



Cape Town to Namibia Explorer 2010

13 days / 12 nights

Min. 2 participants Max. 8 participants

Departure every 1st day of the month

The tour starts in Cape Town and leads via the beautiful West Coast of South-Africa into the rugged Richtersveld where we cross the Gariep River with the Sendelingsdrift Pont into Namibia. We visit the majestic Fish River Canyon and carry on to the Namib Desert and Sossusvlei with its high dunes. Lunar Landscapes and prehistoric Welwitschia Plants surround the coastal resort of Swakopmund. The last day is spent exploring amazing rock formations in the Erongo Mountains before the safari ends in Namibia's bustling capital, Windhoek.

The safari is conducted in Sasendle 4x4 vehicles and in small groups. Accommodation is provided at comfortable guesthouses and tourist class lodges. The approximate distance for this tour is 2250km.

Day 1: Western Cape Coast

We depart from **Cape Town** in the morning and travel along the R27 taking the scenic coastal route of the Western Cape to Lamberts Bay. In the afternoon we visit the famous Bird Island (excursion included). Bird Island provides shelter and protection for thousands of seabirds, particularly Cape gannets, various species of cormorants, and penguins. Photographers can view the birds fairly close up from a look-out-hide. 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 colourful flowers. Other optional activities like angling, quad-biking, golfing or sand boarding in the dunes are available (time-permitting)

Overnight Lamberts Bay Hotel or similar. (FB)

Day 2: Namaqualand - Springbok

Spectacular scenery of rugged hills and granite domes offers itself on the drive 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 colorful culture of the Nama people is widely on display in this area.

Overnight Naries Namakwa Retreat or similar. (FB)

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. Here we may get in contact with local Nama tribes who move with their live-stock with the changing of seasons in search of better pastures. We cross the Namibian border via pont at Sendelingsdrift, over the Gariep River, to our overnight destination at Norotshama River Lodge.

Overnight Norotshama River Lodge or similar. (FB)

Day 4: Fishriver Canyon

Today we travel through the fantastic landscape of the Nama Karoo and admire its fauna and flora. En route northwards we take a break at Ai-Ais Rest Camp to relax in the hot spas or the cool swimming pools. One of the highlights in Southern Namibia is the great Fish River Canyon which we shall visit in the afternoon measuring 160 km in length, 27 km in width and up to 550 m deep the canyon is one area presents an awesome sight during sunset. 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 Canon Lodge or similar. (FB)

Day 5: Succulent Karoo Desert

After a late morning breakfast we will depart via Seeheim to Aus and the Klein Aus Vista Homestead. Time at free disposal for walks or to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. This is also the realm of the 'wild horses of the Namib. These magnificent creatures can often be seen roaming the far horizons or gathering at a watering point close by.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista or similar. (FB)

Day 6: Succulent Karoo Desert - Lüderitz

A day excursion to the quaint harbor town of Lüderitz. The town has an interesting German colonial background and sports a curious array of historical buildings built during the diamond rush at the turn of the century. We visit the "ghost town" Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found 100 years ago. Today its dilapidated houses are slowly being swamped by the shifting sands of the Namib. We return to Klein Aus Vista in the afternoon.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista or similar. (FB)

Day 7: - Namib Desert - Tiras Nature reserve

We depart northwards along the Namib Naukluft Park and the Tiras Conservancy area. The Namib Naukluft National Park is considered the largest game park in Africa with the Namib Desert the oldest desert in the world. Many creatures live in this hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, antelopes, hyenas, and jackals. 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. Ostrich, Oryx or Springbok roam this diverse landscape. Magnificent scenery provides the perfect backdrop for your holiday photos.

Overnight Farm Namtib or similar. (FB)

Day 8: Namib Desert

We proceed slowly to our next destination near the entrance gate to the Namib Naukluft Park. En route we visit the rugged Sesriem Canyon, where centuries of erosion have incised a narrow gorge of about 1km in length. Age-old camel thorn trees and unsurpassed 360 degrees views dominate the desert landscape towards the mountain-range in the distance.

Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Camp or similar. (FB)

Day 9: Namib Desert

Today's highlight is the high dunes at Sossusvlei, a truly spectacular sight. We enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is still mild and when the dune contrasts are at their best. 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 takes you to the well photographed "Dead Vlei". Sossusvlei is at the 'end of road' and the highlight of the day. Enjoy a brunch en route 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 one of the deserts spectacular sunsets.

Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Camp or similar. (FB)

Day 10: Swakopmund

Today's destination is the cool 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 popular coastal resort on your own and spend time at leisure or with shopping.

Overnight Swakop Lodge or similar. (FB)

Day 11: Swakopmund

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

Take a walk through town and enjoy the mixture of colonial flair and historic architecture in Swakopmund (the historic town, the Woermannhouse, the Hohenzollernhouse, the old Magistrates Court, the historical Jail and the Jetty and the lighthouse. Various optional activities can be arranged at own expense:

Walvis Bay lagoon boat cruises, fishing, kayaking, quad biking, sand boarding, tandem-skydive, camel ride, golfing, horse riding, township tour, paragliding, scenic flights, land yachting and/ or ballooning.

Overnight Swakop Lodge or similar. (FB)

Day 12: Erongo Mountains

We leave the coast and journey inland again to a guest farm near the scenic Erongo Mountains. This region is famous for its multitude of ancient rock paintings, many of them still unknown and hidden. If time allows, there is the possibility of a visit to a nearby 'Living village of the Ju/Hoansi San' people (at extra expense and only possible April – Oct)

Overnight Hohenstein or similar. (FB)

Day 13: Windhoek

Last stop at the Okahandja woodcarvers market before ending the tour in Windhoek. You will be dropped off at your accommodation.

Our Tip: Return to Cape Town with the “Windhoek- Kalahari–Namaqualand-Cape Discovery” (9 days) which starts in Windhoek 2 days later)

Departure dates 2010					
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Every 1st Day of the month from 1st Nov 2009 till 1st Oct 2010
--

***Min - 2 participants – Max - 9 participants on scheduled departures
Larger groups and individual departure dates will be quoted on request only.***

Please note that all rates are subject to unforeseen fuel increases

Included: The Safari is conducted in a small group with a qualified English speaking tour guide. Accommodation and meals as listed above- or suitable alternative lodges: 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 luggage handling 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.

Information:

Tour participants will receive:
A detailed itinerary with routes and places of interest.
Description places of interest.

Travel tips and information.

Although your own GSM phone can be used in Namibia, you will only have signal in urban areas.
Camera, batteries, charger, sun block, hat, sunglasses, comfortable walking shoes and Bathing Costumes.

Although the weather is good all year around, it is recommended to bring a jacket for the cold evenings during winter times.

We will not be travelling in malaria areas, therefore medication is not required.

Bring your own personal medication.

You must be in perfect health to undertake any safari.

You will visit remote areas with little or no medical facilities

Your valid passport/ visa with at least 6 months to expiry date.

Please check with your local consulate or travel agent as to visa and passport requirements.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your passport, visas and certificates are all in order before departure.