

April 17 - May 1, 2018

INTERNATIONAL  
**Wildlife**  
ADVENTURES

# Namibia:

## Exploring Southern Africa's Coastal Desert

### Join Randy and Susie Green



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Private game drives to national parks and game reserves
- See the world's largest dunes of Sossusvlei
- Visit & photograph traditional Himbas
- Explore prehistoric rock carvings and unique geological formations
- Stay in top-quality lodges and bush camps
- Travel by comfortable pop-top Land Cruisers
- Track endangered desert adapted black rhino

Join IWA Directors Randy and Susie Green for this extraordinary trip to Namibia April 17 - May 1, 2018.

Namibia is fast becoming one of Africa's most popular safari destinations, for good reasons. This progressive desert nation offers well-managed parks with healthy wildlife populations, wild beaches, traditional cultures and stunning desert scenery, including some of the tallest sand dunes in the world.

Namibia offers wildlife enthusiasts a wealth of game viewing and a lot of territory to see it in - the country is larger than the state of Texas!



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## Namibia

### Day 1: April 17, 2018 Arrive Windhoek

After landing at Windhoek's International Hosea Kutako Airport, about 40 km outside of Windhoek, we will be welcomed by our private guide who will transfer us to the Galton House guesthouse where we will stay overnight in their beautifully designed rooms. O/N **Galton House**

### Day 2: April 18, 2018 Windhoek to Africat Foundation

After a leisurely breakfast we will be collected by our naturalist guide and set off on our journey in our safari vehicle, which today takes us through Okahandja to Okonjima, the home of the AfriCat Foundation. We will visit the Okahandja Craft Market en route and arrive at Okonjima Plains Camp in time for lunch. The afternoon is spent on activities offered by the camp such as an afternoon of tracking leopards from a vehicle.

**AfriCat Foundation:** Okonjima is home to the AfriCat Foundation, a wildlife sanctuary which focuses on the research and rehabilitation of Africa's big cats, especially injured or captured leopard and cheetah. Close encounters with leopard and cheetah are an unforgettable highlight. Activities include leopard tracking by vehicle, a visit to the cheetah welfare project and a visit to the night hide where nocturnal animals such as porcupine, caracal, honey badger and even leopard may be seen.

### O/N Okonjima Bush Camp, AfriCat Foundation

### Day 3: April 19, 2018 AfriCat to Etosha

This morning is spent on an excursion that includes tracking cheetah on foot before returning to the main camp for brunch. We depart heading north for the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park, arriving in the late morning. If time allows we may also visit Lake Otjikoto before arriving at our destination and game reserve with enough time to relax and freshen up before for dinner. The rest of the evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit

waterhole where game comes and goes throughout the day and night.

**Etosha National Park:** Etosha National Park covers 22,270 km<sup>2</sup>, of which approximately 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> is made up of saline depressions or 'pans'. The largest of these pans, the Etosha Pan, can be classified as a saline desert in its own right. O/N **Onguma - Tented Camp**



### Day 4: April 20, 2018 Etosha National Park

This morning is dedicated to game drives within the eastern section of the the park. You will return to camp for lunch and afternoon siesta before heading back out for the late afternoon game drive returning after sunset in time for a nice dinner while you watch the animals at the lighted waterhole. O/N **Onguma - Tented Camp**

### Day 5 & 6: April 20 & 21, 2018 Eastern Etosha to Southern Etosha National Park Boundary

Day 5 is spent on an extended game drive from the eastern side of Etosha National Park to the southern boundary. We make our way across the park having lunch en route. The drive today can take us most of the day, depending on how much time is spent game viewing at the different waterholes along the way. After arriving at

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camp, the rest of the afternoon and evening can be spent game viewing at the camp's floodlit waterhole.

Set against a backdrop of the low Ondundozonanandana Mountains, Ongava Lodge Camp is located within the private Ongava Game Reserve which borders Etosha National Park.

Ongava Game Reserve offers over thirty different animal species consisting of plains game including kudu, giraffe, eland, oryx, hartebeest, zebra, impala and many more roam freely, as well as predators including lion, cheetah and leopard. Ongava Game Reserve is now home to a family of black rhino. There are more than 300 bird species at the reserve.

On our second day we will make game drives back in the park. We will visit the Etosha Pan which is classified as a saline desert. The park boasts 114 mammal and over 340 bird species. The Etosha Pan fills only when it floods in Angola and washes down along the Cuveli drainage system.

