

Sasendle Adventure Tours



South Africa and Namibia Tours and Safaris

Cape Namibia Explorer Option 3 - 2013

23 days / 22 nights

Tour Code **CPTNAMEX03-OPT1 (G=Guided)**

The tour starts in CAPE TOWN and ends WINDHOEK. Highlights of this tour are: South African West Coast, Northern Cape, Aussenkehr Park, Luderitz, KolmansKoppe, Namib Horses, Damaraland (Desert Elephants), Messum Crater, Namibia West Coast, Desert Moon Landscape, Naukluft Park, Namib Desert, Sossusvlei, Tiras Mountains, Etosha, Kaokoveld, Epupa Falls, Himba, Nama, Damara, Owambo, Herero, Bushmen Cultures. The safari is conducted in Sasendle 4x4 vehicle. Accommodation is provided at comfortable guesthouses and tourist class lodges. The approximate distance for this tour is 5000km.

Day 1 : Western Cape Coast

Departing from Cape Town we travel along the R27 taking the scenic coastal route of the Western Cape to Langebaan. The idyllic beachfront setting! Crystal Lagoon Lodge rests on a fynbos-sheltered dune only a few feet from the ocean's frame. Extraordinary beautiful sea views from the highest point on a fynbos-covered dune through large floor-to-ceiling windows.

Crystal Lagoon Lodge is situated right on the edge of the desirable location of Langebaan lagoon. There are no borders between you and the sea, only the boardwalk, and a few wooden stairs to a white sandy beach of a sea lagoon, where shells depict as proof of life around our kelp forests. Shells are only found next to a sea fed lagoon without any river inlet flowing into the sea. The ambiance of Crystal Lagoon Lodge celebrates one of the world's rare sea lagoons.

Overnight Crystal Lagoon Boutique or similar. (DBB)

Day 2: Aussenkehr Park - Namibian Border

Today we will drive through the Aussenkehr Park, which is remote and mountainous and one of the finest wilderness areas in South Africa. It is home to numerous rare mammal, reptile and plant species. Here we may get in contact with local Nama tribes who move with their live-stock with the changing of seasons in search of better pastures. We cross the Namibian border via Noordoewer, to our overnight destination at Norotshama River Lodge.

Overnight Norotshama River Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 3: Namaqualand – Springbok

Spectacular scenery of rugged hills and granite domes offers itself on the drive to our destination - Naries Namakwa Retreat. This region is a photographic paradise with succulent and wild flowers in abundance during the flower season (Aug&Sep). Springbok's history is closely linked to the copper mining industry and the colorful culture of the Nama people is widely on display in this area.

Overnight Naries Namakwa Retreat or similar. (DBB)

Day 4 and 5: Fish River Canyon

Today we travel through the fantastic landscape of the Nama Karoo and admire its fauna and flora. One of the highlights in Southern Namibia is the great Fish River Canyon which we shall visit in the afternoon measuring 160 km in length, 27 km in width and up to 550 m deep the canyon is one area presents an awesome sight during sunset. The Fish River originates 600 km further up in the Naukluft Mountains and ends south of Ai-Ais where it flows into the Gariep River. The canyon offers beautiful views from various lookout points.

Overnight Canon Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 6 and 7: Succulent Karoo Desert

After a late morning breakfast we will depart to the Klein Aus Vista Homestead. Time at free disposal for walks or to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings! This is also the realm of the 'wild horses of the Namib. These magnificent creatures can often be seen roaming the far horizons or gathering at a watering point close by.

A day excursion to the quaint harbor town of Lüderitz! The town has an interesting German colonial background and sports a curious array of historical buildings built during the diamond rush at the turn of the century. We visit

the "ghost town" Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found 100 years ago. Today its dilapidated houses are slowly being swamped by the shifting sands of the Namib. We return to Klein Aus Vista in the afternoon.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista or similar. (DBB)

Day 8 and 9: Namib Desert Sossusvlei

We proceed slowly via scenic surroundings to our next destination near the entrance gate to the Namib Naukluft Park. Age-old camel thorn trees and unsurpassed 360 degree views dominate the desert landscape towards the mountain-range in the distance. We enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is still mild and when the dune contrasts are at their best. Fascinating Sossusvlei is one of the landscapes making the difference to the Namibian destination. Here, time stopped and you enter into the heart of the Namib Desert. Enormous pink and red dunes mixing with Granite Mountains embedded in yellow and pitch black plains where the Oryx antelope has made its kingdom. Dry white pans covered by dead trees. At Dune 45, the more energetic have the opportunity to climb to the upper ridge of the world's most photographed dune. Further along, a gradual 2.6 kilometer round-trip walk takes you to the well photographed "Dead Vlei". Sossusvlei is at the 'end of road' and the highlight of the day. We also visit the rugged Sesriem Canyon, where the Tsauchab River and erosion have incised a narrow gorge over the millennia. The permanent water pools at its bottom have ensured the survival of nomadic populations in pre-historic times as well as that of early European explorers and the so-called Thirstland Trekkers, in more recent centuries. On our way back to the Sossusvlei Desert Camp, we take a lunch break at a lodge situated next to the Sesriem Gate of the park where light lunches (optional) and cold beverages are served on a terrace overlooking the dry bed of the ephemeral Tsauchab River and the dunes beyond it.

