

Rooisand Observatory



Namibia's sparkling night skies



Spot the Southern Cross ?



Stargazing at Hakos Guestfarm

Bone & Joint Decade visits Namibia



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Dear friends of Namibia

As Namibia's tourism business is picking up again, we prepare ourselves positively for a challenging year amidst the global economic turmoil. Our summer season (Dec to April) is characterized by most welcome short afternoon showers to beat the heat. Namibia's giant termite mushrooms (omajova) are blossoming everywhere in the field. In the game parks a profusion of new life abounds as antelope and plains game give birth to their young. The **focus this year will also be on the universe**, since 2009 has been declared as the international **Year of Astronomy**.

Namibia offers excellent conditions and opportunities for stargazers

Wish to spot unique constellations like the Southern Cross and view a most brilliant 'Milky Way'? In Namibia several facilities offer the opportunity to observe the southern night sky with good instruments. Visitors appreciate our clear, unpolluted desert sky. Some accommodation establishments in Namibia offer telescopes and astronomical explanations, amongst them Okomitundu, Niedersachsen, Tivoli, Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, Hakos & Rooisand. For hobby-astronomers the Rooisand Guestfarm offers in depths observations into the universe. Hakos Guest farm also provides the ideal platform for an 'Astro Vacation'. The farm specialises in stargazing tours and the international amateur observatory station is ideally situated on the property. Namibia's largest observatory is situated on top of Gamsberg, the H.E.S.S. array. It is coordinated by the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics and searches space for the most energetic particles in the universe. Various lectures and exhibitions will be staged in Namibia to mark this significant year. For amateur stargazers there will be an excursion to the highest Mountain in Namibia, the Brandberg from 19 - 22 June 2009. For Info: www.suedsternfreundtreffen.homepage.t-online.de
General websites: www.100hoursofastronomy.org and www.astronomy2009.org

Our african 'green season' special is still valid for 'last minute' bookings until end of March 2009.

Choose from a range of lodges in the Caprivi, Northern Chobe, Moremi Wildlife Reserve and the Central Kalahari !

Read more here : www.acadianamibia.com/specials.html

The "Bone & Joint Decade" visits Namibia

During Dec 2008 Acacia Namibia arranged a tour for a group of 8 travellers from Japan, who are all ambassadors of the 'Bone and Joint Decade' campaign. Under the leadership of Shinji Kazama the team is creating awareness of this campaign, which is supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO), throughout their 78 day African journey. The trip started in Egypt in October and has lead through Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia. The tour ended in January in Cape Town. The United Nations, the World Health Organisation and 37 countries have proclaimed the years 2000-2010 as the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD). This global initiative aims to improve the lives of people with musculoskeletal disorders, which includes osteoporosis, low back pain, spinal disorders, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The goals are to raise awareness, identify needs, empower patients, promote cost effective prevention and treatment and advance understanding through research and education within the area. The BJD is supported by more than 750 national and international patients, professional and scientific organisations. 96 countries have established BJD national co-ordinators and Action Networks. 62 National Governments have endorsed the Decade (including Namibia) and the UN and the World Bank are also giving official support

More info : www.boneandjointdecade.org

New Lodge at the Etosha National Park

The Etosha Safari Lodge, which belongs to the Gondwana Collection, had its official opening in January 2009, after months of construction work. The main building and chalets are situated on a hillock about 2 km from the 'Etosha Safari Camp' (which was also extended last year), offering a fantastic view of the vast bush savannah. A small viewing tower, accessible from the restaurant provides an excellent spot for a sundowner. The lodge consists of 55 tastefully furnished double room chalets with air conditioning, mosquito screens and a private veranda. There are three swimming pools for cooling down. Guided game drives into the park are offered as additional service. The lodge is a mere 10 km from the Andersson Etosha Entrance Gate and appeals to the mid-class price segment.



Etosha Safari Lodge

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Horse Trails /Naukluft Mountains



The Sperrgebiet National Park



Hoodia gordonii

New Product : The Naukluft Nature Challenge & Horse Trail

Guestfarm Büllsport has introduced two special departures of Horse Safaris. The exciting horse trails take the riding enthusiast through rugged hills, along the ephemeral Tsondab River into the Namib and to the Remhoogte mountain pass. One may spot baboons, warthogs, kudus, springbok and possibly shy mountain-zebra en route. As one has to tackle steep climbs with the horses, it is required to also walk some distances. The 3 day/ 2 night horse safari starts at Ababis Guestfarm and offers the day before after the trail at Büllsport for relaxation.

Departure Dates for the Horse Trail : 23rd May and 26th May 2009

For more info & Rates please contact : www.acacia@iway.na

4x4 Training Courses

For customers who would like to perfect and enhance their driving skills on Namibia's gravel roads, 4x4 driver training courses are offered in the surroundings of Windhoek as well as at Ababis Guestfarm near Solitair. Experience a variety of off-road situations, learn about emergency protocol, how to use a car-jack or to change tyres, recognise road safety and dangers on the road and learn how to master the vehicle in theory and practice. More info on :

www.be-local.com/drive.php and www.offroad-experience.com/en/start.html

Sperrgebiet – now a National Park!

Namibia's "Forbidden Zone" (the Sperrgebiet) stretching 320 km along the south-western side of Namibia, bordering the Atlantic ocean, has recently been declared a National Park, covering an area of 26 000 sq km. It means that this largely pristine wilderness area will slowly open its doors to the public. The Ministry of Environment & Tourism is facing the challenge of balancing further diamond mining activities in the area and the rehabilitation and upgrading of infrastructure for future tourism related projects. The park will eventually attract visitors wishing to experience pristine landscapes, strange rock formations, meteorite craters, unique birdlife, fossilised dunes, hidden fountains, rugged mountains and vast plains dotted by an abundance of succulent plants. Deserted diamond mining towns may also be of immense interest to tourists. Due to the rugged terrain only guided tours are currently possible with 4x4 vehicles and undertaken by companies allowed in the concession area. The Sperrgebiet forms part of the Succulent Karoo Biome, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, which extends further southwards into the Richtersveld and South Africa. More than 1000 endemic plants have been classified in the Sperrgebiet alone. Together with the Skeleton Coast Park, the Namib Naukluft Park and the "West-Coast Park" (still to be proclaimed), this 1570 km stretch along Namibia's atlantic coastline, will represent a total Nature Conservation area of 107 540 sq km.

Air Namibia - now online for bookings!

Air Namibia has finally 'switched on' their internet booking engine. Passengers can now make route selections, check availability and book their preferred seat. The system allows passengers to pay online with Master and Visa Card. The reservation system delivers electronic tickets and travel itineraries automatically via e-mail.

More information under www.airnamibia.com.na

Please note : New check in Counter for flights from Frankfurt to Windhoek – now at Terminal 2- Hall D Counters 880-889



Your 'all-in-one-booking agent'

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www.acacianamibia.com

We look forward to advising you on your first -or next Namibia journey.

Until next time! 'Totsiens'

Your

Acacia Namibia Team