

Highlights: *Namib Carnivore Conservation Programme; Namib Naukluft National Park - Sossusvlei and Deadvlei; Sesriem Canyon; Dune 45; Fish River Canyon and hike; Kalahari basin*

1 Nov Namib Carnivore Conservation Programme - Desert Homestead, nr Namib Naukluft Park – 1night dinner, bed and breakfast

This morning after breakfast in your hotel in Swakopmund, you are collected by your guide between 07h30- 08h30 and depart south to the amazing Namib Naukluft Park. En route we stop at Solitaire and the Namib Conservation Centre where we have the opportunity to head out into the bush with a biologist to track wild cheetahs. The tracking begins in a game viewer and when close to the cats, the guests will accompany a biologist on foot, and learn about these wonderful, but vulnerable predators. There will be time to ask questions about the protection of cheetahs and other predators, how the telemetry works etc. The main aim of the Conservation Centre is to promote the rehabilitation and re-introduction of large carnivores in the area and provide assistance with mitigating human-wildlife conflict through sound research on carnivore densities, home ranges, behaviour and territories. By visiting the project not only do you have the chance to see cheetahs close up and learn more but provide valuable income to help support the research project. Walking in this spectacular landscape, close to the cheetahs promises to be a truly unique experience. From here we continue onto our accommodation where we overnight is in twin share chalet with dinner in the restaurant, lunch at own expense (D)



2 Nov Desert Homestead, nr Namib Naukluft Park – 1night dinner, bed and breakfast

This morning we depart from Desert Homestead early to be at the Sesriem gate at sunrise and from here drive to Sossusvlei, stopping for sunrise and witness the changing colours of these famous sand dunes. We explore this unique area on foot before heading into Dead Vlei with its large expanse of bleached cracked clay and skeletal camel thorn trees, contrasting with a backdrop of huge dunes with their ever-changing colours. We will also explore the nearby Sesriem Canyon, one of the few places with permanent water before returning to our lodge. Overnight is in twin share chalet with breakfast and dinner in the lodge, lunch own expense. Note we will leave the vehicle at the 2x4 car park and walk into the dunes, a shuttle service can be arranged (own expense) (BD)

Sesriem Canyon: At the entry to Sossusvlei is Sesriem Canyon, Where centuries of erosion have incised a narrow gorge about 1km in length. At the foot of the gorge, which plunges down 30 to 40 m, are pools that become replenished after good rains. Sesriem derives its name from the time when early pioneers tied six lengths of rawhide thongs (reins) together and secured to a bucket to draw water from the pools

Sossusvlei: Sossusvlei is a clay pan set amid monstrous piles of sand known as star dunes that reach the height of a 70storey skyscraper and rank among the tallest dunes on earth. A deathly white against red sands, the pan is the endpoint of a usually dry river, Tsauchab, in the interior of the Great Sand Sea. The river course rises south of the Naukluft Mountains in the Great escarpment. It penetrates the



sand sea for some 55km before it finally peters out about the same distance from the Atlantic. Until dunes stopped it in its tracks 60 000 years ago, the Tsauchab reached the sea, as ephemeral rivers still do in the northern half of the Namib. Sand-locked pans to the west were endpoints before Sossusvlei. The dunes in the vicinity of Sossusvlei get to be as high as 220m. They look even higher when their base rests on an elevated surface such as a river terrace. Indeed one of them that lie beside the Tsauchab rises 325m above the valley floor. Once a decade or so rainfall over the escarpment is sufficient to bring the river down in flood and fill the pan. On such occasions the mirror images of dunes and gnarled trees around the pan are reflected in the water. Sossusvlei is the biggest of four pans in the vicinity. In one of them, Dead Vlei, big camel thorn trees, dead for want of water, still stand erect. They grew in that place until about 900 years ago when the sand sea finally blocked the occasional floods.

3&4 Nov Fish River Lodge – 2nights dinner, bed and breakfast and day hike

It's an early start as a long drive south is ahead of us! We will be based at the beautiful Fish River Lodge for 2nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast and enjoy a guided hike into the canyon the following day, lunch at own expense (BD/BD)

Fish River Lodge: Fish River Lodge is located in a 45,000ha Canyon Nature Park – a private reserve north of the canyon offers a pristine and secluded environment and is the only located right on the rim of the Fish River Canyon. Opened in 2009 it is bounded by a 75km section of the Fish River and north of the main park. Each of the modern stone-clad chalets overlooks the canyon and are situated either side of the main lodge area, décor is minimalist yet blends in with the stark environment of chunks of rock and undulating terrain interspersed with the occasional quiver tree. A swimming pool, lounge, bar area is in the main lodge and activities include a superb 5day hike through the canyon, guided walks, scenic drives, day canyon drives etc.



