



NAMIBIA



INTRODUCTION:

Namibia is a vast country with a surface area of 824 268 km², it is about four times the size of the United Kingdom and 27 times the size of Belgium. Blessed with bountiful sunshine, an abundance of wildlife and an intriguing variety of flora and fauna. Attributes that make it a country to which visitors return again and again are the friendliness and cultural diversity of its people, and above all, the pristine quality and extraordinary beauty of its landscape. The country derives its name from the Namib Desert, a unique geological feature renowned for the unusual and haunting quality of its landscape. Far from being lifeless and barren, this narrow strip of moist coastal desert features an unusual variety of desert-adapted flora and fauna. The country can be divided into four distinct topographical regions. Of these the most definitive is possibly the Namib Desert, which consists of a 50 km – 140 km wide coastal plain extending along the entire coastline, interspersed with dune belts, dry riverbeds and deeply eroded canyons. The central plateau, which runs from north to south, has an average altitude of between 1,000 m and 2,000 m. This plateau gradually falls away towards the east, where a sandy strip of land merges into the level expanse of the Kalahari Desert. Dense, bush covered plains to the northeast of the Etosha Pan included the high-rainfall areas of Kavango and Caprivi, typified by woodland savannah and riverine vegetation.

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE:

<i>Destinations:</i>	<i>Windhoek, Sossusvlei, Skeleton Coast, Damaraland, Etosha National Park & Okonjima</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>20th August to 1st September 2012</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>13 days</i>
<i>Park Fees:</i>	<i>All park fees included</i>
<i>Transfers:</i>	<i>All road transfers</i>
<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>En suite accommodation at the following: River Crossing Lodge, Sossus Dune Lodge, Hansa Hotel, Camp Kipwe, Halali Resort, Okaukuejo Resort & Okonjima Lodge</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>Meals as listed in itinerary</i>
<i>Guides:</i>	<i>1 x SafariWise guide & 1 x Split seconds Photographic guide</i>
<i>Transport:</i>	<i>1 x Pop-up roof vehicle - Toyota land cruiser (photo on last page)</i>

EXCLUDED FROM PACKAGE:

- *International flights*
- *Gratuities*
- *Optional activities*
- *Travel insurance*
- *Laundry*



- *Items of a personal nature*

TOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1: 20th August 2012

Hosea Kutako International Airport – River Crossing Lodge (Windhoek)

Please ensure that your flight arrives in Namibia before 12h00 should you wish to join the optional afternoon activity at N/a'ankusê Lodge. Upon arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport you will be met by a representative from SafariWise and then be transferred to River Crossing. River Crossing Lodge is situated just east of Namibia's capital city Windhoek, nestled amongst the foothills of the Auas Mountains. This location makes it an ideal first or final destination on any visit to Namibia, especially if your onward journey departs from the main international airport. Also, as it is a mere 5 min's drive from the city centre, it is not too far from the main shopping, medical and banking facilities. The German architecture at River Crossing Lodge resembles a farm style of yesteryear, complete with corrugated roofs, wide balconies decorated with impressive pots of geraniums, all on an unspoiled game estate.

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>River Crossing Lodge</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>Lunch (lunch @ N/a'ankusê Lodge at a Cost of USD 20.00 per person) & Dinner</i>
<i>Included activities:</i>	<i>Photo opportunities in and around Windhoek</i>
<i>Optional activities:</i>	<i>Carnivore feeding @ N/a'ankusê Lodge (Cost USD 65.00 per person). Activities at River Crossing lodge: Breakfast ride, sundowner ride, Hourly rate, am and pm game drives.</i>

Day 2 & 3: 21st & 22nd August 2012

Sossus Dune Lodge (Sossusvlei)

