



# NAMIBIA



## INTRODUCTION:

Namibia is a vast country with a surface area of 824 268 km<sup>2</sup>, 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 north-east of the Etosha Pan included the high-rainfall areas of Kavango and Caprivi, typified by woodland savannah and riverine vegetation. With a dry climate, typical of a semi-desert country, droughts are a regular occurrence. Average day temperatures in the summer vary from 20°C - 34°C and average night temperatures in the winter from 0°C - 10°C. The Benguela Current is also the prime determinant of the climate of the Namib, as it reduces rainfall and causes the omnipresent fog typical of the coast.

## INCLUDED IN PACKAGE:

<i>Destinations:</i>	<i>Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Sossusvlei, Etosha National Park &amp; Windhoek</i>
<i>Dates:</i>	<i>18 to 31 March 2013</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>14 Days / 13 Nights</i>
<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>En-suite accommodation at the following: Central Lodge, Luderitz Nest Hotel, Sossus Dune Lodge, Atlantic Villa, Okaukuejo Resort, Halali Resort, Namutoni Resort &amp; River Crossing lodge</i>
<i>Transfers:</i>	<i>All road transfers</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>Meals as listed in the itinerary</i>
<i>Guides:</i>	<i>SafariWise guides</i>
<i>Vehicles:</i>	<i>Toyota land cruiser vehicles with pop-top roofs</i>

## EXCLUDED FROM PACKAGE:

- *All International and/or Domestic flights*





- *Gratuities*
- *Optional activities*
- *Travel insurance*
- *Laundry*
- *Beverages*
- *Items not specified*

## TOUR PROGRAMME

### Day 1: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

#### Hosea Kutako International Airport- Central Lodge (Keetmanshoop)

Upon arrival in Windhoek we depart and travel south to Keetmanshoop with scenic photography stops and a picnic lunch along the way. We check in at The Central Hotel and then head out in the afternoon to the “quiver tree forest.” We stay here until dark, photographing hundreds of these graphically appealing tree-like aloes, also known as “kokerboom,” bathed in evening light or juxtaposed against the setting sun. Central Lodge is situated in the centre of the town of the same name and is very close to the old 'Kaiserliches Postamt' or Imperial Post Office. Keetmanshoop is referred locally as the 'capital' of Southern Namibia. Highlights in the region include visits to the Naute Dam, the farm Spitskop Ost with its mesoaurus fossils, the Giant's Playground, which has large basalt rocks precariously balanced on top of each other and to the Kokerboom (Quiver-Tree) Forest, where visitors can view a rare cluster of the unique *Aloe dichotoma*.

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>Central Lodge</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>Breakfast, lunch &amp; dinner</i>
<i>Included activities:</i>	<i>Scenic drive and Quiver tree excursion</i>
<i>Optional activities:</i>	<i>N.A.</i>

### Day 2: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013

#### Central Lodge - Luderitz Nest Hotel (Luderitz)

After breakfast we head west, we drive through the Namib Desert to the Atlantic coast. We arrive at the seaside town of Lüderitz. Following lunch and an afternoon siesta at our hotel, we explore the amazing ghost town of Kolmanskop. The buildings of this derelict diamond mining town are slowly being engulfed by the relentless shifting coastal sands. Images created here impart an eerie quality of absolute ruin, yet are simultaneously graphically compelling, sensuous and downright intriguing. With special permits we photograph here through sunset. The Nest Hotel is situated directly on prime beach front property in Luderitz. The Nest Hotel is the ideal place from which to explore the many and unusual attractions in and around Lüderitz, such as Diaz Point, the museum, a trip to the 55m Bogenfels rock arch and the mining town of Pomona. Many of the guests go a morning excursion to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, which was, in earlier times, the focal point of Namibia's thriving diamond industry. There is also the Sedina sailing boat trip to Halifax Island, which hosts more than 1200 African Jackass penguins.



*Accommodation:* *Luderitz Nest Hotel*  
*Meals:* *Breakfast, lunch & dinner*  
*Included activities:* *Scenic drive through Namib Desert, visit to Kolmanskop*  
*Optional activities:* *N.A.*

