

It looks like it's going to be a hot Festive Season, with temperatures already soaring well into the late thirties. As Christmas approaches and most of Namibia starts to wind down, Swakopmund will start to prepare to play host to the huge crowds of visitors who will be escaping the heat of the interior.

Together We Make An Awesome Team



THE SAFARIWISE FAMILY

From left to right:

Neil is the founder of SafariWise. His name has become synonymous with adventurers, wildlife lovers and more specialized interests, such as bird watching. Working with people is second nature to Neil and our clients can't speak highly enough of him.

Berdene is the financial and brand manager for SafariWise, and ensures that the office runs smoothly. But she's not limited to the office - occasionally she joins camping tours to assist Neil in taking great care of our guests. Berdene is also involved with our charitable and environmental projects.

Liezel has been part of the SafariWise family for almost 2 years now. In the mornings you'll find Liezel hard at work in the office, handling reservations, corresponding with agents, clients and suppliers, and creating our stunning itineraries.

Daniel, simply known as Robbie, joined our SafariWise team in early 2010 as a guide. He completed his ornithology and fauna courses at the Namibian Academy for Tourism & Hospitality with outstanding results, and has become very popular with our guests.

Sabina joined us in July 2011 when she moved to Swakopmund. Prior to this, she worked as a reservations and tour consultant in Windhoek since 2000. Sabina will be handling quotations, reservations and marketing.

Simson is our driver and back-up guy. He has been involved in tourism for over ten years and is well-known throughout the beaten tracks of Namibia. He often joins the back-up team to help keep everything running smoothly.

Samuel hails from northern Namibia where he trained as a chef. He is now our BUSH CHEF and manages to whip up tasty dishes no matter where he finds himself! He shares his family recipes with all and is a camp favourite around the fire.

Malakia is our indispensable and industrious camp assistant in Namibia. He and his back up team travel ahead of the safari and set up camp in the most beautiful and remote places. His traditional cooking, easy smile and helpful nature have earned him much respect and admiration.

RECENT CLIENTS COMMENTS

Dear Neil,

I can never thank you enough for the great safari you organised for us. It was fabulous and you and your organisational team are the best! I am in the process of taking about 1200 photos off my camera. We are having dinner with my oldest daughter and her daughter tonight – and they will be shown some pretty good photos – even though I say so myself! The leopards, the buffalo, the country side we were in, etc etc. Pictures that will always remind me of a truly spectacular holiday. I can never thank you enough – it was great. I really hope that I shall be able to come over again with some of the family to show them what I love about your country and its people and wildlife. I feel really at home in Namibia and that is a fact! And those wild dogs – what a privilege.

Jill Damment, October 2011, England.

Hi! Neil,

People ask what were "the best" things about the tour and I'm lost for an answer! I think things like the temperature, colour of the arid landscape, and the Southern Cross in the starry night sky, were all very comforting. It is very difficult to name just a few highlights and when I try, I find I'm literally walking my way through the whole trip. So this is the best I can do: A Star rating system! - out of 5.

Photographically ★★★★★ (my only problems were my own, like I needed a heavier tripod etc)

Transport (getting us from A to B) ★★★★★ (you're an excellent driver) How's the new Toyota you've ordered going?

Accommodation ★★★★★ the tents were great, but a tiny bit small when you get the luggage in. Not a complaint – just an observation.

Meals ★★★★★★ I still can't believe the consistently high standard of the menus and attention to detail.

I can tell you about the things that 'blew me out of the water'!!! Like: How much information is stored in your brain! Your 20/20 vision. Your ability to stop on a penny at the sight of a minuscule lizard on a rock 15 feet from the edge of the road when we were travelling at around 60 kph! Your ability to name every feathered entity that enters your line of vision. Your ability to be at the right waterhole at the right time - and - know exactly how much longer to wait!! Actually now I've started, this could go on for a long time, so I'll stop now and just say, you deliver a standard of adventure safari excellence I've not even heard of before. Congratulations on having some great staff as well. Samuel, Simson and Malakia made camp life so very comfortable and welcoming. Their sense of fun and their ready smiles were a wonderful sight when we returned to camp. Not everyone can say that they have lived a childhood dream. I can! I look forward to catching up with you next year.

Kind Regards, Wendy



Set Departures 2012:

16 Day Madagascar Wildlife Tour

1 Set Departure

07/04/2012 – 22/04/2012 – *Fully Booked!!*
New dates coming soon! Or join our
Amazing Madagascar Tour in September!

12 Day Namibia Lodging Safari

2 Set Departures

09/06/2012 – 20/06/2012
 12/11/2012 – 23/11/2012

14 Day Namibia Photo Tour

1 Set Departure

20/08/2012 – 01/09/2012

08 Day Chobe & Victoria Falls Photo Tour

1 Set Departure

02/09/2012 – 09/09/2012

08 Day Rwanda Photo Tour

1 Set Departure

12/09/2012 – 19/09/2012

09 Day Kenya Migration Tour

1 Set Departure

21/09/2012 – 29/09/2012

16 Day Amazing Madagascar Photo Tour

1 Set Departure

21/09/2012 – 06/10/2012

We also tailor make tours!

