



“A Journey is like the month of May: it revives everything”

(Thomas Mann (1875 - 1955))

Namibia – Land of Dreams - Unspoilt desolate endless splendour

Discover former “Deutsch-Südwest Afrika” with us!

Windhoek – Namib – Sossusvlei – Swakopmund – Cape Cross - Damaraland – Etosha National Park

Day 1: Namibia is waiting to welcome you

Your journey to magical Namibia, Land of Dreams, unspoilt, desolate endless splendour starts with a short overnight flight.

Day 2: Welcome! (80 km)

From Joburg onward flight to Windhoek, where local tour guide will meet and transfer you to the capital. Situated at 1,650m above sea level, Windhoek, surrounded by Auas, Eros, Kommas Hochland mountains, is home to 300,000 inhabitants. An informative tour with visits to the Lutheran Christuskirche (Christ's church), Tintenpalast (Government Buildings) as well as Reiterdenkmal (1912) and Alte Feste (Old Fort), former headquarters of Schutztruppe and today, Namibia's national museum. City of Windhoek, the heart of Namibia, offers shopping, sightseeing or relaxing opportunities, where German and African traditions huddle side by side with vibrant street markets adjacent to colonial buildings.

Day 3: Namib Desert (285 km)

Head down South, passing former missionary station of Rehoboth (founded in 1844) en-route, followed by picturesque mountain scenery to Namib Naukluft Park, world's oldest and most absolute desert. A guided desert hike before sunset is a must, followed by specially prepared sundowners served under Namibian quiver trees.

Day 4: Sossusvlei (415 km)

Today's visit to Sossusvlei is one of those once in a lifetime must-do excursions. Start before sunrise and, in off-road vehicles, drive through endless Namibian landscapes passing Sesriem Canyon on the way. Sossusvlei, famous highlight in the heart of the Namib Desert, is a huge clay pan, enclosed by giant 300m high sand dunes, and developed over a period of many millions of years. In morning light, dunes glow in an enchanting red hue, where, even during the dry season, the mighty Oryx antelope and nimble springbok can be seen frequently. Stunning landscapes envelope you on your journey through Namibia's largest nature reserve, where seemingly endless sand plains prevail. Haunting desert silence is interrupted only by roaring breakers of the Atlantic Ocean at Swakopmund, most favourite popular coastal town in Namibia.

Day 5: Welwitschia and Walvis Bay (240 km)

Desert excursion to the Welwitschia-Plains starts with a stop over in the Namib-Naukluft Park at an area called "Mondlandschaft" (Moon Landscape) where the dry Kuiseb River winds its way for miles and where hikers explore the canyon. In prehistoric times, the Swakop River eroded and left this strange geological formation behind. Home of *Welwitschia mirabilis* miracle plant, with its three meter long roots, can survive extreme draughts and reach up to 2000 years of age. Afternoon

at leisure in quaint village of Swakopmund, founded in 1892, is still influenced culturally and architecturally by German colonial days, with art nouveau décor, German street and building names, where German is spoken everywhere. A late afternoon excursion to Walvis Bay, a small fishing town and harbour terminal, 30 kms from Swakopmund for a sunset cruise on the Dolphin-Cruise boat for a closer look at dolphins, seals and whales. Enjoy a nautical feast of oysters and sparkling wine, as you watch the spectacular setting sun on yonder horizon, where the cool Atlantic Ocean meets the magnificent starry Namibian night sky.

Day 6: Seals and Twyvelfontein (370 km)

Travel along starkly beautiful desolate coastline to Cape Cross, home to a huge colony of African Fur Seals live. (Estimated between 80 – 100,000 seals). At Hentjesbaai the route turns from coast and moves inland towards Twyvelfontein. Like an oasis in the desert, the tiny mining hamlet of Uis Myn services the local community, and is minutes from the Brandberg Mountains (2,573 m), highest point in Namibia. Take the afternoon to relax and rejuvenate at your lodge near Twyvelfontein.