Day 3: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Luderitz Nest Hotel

Rising early this morning, we're out at the ghost town before sunrise. We shoot both interior and exterior "sandscapes" amidst these early 20th-century structures before returning to our lodge for late breakfast. After our breakfast we find ourselves driving east towards the edge of the Namib we set aside the afternoon to focus our cameras on a remarkable band of wild horses that have survived here in this harsh environment since "German times"—circa World War I. It is not known how long the Namib Desert Feral Horses have lived on an area covering approximately 350 square kilometres in the Namib Desert, but local speculate they have been there since 'German times'. As there are no written records about their provenance their origins remain unclear, but there are, of course, quite a few theories. One of the best places to view these horses is at Klein Aus Vista Lodge, the horses can also often be spotted grazing alongside the main road between Aus and Luderitz. There are three theories the first being that the horses belonged to an eccentric German nobleman, Baron Hans-Heinrich von Wolf, who set up a horse breeding station at his outlandish castle, Duwisib to provide horses for the cavalry. Once the Baron went off to the first world war in Europe nobody looked after the stable of more than 300 horses and after his death herds of them ran wild, roaming the veld around Duwisib. It is possible that some of them wandered the 150 kilometres south- westward to the water at Garub. It is likely, too, that some of the feral horses originated from the Schutztruppe mounts, as well as from those belonging to a South African Expeditionary Force that took control of the Lüderitz- Keetmanshoop line during the First World War. Another theory is that a ship carrying thoroughbreds from Europe to Australia that ran aground near the mouth of the Orange River. The strongest horses could have reached the shore and found their way to the Garub plains. The conservation of the feral horses in the Namib-Naukluft Park has aroused controversy. Some people argue that the horses are of historical and scientific value and that they should not be removed. Many others think that the horses, as non-native species, compete with the indigenous wildlife (mainly gemsbok, springbok and ostriches) for the sparse vegetation. The Namib feral horses are unique in the sense that they have been isolated for a number of generations. Their hardiness in the face of extremely harsh climatic conditions is extraordinary, as is the fact that they have been able to circumvent the vital problem of food and water availability by adapting their behaviour and their allocation of time. For these reasons, if for no other, they deserve our wonder and admiration.

*Accommodation:* *Luderitz Nest Hotel*  
*Meals:* *Breakfast, lunch & dinner*  
*Included activities:* *Ghost town excursion and scenic drive to Garub to see the wild horses*  
*Optional activities:* *N.A.*



Day 4: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013

Luderitz Nest Hotel – Sossusvlei Dune Lodge (Sossusvlei)

After breakfast this morning we depart and follow a northward route that traces the edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. Our next destination is Sossusvlei Dune Lodge. Sossusvlei is situated amidst the Namib Desert at the entrance to the famous Sossusvlei. Sossusvlei means 'the gathering place of water' in the local Nama language. In good years, seasonal rains in the foothills of the Naukluft and Tsaris Mountains succeed in reaching the vlei, creating temporary lakes that mirror the sand dunes surrounding them. It is a clay pan - set amid huge piles of sand known as star dunes and is fed by the ephemeral Tsauchab River. The high, red sand dunes which surround Sossusvlei form part of the sand sea, which stretches from just north of Luderitz to the Kuiseb River. Some of these dunes reach as high as 220m. The Vegetation, such as the camelthorn tree, is watered by infrequent floods of the Tsauchab River, which slowly soak into the underlying clay. Sossusvlei is one of 4 clay pans in the area, the others being The Dead Vlei, Hidden Vlei and Nara Vlei. Following lunch at our lodge, we shoot the spectacular red sand dunes at Sossusvlei through sunset.

<i>Accommodation:</i>	<i>Sossus Dune Lodge</i>
<i>Meals:</i>	<i>Breakfast, lunch &amp; dinner</i>
<i>Included activities:</i>	<i>Scenic drive to Sossusvlei</i>
<i>Optional activities:</i>	<i>N.A.</i>

Day 5 & 6: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013

Sossusvlei Dune Lodge

Two full shooting days provide plenty of time to explore the Sossusvlei area with our cameras. We are out before sunrise, back after sunset with time for a midday rest or to download at our lodge oasis. We hike into the famous salt/clay pan called Dead Vlei. In the Namib-Naukluft National Park, in the central Namib Desert is a strange and alien landscape. Here, long-dead camel thorn trees create a graphic foreground to the rolling dunes behind them. Found among towering red dunes is an area known as Sossusvlei. The dunes that surround the area are rich red and owe their red color to age, as over the thousands of years, the sand has literally rusted. Sossusvlei itself is a salt/clay pan, a wide, flat, salt-covered expanse with a dense and compact layer of clay in the subsoil, when dry, Sossusvlei is hard and arid, when wet, as it does every 5-10 years when fed by the Tsauchab River, it becomes sticky and plastic. For the Tsauchab River the area is its final destination, and even in the wettest of years the river is simply soaked away into the salt/clay pan, giving the area the nickname as the "place of no return." Altogether the blue sky, red dunes and white pans make a striking vision, one you may have seen in the movies such as The Fall, The Cell, and Steel Dawn. Nearby is yet another "place of no return" this one even older, and much deader than Sossusvlei. Known as Dead Vlei or "dead marsh" (Vlei being the Afrikaans for a type of marsh) it is found among the tallest dunes in the world, reaching some 400 meters or 1,312 feet high taller than the Empire State Building. The tallest of the dunes has its own nickname: "Big Daddy." Dead Vlei was once like Sossusvlei, with the river draining into it and nourishing desert life and even trees, but no longer. Some 900 years ago the climate dried up, and dunes cut off Dead Vlei from the river. It became so dry in Dead Vlei that not only did the trees die, but it became too dry for the trees to even decompose, and they simply scorched black in the sun and became monuments to their own destruction. The trees, now over a 1000 years old (it is believed they were living for some 200 years



before the climate shifted again), form a barren forest of ancient dead trees, frozen much as they were some 900 years ago. Don't let the area fool you however, as it is not entirely without life. Salsola' and clumps of 'Nara' stay alive by subsisting off of morning mists. It is a long 70 km drive from the park gates to the dunes of Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei. One of the many reasons to go is to experience the sun rise (or sun set) over the huge red sand dunes of the Namib desert. The skies which are among the clearest on the planet provide striking visions of sunset, sunrise and the stars.