**O/N Ongava Lodge, Ongava Game Reserve, Southern Boundary of Etosha National Park**

### **Day 7: April 23, 2018 Etosha National Park to Huab Under Canvas Camp**

This morning we depart and continue into Damaraland which is a display of unique colors, table topped mountains, rock formations, and bizarre looking vegetation. The landscape has been formed by erosion of wind, water and geological forces which have formed rolling hills, dunes, gravel plains, and ancient river terraces.

En-route we will make your way to visit an extremely remote Himba village, location known to few people. After your visit to the village, a picnic lunch will be served at a scenic location on the way to Huab Under Canvas Camp.

**Huab Under Canvas** is located in a core desert adapted black rhino area in the Huab Conservancy in Damaraland, approximately 90 km north west of Khorixas, and it is nestled in a grove of Mopane trees on the banks of a tributary of the Huab River. Protected from all the prevailing winds and sun, the semi-mobile camp is virtually invisible from anywhere around and it carries arguably the lowest environmental footprint of any camp in Namibia. Tents are raised on mobile platforms and have basic



infrastructure that allows for important comforts such as en suite flush toilets, but the essence of the camp remains Under Canvas, mobile and experiential. With provision for up to eight tents, this camp is booked on an exclusive basis for each group staying in it. Good food and wine are an important part of the overall experience, so our camp catering is of a suitably high standard.

Activities include tracking desert adapted rhino which is completely private and done in an area that has the highest tracking success rate in north western Namibia; exploring the upper and less crowded Huab River in search of desert adapted elephants (if in the area); nature walks and scenic game drives; as well as the possibility of visiting some nearby prehistoric rock engravings.

**The Himba:** Semi-nomads who live in scattered settlements throughout the Kunene Region. They are a tall, slender and statuesque people, characterized especially by their proud yet friendly bearing. The women especially are noted for their unusual sculptural beauty, enhanced by intricate hairstyles and traditional adornments. They rub their bodies with red ochre and fat, a treatment that protects their skins against the harsh desert climate.

#### **O/N Huab Under Canvas Camp**

#### **Day 8: April 24, 2018: Damaraland**

Full day available to explore the Damaraland area, enjoying the freedom to discover the fascinating landscapes with our guide. Damaraland is a surprising refuge for desert adapted wildlife that may include elephants, giraffe, oryx, springbok and even some predators, though with any wildlife sightings in Namibia, its season depending and never guaranteed. The wildlife roams large tracks of unfenced desert landscapes and sightings can therefore be at times challenging, but part of the adventure of exploring this wild untouched gem of Namibia.

**Desert Black Rhinoceros:** Namibia is home to the larger of two subspecies of the black rhinoceros found in southern Africa. The only population that remains in the wild, unfenced and outside reserves occupies an arid range in the western Kaokoveld. Their preferred habitat is the mountainous escarpment, but they follow

ephemeral rivers into the northern Namib as well, especially when conditions are favorable after rains. They are the only black rhinoceros in Africa that are internationally recognized as a “desert group”. Like desert-adapted elephant, they cover great distances. They walk and feed at night and rest during the day. To meet their nutritional and bulk requirements they browse on no fewer than 74 of the 103 plant species that grow in their range. Once widespread in the subcontinent, black rhinoceros are an endangered species. The smaller subspecies, *Diceros bicornis minor*, does not range into Namibia.

#### **O/N Huab Under Canvas Camp, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

#### **Day 9: April 25, 2018: Huab Under Canvas to Camp Kipwe**

After a leisurely breakfast you take to the road heading further south to reach Camp Kipwe. Your guide will also fit in a visit to the geological site of the pre-historic Twyfelfontein rock engravings (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

**Camp Kipwe:** Camp Kipwe lies in the heart of Damaraland, ideally located a short drive from the local attractions in the area. The Camp is nestled amongst an outcrop of giant granite boulders, a stone’s throw away from the ephemeral Aba Huab riverbed where desert adapted elephants often traverse. Each comfortable thatched bungalow is simply but tastefully furnished with an en-suite open-air bathroom. In the center of the camp lies a large alfresco dining area, bar, lounge and reception with an inviting fireplace nearby to relax beside in the evenings. A refreshing swimming pool and sunset lookout with lovely views also complement the Camp.

#### **O/N Camp Kipwe, Damaraland**

#### **Day 10: April 26, 2018 Twyfelfontein Area**

After an early breakfast you will be treated to an exciting 4x4 excursion along the ephemeral Aba Huab and Huab River valleys to explore this remarkable region and to search for game, including the elusive desert adapted elephants if they are in the area. Damaraland is home to a variety of desert adapted wildlife and hidden desert treasures. As the elephants are mostly active in





the mornings you will normally have the best chance to see them then before returning to camp for lunch. However depending on their location you also have the option to take a picnic lunch and stop to enjoy that in the shade of a large Ana tree by the riverbed, ideally while watching a herd of elephant browsing nearby.

