



## 2016 Under the Southern Cross- Gold





## 2016 Under the Southern Cross- Gold

Windhoek - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Etosha National Park - Erongo

16 Days / 15 Nights

### Overview

Highlights:

- WORLD'S HIGHEST DUNES AT SOSSUSVLEI & DEAD VLEI
- 2 UNESCO & 1 RAMSAR WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- EXPERIENCE THE CULTURES OF THE DAMARA & SAN
- WILDLIFE DISCOVERY IN THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Recommended vehicle (Not included): SUV or 4x4

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis
Windhoek	Olive Grove Guesthouse	1	B&B
Sossusvlei	<a href="#">Sossusvlei Lodge</a>	3	D, B&B
Swakopmund	<a href="#">Hotel Zum Kaiser</a>	3	B&B
Damaraland	Vingerklip Lodge	2	B&B
Etosha National Park	Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa	3	B&B
Etosha National Park	<a href="#">Onguma The Fort</a>	1	B&B
Erongo	Ozongwindi Lodge	2	B&B

### Key

RO: Room only

SC: Self Catering

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and breakfast

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

FB+: Dinner, bed, breakfast, lunch and activities daily

FI: Fully inclusive

## Day 1: Olive Grove Guesthouse, Windhoek

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### Windhoek

Pulsing with life, opportunity and a sparkle of adventure, Windhoek is a multicultural city characterised by tranquil co-existence and enough living space for all its citizens, which number 350'000. Visitors can enjoy the best of two worlds between the European-style architecture and lifestyle, to the vivid beat of African culture and environs. The first recorded settlements were established because of the springs in the area. In about 1842, the Oorlam Kaptain, Jan Jonker Afrikaner, settled in at the strongest spring in the present Klein Windhoek. At the time, the place was called “/Ai-//Gams” (Fire Water) by the Namas, and “Otjomuise” (Place of Steam) by the Hereros, both names bearing references to the hot springs. The German colony came into being with the determination of its borders in 1890. Germany sent a protective corps (the “*Schutztruppe*”) under Major Curt von Francois to maintain order; the garrison was stationed at Windhoek, where it was strategically situated as a buffer between the Namas and Hereros, while the twelve strong springs provided water for the cultivation of food.

The present Windhoek was founded on 18 October 1890 when Von Francois laid the foundation stone of the fort, which is known as the Alte Feste (Old Fortress).

Windhoek has a rich cultural life where activities happily mix and match to produce some interesting combinations. The “township” of Katutura is an journey for discovering the sounds and smells of Africa. The highlight is a visit to the Tukondjeni Market, which offers services that satisfy many community needs. It’s a busy place, where one can purchase supplies and traditional Namibian food such as barbecued meat, dried fish, fried mopane worms (known as “omaungu”) and other traditional food such as “ombidi” and dehydrated wild spinach.

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### Day Notes

After arrival at the international airport, you proceed via mountainous terrain to Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. Your accommodation is situated in a quiet suburb and close to the city center with its afro-European flair and peaceful atmosphere. In the evening enjoy typical Namibian cuisine in one of the numerous restaurants in the city.

### Optional

Old Brewery Craft Centre

The Diamond Works

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#### *Old Brewery Craft Centre*

Right in the centre of the city, on Independence Avenue, you will find this vibrant local craft market with a huge range of crafts on offer. Stall holders come from all parts of Namibia so variety is guaranteed. Open daily.

#### *The Diamond Works*

Witness first hand, the art of diamond cutting and the careful craftsmanship of jewellery manufacturing by our skilled experts – all whilst enjoying a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. View a replica of the iconic Cullinan diamond and discover the history of the Diamond and Gold Trade in South Africa. Our institute boasts a large range of premium loose diamonds and tanzanite, as well as gold and platinum jewellery. Our diamond tour is available in various international languages.

Diamonds have been associated with purity, strength, wealth, virtue, power and most importantly love. Today, an appreciation for diamonds has evolved, not to only appreciate any diamond but to appreciate a truly rare diamond – The Diamond Works diamond. The Diamond Works Institute is considered a true South African diamond and jewellery expert. Established in 2001, it has evolved to be one of the most renowned diamond facilities in the region.

The Diamond Works Institute extends its appreciation to tanzanite, a gem 1000 times rarer than diamonds. This exceptional stone represents the essence of Africa, and we whisper the tales of this stones journey from the ground to the showroom. Tanzanite is noted for its remarkably strong trichroism; appearing alternately sapphire blue, violet and burgundy depending on crystal orientation.