*Accommodation:* Sossus Dune Lodge  
*Meals:* Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Included activities:* Sossusvlei & Dead Vlei excursions  
*Optional activities:* N.A.

Day 7 & 8: 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Sossus Dune Lodge – Atlantic Villa (Swakopmund)

After breakfast at Sossus Dune Lodge we drive to the coastal town of Swakopmund. As we travel towards the Atlantic Coast we see the scenery change from sand dunes to dark craggy canyons and then to flat gravel plains. Enjoy a picnic lunch en-route. Swakopmund is situated on the coast and surrounded by desert. It offers a wide variety of attractions in an atmosphere unique in its appeal. The influence of German architecture, dating back to the turn of the last century, can be seen. We will be staying at the Atlantic Villa. This beautiful Villa is situated on the outskirts of Swakopmund and is uniquely situated overlooking both the Atlantic Ocean and the Namib Desert; situated approximately 6 km from the city centre. The magnificent Atlantic Villa has breathtaking views and is only a short walk from the Atlantic Ocean. This upmarket guesthouse caters to even the most sophisticated requirements where our guests are assured of our undivided attention.

*Accommodation:* Atlantic Villa  
*Meals:* Breakfast  
*Included activities:* Scenic drive along the Skeleton Coast to Swakopmund  
*Optional activities:* Tommys living desert tour, dolphin cruise, sky-divng, go-karting, hot air ballooning, shopping and sightseeing in Swakopmund

Day 9 & 10: 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Atlantic Villa - Okaukuejo Resort (Etosha National Park)

Etosha is the third largest National Park in the world and we have four days to explore it. From our base at Okaukuejo we will travel through the park's south-western region. 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 kilometers. This was the largest reserve on earth but in the 1960's political pressure resulted in the Park being reduced to its current size 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:* Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Included activities:* Game drives in the park & waterhole game viewing  
*Optional activities:* Night game drives with NWR

Day 11: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Okaukuejo Resort – Halali Resort (Etosha National Park)

After our stay at Okaukuejo our next stopover within the Etosha National Park is Halali Resort. Halali Resort was opened in 1967. The name derived from the sound of traditional German hunting horn used to announce the end of the hunt. The only hills in the park are located here. Strategically located halfway between Okaukuejo and Namutoni, Halali is situated at the base of a dolomite hill, amongst shady Mopane trees, and provides an ambiance of tranquillity and space. It is surrounded by some popular waterholes in the park. A flood – lit waterhole which is viewed from an elevated vantage point within the camp provides exceptional wildlife viewing throughout the day and into the night.

*Accommodation:* Halali Resort  
*Meals:* Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Included activities:* Game drives in the park & waterhole game viewing  
*Optional activities:* Night game drives with NWR

Day 12: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Halali Resort – Namutoni Resort (Etosha National Park)

Namutoni is situated on the eastern side of Etosha pan, just inside the von Lindequist entrance to Etosha National Park. It is an improbably beautiful Beau Geste-style fort situated in an area dotted with graceful makalani palms, *Hyphaene petersiana*. It derives its name from the old German fort around which it is built and it overlooks the King Nehale waterhole. The presence of this fort undoubtedly gives Namutoni more character than the other rest camps inside the park. It is also the closest rest camp to the picturesque Fischer's Pan, so expect great concentrations of water birds around here when it's wet – including a breeding colony of flamingos. It originally dates back to a German police post, built here before the turn of the century. Later it was used as an army base and then for English prisoners during World War I, before being restored to its present state in 1957. The sunrise and sunset bugle calls are no longer sounded, but you can still get a great view of the park and the setting sun from the elevated deck walkways of the fort.

*Accommodation:* Namutoni Resort  
*Meals:* Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Included activities:* Game drives in the park & waterhole game viewing



*Optional activities: Night game drives with NWR*

Day 13: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Namutoni Resort – River Crossing Lodge (Windhoek)

Our last destination is in Windhoek. 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 minutes 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.

*Accommodation: River Crossing*  
*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*  
*Included activities: En-route birding and game viewing*  
*Optional activities: Game drives*

Day 14: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

River Crossing Lodge – Departure (Windhoek)

After breakfast this morning we will transfer you to Hosea Kutako International Airport for your return flight home.

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

**Price: 2013**

Days 1 – 14

*GBP 4,830.00 per person sharing*

*GBP 1,150.00 single supplement*

**Notes:**

- a) The costing for the Tour Programme is based on a minimum of six (6) clients.
- b) This is only quotation and is valid from 18 to 31 March 2013.
- 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](http://www.safariwise.com.na) for the Terms & Conditions.

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