

# Pride of Africa

## Safaris

### The 14 day Namibian Circular Lodge Tour

Booking Reference (NAM 01)

This Safari is for a minimum of four people sharing, valid all year round, and includes:

- 2 nights Sossusvlei Lodge, Namib Naukluft Park
  - 2 nights Swakopmund, West Coast
  - 2 nights Xaragu Camp, Damaraland
- 2 nights Etendeka Mountain Camp, Damaraland
  - 2 nights Hobatere lodge
- 2 nights Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo & Halali
- 1 night Onguma Bush Camp, just outside Etosha National Park
  - Drop off in Windhoek

### Day 1 and 2: Sossusvlei Lodge, Namib Naukluft Park



Sossusvlei



Sossusvlei Dunes



Sossusvlei Lodge

We meet the group on arrival at Windhoek International Airport. We leave Windhoek heading in a southerly direction towards Sossusvlei where we will be staying for the next two nights. Lunch will be served en route, and we arrive at our lodge late afternoon with time to settle into the beautiful surroundings.

A very early departure on Day 2 takes us to some of the highest sand dunes in the world at the famous Sossusvlei. We spend the morning exploring the area, and return to the lodge for a delicious lunch. That afternoon we visit the Sesriem Canyon before returning to the lodge to enjoy the African evening and a mouth-watering dinner. We prepare to travel further the following day.

Sesriem, the gateway to Sossusvlei, is named after a 30m deep canyon carved through layers of conglomerate by the Tsauchab River. The name is translated as "six thongs" – a reference to the fact that pioneer farmers had to use six ox thongs to lower buckets to the pools in the narrow canyon.

The red dunes at the Sossusvlei are some of the most impressive natural treasures of Namibia. With a relative height of about 375m above the Tsauchab River and a height difference of about 225m to the neighbouring valleys these mountains of sand are an amazing sight.

Below the present dune field lie the 30 million year-old Tsondeb Sandstones, which represent petrified dunes of an ancient Namib. Thus at Sossusvlei a picture of a desert is created, which lies on the petrified evidence of an even older desert. Both deserts however are separated by a long period of a more humid climate.

### **Days 3 and 4: Swakopmund, Beach Lodge**



**Swakopmund**



**Dolphin sightings on cruise**



**Beach Lodge, Swakopmund**

We leave the Namib Desert and Sossusvlei behind after an early breakfast and travel west towards the historic town of Swakopmund. The morning is spent exploring the Kuiseb Canyon, and having lunch en route. Passing through Walvis Bay we will stop at the Lagoon which is renowned for large concentrations of waders, flamingos and shore birds. The afternoon can be spent at your leisure exploring the town.

Swakopmund is popular amongst visitors because of its old-world charm and relaxed atmosphere. Founded in 1892 during the period of German colonial rule, it served as the territory's main harbour for many years. Today this quaint town, hedged by desert and sea, is enhanced by lush green lawns, palm trees and carefully tended public gardens.

After breakfast we drive to Walvis Bay. An optional boat cruise takes us around Walvis Bay Harbour giving the opportunity to see Cape Fur Seals and Dolphins. For the more adventurous the day can be spent quad biking, skydiving, sand boarding etc. Please note that all activities in Swakopmund will be for your own cost. On arrival day 1 a booklet with all activities and pricing in Swakopmund will be handed to you to help you decide how to make the most of Swakopmund.

The coast with its desert hinterland offers many options, both for adventure and for relaxation.



**Desert outside Swakopmund**



**Seal on cruise**



**Quad biking**

## **Days 5 and 6: Xaragu Camp, Damaraland**



**Kudu Bull in Damaraland**



**Damaraland scenery**



**Rock paintings**

Leaving the coast our route takes us via Henties Bay to Twyfelfontein. We will stay at Xaragu Camp for the next 2 nights, a small but comfortable and friendly camp in Damaraland.

Among the many other attractions west of Khorixas is the Petrified Forest, and Twyfelfontein with its superb collection of over 2400 rock engravings. Nearby are the Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes, a series of angular columns of dolerite exposed in a dry river bed.

Today we visit all the above mentioned attractions and we also search for desert elephant and rhino in the dry riverbeds. We will take a packed lunch along with us to eat when we find the ideal spot somewhere on our travels. We return to camp in the late afternoon to enjoy a sundowner before dinner is served.

