



Focus on Photography
Tours



NAMIBIA

DESERT, CULTURE & CONSERVATION AUGUST 8-20 2018

ITINERARY

Day 1 **ARRIVAL IN WINDHOEK**

Upon arrival in Windhoek, Namibia, group will be picked up by the local guide and transfer to the hotel to check in for one night. The rest of your day is at leisure.

Overnight in Windhoek at Safari Hotel

Day 2 **WINDHOEK – SOSSUSVLEI, NAMIB DESERT (B, D)***

Breakfast at the hotel and then check out. Our group will then be picked up and have a scenic drive to Sossusvlei, part of the Namib Desert, by private vehicle. On arrival we will check into the lodge for the next two nights. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight in Sossusvlei at Moon Mountain Lodge.

Day 3 **SOSSUSVLEI & SESRIEM (B, D)**

Today calls for an early rise as the guide takes group into the Sossusvlei as the sun rises. Visit Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei and Sesriem Canyon today.

Sossusvlei's rich ochre sand dunes offer one of the most mind-blowing sights you will ever experience. The white vleis (clay pans) contrast sharply against the red sand and vast blue sky, while fog-dependent animals and plants seek shelter from the sweltering heat underneath the sand and age-old camelthorn trees. One of these pans, referred to as Dead Pan, is a large ghostly expanse of dried white clay, punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, carbon-dated as being between 500 and 600 years old.

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges.

Overnight in Sossusvlei at Moon Mountain Lodge.

Day 4 **SOSSUSVLEI – SWAKOPMUND (B)**

After breakfast, we will check out and begin a scenic drive to Swakopmund by private vehicle. On the way visit the Kuiseb Moon Valley & Welwitschia Mirabilis. We will also visit the coastal harbour town of Walvis Bay, teeming with roughly 50 species of seabirds, including vivid flocks of flamingos, bulky-billed pelicans and black cormorants.

After arriving in Swakopmund and checking into our hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight in at Beach Lodge.

Day 5 **SWAKOPMUND – BRANDBERG - DAMARALAND (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel and then check out. Group will then be picked up and will head further north via the Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain (2,579m), into the Damaraland, one of the least populated and geologically diverse areas in Africa. This harsh, rocky environment is home to the rare desert elephant, the black rhino and free-roaming antelope species.

On arrival group will check into Vingerklip Lodge for one night.

Day 6 **DAMARALAND – TWYFELFONTEIN – ETOSHA (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel and then this morning our group will explore the most famous sights of the Damaraland, the so-called Petrified Forest (about 260 million years old) and then the famous rocks of Twyfelfontein, with their up to 6,000 years old rock engravings and wall paintings. Continuing on to the Burnt Mountain with its unique coloring and organ pipes (Dolerite columns) then up a huge granite mountain we will visit a Damara village where we will learn all about their tradition and culture and how to survive in this arid area with simple but ingenious means.

Continue to Etosha, and check into the Etosha Safari Camp for one night.

Day 7 ETOSHA – EASTERN SIDE (B, D)

Breakfast at the lodge and then check out. Group will drive through Etosha National Park to the eastern side. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km². The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub.

On arrival we will check into the Mokuti Etosha Lodge for the next two nights.

Day 8 ETOSHA – GAME DRIVES (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will enjoy game drives in Etosha National Park with a private vehicle* and guide.

We will have time to enjoy the surroundings of the lodge with dinner included at the lodge tonight.

**Note vehicles are NOT open vehicle 4 X 4's*

Day 9 ETOSHA – WATERBERG REGION (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the lodge and then check out. Today we will journey to the surrounding of the Waterberg region by private vehicle. On arrival group will check in for the next four nights at Cheetah View Lodge.

DAY 10-12 CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND - ACTIVITIES (B, L, D)

For the next three days we will have the opportunity to see the amazing work that the Cheetah Conservation Fund is doing. The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) was founded in 1990 by Dr. Laurie Marker. CCF's mission is to be an internationally recognized center of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and their eco-systems, working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in the conservation and management of the world's cheetahs.

DAY 13 DEPARTURE (B)

After breakfast we will head back to Windhoek so you can catch your flight home or choose to extend your trip.

LAND ONLY

\$5150 CAD per person (includes all taxes)

Based on 10 people, double occupancy

Single supplement \$1250 CAD

DEPOSIT AMOUNT: \$250 per person (non-refundable)

FINAL PAYMENT: May 9, 2018

INCLUDED

- 12 nights accommodation, including local taxes
- All transfers and transportation is by private vehicle with driver (*Any individuals travelling outside the group arrangement must organize own transportation*)
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance, Departure guide assistance
- Local guide with group from Day 2 – 13 – English speaking
- Professional Photographer Host (French/English speaking)
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated (B-full breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Namibia passenger liability & evacuation insurance

NOT INCLUDED

- All airfares, departure taxes & fuel surcharges, seat selection
- Travel and emergency medical insurance (mandatory)
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities
- Optional excursions and activities
- Visa/passport handling fees

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than **71 days prior** to departure = loss of non-refundable deposit

Between **70-46 days prior** to departure = 75% loss

45 days or less prior to departure = 100% non-refundable



YOUR HOST:

Vanessa Dewson is an Ottawa-based professional photographer, who began hosting photo tours in 2012 and founded Focus on Photography Tours in 2015 after becoming a certified travel agent. She is an accredited member of the Professional Photographers of Canada, recently earning her Master of Photographic Arts as well as several awards for her travel photography.

Vanessa has lived in South Africa and travelled to Namibia where she fell in love with the landscape and wildlife. She volunteered to re-vamp the Cheetah Conservation Fund of Canada's website in 2016 and is excited to visit the foundation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK

YOUR SPOT CONTACT:

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