



Reg no cc/2001/1167

## **Cape Town to Namibia Explorer 2009**

**13 days / 12 nights**

**Min. 2 participants Max. 10 participants**

The accommodated safari is conducted in Landrover 4x4's. The tour leads via the beautiful West Coast of South-Africa to some interesting destinations in Namibia, ending in Windhoek. We travel through the jewel of the Cape West Coast, along the R27 to Langebaan and Velddrift, using the back roads to our destination at Lambertsbay, which is also home to the beautiful Bird Island. Working our way north we will drive via the rugged Richtersveld National Park and cross via the Gariiep River at the Sendelingsdrift Pont to Namibia. In Namibia the safari leads via the majestic Fish River Canyon to the oldest desert on earth, the Namib and Sossusvlei with its high dunes. We carry on via the Namib Naukluft Park to the coastal resort Swakopmund. The last day we spend viewing the rock paintings at Ai-Aiba in the Erongo Mountains before ending the safari in Namibia's bustling capital Windhoek.

### **Day 1: Western Cape Coast**

Depart from **Cape Town** via a scenic route along the Western Cape Coast to Lamberts Bay, During the afternoon we visit the famous Bird Island (excursion included). This is a photographer's paradise. The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly the readily accessible seabird breeding colony on Bird Island. Experience a face-to-face encounter with a Cape gannet at the modern gannet look-out. Bird Island provides shelter and protection for thousands of seabirds, particularly Cape gannets, various species of cormorants, and penguins. At the visitors' centre, one can read about an island steeped in history and humour during the time of egg and guano collection.

During the Whaling season from July to November, heavy side- dolphins and southern right whales are often seen in the area (boat trips optional). During the flower season in August and September, the area sports an abundance of colorful flowers. Other optional activities like angling, quad-biking, golfing or sand boarding in the dunes are available (time-permitting)

**Overnight with full-board at Lamberts Bay Hotel.**

### **Day 2: Namaqualand- Springbok**

An early morning rise will be rewarded by the spectacular scenic drive north, using back roads to our destination - Naries Namakwa Retreat. This region is a photographic paradise with succulent and wild flowers in abundance during the flower season (Aug&Sep). Springbok's history is closely linked to the copper mining industry and the colourful culture of the Nama people is widely on display in this area. The spectacular landscape consists of rugged hills and granite domes interlaced with interesting vegetation.

**Overnight with full-board at Naries Namakwa Retreat near Springbok**

### **Day 3: Richtersveld - Namibian Border**

Today we will drive through the Richtersveld National park, which is remote and mountainous and one of the finest wilderness areas in South Africa. It is home to numerous rare mammal, reptile and plant species. We cross the Namibian border at Sendelingsdrift, via pont over the Gariiep River, to our overnight destination at Norotshama River Lodge. It will be a long day, but one that will be remembered for a long time

The local Nama tribes were traditionally nomadic people who moved home, stock and family in search of better grazing. In tune with the harsh environment, the Richtersvelders today are transhumant pastoralists, moving their livestock between stock posts with the changing of seasons. The rotation of pastures has helped to preserve the land from overuse. This is the last place in South Africa where pastoral people live on communal lands and one of the last remaining examples of the transhumant Nama way of living.

**Optional activities for own expense:** Late afternoon at Norotshama River Lodge we can pay a visit to a local village of one of Namibia's interesting diverse cultures groups of people which includes a sundowner drive with refreshments.

**Overnight with full-board Norotshama River at Lodge.**

#### **Day 4: Fishriver Canyon**

After breakfast we will depart to Canon Lodge. En route to Canon Lodge we will make a stop over at Ai-Ais to relax in the hot spa's or the cool swimming pools. Leaving Ai-Ais towards our destination we take in the fantastic landscape of the Nama Karoo region, its fauna and flora. The Fish River Canyon is the largest canyon in the southern hemisphere. It is 160 km long, 27 km in width and 450 to 550 m deep. The Fish River originates 600 km further up in the Naukluft Mountains and ends south of Ai-Ais where it flows into the Gariep River. The canyon offers beautiful views from various Lookout points.

**Overnight with full board at Canon Lodge.**

#### **Day 5: Succulent Karoo Desert**

After a late morning breakfast we will depart via Seeheim to Aus and the Klein Aus Vista Homestead. Optional and Extra activities organised by the Farmer, are available. Otherwise time free to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

**Overnight with full board at Klein-Aus Vista.**

#### **Day 6: Succulent Karoo Desert**

After a leisurely breakfast we will take a slow drive to the quaint harbor town of Lüderitz with its curious array of historical German-style buildings built during the diamond rush. The town has an interesting German colonial background. We visit the "ghost town" Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found 100 years ago. Today this is a deserted place, slowly being swamped by the shifting sands of the Namib. The afternoon we will return to Klein Aus Vista with a possibility to view the famous wild Namib horses at a designated watering place.

**Overnight with full board at Klein-Aus Vista.**

#### **Day 7: - Namib Desert - Tiras Nature reserve**

After a pleasurable breakfast we depart to Koiimasis Ranch in the Tiras Nature Conservancy area. The nearby Namib-Naukluft National Park is an ecological preserve in the Namib Desert in southwest Africa, thought to be earth's oldest desert and the largest game park in Africa. A surprising collection of creatures manage to survive in the hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, antelopes, hyenas, and jackals. More moisture comes in as fog off the Atlantic Ocean, than falls as rain, with the average 106 millimeters of rainfall per year concentrated in the months of February to April. Koiimasis offers bird and eagle watching, Ostrich and parrot breeding enclosed set-up; red granite terrace rock strolling and a sundowner spot on a marked route; Bushmen caves and rock paintings are situated close-by. A quiver tree forest offers magnificent scenery in a diverse landscape, with its breathtaking desert landscape. It is the perfect destination for guests wishing to have privacy

and magnificent views of dunes and mountains. Spend late afternoon at Koiimasis Ranch to explore the farm and surroundings.