### **Directions - Hosea Kutako International Airport [WDH] to Olive Grove Guesthouse**

From the international airport, travel towards Windhoek on Sam Nujoma Drive. When arriving into 'Klein Windhoek' on Sam Nujoma Drive from the airport look out for the second set of traffic lights (You should see a fuel station). Turn right at these traffic lights into Nelson Mandela Avenue. Travel along Nelson Mandela Avenue and turn left into Schanzen Road. Towards the top of the hill on Schanzen Road, turn sharp right into Promenaden Road. Turn 'first right' into Ngami Street and you will see Olive Grove Guesthouse on the corner of Promenaden Road and Ngami Street. (Entrance in

### **Overnight: Olive Grove Guesthouse**

Olive Grove is a small upmarket accommodation establishment situated close to the city centre in a quiet, peaceful area. Big Sky's first property in Windhoek and bordering The Olive Exclusive, the guesthouse takes homely atmosphere to a different level. Recently completely refurbished, each room has been decorated and painted with new colour schemes allowing a different feel, but with the same elegant and simplistic emphasis on décor. The newly renovated, open-plan kitchen allows guests to see how meals are prepared, while they enjoy a drink in the lounge. The menu was also reinvented and is now fully a la carte, quite unique for a guesthouse. Home-style food is rounded off with great presentation, pushing up the level of the guesthouse dining experience. The upper deck has been revamped into a private dining corner, with two Moroccan-style sections, for guests to get comfy on the large pillows and enjoy the ambience and view from the top. The on-site Wellness Room offers a selection of professional services, to assist guests on their journey towards inner and outer well-being. Whilst each of the ten rooms and one suite cater for every need of the most discerning traveller, the emphasis remains one of simplicity and elegance. simply elegant accommodation



## Included

Bed & Breakfast

## Day 2: Sossusvlei Lodge, Sossusvlei

### Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei's rich ochre sand dunes offer one of the most mind-blowing sights you will ever experience. Their oscillating crests rise to an astonishing 320m and, with their air of timelessness, create an unforgettable wilderness in the heart of the world's oldest desert. Dwarfed by the sheer size of the highest dunes on earth, your ascending footprints look like insect trails leading into infinity. The solitude is immeasurable and your place in the great scheme of life takes on a curious insignificance. 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. During this time the flow of the Tsauchab River into the pan was stopped by the formation of a dune belt – hence the trees died, now forming part of Namibia's own Salvador Dali "painting".

### Day Notes

The journey starts with you traveling south into the heart of the Namib Desert, an area with awe-inspiring landscapes and majestic dunes. Arriving at your lodge, situated near the entrance to Sesriem, the remainder of the day can be spent at leisure. Enjoy a late afternoon walk or take part in optional activities offered by your lodge.

### Optional

Sundowner Drive

### Overnight: Sossusvlei Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Situated at the Entrance Gate to the Namib Naukluft Park, Sossusvlei Lodge offers direct access to the towering red sand dunes, the famous pan of Sossusvlei, the scorched black trees of Dead Vlei and the remarkable depths of the Sesriem Canyon. The 45 individual luxurious accommodation units at Sossusvlei Lodge are carefully laid out to perfectly blend in with the magnificent surrounding natural environment. Each fully air-conditioned unit has a patio, en-suite bathroom with shower and a spacious bedroom under canvas with adobe-style plaster walls to give the visitor a distinctive sense of being close to nature. Experience the true art of Hospitality with the thoughtful touch of attentive staff to contribute to a truly memorable experience. Facilities include a sparkling pool, bar, beer garden and an al fresco terrace where one can enjoy exquisite food, award-winning wines and magnificent views of the

floodlit waterhole. The Sossusvlei Lodge Adventure Centre provides a range of activities including Quad-Biking, Guided Excursions, Sun-downer Trips, Hot Air Ballooning, Scenic Flights and much more to explore the area's natural beauty.



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### **Included**

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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## **Day 3: Sossusvlei Lodge, Sossusvlei**

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### **Day Notes**

This day calls for an early rise, as you will forever remember the picture of a sunrise over the mighty dunes of the Namib Desert. Gaze at the bright splash of sun-baked sand combined with the mighty play of shadows cast onto the layside of the dunes. From Sossusvlei visit Dead Vlei, a surreal white clay pan surrounded by monumental dunes and dotted with age-old camelthorn trees. Traveling back, visit the Sesriem Canyon, an 18 million year old gorge eroded into the conglomerate floor.