Day 7: Records of History

Entire area of Twyvelfontein is rich in cultural and geological records of the past. On one side, Bushmen – San - rock paintings and engravings depict images of living and hunting, thousands of years ago. On the other, a geological formation known as Organ Pipes. Lava penetrated the slate about 120 million years ago and solidified as rectangular columns. During this time, these structures were exposed by erosion. The most characteristic thing about the Brandberg Mountains (burnt mountain) is the jet-black colour, giving the impression of standing on burnt soil. The desert varnish is a black crust on the stones and the result of chemical processes over thousands of years. A well deserved lunch break follows, before a 4x4 excursion into the desert. With a little luck you may even be able to encounter desert elephants! (seasonal)

Day 8: Vingerklip (200 km)

Next on the programme is a visit to the Petrified forest. Experts are still arguing about the origin of these treelike fossils. Are they remains of a forest that grew here during prehistoric times? Or were the tree trunks transported here by floods before they became petrified? Numerous rock paintings can be seen and in the middle of thorn savannah, the striking Vingerklip, a rock-column, 35m high. Enjoy unique fantastic views of table mountains of the Ugab-Valley. Dinner and overnight at Vingerklip.

Day 9: Etosha National Park (330 km)

Head north to Etosha Park, aptly named Jewel of Africa. “Etosha” means “place of dry water” in Ovambo language, and refers to the huge 5000 square

kilometre salt pan in the centre of the park. Mirages of large water areas deceive animals and people alike, as the pan is absolutely dry and totally bare of any vegetation except during rainy season when it is filled with water. Etosha has more than 100 mammal species, including elephant, cheetah and rhino. A short drive after you leave the park brings you to your Lodge for the next two nights.

Day 10: Go Safari!

Game spotting is best in very early hours of the morning (just after sunrise) and late afternoon. More than 30 waterholes are home to not only Big Five (elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and leopard) but also 340 different bird species. PAN is one of the most important breeding grounds for flamingos. Early morning game drive in open vehicles, so get your camera ready! Remainder of the day relax at your lodge, or perhaps another safari (optional)

Day 11: Mount Etjo (280 km)

Travel via Outjio and Otjiwarongo to your lodge, near Kalkfeld situated in the Okonjati Game Reserve. Visit dinosaur footprints, the most impressive of these, aged between 150 –180 millions of years, are those of a tree-toed dinosaur. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 12: Back to Windhoek (230 km)

Travel back to Windhoek via Okahandja, where the most important chiefs of the Herero people lie buried. Okahandja was founded by German missionaries who established a mission station here. City tour includes a visit to Friedenskirche (Church of Peace) of the Rheinische Mission, the graves of the most important Herero leaders and ends at a large craft market with an excellent selection of handcrafted wood carvings before returning to Windhoek.

Day 13: So long, Namibia (50 km)

Use the morning for a last souvenir shopping spree, before transfer to Windhoek airport for your homeward journey.

Day 14: Back home again

Early morning arrival in Europe with memories and mementoes of land far away – Namibia, land of dreams - *Unspoilt desolate endless splendour ...Auf Wiedersehen.....till next time.....*

Services included:

- ☺ Travel/transfers in modern, air-con coaches
- ☺ Qualified English/German speaking local tour guide
- ☺ 11 x Accommodation incl. breakfast in good middle-class hotels and lodges.
- ☺ 10 x Dinners
- ☺ City Tour : Windhoek and Okahandja
- ☺ 3hr 4x4 Dune excursion in Naukluft Park
- ☺ 4x4 Excursion Sossusvlei and Dead Vlei
- ☺ Walvis Bay Cruise includes sparkling wine and oysters
- ☺ 3hr 4x4 Safari Twyfelfontein
- ☺ Full day 4x4 Game Drive in Etosha
- ☺ All entrance fees for programme excursions
- ☺ Gratuities for meals included in programme
- ☺ Porterage at hotels and airports
- ☺ Value-added-tax (VAT) and tourism levy

Services not included in price:

- ☹ Expenses of a personal nature
- ☹ All meals not mentioned above
- ☹ Flights (International and Domestic)
- ☹ Visa-fees (if applicable)

Price: From R21 500 per person sharing (excluding airfares)

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