

## Etosha Nationalpark



elphants at the waterhole

## Kaokoland



Himba village

## german architecture



Swakopmund

## untouched wilderness



lonely routes

## photographic highlights

## Dear friends of Namibia

Namibia is booming - we are in the middle of our 'tourist high season'. Although sometimes measuring minus degrees during our winter nights, the sun brings welcome warmth during the day, smiling upon us from an ever clear blue and cloudless sky. Our 'colder' winter months are considered the best travel time for game viewing purposes. In the Etosha National Park one can watch the busy coming and going of different game species at a nearby water hole without having to drive long stretches in search of game.

**"Special Offer"** We have compiled a super 'special offer' for you:

### **8 days Self-drive Safari & 8 days Relaxation at Guest Farm Okomitundu.**

Guests have the choice between standard or upmarket accommodations and a northern or southern travel route for their tour. The price is unbeatable!

**Highlights of the Southern Tour: Kalahari- Namib Desert - Swakopmund-Windhoek**

**Highlights of the Northern Tour: Etosha Park-Damaraland-Swakopmund-Windhoek**

Read more here: [www.acacianamibia.com/specials.html](http://www.acacianamibia.com/specials.html)

### **Self-drive Tours – Fly-In Safaris – Privately-Guided Tours**

We offer (you) individual travel designs according to your budget. Be inspired by our love of the country. We recommend lodges and guest farms of the highest quality within the requested price range. Send us your travel ideas – we forward a programme-suggestion and quotation [e-mail acacia@iwav.na](mailto:acacia@iwav.na)

On our webpage [www.acacianamibia.com](http://www.acacianamibia.com) you will find a wide variety of guided tours, fly-in safaris, activity tours, specials and other news.

New in the range of guided tours is a **cross-border safari** offered by Landrover

### **New! Capetown - Windhoek - in 13 days – departure once a month – from Feb 2009**

**Highlights: SA West Coast – Richtersveld - Fish river Canyon – Namib - Swakopmund-Erongo - Windhoek.**

### **New! Windhoek – Capetown - in 9 days – departure once a month – from Feb 2009**

**Highlights: Kgalagadi Transfrontierpark Park - Namaqualand –Northern Cape – Capetown**

These safaris offer the scenic variety of two countries and new routes "off the beaten track". Amazing landscapes combined with a little adventure and interesting attractions. Guesthouses and lodges offer comfortable accommodation. Extension offers to the northern parts of Namibia or around the Cape are available on request.



scenic dune landscapes

deserted diamond towns



Kolmanskop

**Did you know that the Sperrgebiet is due to be proclaimed to Nationalpark status by the end of the year?**

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**Air Namibia** now offers 'online-bookings' on their new Website: [www.airnamibia.com.na](http://www.airnamibia.com.na) Reservations and payments can be done comfortably via the PayGate system with Master or Visa cards. Visitors may also search for flight timetables, freight service, aircraft types and obtain information on lots of other news

### **100 years of diamonds in Namibia**

Our centenary celebrations do not end. Last year the establishment of the Etosha & Namib Naukluft Park were commemorated. This year Namibia celebrates the **discovery of the first diamond**. Railway worker Zacharias Lewela found the first precious stone on the 8th April 1908 near Lüderitz. With this discovery the era of diamond exploitation started around Lüderitz and the 'forbidden' Sperrgebiet was established. Today, the diamond industry contributes to 40 % of Namibia's export products. Unrefined diamonds are extracted from the sand and dune belt as well as the surf and ocean bed in the 'Sperrgebiet' Oranjemund with it's around 10000 inhabitants is today the only still active diamond-mining town in Namibia. The 'forbidden city' where visitors are only allowed with official permits, prepares for the 'opening' and transformation into a municipal town, which is due to be proclaimed by end of the year.

For the ceremonial occasion of the diamond centenary, a special **Namibian 'diamond cut'** was developed, aptly named 'the Namibian Sun'. This cut is also pictured on the new diamond jewellery stamp, which honors the diamond industry as a whole.

### **A discovery of global importance**

While busy with diamond-mining activities in the Sperrgebiet, an incredible discovery was made: the remains of an **ancient ship which could be 500 years old** was found. The national heritage council regards this find to be the "oldest ship-wreck ever found south of the Sahara". The late 15<sup>th</sup> century was the era of legendary explorers Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama und Bartolomeu Diaz. Experts are now in the process of revealing the origin the ship. Tons of copper, over 50 ivory tusks, tin tableware, navigational instruments, weapons and thousands of Spanish and Portuguese gold coins have been salvaged. Cannons made of bronze have been identified of Hispanic origin. The discovery of the ship is considered of immense national and international interest and Namibia's key archeological find of the century.

### **Interesting excursions in the area of Lüderitz and the 'Sperrgebiet'**

**Kolmanskop** – this place, located 10 km outside Lüderitz, is currently the only deserted mining town which can be visited by tourists without a special permit. It is the easiest accessible and most photographed 'diamond-goast town'

**Bogenfels und Pomona** – Tours are only possible on guided basis with special permission. Attention – it is a **day trip!**

**Elisabeth Bay Village** – is situated 45 km outside Lüderitz and one should count on 4-5 hours for a visit. Excursions are also possible on 'guided-self-drive' basis, but a **special permit** is necessary, too. (name, passport number, nationality, residential address and birth date has to be handed in to the tour-organiser at least 10 days before travelling)

**Until next time ! 'Totsiens'**

**Your**

*Acacia Namibia Team*