Optional activities for own expense:

In the afternoon there is the possibility to take a 1 to 3 hour photogenic dune drive and explore some of Africa's magnificent wildlife in its natural habitat. Quiver trees and camel thorn trees dot the open desert landscape, where desert adapted animals, like oryx, springbok and ostrich roam freely. Horse riding or night drives to view nocturnal wildlife are some additional activities possible.

**Overnight with full board at Koiimasis Ranch.**

#### **Day 8: Namib Desert**

Breakfast at leisure at Koiimasis Ranch. From here we proceed slowly to our next destination at Sossusvlei Desert Camp. En route we visit the rugged Sesriem Canyon. The Desert Camp is only four kilometers away from the entrance gate to the Namib Naukluft Park. The accommodation nestles under centuries old camel thorn trees and has an unsurpassed 360 degrees view over the desert landscape and surrounding mountains. Meals are taken at nearby Sossusvlei Lodge.

**Overnight at Desert Camp with full board at Sossusvlei Lodge.**

#### **Day 9: Namib Desert**

Breakfast at leisure at Sossusvlei Lodge.

An early start from the Lodge to enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is still mild and when the dune contrasts are at their best. You will travel in 4x4 vehicles with your driver and guide who will provide you with knowledge of the fauna and flora of the area. Regular stops are made on the ±60 kilometer drive down to the Vlei to gain information or take in the vistas. At Dune 45, the more energetic have the opportunity to climb to the upper ridge of the world's most photographed dune. Further along, a gradual 2.6 kilometer round-trip walk up to Dead Vlei is a must for the healthy visitors. Enjoy en-route lunch and return later the afternoon and watch the shadows lengthen as your guide takes you out to a panoramic location where sundowner drinks will be served as you relax and watch the spectacular sunset.

**Overnight with full board but dine at Sossusvlei Lodge.**

#### **Day 10: Swakopmund**

After breakfast we depart to the Atlantic Coast and the quaint town of Swakopmund. En route we will explore the Namib Desert with the rugged Kuiseb Canyon, while driving along the Swakop riverbed. We stop at the eerie moon landscape and marvel at the Welwitschia Mirabilis, an ancient plant endemic to the Namib Desert. After arriving in Swakopmund you can explore the little coastal resort on your own and spend time at leisure.

**Overnight with full board at Swakop Lodge.**

#### **Day 11: Swakopmund**

Spend the Day in Swakopmund. Today's programme is flexible, but a short city tour is included.

Optional activities which can be arranged for own expense:

Walvis Bay Lagoon Boat Cruises, Fishing, Kayaking, a sun downer flight along the coastline in a small aircraft, Quad biking, Sand boarding, Tandem Skydive, Dolphin Cruise, Camel Ride, Golfing, Horse riding, Township Tour, Paragliding, Scenic flights, Land yachting and Ballooning.

**Overnight with full board at Swakop Lodge.**

### **Day 12: Erongo Mountains**

We leave the coast and journey inland again to the scenic Erongo region. Arrive at Ai Aiba Lodge for lunch. Sip on your favorite drink, while admiring the magic of the breathtaking landscape. Explore the area on your own along a well-marked trail and find ancient rock paintings. During the late afternoon, when rock dassies start to laugh about the fading day, and Namibia's night awakens, with all her secrets, bush men used to talk about their last hunt around a crackling fire, and honored their stories with simple paintings on the rock surfaces of the Erongo's giant granite boulders, for us to inherit.

Optional activities for own expense:

Ai Aiba offers a multitude of historic rock paintings. Guided walking trails are offered to enjoy and discover the impressive landscape Ai-Aiba has to offer. Farm-drives in 4x4 vehicles are offered and visits ancient sites of important rock art. Most famous of all is situated at the 'Hain cave'.

**Overnight with full board at Ai-Aiba Rock Painting Lodge.**

### **Day 13: Windhoek**

Depart from Ai-Aiba Lodge for Okahandja and Windhoek. You will be dropped off at your accommodation in the capital or at the airport.

Alternatively, clients are welcome to return to Cape Town on Southern Safari Route, the "Windhoek- Kalahari-Namaqualand-Cape Discovery" (9 days) which starts 2 days later.

Price per person sharing:	1 - 4 PAX	N\$/ZAR 35500
Price per person sharing:	5 - 6 PAX	N\$/ZAR 33500
Single Supplement :		N\$/ZAR 4500

#### Included:

Safari in a small group with a qualified English speaking tour-guide. Accommodation and meals as listed above: Full board at each establishment. Activities as mentioned in the itinerary are included. All optional tours are to clients own account. Park-entrance-fees and portorage are also included. Still and sparkling water on board the vehicle are free of charge.

#### Excluded:

All optional excursions will be arranged with the tour guide and has to be settled on the spot. Travel insurance and other personal items are excluded.

*Tour price valid from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009 till 31 Oct 2009*  
Please note that all rates are subject to fuel increases

#### **Departures 2009 :**

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 09**