

Dear Friends of Namibia,

Summer is here and tourism is booming. After it was very quiet during the Soccer World Cup, the flights to Namibia are currently fully booked again and the lodges are pleased with high occupancy rates.

Air Namibia Sunny Summer Specials

Again this year Air Namibia has another African Summer Special ready for its passengers. Travelers who book a flight with the national airline of Namibia until 28 February 2011, can enjoy the South African summer at a special price.

As part of the African Summer Specials return tickets for the route Frankfurt-Windhoek in the travel period of 27 December 2010 to 12th April 2011 in economy class are from 780 €, in business class from 2070 €. Prices for flights to Cape Town or Johannesburg start from 915 € for economy class and from € 2225 in business class. These prices are inclusive of all taxes and fees. The new aviation tax of 45 € in Germany is included in the prices as well. For departures from 27 to 31 December 2010 the new tax is not yet applicable. Therefore, the fares are by 45 € cheaper in this period.



Air Namibia



Camel ride near Solitaire.



Chalet at Damara Mopane Lodge

Ballooning near Twyfelfontein

Petra and Ralf Matthäi of Hot Air Ballooning Namibia have recently started ballooning at Twyfelfontein in the breath taking landscape of Damaraland. Guests staying at the lodges Mowani Mountain Camp, Camp Kipwe, Doro Nawas, Aba Huab, Aabadi Mountain Camp, Camp Xaragu and Twyfelfontein Country Lodge can make use of this activity. Guests are taken to the entrance of Mowani Mountain Camp before dawn from where the balloon launches. It is already an interesting experience to see how the balloon is filled with hot air before the ride starts.

Camel Riding in the Desert

Since early October, eight camels are stationed at Solitaire again and visitors can take rides of different lengths: 15 and 30 minutes ride during the day, "Picnic Lunch Ride" at 11h00 or a "sundowner ride" at 16:30 PM. The camel guides, Piet and Willem have been working with camels since 1999 - at that time they did the overnight camel trails into the desert with Reitsafaris - and are very familiar in dealing with the camels. Reservations should be made in advance at **Solitaire Country Lodge Tel 063 693021**

New – Damara Mopane Lodge near Khorixas

The Damara Mopane Lodge is an ideal overnight stop between Swakopmund and the Etosha National Park. It is located 20 km east of Khorixas on the tar road to Outjo. The concept of the Damara Mopane Lodge is unique and gives it its own character: the main building and bungalows are connected by a path system, which looks like a mysterious maze from the top. Each of the 60 bungalows has its own private veranda and is surrounded by a vegetable and herb garden, which in turn is enclosed by a low garden wall in an African style of building with clay. All rooms have air conditioners that are low in energy consumption. Unique scarecrows, made by students during a nationwide competition, are put up in the garden and offer popular photo opportunities. The gardens provide fresh ingredients for dinner, which consists of hot appetizers and a delicious snack platter. A large, widely-curved swimming pool is used for cooling, a lookout point (sundowner deck) for enjoying sunsets and starry skies. The lodge at the gateway to Damaraland is ideal for trips to Twyfelfontein (130 km), the Petrified Forest (55 km) and the Vingerklip-Rock (50 km).



Fish River Canyon Viewpoint

Foto: www.tourbrief.com



Operation Omakutsi – The three doctors and their patients.

Viewpoint at Fish River Canyon renovated

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, recently inaugurated the newly renovated viewpoint at the Fish River Canyon. The upgrade includes an enlarged and raised viewing platform with multiple viewpoints, environmentally friendly toilets with a view of the canyon, and high quality information display about the canyon and the park. The toilets are environmentally friendly due to the fact that they use very little water and require minimum maintenance intervention. The structure was completely built from local materials that blend in well with the environment. The interpretive information materials consist of panels with information on the park, geology, fauna, flora, history as well as the culture of the local people. A code of conduct for visitors was also developed as part of environmental education.

Operation Omakutsi V

For the fifth time since 2003 middle ear surgery was performed in northern Namibia at the beginning of October. During the first three years the campaigns were held in Oshakati, and for the last two years in Rundu. Known as "Operation Omakutsi" whereby omakutsi is the Oshiwambo word for ear, the project's goal is to improve or completely recover the hearing of patients with chronic middle ear infection. Chronic infection of the middle ear, known as "running ears" can damage the eardrum and ossicles to a degree that only an operation can still help.

Thanks to the generous support of individual donors from Germany (including Zeiss and Storz), Desert Air, Air Namibia, Trans World Cargo and Omashare River Lodge and thanks to the excellent cooperation of CLASH, the charity organisation for children with hearing and speech disabilities in Namibia and the Ministry of Health it was again possible to bring two highly qualified ENT surgeons from Germany to Namibia: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Lautermann and Dr. Götz Lehnerdt who have offered their time and expertise free of charge. They were supported, as in all previous operations, from their Namibian counterpart, Dr Ailly Imbangu of the ENT Department in Oshakati. Within the first week of October, the three doctors operated a total of 38 patients, most of them children.



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acacia@iway.na

www.acacianamibia.com

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Your

Acacia Namibia Team

acacia@iway.na

www.acacianamibia.com

Windhoek Namibia

Tel: +264 61 229142

Fax: +264 61 229125

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