#### **O/N Kipwe Camp**

#### **Day 11: April 27, 2018 Damaraland to Swakopmund**

After breakfast we will depart for Swakopmund passing Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, and have lunch en route as this is a long drive to enjoy the scenery. We will arrive in Swakopmund in the mid afternoon in time to wander around town and along the waterfront on foot before heading off for dinner at the popular Tug Restaurant by the jetty which specializes in fresh seafood.

**Hansa Hotel:** A timeless classic forming part of Swakopmund's architectural culture is the grand Hansa Hotel, dating back to 1905.

#### **O/N Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund**

#### **Day 12: April 28, 2018 Swakopmund to Sossusvlei**

The fascinating drive takes us southeast through awesome and ever changing desert landscapes of the Namib Naukluft National Park, including the impressive Gaub and Kuiseb canyons.

**Sesriem Canyon:** Sesriem Canyon has evolved through centuries of erosion by the Tsauchab River which has incised a narrow gorge about 1.5 km long and 30 meters deep into the surrounding conglomerates, exposing the varying layers of sedimentation deposited over millions of years. The shaded cool depths of the canyon allow pools of water to gather during the rainy season and remain for much of the year round. These pools were a vital source of water for early settlers who drew water for their livestock by knotting six (ses) lengths of rawhide thongs (riems) together, hence the canyon and surrounding area became known as Sesriem.

**Sossus Dune Lodge:** Sossus Dune Lodge is built in an environmentally sensitive manner, primarily from wood, canvas and thatch, in an attractive 'afro – village' style. All units offer

magnificent open vistas of the surrounding landscapes and is the only lodging inside the park for early morning sunrise photos. **O/N Sossus Dune Lodge, Namib Naukluft National Park**

#### **Day 13: April 29, 2018 Sossusvlei / NamibRand Nature Reserve**

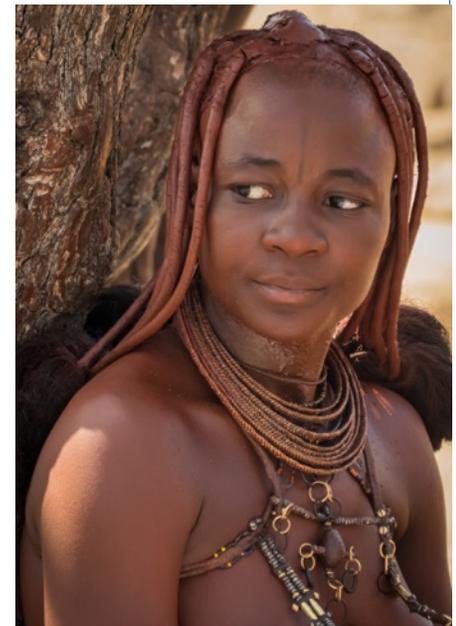
**Sossusvlei:** This most frequently visited section of the massive 50,000km<sup>2</sup> Namib Naukluft National Park has become known as Sossusvlei, famous for its towering apricot colored sand dunes which can be reached by following the Tsauchab River valley. Here we will find some of the tallest dunes in the world, up to 1,000 feet.

#### **Day 14: April 30, 2018 Sossusvlei to Windhoek**

**You have an option to do a sunrise hot air balloon ride over the Namib Naukluft Park (additional cost) before breakfast.**

After a leisurely breakfast we start traversing our way back to the capital city, Windhoek.

The drive takes us in a northerly direction, through the Khomas Hochland highlands, leaving the Namib Desert behind us. Lunch will be en-route and we arrive at our accommodation in the mid afternoon. Our farewell dinner tonight is at the guesthouse together with our guide.



#### **O/N Galton House, Windhoek**

#### **Day 15, May 1, 2018**

#### **Departure**

This morning our guide will collect us from the Galton House and transfer us to the International Airport in time for us to catch our outgoing international flight back home.

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*This is officially the end of our Namibian Safari (unless you are continuing on the Skeleton Coast Extension, below). We hope to see you again soon, Bon voyage...!*

**Depart / Optional extension to:**

- Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp (itinerary below)**
- Botswana -- call for add on rates and itinerary.**

**Optional Extension to Skeleton Coast**

**Day 1: Windhoek to Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp**

Those electing to continue on the extension will be transferred to the Eros Airport for your scheduled light aircraft flight to Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp. On arrival you will be met by a guide from camp who will transfer you to camp for your three night stay. The afternoon will be spent exploring the Hoanib River, a recovering wildlife refuge.

**Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp**

**Day 2: Skeleton Coast Park boundary**

Today is spent on activities as arranged by the camp, with local guides. The activities include game drives searching for desert adapted wildlife, guided walks to hide platforms and hiking trails and afternoon drives.

**Day 3: Skeleton Coast Park boundary**

This morning after breakfast you will go into the Skeleton Coast National Park, boarding a light aircraft for a scenic flight to the coast before landing on the beach--*weather dependent with no refunds if the flight can't take off due to weather as you are not charged additional for the flight. Other activities will be planned for the day.* Continue in a safari vehicle exploring the majestic coastline. After a picnic lunch on the beach and further exploration you will be flown back to Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp in time to relax and enjoy a 'sundowner'.

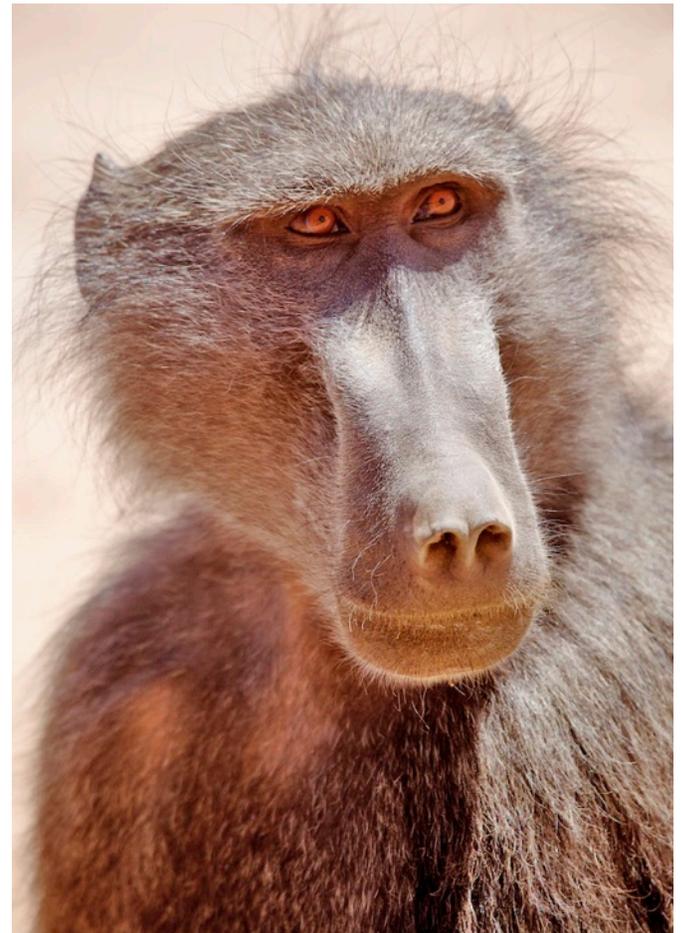
**Day 4: Skeleton Coast Park boundary to Windhoek**



This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to the local airstrip for your scheduled light aircraft flight back to Windhoek. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your night's accommodation. **Galton House**

**Day 5: Departure**

This morning you be will collected from Galton House and transferred to the International Airport in time for you to catch your outgoing international flight back home.



## Date & Rate

### Main Tour

4 - 8 passengers: \$12,895 PP

#### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$1,250 based on 5 paying.

Need a minimum of 4 passengers to guarantee a departure. Maximum of 8 total paying in 2 safari vehicles.

*All prices in US Dollars*

### Skeleton Coast Extension

WITH SCHEDULED AIR

Call for rates and availability.

## Cancellation and Insurance

Deposit of 25% is non-refundable. Balance due 90 days before trip. 100% non-refundable for cancellations less than 60 days prior to departure, 50% non-refundable if cancelled 61 to 90 days prior.

We **strongly recommend** trip cancellation insurance however evacuation insurance is required by the operator. Ask us for a quote from one of our travel insurance partners.

## Included on Tour:

*All prices from Windhoek are based on double occupancy per person, exchange rates at time of publication but are subject to exchange rate fluctuation if the rate goes against more than 5%.*

*Price includes all meals from day 1 to breakfast on day of departure, internal transportation by vehicle (air not included), lodging on itinerary, all activities listed and guide services.*



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