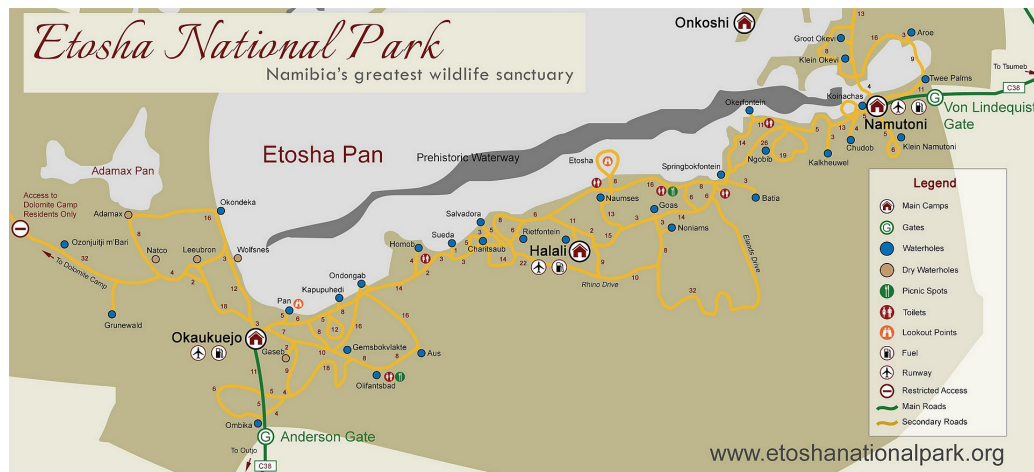
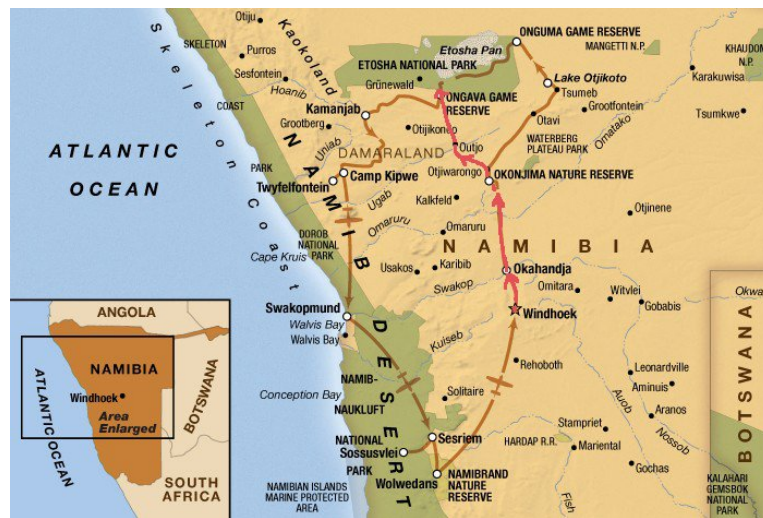


Etosha National Park Namibia

The African country of Namibia gained its independence from South Africa on March 1, 1990. Etosha was officially established as a national park in 1967. It is located in northern Namibia. The part is 22,270 km² in size (Algonquin Provincial Park is 7.653 km²) and it has a savannah desert climate.

The park is criss-crossed by many of kilometres of gravel roads which allow nature lovers to visit its many natural and man-made waterholes to see a myriad of mammal and bird species. Navigating the park is simple by using the map and following the well-marked concrete road markers are many intersections.



During the winter dry season (May-October), wildlife is more easily seen as the animals visit waterholes daily to drink. You can conduct self-directed safari drives in Etosha providing the you follow a number of rules for your own safety. You must only leave you vehicle is specific safe locations and must always remain in one of the lodge compounds between sunset and sunrise.

With the dry conditions, Etosha does not have any Crocodiles, Hippos or Cape Buffalo. You can still see African Elephant, Lion, Black and possibly White Rhino, Leopard, Zebra, Giraffe, as well as numerous species of antelope.

