo, as well as see up close giraffes, cheetahs, leopards, wild African dogs and, of course, elephants, of which there are more than 130 thousand — the largest population in the world. Moving into the Kalahari Desert, you'll see a different side of Botswana, with red sand,

stunning sunsets and star-spangled sky. It's worth waking up at dawn to interact with the funny meerkats, who are not afraid of humans at all. And spend the night right under the stars, away from the campsite, under the protection of the locals: this adventure is absolutely comfortable and safe.

Namibia is named after the largest desert in the Namib region, and its name literally translates as "the place where there is nothing". There are no tropical forests and the climate is so arid that more than half of the food has to be imported. But the lifeless beauty of the country is not only the boundless sands with dunes, but also the picturesque Atlantic Ocean coast with dolphins, seals and thousands of birds, the bizarre Deadvlei, the world's second largest canyon and the famous Skeleton Coast, where the remains of ships forever crashed into the dunes. You can go on safari here by jeep, go sandboarding in the dunes, have breakfast by the ocean, and the most beautiful desert landscapes are discovered during a hot air balloon flight.

Botswana — Namibia





Day 1

Flight to Moremi Game Reserve on the eastern side of the Okavango Delta. Lunch at the lodge. Evening safari.

Day 2

Morning safari. Picnic lunch. Evening safari. Sunset cocktail.

Day 3

Morning boat safari in Delta. Picnic lunch. Evening safari by vehicle. Sunset cocktail.

Day 4

Flight to the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park with the largest salt pans in the world. Lunch at the lodge. Evening safari.

Day 5

Morning safari, where you can meet a meerkat face to face. Optional horse riding or quad biking in the vast expanses of dry salt fields. Lunch at the lodge. Evening

safari. Flamingo watching.

Day 6

Departure to Namibia, to the Skeleton Coast Park. Accommodation at the lodge. Evening walk in the surrounding area.

День 7

Out to sea on a private boat to observe harbour seals. Picnic lunch. Walking around the beach, exploring ships.

День 8

Flight to the Sossusvlei Plateau, in NamibRand Nature Reserve. Accommodation and lunch at the lodge. Stargazing with an astronomer. Evening cocktail at sunset.

День 9

Panoramic hot air balloon flight over the desert. Return to the hotel. Breakfast. Rest. Drive through the famous desert where you will see the giant red sand dunes of Namib, the dead valley of Deadvlei and reptiles in the desert, climb Big Daddy — the highest dune in Sossusvlei area.



Botswana: Okavango Delta and Moremi Game Reserve

At the height of Botswana's six-month dry season, rainwater from the highlands of Angola flows into the heart of southern Africa's Kalahari Desert, creating a vast oasis unlike any other place on Earth. The Okavango Delta doubles in size and 200,000 large mammals flock to the fertile land. Eagles soar above the lion pride and huge herds of elephants; while predators swim across the river, wild African dogs scout for prey in the reeds, hippos make their way to the islands in search of pasture, cheetahs hunt antelope.

On the eastern side of the Okavango Delta is the Moremi Game Reserve, named after a Batavana chief. It is considered one of the most beautiful reserves in Africa, with over 4,870 square kilometres of unspoilt wilderness, including savannah, meandering rivers and dense forest.



Makgadikgadi salt marshes

In the heart of the savannah in north-eastern Botswana lies the world's largest network of salt pans, the Makgadikgadi, covering 3,900 square kilometres. The unique salt desert emerged at the bottom of the ancient Lake Makgadikgadi, which began to evaporate centuries ago.

Visiting the Makgadikgadi salt marshes is an amazing experience: in the dry season the salt crystals sparkle in the light, and when it rains, it is home to flamingos and other waterfowl, and is the site of the annual migration of African zebras.







Meerkats in the Kalahari Desert

A popular pastime in the Kalahari Desert, in the Makgadikgadi salt marshes region, is meerkat watching. If you wake up at dawn and sit in the desert, trying not to move or make a sound, you can get to know the funny animals as closely as possible. When meerkats crawl out of their burrows, they explore the space around them. These animals perceive sitting people as small hills from which it is convenient to view the surroundings — and fearlessly climb on the hands, feet and even heads of travellers.





The Skeleton Coast

The Skeleton Coast National Park on the west coast of Namibia is a unique phenomenon that is mesmerising in its strange and even frightening beauty. This place has become a graveyard for many ships that were wrecked on the dangerous reefs of the coast due to strong winds, dense fog and dangerous currents, and here their wrecks rest. Among the most famous are the remains of the *Suiderkus*, a technologically advanced transport ship that ran aground unexpectedly in 1977.

The skeletons are not just shipwrecks. The ominous name is a reminder of the tragic fate of the sailors who were shipwrecked here: even if they managed to reach the shore, the lifeless desert left no chance of rescue.

Sand dunes up to 200 metres high create a stunning contrast with the turquoise waves of the Atlantic Ocean. And walking along the coast you can see seals, pelicans, dolphins and many harbour seals in Mowe Bay.







Sossusvlei Red Dunes

The giant red sand dunes of the Namib, Africa's largest desert, are one of the country's iconic sights. To see the majestic, well-defined shapes, you have to go to the Namib-Naukluft National Park, on the Sossusvlei clay plateau.

One of the highest dunes here is Big Duddy, and it can be climbed in less than two hours for stunning views. Юлия Островская.
Snowboarding, skiing and sledding are also available on Namibia's dunes. You can see all the beauty of the dunes from a height by going on a hot air balloon ride at dawn, when the first rays of the sun turn the oceans of sand into a cosmic landscape.



A night under the stars in the Namib Desert

In the desert, far from the cities, the best place in the world to see the stars. And they are not individual dots in the sky, but a bright blue canvas covered with twinkling lights like jewellery. You can enjoy such a spectacle during an evening cocktail. But it is a very special experience to spend the night under the stars.

In the Namib Desert, such an adventure is organised as safely as possible: there are no predators or venomous snakes, and local guides are ready to keep the campfire going and protect travellers. A bed away from the campsite, in the middle of the desert, is the best place to gaze at the twinkling Milky Way and fall into a deep sleep under the most beautiful stars.







Deadvle

Want to see Salvador Dali's paintings come to life? Head to Deadvlei, or Dead Valley, Namibia's most unusual place. Once an oasis formed by heavy rainfall and the overflowing Tsauchab River, the valley's legacy is a 17-metre tall Camel Thorn Acacia trees set against a white clay backdrop.

Neither the river nor the trees survived the 50-degree heat, but the Camel Thorn Acacia hulks have survived for hundreds of years due to the high temperatures and lack of wind, and the white clay is home to local reptiles. Huge red dunes complete the surreal picture.



Namibia's cuisine

During the voyage you will enjoy lunch and dinner picnics on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The chefs of the lodges will prepare the best dishes of Namibian cuisine, which includes both meat and vegetarian menus. The culinary traditions of this African country recall the influence of Germany and South Africa, and Indian spices, unlike other countries in the region, do not play a leading role here.

One of the iconic dishes of Namibian cuisine is potjiekos, a stew of game meat, beef or lamb with vegetables and nuts, which is stewed in a special pot over an open fire for at least 3 hours. Lamb lovers will appreciate bobotie — meat casserole made of minced meat with dried fruits, nuts and spices. Flavourful dried meat biltong is a popular snack here — it can be beef or game, for example, the meat of gnu antelope. Drinks in Namibia include rooibos tea and local beer, a legacy of German colonisation.





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