Activities:

Sossusvlei/Dead Vlei/Dune45/Big Daddy Dune/Sesriem Canyon

Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 10 and 11: Swakopmund

En route to Swakopmund we will explore the Namib Desert with the rugged Kuiseb Canyon, while driving along the Swakop riverbed. We stop at the eerie moon landscape and marvel at the Welwitschia Mirabilis, an ancient plant endemic to the Namib Desert. Today's destination is the cool Atlantic Coast and the quaint town of Swakopmund. En route we will explore the Namib Desert with the rugged Kuiseb Canyon, while driving along the Swakop riverbed. Take a walk through town and enjoy the mixture of colonial flair and historic architecture in Swakopmund (the historic town, the Woermannhouse, the Hohenzollernhouse, the old Magistrates Court, the historical Jail and the Jetty and the lighthouse. After arriving in Swakopmund you can explore the popular coastal resort on your own and spend time at leisure or with shopping. Moving north, we will pass visit The Spitzkoppe (also referred to as Spitzkop, Groot Spitzkop, or the "Matterhorn of Namibia"), is a group of bald granite peaks or bornhardtts located between Usakos and Swakopmund in the Namib desert. The granite is more than 700 million years old and the highest outcrop rises about 1784 meters (5857 feet) above sea level. The peaks stand out dramatically from the flat surrounding plains. The highest peak is about 700m above the floor of the desert below. A minor peak- the Little Spitzkoppe - lies nearby at an elevation of 1584 metres above sea level. Other prominences stretch out into a range known as the Pontok Mountains. Many examples of Bushmen artwork can be seen painted on the rock in the Spitzkoppe area.

Activities:

Desert Moon Landscape

Harbour Boat Cruise

Overnight Atlantic Villa or similar. (DBB)

Day 12 and 13: Damaraland Brandberg

Named after Namibia's most famous rock painting south of Torra, in the Namib Desert, is the Tsiseb (pronounced See-seb) Conservancy, which also partnered with a private business to open the White Lady Lodge. The lodge is named after Namibia's most famous rock painting, the White Lady, which graces the side of a hill in the Brandberg Mountains. The lodge, built in 2003, offers guests stone chalets or tent sites. The lodge's swimming pool, offering respite from the stifling desert heat, is tucked behind the main building under one of the area's stunning rock copies. The Ugab River Valley with its old trees and green bushes is homestead for a wide variety of game, birds, fascinating reptiles and insects. The formation of the Brandberg massive unveils its treasures and secrets to the knowing eye of the geologist. Its sublime beauty nobody can evade. The stone-age rock paintings of the San Bushmen give evidence of the presence of the famous desert elephants in the area many thousand years ago. Especially during the drier periods of the year, groups of desert elephant rove in the valley of the Ugab River. Here, there is no worry for water and bush and trees to feed on in abundance. The Tsiseb area is blessed with mountains and rich mineral soil that can yield gems like amethyst and rock crystal. For many community members, digging out gems and selling them by the side of the road.

Activity:

Guided Game Drive.

White Lady Rock Painting

Overnight at Brandberg White Lady Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 14 : Twyfelfontein – 25 May

The Twyfelfontein area, being a very vulnerable and delicate ecosystem, is renowned for some of the best examples of Bushman paintings and rock engravings in southern Africa and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Interesting rock formations and the remainder of prehistoric volcanic action can be seen among the most prominent

geographic features including the Organ Pipes, Burnt Mountain, Doros Crater and the Petrified Forest. The fauna and flora of Damaraland is typical of the Pro-Namib region and plant species include the magnificent Welwitschia, Moringa and a variety of the Commiphora species. The Desert adapted Elephant, Giraffe, Springbok, Zebra, Oryx, and Ostrich include some of the wildlife which can be found living in total harmony with the community. The Lodge is situated in the heart of the Twyfelfontein Uibasen Conservancy and boast 56 en-suite twin rooms, reception, lounge, curio shop, open dining room, bar and swimming pool. In construction utmost care was taken to reduce the visual impact on the environment and to blend into the mountainside with the use of thatch roofs, natural stone and paint colors toning in with the surrounding rock formations.

Activity:

World Heritage Site visit
Rock Paintings/Organ Pipes/Burnt Mountain

Overnight at Twyfelfontein Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 15 and 16: Opuwo Country Lodge

Opuwo is the gateway to the Kaokoveld region in the northwestern part of Namibia or also known as the Kunene region. The remote area south of the Kunene River is the home of the Himba people, who have kept their ethnic individuality and culture in the seclusion of Kaokoland. Opuwo Country Hotel was officially opened by His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba on 25 August 2005. The hotel provides comfortable luxury accommodation with air conditioning and is your ideal base from where to explore Kaokoland.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Himba Village visit and experience their culture.