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www.birdwatching.com.na

Tel / Fax ++264 64 405220

2 Phillip Street
 Swakopmund, NAMIBIA

Not all those who wander are lost

-JRR Tolkien-

No road is long with good company

-Turkish Proverb-



MADAGASCAR WILDLIFE TOUR

Highlights:

Antananarivo – Morondava – Bekopaka – Tsingy – Kirindy – Ranohira – Ranomafana – Antsirabe – Andasibe – Mantadia

Manahaona! Madagascar is an Island in the Indian Ocean, off Southern Africa's east coast. This is a place where evolution has run wild! See remarkable lemurs (51+ varieties), primitive primate's, brilliantly coloured chameleons & lizards, tenrecs, fossas, bats and rodents. This tour will be led by Neil MacLeod and offers guests of all ages a unique experience. It is family friendly and great for keen photographers. A moderate level of fitness is required due to selected walking excursions.

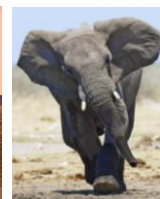


NAMIBIA LODGING SAFARI

Highlights:

Namib Naukluft Park - The Skeleton Coast - Damaraland - Etosha National Park – Erindi Game Reserve

This safari will take you to some of the amazing highlights of Namibia. Visit the Namib Naukluft Park, the Skeleton Coast, Damaraland, Etosha National Park and Erindi Game Reserve. Your accommodation on this tour is at lodges and resorts with en-suite facilities.



NAMIBIA PHOTO TOUR

Highlights:

Namib Naukluft Park - The Skeleton Coast - Damaraland - Etosha National Park – Africat Foundation

Your camera will be smoking busy right from the first day! Stunning landscapes, abundant wildlife and a huge variety of bird species allow for incredible photographic opportunities. Any keen photographer, whether amateur or professional, will love this tour. Many days will start before sunrise with an early shoot, with another session in the afternoon. Between sessions there will be individualized image critiques, digital workflow sessions and Q&A discussions (as requested). This tour will be jointly led by Mike Byrne from Split Seconds and Robbie Bergh of SafariWise.

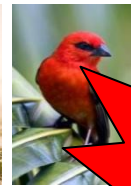


CHOBE & VICTORIA FALLS PHOTO TOUR

Highlights:

Chobe National Park – Victoria Falls

Photographic opportunities abound as you enjoy private game drives each morning and private boat cruises each afternoon at Chobe National Park, which has one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in Africa. Then visit one of the seven wonders of the world, the incredible Victoria Falls!



FULLY BOOKED!
 New set
 departure to be
 advised soon



In 1992 three mothers with Down syndrome children founded the Down's Support Group in Swakopmund. Initially it catered for children with Down's syndrome, but soon included all handicapped children, and so in 1995 they changed their name to C.H.A.I.N. (Children with Handicaps Action in Namibia). Currently 18 children attend the half day classes, but the ultimate goal is to offer full day classes to many more children. Special educational programmes have been adapted to meet each child's individual needs, and once a week they are taken to fun-gym, horse-riding lessons and physiotherapy, and when possible special outings. C.H.A.I.N. endeavours to provide the children with education and medical care, in order to give them the best chance to lead independent lives.

If you would like to make a donation, or "adopt" one of the children for a small monthly fee of NAD 100-00 per child, please visit their website for more details.

www.chain.org.na



RWANDA PHOTO TOUR

Highlights:

Nyungwe Forest National Park - Parc National des Volcans - Virunga Mountains - Lakes Burera & Ruhondo

The Land of a Thousand Hills beckons you! This tour will take you to Nyungwe Forest, a birders paradise with 13 species of primates, and to Volcanoes National Park, the most beautiful park in the country with its rich montaine ecosystems. Hike the Virunga Mountains in search of Gorillas, and explore crater lakes in a traditional canoe. Amateurs and professionals welcome!

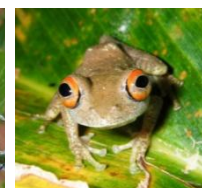


KENYA MIGRATION TOUR

Highlights:

Samburu National Park - Aberdares Mountain Forest - Aberdare National Park - Lake Nakuru - Lake Naivasha - Masai Mara

This safari will take you to one of the most amazing sights on Earth - the Masai Mara Migration. During these seasonal migrations, the Mara is home to up to half a million wildebeest and an impressive number of zebra. These large numbers of animals give rise to a proportionate number of predators. Whatever the players, the spectacle of nature unfolding is always awesome! The precise timing of the annual wildebeest migration depends on the rains, and therefore it is an unpredictable, spontaneous natural event.



AMAZING MADAGASCAR TOUR

Highlights:

Baobab Allee - Reniala - Tsingy de Bemaraha - Kirindy - Reniala - Ifaty - Ranomafana - Isalo - Andasibe

This is a stunning culture and nature tour on this unique island, found just off the east coast of Africa. We will visit some of the best locations, and overnight in some of the best accommodation on the island. You will be utterly captivated by the amazing wildlife, the friendly people and the incredible landscapes....



ALL PHOTOGRAPHIC TOURS WILL BE LED BY MIKE BYRNE OF SPLIT SECONDS

We welcome photographers of all levels on our photo tours. Not a photographer? Don't worry, you are welcome too!

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Until next time!