Cruise Details

Name:	African Wonders & the Skeleton Coast
Reference:	AMAZQ280505ZB
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Zambezi Queen
Regions:	Africa
Departs On:	04 May 28
Departs From:	Johannesburg
Arrives On:	19 May 28
Arrives At:	Windhoek
Cruise Nights:	15
Total Vacation Days:	17

Itinerary

Day 1: Johannesburg (South Africa)

ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. n arrival, you will be met by your local AmaWaterways host and transferred to the lovely Fairlawns Boutique Hotel situated in a parklike setting in the Sandton neighborhood of Johannesburg.

Arrives On: 04 May 28

Day 2: Johannesburg (South Africa)

JOHANNESBURG – KASANE, BOTSWANA – ZAMBEZI QUEEN – EMBARKATION. In the morning, transfer to the airport for a flight to Kasane. Here, you will be transferred to the Chobe River that forms the border between Botswana and Namibia. Tender boats will transport you to Zambezi Queen, moored on the Namibia side of the river. Settle into your stateroom, enjoy a mid-afternoon snack, and in the evening, be treated to a Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner. (B,D)

Arrives On: 05 May 28

Day 2: Kasane (Botswana)

Arrives On: 05 May 28

Day 3: Chobe National Park (Botswana)

ZAMBEZI QUEEN. Embark on a morning boat safari and experience the Chobe River’s diverse game viewing. Afterwards, return to Zambezi Queen for lunch. As the ship cruises along the Chobe River, you can spend time in the splash pool, visit the spa or perhaps catch up with your favorite book. Later in the day, revel in the panoramic views with another boat safari opportunity. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 06 May 28

Day 4: Chobe National Park (Botswana)

ZAMBEZI QUEEN. Start your day off with a boat safari. Later, a local African village invites you to experience the local culture firsthand. Spend time with the children of the village as well as its elders and learn about their day-to-day life. After lunch on board, you can choose between a boat safari, bird watching or fishing. Spend your last evening aboard reveling in a festive African-themed dinner hosted by your crew—complete with singing and dancing. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 07 May 28

Day 5: Chobe National Park (Botswana)

ZAMBEZI QUEEN – DISEMBARKATION – VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE. Disembark and join a wildlife safari of Chobe National Park in open-top 4x4 vehicles. Be on the lookout for elephants, giraffes, zebras, sable, warthogs and cape buffaloes. Prides of lions, hyenas and (more rarely) cheetahs may also appear along the way. For lunch, take a seat under the trees and savor a delicious picnic. Later this afternoon, transfer to Victoria Falls, then enjoy a special dinner with live local entertainment at your hotel. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 08 May 28

Day 5: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

Arrives On: 08 May 28

Day 6: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

VICTORIA FALLS. Join a local guide for a tour of Victoria Falls. Learn about its history as well as the flora and fauna that make this area so unique. In the evening, embark on a private sunset cruise along the Zambezi River. Relax on board as you observe a variety of wildlife while enjoying a delicious mix of tapas with drinks. (B)

Arrives On: 09 May 28

Day 7: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

VICTORIA FALLS. This morning, you are invited on a leisurely guided walk across the Victoria Falls Bridge, which connects the countries of Zimbabwe and Zambia. Once in Zambia, explore the more intimate side of the Falls and visit the historic town of Livingstone. Later, head back to Zimbabwe for a free afternoon. As a special treat tonight, head out on a safari to seek out the elusive Black Rhino and other nocturnal animals, followed by a three-course bush dinner. (B,D)

Arrives On: 10 May 28

Day 8: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

FLY TO WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA. Transfer to Victoria Falls Airport and fly to Windhoek. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Windhoek, translated from the Afrikaans language to mean “Wind Corner,” is Namibia’s capital and largest city. The influence of the German colonial period can still be seen today in architecture, street names and cuisine. This evening, your local guide will meet you for dinner at your hotel and brief you on your upcoming adventure, as well as answer any questions. (B,D)

Arrives On: 11 May 28

Day 8: Windhoek (Namibia)