Overnight Opuwo Country Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 17 and 18: Epupa Camp

Situated east of the Epupa Falls on the banks of the Kunene River, in Kaokoland is Epupa Falls Lodge. With its waving palms, spectacular sunsets and perennially flowing waters, the Epupa area has much to see and experience. Exciting geological and archaeological sites can be seen in the area. Bird life in this riverine paradise is rich and varied, with some species endemic to the Kunene River environs. It is a small, luxury tented camp that offers you a relaxing, yet exhilarating, few days of personalized service, excellent food and the seclusion of a lush riverine wilderness. The adjacent dining room and lounge area also face the Kunene River, along with a lounging pool for cooling down from the midday heat, or enjoying a glass of sparkling wine. A small suspension bridge connects Epupa Falls Lodge with its own private island. Hammocks, benches, and lounge chairs, placed close to the river, create a personal piece of paradise. The Epupa Falls, although not the biggest or highest in Africa, have a unique beauty that entices visitors from all over the world.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Sundowner
3 hour guided walk

Overnight Epupa Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 19/20/21: Etosha

A visit to the Etosha National Park is one of the highlights of travelling Namibia. Etosha, which was declared a game reserve by the German colonial administration back in 1907, covers an area of more than 22 000 square kilometres. In its centre lies a vast saltpan surrounded by grass and thorn savannah, Mopane bush land in the west and dry forest in the north-east. About two million years ago, this area was an enormous lake, fed by the Kunene River. However the lake slowly dried up because over time, the river changed its course. The Etosha National Park has a good infrastructure. Well-maintained gravel roads (untarred) leads to the waterholes, where game viewing is at its best. In the three rest camps Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni, hotels, chalets and camping sites are available as well as restaurants, stores and swimming pools. The main entrance to the park is called the "Andersson Gate" at Okaukuejo in the south, where the park administration is also situated. The "Von Lindequist Gate" lies in the east near Namutoni. A new gate, the "Nehale Iya Mpingana Gate" (King Nehale Gate) was opened at the beginning of 2003 in the north-east. The pan is just about always dry. However, in the southern parts there are have water-holes scattered throughout this area and form the basis of life for countless game. Be it a lion or an elephant, a giraffe or a zebra; almost all African animal species are represented in the huge nature reserve, approx. 22 000 square kilometres in size. There is an estimated number of 250 lions in the park, 300 rhinos, 2 500 giraffes, 6 000 zebras and more than 2 000 elephants. The dainty springbok are especially numerous; at least 20 000 of them roam the reserve. Often, they can be observed in enormous herds of several hundred animals.

Activities:

2 full days game drive in the Etosha Park.

Overnight at Dolomite Camp or similar (DBB)

Day 22: Windhoek - Ondekaramba

The farm Ondekaramba measures 7.300 hectares and boasts a 100-year old family tradition. Shortly after touching down you will be met by the peace and quiet of Africa's wide-open spaces. Enjoy after a long flight the charm of scenery and unspoilt nature. Ondekaramba means: The place where grazing is good. Thanks to this, combined with numerous watering places, you can be at one with nature by exploring, be it via game drives, hiking trails on a terrain where there are an abundance of wildlife and birds. The lovely garden with landscaped pool area waits for you to come and have a swim, or to just relax. Meals made to a large extent of our own products are prepared in

our farm kitchen and are served on the open-air verandas, as a picnic in the bush, or inside the old rustic stone farmhouse.

Overnight at Ondekaramba Farm or similar. (DBB)

Day 23: End of Tour

Airport Transfer.

NETT Tour Cost per Person sharing (ZAR/N\$)

COST PP	58250	42100	36700	34000
Persons	2	4	6	8

Subject to Fuel Price and availability

Cost Valid until 31 October 2013

Single Supplement on request

Inclusions and Exclusions

Included:

- SAT transport in 4x4 vehicle/s; Public Liability & Passenger Liability Insurance
- Services of a licensed English speaking driver-guide per vehicle
- 22 nights' accommodation in comfortable guesthouses/guest farms/tourist class lodges. Meals at DBB (Dinner Bed and Breakfast)
- Fees for nature conservation areas, sightseeing & activities as per itinerary (unless stipulated as "OPTIONAL")
- Activities as stated in itinerary
- Portage in overnight facilities
- Non-alcoholic beverages on tour vehicle during overland drives (in limited quantities)

Excluded:

- Flights / Visa & Permits / Travel Insurances of any kind
- Cost related to the personal use of 3G internet access & GSM cell phone provided by SAT on tour
- Tips & gratuities to hotel/restaurant personnel and guides
- Alcoholic and any other beverages in addition to those included above
- Any optional services/meals/activities/excursions not included/not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any expense of a personal nature such as for phone calls, laundry services, souvenirs, and similar

For more information about this safari please contact:

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