

*This is our 1st newsletter for 2011 and we are so excited to share our good rains with you. Namibia has been so blessed!*



This year Namibia has seen an exceptional good rainy season throughout the whole country.

If you are living in the northern hemisphere you might find it just about impossible to mention the words "rain" and "beautiful" in one sentence let alone seeing it that way. For us here in Namibia, in Southern Africa, rain truly is beautiful, absolutely fantastic and the ultimate treat on a hot summer's day!

If you'd like to wet your appetite, here are a few good reasons to visit Namibia this year:

You'll get to see blooming deserts and the picture-perfect contrasts of orange-coloured sand dunes covered in fresh grass growth of the most intense green imaginable against a backdrop of a lilac-tinted sunset sky - in return for having to travel in a 4x4 vehicle instead of a sedan in order to make it to the best spots on our gravel roads. You'll get to see a myriad of off-spring of game species in wildlife reserves, if not them giving birth - but it might take a bit longer to find the animals because the rain made them less dependent from pumped water supplies. If you are a keen birder or into insects, there is no better time to visit Namibia than our summer months to observe the exotic African species in great numbers and varieties.

The list goes on and on, and what is fascinating to visitors because it is different from their every-day experiences also fascinates us locals, again and again, not only because Namibia looks even more stunning after each summer downpour than it already does during the dry season, but especially because we cannot and do not take the availability of water for granted.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*Neil and Robbie just came back from a birding tour.*

*"Life is like a rainbow.  
You need both the sun and  
rain to make its colours  
appear."*

*Wolf Dyke*

**Kilometers travelled: 2,536**

**Bird species: 328**

**Mammal species: 41**

**Reptile species: 13**





## **NEW set departures 2011:**

**13-days Namibia Photo Tour  
(with Split Seconds)  
27 June to 9 July 2011**

**20-days Namibia and Botswana  
wildlife safari  
1 to 20 October 2011**

**Should you be interested  
in any of the above  
packages, please send us  
an email to**

**[info@safariwise.com.na](mailto:info@safariwise.com.na)**

**and we will send you  
your detailed  
programme.**

**Looking forward to  
hearing from you!**

### **NAMIBIA PHOTO TOUR:**

Your cameras will be smoking busy right from the first day, when we travel from Windhoek to Sossusvlei. Stunning landscapes are populated by ostrich, zebra, gemsbok, kudu, springbok, suricate, huge social weaver's nests, and various raptors.

We will photograph daily with many days starting before sunrise with an early morning shoot lasting until around 10:00 am. We will go out again in the afternoon until sunset, guaranteeing a minimum of seven hours of photography. Between photo sessions there will be individualized image critiques, digital workflow sessions and Q&A discussions (as requested).

Your accommodation varies from luxury hotel rooms to deluxe wilderness resorts. The Hansa Hotel at Swakopmund is one of the top rated hotels in all of Namibia. At Sossusvlei we will stay in chalets constructed from wood, canvas and thatch. Designed to creatively embrace the granite boulders, our Damaraland camp features igloo-shaped rooms, with en-suite baths, fronted by large outside decks to admire the view.

This tour will be jointly led by Mike Byrne from Split Seconds and Robbie Bergh of SafariWise.

### **NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA WILDLIFE SAFARI:**

Join us for this amazing tour of a lifetime! Namibia and Botswana's Okavango Delta. This 20-day safari should deliver up to 280 bird species, 40 or more mammal species, several reptile and amphibian species as well. This safari takes you through Etosha National Park, up to the beautiful Caprivi and Mahango National Park. We enter Botswana for a few days to experience the sounds of the Okavango Delta. The Okavango Delta is Botswana's most famous and popular safari destination. It is a unique wetland system – one of the largest inland deltas in the world.

This tour will be led by Neil MacLeod.



**Our motto is and will remain –  
Age has no boundaries!**



*Besides all the tours we offer, SafariWise is always busy with “something extra” ..... We have wonderful friends in our lives who care about Namibia and its’ people!*

The Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature worked on an Environmental Education Programme with the framework of “Garbage Free Nature” and especially the campaign “**Some throw away, while others starve**” which is based on the human values collaboration, responsibility, social justice and respect. Our friend, Nikos Petrou, President of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature contacted us as the Greek schools wanted to bind with schools in Namibia.

SafariWise arranged with two educators in Swakopmund, Luke and Mart-Mari Allen, to run with this fantastic project. They had various projects amongst their schools, which they presented at a ceremony in April 2010 while they were invited to Greece. Altogether 14 Greek schools were involved. The learners raised numerous funds to assist the disadvantaged children and various parcels were sent to Namibia for these children.

You can read more about the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature by following the link below.  
[www.eepf.gr](http://www.eepf.gr)



## **NIKOS PETROU WITH HIS LATEST BOOK** *“Greece , the Land of Diversity”*



As a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature presents the book "Greece. The Land of Diversity", the definitive publication on Greek biodiversity by wildlife photographer and author Nikos Petrou.

The 372 pages (29X29 cm) are illustrated with 610 pictures of species and habitats. The texts are based on the latest available scientific information.

The first part defines biodiversity and addresses the threats at the world and European levels. It then explores the conditions supporting the amazing diversity of Greek nature and describes

the flora and fauna in detail, with emphasis on endemic species. Finally it presents the European framework for biodiversity protection, the present day situation and problems in Greece, as well as future prospectives.

In the second part, 19 independent chapters focus on species and habitats of special interest, such as the birds of the small, uninhabited Aegean islands, the flora and fauna 'specials' of Lesbos, wolves, bears and carnivorous plants, wetlands, sand dunes and loggerhead turtles, and many more.

[www.biodiv.gr](http://www.biodiv.gr)



Partial view of the hall



From right to left: Eleftheria Traiou, journalist, moderator; Stavros Dimas, former European Commissioner for the Environment; Tina Birbili, Minister for the Environment, Costa Carras, leading environmentalist; Nikos Petrou, author.

#### SafariWise endeavours to:

- Create memories for our guests that will be treasured, never to be forgotten.
- Cater for those with a sense of adventure and a heart for fun!
- Uphold our standard of service that has resulted in a 90% return of clients year after year.

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We trust that you enjoyed reading our newsletter. Until next time!