Arrives On: 11 May 28

Day 9: Windhoek (Namibia)

WINDHOEK – NAMIBRAND RESERVE. This morning, depart from Windhoek, driving southwest through the scenic Khomas Hochland Highlands before heading down the Great Escarpment into the Namib Desert below. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. At more than 825 sq miles (2,150 square km), the NamibRand Nature Reserve is one of the largest reserves in southern Africa. Established in the 1980s when Albi Bruckner integrated several livestock farms into a protected wilderness area, the reserve now stands as a model of conservation success. Here, you will check in at Namib Outpost, with its stunning desert and red dune views. Following check-in, be treated to a shared sundowner nature drive within the NamibRand Nature Reserve. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 12 May 28

Day 9: NamibRand Nature Reserve (Namibia)

Arrives On: 12 May 28

Day 10: NamibRand Nature Reserve (Namibia)

NAMIBRAND RESERVE. Early risers can join an excursion into the Namib Naukluft National Park, entering the park gates at sunrise to capture the dunes while the light is soft, and the shadows accentuate their towering shapes and curves. This area boasts some of the highest free-standing sand dunes in the world. Once you have explored the areas around Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, return to your lodge in the early afternoon for lunch. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure, either relaxing in your luxurious accommodation or participating in a variety of guided activities such as biking, scenic drives and walks. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 13 May 28

Day 11: NamibRand Nature Reserve (Namibia)

NAMIBRAND RESERVE – SWAKOPMUND. Bid farewell to the reserve and continue northwest through the ever-changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons. You will reach the Atlantic coast at the port town of Walvis Bay, once a whaling station and major stopover point in the 18th century for sea travel between South Africa and the Netherlands. Continue north to the seaside town of Swakopmund, where you will stay for the next two nights. You will have time this afternoon to explore the town center and wander along the waterfront before enjoying dinner at a favorite local seafood restaurant. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 11: Swakopmund (Namibia)

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 12: Swakopmund (Namibia)

SWAKOPMUND. This morning, join a catamaran cruise, where you may be able to see the aquatic mammals that thrive off the coast of Swakopmund, including seals, dolphins, and—between mid-summer and fall—Southern Right and Humpback Whales. The afternoon is at your leisure, and your AmaWaterways guide will have suggestions on what to see and do. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 15 May 28

Day 13: Etosha National Park (Namibia)

SWAKOPMUND – ETOSHA. After breakfast, transfer to Swakopmund Airport and fly to Etosha, where you will arrive at your secluded lodge with lovely savannah views. If time allows, you may join a guided game drive within the renowned Etosha National Park. Be on the lookout for elephants, lions, springbok, zebras and the elusive black rhino. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 16 May 28

Day 14: Etosha National Park (Namibia)

ETOSHA. Start the day with an exciting game drive into the heart of Etosha National Park to see more of the region’s game and bird species. After lunch, enjoy ample free time where you can take a dip in the refreshing infinity pool and keep an eye out for wildlife at the neighboring watering holes. Later, join an afternoon game drive. You may also opt to spend the entire day exploring the National Park and its wildlife, with a picnic lunch included. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 17 May 28

Day 15: Etosha National Park (Namibia)

ETOSHA – WINDHOEK. This morning, head east through the magnificent Namibian landscapes and villages. Along the route, you will stop in Outju and visit the Himba Living Museum. The Himbas are an Indigenous semi-nomadic people who adhere to their ancestors’ way of life and traditions. Connect with the villagers as they continue with their daily routines and learn about the unique distinctive red ochre paste they apply to their skin and hair. Following this experience, continue onward to Windhoek. The day concludes with a farewell dinner with your local AmaWaterways guide. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 15: Windhoek (Namibia)

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 15: Outjo (Namibia)

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 16: Windhoek (Namibia)

DEPART WINDHOEK. Join your scheduled transfer to Windhoek’s airport for your onward flight. Please be mindful that your check-out time is at 10:00am. (B)

Arrives On: 19 May 28

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