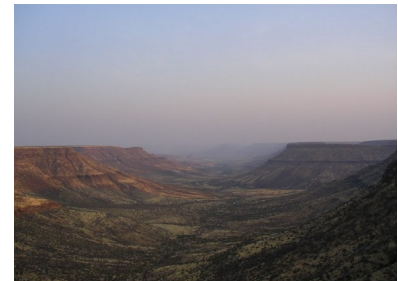
## **DAY 7 and 8: Etendeka Mountain Camp, Damaraland**



**Etendeka Camp**



**Etendeka Tents**



**View of Grootberg**

After an early breakfast we head north via Palmwag stopping en route for photographic opportunities until we reach Etendeka Mountain Camp. Lunch will be served at the Lodge, and we are staying here on a full board basis.

Etendeka is the land of the layered hills. There are wide open spaces, rugged natural beauty and vistas that go on forever. This is the land where time stands still, where the modern world and its cares are forgotten, where the plants and animals have evolved side by side with their environment over millennia.

The Etendeka Tourist Concession comprises an area of 50 000 ha in the foothills of the Grootberg on the edge of the rocky Namib Desert. The ancient basalt has been eroded into a dramatic landscape of flat-topped hills and plains strewn with weathered boulders.

The concession is part of the old Damaraland where the wildlife, living alongside nomadic pastoralists, is truly free to roam uninhibited. The sighting of Hartmann's mountain zebra, oryx, springbok, giraffe or perhaps even

the desert adapted elephant or black rhino may add an exciting bonus to your stay. Evidence of these animals, however, is often seen, along with less conspicuous inhabitants - reptiles, small mammals, insects and other arthropods.

Many of Namibia's endemic birds occur here, such as Herero Chat, Monteiro's Hornbill, Rüppell's Korhaan and Rockrunner. An average annual rainfall of around 100mm supports scattered and often thick-stemmed desert-adapted trees and shrubs and varying grass cover. Here you will meet the "Etendeka Big Five" trees. Our days here at Etendeka Mountain Camp consist of game drives and nature walks.

### **Days 9 and 10: Hobatere Lodge – camping**



**Hobatere Lodge**



**Hartmann's zebra**



**Guided walk**

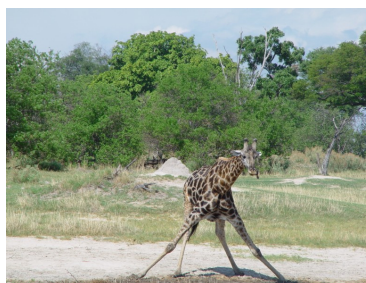
An early start takes us to Opuwo in the North, and from there we head in a south-westerly direction towards Kamanjab. Lunch will be served en route. We overnight at Hobatere, strategically situated 65km from Kamanjab on the Western border of Etosha National Park.

Hobatere offers a taste of the wilderness, with free roaming animals on an area of 32 000 ha, such as elephants, lions, cheetah, leopard, Eland, Hartmann's zebra and many more. We offer game drives as well as night drives in open vehicles, bird watching (including 9 near-endemic species), guided walks and for those that prefer not to participate there is a swimming pool with a view over a waterhole where elephants are often seen, a hide (300 m from the lodge) overlooking a water hole, a terrarium with various local reptiles and a private indoor garden.

### **Days 11 and 12: Etosha National Park, Okaukuejo & Namutoni**



**Elephants in Etosha**



**Giraffe drinking**



**Leopard resting**

Today we head for the world-renowned Etosha National Park. We enter the Park through the southern gate at Okaukuejo. Lunch will be served en route or on arrival at Okaukuejo. A late afternoon game drive enables us to explore the waterholes in the southern part of the park. After dinner, evening spent at the floodlit waterhole where an array of animals comes down to drink.

Etosha is one of Africa's great national parks; the game viewing here is on a par with Kruger, Hwange, the Masai Mara and Serengeti. Some 114 mammal species, 110 reptile species and more than 340 different bird species have been identified, and three well appointed rest camps cater for the hundreds of daily visitors.

Each rest camp has a floodlit waterhole, which offers overnight visitors the chance to see good numbers of game in an unusual environment. A large proportion of the park is either closed to the public or inaccessible by road, which has enabled conservationists to carry out important studies of wildlife.