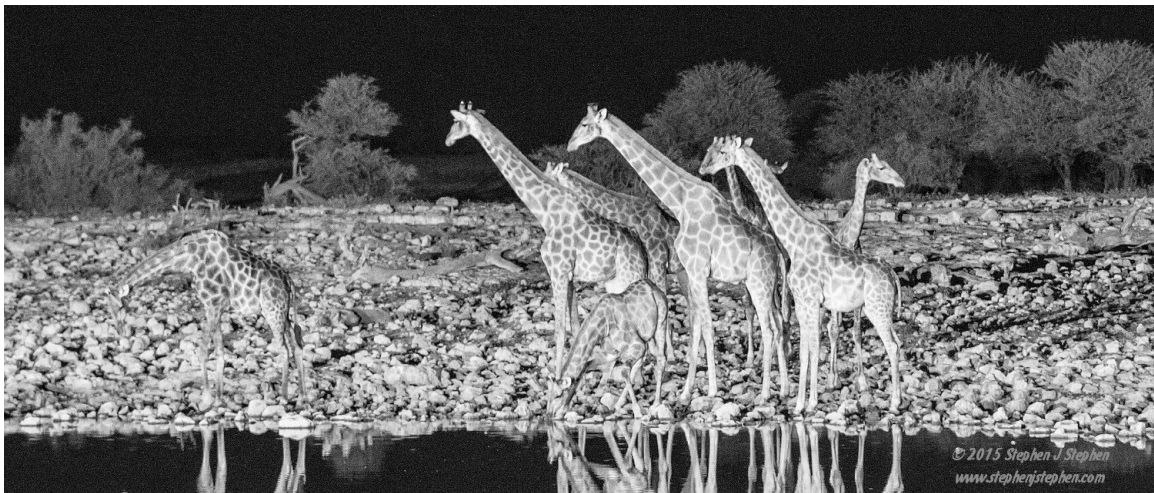


Black Rhino



Plains Zebra

You can also watch animals at night as well as each lodge compound has an illuminated waterhole.



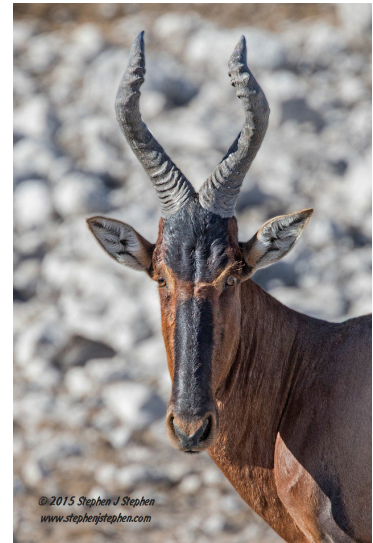
A number of antelope species can be seen including: Eland, Black-faced Impala, Springbok, Steenbok, Blue Wildebeest, Greater Kudu, Gemsbok (Oryx) and Red Hartebeest among others.



Black-faced Impala



Gemsbok



Red Hartebeest

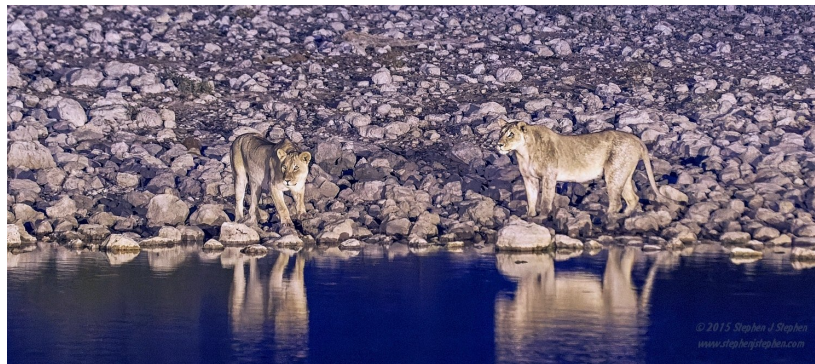
When herbivores arrive at the waterholes fights sometimes break out. Competition for water, mates and the risk of attack from predators often make the animals nervous.



Plains Zebra



Blue Wildebeest



Lionesses at night.



Black-backed Jackel



Male Leopard

There are challenges in photographing wildlife in Etosha. You are restricted to a vehicle while outside the compound. Shooting positions and angles are limited. The sun is bright throughout most of the day and heat shimmer can play havoc with obtaining sharp focus. Nevertheless the excitement of seeing so many large mammal species, often in good numbers, more that make up for the challenges. With the gravel roads a crew-cab pickup truck is a better option than a normal car.

As with all wild animals, part of seeing them includes timing and luck. Enjoy what you have in front and take advantage of photographing whatever animals and behaviours you see.

Accommodations are good at each compound with spacious chalets with all the amenities. Some people opt for renting trucks with camping tents on the roof. These too must stay in the compounds at night for safety reasons.

Main meals are generally taken in the restaurant. Breakfast is often a buffet style with a cooking station for eggs and other hot dishes.

All in all a trip to Etosha is definitely an incredible experience!