Fish River Canyon: The highlight in the far south of the country is the Fish River Canyon, one of Namibia's most spectacular geological wonders and on the African continent, second in grandeur only to the Blue Nile Gorge in Ethiopia (and that's debatable). The canyon lies in the lower reaches of Namibia's longest river



– The Fish, and took millions of years to evolve to its present shape, (the base rocks were deposited around 1,800 million years ago!) and is a massive 161km long and 27km wide, with a varying depth of 550m. The river is the only one in Namibia to have permanent water during the dry season and because of this people have been attracted to it since the early stone age with early sites dating back as early as 50,000 years ago. Ai Ais area was used as a base by the Germans in their war against the Namas.

5 Nov Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch – 1night dinner bed and breakfast

We leave the Fish River region behind us and we continue our journey heading north to Bagatelle Kalahari Game Ranch arriving later in the afternoon. If time permits, we will join a sunset drive. Lunch own expense and dinner in restaurant (BD)

Bagatelle is set on a private reserve and game such as springbok, gemsbok and ostrich as well as jackal, hare and porcupine inhabit the dunes and dune valleys of the Kalahari Desert. The area is also home to the kori bustard, the largest flying bird of all, and of huge colonies of weaver birds' nests taking up whole trees. There are a number of optional activities such as sun downer drives, nature drives and walks on offer as well as see the group of meerkats that reside here.



6 Nov Windhoek

We return to Windhoek where you are dropped at your accommodation which can be arranged for you at an extra cost or the international airport, please do not book any flight prior to late afternoon to ensure you make your flight on time. Transfers can be arranged for you at your own expense. (B)

Price per person based on 8 people/twin share

N\$10,525

Price per person based on 10 people/twin share

N\$9,220

Single supplement will apply

Child Friendly: Min Age 12 yrs

Price includes – transport in a 2x4 safari vehicle; services of an English speaking guide/driver; accommodation and entry fees to national parks and places of interest as stated in itinerary; fuel; meals as stated in itinerary; activities as stated including cheetah conservation, guided activity to Sossusvlei, day hike in Fish River Canyon area; game drive at Bagatelle

Price excludes: personal travel insurance; commercial flights; drinks including mineral water; tips or gratuities; laundry; items of a personal nature; curios; telephone calls; medication; departure taxes and visa fees (if applicable); optional activities; additional meals not listed in itinerary; airport transfers; pre/post safari accommodation

Insurance: It is essential that you purchase comprehensive personal travel insurance before you embark on your holiday, medical insurance is insufficient. Travel insurance is for your own protection and should include evacuation; we also recommend full cover for baggage loss etc and consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel

Health: Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection. Note that Etosha is considered a malaria region (low risk) particularly during rainy season. No vaccinations are required by law for the countries being visited on this tour.

All tap water in Namibia has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. Tap drinking water is generally safe to drink but bottled mineral water is easily available at shops and rest camps should you prefer to drink this, at lodges it is provided

This trip involves some degree of walking and temperatures in November can be hot, clients need to be quite fit to enjoy these excursions

Visas: The onus is on the client to organize all visas required for clients prior to departure. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your scheduled departure date country of travel. If this is not the case, there is a danger of being turned away by the Immigration Service on arrival at the airport – assuming your airline has agreed to bring you and risk a fine in the first place. The Company cannot be held liable for any necessary visas or other travel documents not held by the clients. Please also note that if your passport requires a visa for the countries you visit and multiple entry if necessary, you will need to carry your passport with you during the trip

Namibia and surrounding countries are huge and to experience a comprehensive land safari, some long travelling days are unavoidable. We have designed this itinerary with the aim to keep the travelling time, each day, to a minimum. On some days however, clients must be prepared to travel long distances

Electrics: Electrical plugs are 220 V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek/Swakopmund or South Africa prior to travelling (most international airports will have South African adaptors), we recommend carrying spare batteries to be on the safe

side. Some locations will have wifi access but this is not guaranteed throughout the trip and those with this facility may charge for it.

Money: The Namibian dollar is tied permanently against the South African rand on a 1/1 basis so you are able to check the current exchange rate against your local currency. Both Namibian dollars and South African rand are legal currencies in Namibia. Generally, credit card facilities are accepted in the lodges and ATM's are available in towns, however, we recommend you carry some cash with you in case a machine is out of order. Travellers cheques can only be exchanged in major towns and it is often a time consuming and costly process so we do not recommend carrying them with you. It is customary to tip in Namibia, usually, around 10% at restaurants. Your guide can be tipped at your own discretion

Dietary: We can assist with various dietary requirements but we appreciate your details when you book with us (or with your agent). Please be aware that the choice and options may not be as great as your home country

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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