After breakfast we travel to the Namib-Naukluft Park. Sossus Dune Lodge offers guests an evocative and life changing experience. Situated within the park, guests benefit from being able to reach Sossusvlei before sunrise, and stay until after sunset, and on their return after an exhilarating day, relax in the tranquillity and splendour of the Namib Desert, under the spectacular African sky. Sossusvlei, Namibia's famous highlight in the heart of the Namib Desert is a huge clay pan, enclosed by giant sand dunes. Some of the spectacular hills of sand are, at a height of 300 metres, the highest in the world. Only after a heavy rainfall, which is a rare event in this area, does the "vlei" fill with water. As the clay layers hardly allow any water infiltration, a turquoise lake will remain for quite some time. After lunch, we visit the Sesriem Canyon, one of the amazing features of the Namib. Here the Tsauchab River has carved a gorge - up to 30 meters deep and about 1 km long - into the conglomerate gravels deposited some 15 - 18 million years ago during a wetter phase in the history of the Namib. From the parking area a track leads to the canyon floor and a walk into Sesriem is like descending through the layers of time.

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>Sossus Dune Lodge</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>All meals</i>
<i>Included activities:</i>	<i>Sossusvlei & Sesriem excursions</i>
<i>Optional activities:</i>	<i>Hot-air ballooning</i>

Day 4 & 5: 23rd & 24th August 2012

Hansa Hotel (Swakopmund)

After breakfast this morning we drive north and then west along Kuiseb Canyon to Walvis Bay on the Skeleton Coast, arriving at Swakopmund in the late afternoon. Swakopmund is Namibia's "big" seaside resort town and our prestigious hotel is situated within easy walking distance for shopping. Swakopmund has always been the 'jewel of



Namibia's coastline.' It has built itself a reputation as an adrenaline-filled destination, and there is something for everybody here. The Namib dunes, beach walks, swimming and sightseeing through this historical town, and a trip to the craft market are very popular here.

Accommodation: Hansa Hotel
 Meals: All meals
 Included activities: Tommy's Living Desert tour OR Dolphin cruise on day 5
 Optional activities: Skydiving, sandboarding, quadbiking, shopping and sightseeing in Swakopmund

Living Desert Tour:

The Living Desert Tour, originally developed by Tommy himself, is a unique 4x4 adventure drive through the dunes outside Swakopmund, Namibia. Just the drive in the dunes is an amazing experience, but Tommy will show you a lot more than sand. The tour takes you from the vegetated, life-rich eastern side of the dunes, right through the dunes to the Atlantic Ocean on the western side of the dune belt. Tommy introduces you to some of the fascinating, hidden life in this apparently barren landscape that is part of the Namib Desert. Here you can find creatures endemic to the Namib: the sidewinder, the Palmato Gecko with its transparent skin and beautiful colours - we dig into the dune side to find this nocturnal desert-dweller. You track the large Namaqua Chameleon, and watch it enjoy brunch. Then it's a dash to catch the swift sand-diving lizard. You find out how the area's plants and small animals survive the harsh climate, and how they obtain water for life. You also track a FitzSimon's Burrowing Skink across the dune face, in hopes of catching this legless lizard. Along the way, Tommy will explain the variety of dune colours. At the end of the tour, weather permitting, you experience a 'roaring' dune. Other characters to be found in the dune belt are the 'dancing' White Lady Spider; the Parabuthus Villosus black scorpion; the occasional horned adder or sand-snake; desert wasps, fish-moths, crickets and several beetle species, and many more. A Living Desert Tour with the enthusiastic Tommy is educational, fun and an unforgettable experience. You see the desert and dunes with new eyes. The photographic opportunities are endless too: make sure those batteries are charged before you leave!