Depart Okaukuejo heading in an easterly direction to our next camp Fort Namutoni. After lunch, there is time to enjoy viewing the waterhole, until late afternoon when sundowners will be enjoyed on top of the Fort.

The central feature of the park is the Etosha Pan, a huge depression that in years of exceptional rainfall becomes a lake again, although even then the majority sits only a few centimetres deep. There are no roads across the pan; but along the southern fringes is a network of gravel roads, which offer some exceptional views of this natural feature, which can be clearly seen from space. A visit to Etosha is one of the highlights of any visit to Namibia.

### **DAY 13: Onguma Tented Camp, outside Etosha National Park**



After breakfast we leave Etosha National Park and a short drive takes us to Onguma Tented Camp.

Onguma Tented Camp is a beguiling mixture of sophistication and relaxation, of elegance and the earth. It is this intriguing combination and attention to detail that makes Onguma Tented Camp, the latest in Visions of Africa's up-market portfolio of camps, the ultimate in safari chic. In the local Herero language, Onguma means, "the place you don't want to leave." With a stunning main building and seven tents providing private, exclusive accommodation, Onguma Tented Camp, certainly lives up to its name.

Like the bush where soft air blows against sharp thorns, Onguma Tented Camp is a study in contrasts. Textures such as stone, suede, linen and steel create a setting that is sleek and modern but also inherently of the earth. Inspired by a photograph of an Oryx on Etosha's Fisher's Pan, the interior echoes the colours of its natural surrounds. Grey, charcoal, black, white, and creams, together with a touch of muted or unexpectedly bright green, adds sophistication and earthiness to the atmosphere.

An atmosphere of elegant dining prevails, complimented by the daily activities taking place around the watering hole, approximately 60 metres away. The surrounding nature lends itself to long lazy afternoons, spent relaxing on the sofas in the lounge, watching the animals go. And when things heat up, all that is required is a gentle stroll to the rim flow pool. Sit and relax in the flowing waters while enjoying an ice cold cooler. Alternatively if

more strenuous activity is required, then relaxing on your patio and reading a good book should provide you with all the exercise you may need.



Gemsbok near Onguma



Sunset in Namibia

### **DAY 14: Windhoek, Capital city of Namibia**

An early departure enables us to reach Windhoek in time for lunch, after which you will be dropped off at your guesthouse. That will conclude our service.

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#### **This trip is inclusive of:**

- All accommodation as specified in the itinerary (Subject to availability at the time of booking)
- All meals, table wines and local beers, mineral water
- Park entry fees
- Activities as per the itinerary
- Game drives/Nature walks as specified
- The services of a professional safari guide with vehicle

#### **This trip Excludes:**

- All flights & Airport Tax
- Optional extras and activities
- Travel Insurance
- All telephone calls are for your own account
- Laundry
- Extra drinks at the bar
- Strong spirits
- Visas (if needed)

#### **General Information:**

**Insurance:** It is compulsory for all clients to be insured for personal accident, medical emergency, travel and rescue expenses, cancellation and curtailment prior to departure from their home country.

**Health requirements:** Malaria occurs in certain areas of Namibia and Botswana. It is recommended that you consult your physician as to the appropriate malaria prophylaxis. All water on safari is safe for drinking.

**Travel documents:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of the safari. The following people DO NOT need a Visa for Namibia and Botswana provided that you have a return airfare as proof: FRG, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Ireland, UK, Austria, Italy, France, USA, Canada, Japan, Scandinavia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Netherlands, and South-Africa.

**Items to bring with:** Light and rugged items like denims/slacks, shorts, cool tops and comfortable hiking shoes as well as sandals (slops, flip-flops) for the warmer days. In winter warm sweaters or jackets are required. Sunburn protection, insect repellent, hat, sunglasses, binoculars, torch and toiletries.

**For wildlife photography a minimum of a 200mm lens is recommended. Zoom lenses can be very useful. Also bring extra memory sticks and batteries. Your camera and batteries can be charged through an inverter which is fitted in our vehicles.**

**Scheduled departures:** 06.03.2010; 10.04.2010; 15.05.2010; 12.06.2010; 03.07.2010; 17.07.2010  
07.08.2010; 21.08.2010; 11.09.2010; 9.10.2010; 13.11.2010; 19.12.2010