Dolphin Cruise:

Levo Tours offers the best in many different water tours on the west coast of Namibia. Merrilyn & Ottmar have a wealth of experience and knowledge that will make each tour a longstanding joyous occasion for those who experience them. Situated on the western coast of Namibia there is a wealth of fishing and sea life not found anywhere else on the globe that is waiting to be experienced by the rest of the world. Departures take place daily in the mornings only, from the Walvis Bay harbour. Boats depart from the Tanker Jetty at the Walvis Bay Harbour travel past the fishing factories, along the coast to the Bird Island and foreign boats, and then cross to pelican point. A large variety of sea birds such as pelicans, flamingos and cormorants can be seen during the cruise. Friendly seals come join us on the boat to be fed, while dolphins swim around enjoying the fun. Fresh oysters, snacks, champagne, beer and soft drinks are served at the seal colony before returning to Walvis Bay via the lagoon.

Day 6 & 7: 25th & 26th August 2012

Camp Kipwe (Damaraland)

After breakfast we travel to Camp Kipwe. Camp Kipwe is situated within the Twyfelfontein Conservancy in the Damaraland area, only 4kms from its sister lodge of Mowani Mountain Camp. The closest towns are Uis (130km to the south) and Khorixas (130kms to the east). Damaraland is renowned for its geology, unusual rock formations, rock paintings, and rare desert-adapted flora and fauna. Activities include elephant nature drives lasting 3-6 hours, starting in the morning. These guided trips include exploring the surrounding area in a 4x4 vehicle, in search of Namibia's remaining 600 desert dwelling elephant. The Twyfelfontein excursions will last for around 2 ½ hrs, starting in the afternoon. The drive will include visits to the Burnt Mountain, the Organ Pipes, as well as to the fascinating Bushman Engravings. There are a number of guided nature walks that will cover trails in and around



Camp Kipwe, the durations will depend on the guests. We go in search of the desert adapted elephant, Namibia's desert elephants are a source of great interest, though not a separate species, and not much different from other savannah elephants, Namibia's desert-dwelling elephants are special nonetheless. They live in the Kunene Region, encompassing 115,154km² of mostly sandy desert, Rocky Mountains and arid gravel plains in Namibia's northwest. They have adapted to their dry, semi-desert environment by having a smaller body mass with proportionally longer legs and seemingly larger feet than other elephants. Their physical attributes allow them to cross miles of sand dunes to reach water. They have even been filmed sliding down a dune face to drink at a pool in a desert oasis. They survive by eating moisture-laden vegetation growing in ephemeral riverbeds and with their ability to go several days without drinking water. Sometimes they must travel long distances to reach a water source. By living in smaller than average family units of only two or three animals, they decrease pressure on food and water resources. Researchers have noted that they destroy fewer trees than elephants living in higher rainfall areas in other parts of Africa. We also visit the Petrified Forest. The trees are about 250 million years old and were deposited in the area by the flood which came down from areas further north. The fact that the trunks do not have any branches or roots suggest that these trees grew somewhere else and were carried to their present location by rivers or floods. The trunks were deposited in silica rich environment and were excluded from contact with oxygen which prevented decay. During the course of time molecules of silica penetrated the wood and replaced wood molecules. At present around 50 trunks can be seen on the site with the longest being more that 30 meters long.

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>Camp Kipwe</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>All meals</i>
<i>Included activities:</i>	<i>Game drives in search for the desert adapted elephant, Twyfelfontein rock paintings, Burnt Mountain, Organ pipes and Petrified Forest</i>
<i>Optional activities:</i>	<i>N.A.</i>

Day 8 & 9: 27th & 28th August 2012

Camp Kipwe – Halali Resort (Etosha National Park)

After breakfast we travel to the Etosha National Park. Halali is strategically located halfway between Okaukuejo and Namutoni in Namibia's Etosha National Park. It is surrounded by some of the most popular water holes in the Park. The resorts name, of German origin, is derived from the bugle call made to announce the end of a hunt. Halali has a secluded, scenic, flood-lit waterhole. At Halali, the waterhole is a short walk from the camp. The major benefit here is that you will not be disturbed or distracted when viewing the abundant game. Etosha is one of the largest and best game viewing parks in the whole of Africa. The reason is in the Ovambo name Etosha, which means 'huge white area' or 'place of dry water', depending upon whom you ask. For most of the year a vast shallow pan, which was once a lake the size of Holland, shimmers a glaring bright white from crystallised salt across its entire surface. Surrounding the pans is a variety of grass and woodlands amongst which live a wonderful variety of animals and birds, insects and reptiles. The inhospitable pan is 75 miles (120km) long and 45 miles (72km) at its widest, and lone wildebeest or herds of Oryx can be seen crossing it or just standing as if mesmerised. If ever you are likely to see a mirage it will be here, as the intense hazy sun reflecting against the shimmering pans distorts your eyesight and makes you see all sorts of things that are not really there. In complete contrast, when the rain arrives, up to three feet (1metre) of water turns the parched surface into an algae-rich soup attracting thousands of birds. The pink mist shifting slowly across the water is a huge flock of flamingos, for which this is an important breeding ground. After a good watering, the surrounding woodland savannah and scrubland, which is normally sparsely vegetated, bursts with an abundance of yellow blooms and rich grasses. Etosha has dozens of waterholes; some are natural while others are artificially fed from boreholes. During the dry season, staking out a position at a waterhole viewpoint is a rewarding way to watch game without moving from one spot. A veritable 'Noah's Arc' of species queue up to take a drink, with elephants hogging the lion's share!

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>Halali Resort</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>All meals</i>



Included activities: Water tower, floodlit water hole for game viewing and game drives
Optional activities: Night drives with NWR

Day 10 & 11: 29th & 30th August 2012

Halali Resort - Okaukuejo Resort (Etosha National Park)

After breakfast we travel within the National Park to Okaukuejo Resort. Pronounced oka-KOO-yo, Okaukuejo being one of only three places to stay in an area the size of Israel, your accommodation is naturally quite exclusive. Numerous water holes give rise to a wealth of wildlife images, including a fantastic white clay elephant wallow. Immense bull elephants roll in this gooey white clay to emerge from the wallow as the famous “ghost elephants” of Etosha. When it was originally proclaimed at the turn of the century the Etosha Park consisted of an area of 100,000 square kilometres. Etosha, meaning "Great White Place", is dominated by a massive mineral pan. The pan is part of the Kalahari Basin, the floor of which was formed around 1000 million years ago. The Etosha Pan covers around 25% of the National Park. The pan was originally a lake fed by the Kunene River. However the course of the river changed thousands of years ago and the lake dried up. The pan now is a large dusty depression of salt and dusty clay which fills only if the rains are heavy and even then only holds water for a short time. This temporary water in the Etosha Pan attracts thousands of wading birds including impressive flocks of flamingos. The perennial springs along the edges of the Etosha Pan draw large concentrations of wildlife and birds. Etosha Pan is surrounded by sweetveld Savanna plains, which sustain extraordinary numbers of wildlife. Etosha is home to 114 mammals and some 340 bird species. It houses large numbers of globally endangered or threatened species, most notably black rhinoceros and African elephant. Because of its size, the park serves as a genetic reserve for various species of animals and plants.

Accommodation: Okaukuejo Resort
Meals: All meals
Included activities: Water tower, floodlit water hole for game viewing and game drives
Optional activities: Night drives with NWR

Day 12: 31st August 2012

Okaukuejo Resort – Okonjima Lodge (Waterberg)

After breakfast we depart to Okonjima Lodge. West of the Waterberg Plateau the vast plains are occasionally broken by the remnants of the Etjo sandstone, which once covered large areas of northern Namibia. Nestled amongst one of these relics – the Omboroko Mountains – lies Okonjima, a Herero name meaning “place of the baboons”. Okonjima is a family run guest lodge and the home of the Africat Foundation. You will be able to see leopard and cheetah during their feeding times and join highly informative Bushmen and Bantu trails. At Okonjima you will see the Africat Foundation at work, learn more about leopard and cheetah, and have excellent photographic opportunities.

Accommodation: Okonjima Lodge - Main Camp
Meals: Full board
Included activities: **THE AFRICAT FOUNDATION:** AfriCat is a non-profit organisation set up to conserve and protect threatened cheetah, leopard, and other wild carnivores of Namibia. Visitors will be able to observe some of this programme at work and learn more about these amazing and beautiful animals.
LEOPARD VIEWING: Leopards are frequently seen, giving visitors an opportunity to observe these magnificent predators that are ‘radio-tracked’ from our game-viewing vehicles. The leopards roam freely and catch their own prey within the 4 500ha & 16 000ha rehabilitation nature reserves. These cats however, are notoriously people-shy and sightings are not guaranteed.



THE CHEETAH PROJECT: Offers visitors a valuable insight into the 'welfare work' of The AfriCat Foundation.

LARGE CARNIVORE TRACKING ON FOOT: Visitors are invited to participate on foot in the radio-tracking of the rehabilitated Cheetahs or the Spotted Hyenas' on the Tracking Trail within the 4 500ha & 16 000ha rehabilitation nature reserves.

BUSHMAN TRAIL: Experience a day in the life of a Bushman. It constitutes an easy walking trail and is highly informative. Guests get to learn about the art of making traditional artifacts' and how the San adapt and survive in an unforgiving wilderness environment. Participation is welcomed!

NATURE TRAIL: Self-guided walking trails of up to 8 km, for those guests who want to spend some time alone in the solitude of the Okonjima wilderness.

BIRD WATCHING: Identify some of the more than 250+ species in the area, including some of the Namibian endemics – Carp's Black Tit, Hartlaub's Francolin and the Damara Rock Runner.

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS: MAIN CAMP & BUSH CAMP GUESTS ONLY! At the nocturnal hide visitors may view after-dinner 'Nightlife' such as porcupine, honey-badgers and caracal, amongst others.

PHOTOGRAPHY: With the abundance of animals and bird life and spectacular scenery, Okonjima is a photographer's paradise. Be sure to advise your clients to bring plenty of film (for the old cameras) and many memory cards for the new!!

Photographers take note: Due to the specific nature of our rehabilitation project – all free roaming cats on OKONJIMA are radio-collared. ALL cats that are part of AfriCat's Welfare Project are NOT radio-collared.

Day 13: 1st September 2012

Hosea Kutako International Airport

After breakfast you will be transferred back to Windhoek to the International airport for your flight back home.

Accommodation: N.A.
 Meals: Breakfast
 Included activities: N.A.
 Optional activities: N.A.



Quoted price: 2012

Days 1 – 13

6 pax:

GBP 4,760.00 per person sharing

GBP 445.00 single supplement

Notes:

- a) The costing for the Tour Programme is based on a minimum of six (6) paying guests.
- b) This is a quotation and is valid for 20th August to 1st September 2012.
- ~~c) No reservations have been made and all accommodation, flights and transport are subject to availability.~~
- d) Should any of the accommodation mentioned not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable venue, which might affect the final quoted price.
- e) Quoted price is also subject to availability, fuel/gas price and possibly exchange rate fluctuations.
- f) 15% non-refundable deposit is required on confirmation of safari.
- g) Full payment is required sixty (60) days prior to arrival.

Please consult our webpage, www.safariwise.com.na for the Terms & Conditions.

Please call on the office of SafariWise™ for bookings and/or enquiries:

SafariWise™
PO Box 2796
SWAKOPMUND
Namibia

2 Phillip Street
SWAKOPMUND
Namibia

TASA Member No.: S19
NTB Reg. No.: TSO00076

Tel +264 64 405 220
Fax +264 64 405 220
Mobile +264 81 124 9391 (Neil)
Mobile +264 81 129 9391 (Berdene)
Skype safariwisenamibia

neil@safariwise.com.na
berdene@safariwise.com.na
info@safariwise.com.na

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9 window seats