### **Recommended**

Sossusvlei

Dead Vlei

Sesriem Canyon

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### ***Sossusvlei***

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### *Dead Vlei*

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as dessicated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan’s cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namib Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.



### *Sesriem Canyon*

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. The canyon’s name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather (‘ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.





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**Included**

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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**Day 4: Sossusvlei Lodge, Sossusvlei**

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**Day Notes**

The entire day can be spent at leisure at your beautiful lodge. Optional activities, besides relaxing along the sparkling pool, consist of nature walks and nature drives into the petrified dunes or visiting scenic mountain areas in the Naukluft mountain range.

**Included**

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

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**Day 5: Hotel Zum Kaiser, Swakopmund**

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**Swakopmund**

With palm-lined streets, seaside promenades and fine accommodation for all budgets, Swakopmund is Namibia's most popular holiday destination, and its pleasant summer climate and decent beaches attract surfers, anglers and beach lovers from all over Southern Africa. Thanks to its mild temperatures and negligible rainfall, Swakopmund generally enjoys grit in the oyster. When an easterly wind blows, the town gets a good sand-blasting, and almost perpetual drizzle. The fog rolls up to 30km inland and provides moisture for desert-dwelling plants and animals, including 80 species of lichen.

For better or worse, Swakopmund feels overwhelmingly Teutonic – indeed, it has Germany – but for visitors, it's a Namibia's adrenalin capital, and offers a wide range of gut-curdling activities from sand boarding and quad-biking to skydiving and camel riding. Note, however, that it gets especially busy around Namibian school holidays in December and January, when temperatures average around 25°C.

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**Day Notes**

After breakfast, travel through two rugged canyons and via the Welwitschia plains and the Moonlandscape to Swakopmund. Better known as Namibia's playground, this idyllic town is wedged between the sweltering Namib Desert and the cold Atlantic Ocean, and enjoys a distinct German architecture and atmosphere. Swakopmund has numerous activities to offer, some of which include scenic flights, boat trips, desert tours and quad biking adventures.

**Activities**

Kuiseb Canyon

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**Optional**

Kuiseb Delta

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**Recommended**

Walvis Bay Lagoon

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### *Kuiseb Canyon*

Mysterious and remote, the Kuiseb Canyon was carved aeons ago by the Kuiseb River, which runs mainly underground. This deep fissure is flanked by steep folds of rock on one side and the copper-coloured sand dunes of the Namib Desert on the other, and shelters several wildlife species that are acclimatised to the region's harsh environment, including hyena, buck and even leopard.



### *Kuiseb Valley and Moon Landscape*

As the Kuiseb River nears the coast it splits into multiple pathways and disappears into the dunes, creating a landscape of shifting sand, dry river beds and desert-adapted shrubs. For hundreds of years, this area has been home to the Topnaars, descendants of the Khoisan, who survive by keeping cattle and sheep and growing a nutritious melon variety in the dry river beds. The delta is also known for its archaeological riches, which include score of ancient middens, Topnaar burial sites and petrified elephant tracks.

Travel through this desolate and forbidding valley of conical and dome shaped hills near Swakopmund, reminiscent of an actual lunar landscape, resembling the lifeless surface of Mars itself. The Moonlandscape represents the leftover of an ancient, enormous mountain range. During more severe weather patterns, the valleys of the mountain range as well as the mountain range itself has been chafed, chiseled and gouged by wind and the waters of the nowadays known Swakop River. Known as "badland topography", the crumbling granite surface hardly supports any plant life and is best viewed in the late afternoon to enjoy terrific light and shadow contrasts and cooler temperatures.

### *Walvis Bay Lagoon*

Walvis Bay's calm natural lagoon is a twitcher's paradise, teeming with roughly 50 species of seabirds, including vivid flocks of flamingos, bulky-billed pelicans and glossy black cormorants. It's also a popular spot for windsurfing, kitesurfing and kayaking, while the promenade stretching for three kilometres along the water's edge is a great place for a scenic stroll. The Lagoon is one of the most important wetland areas on the African continent and a RAMSAR world heritage site. Over 80% of the African flamingos feed in this lagoon and present a breath taking picture when they appear in groups counting a few hundred thousand.



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**Overnight: Hotel Zum Kaiser**      [View iBrochure](#)

Perfectly positioned on Sam Nujoma Avenue in the picturesque Swakopmund, the luxurious Hotel Zum Kaiser offers direct access to the beach and the town's vibrant street life, quaint architecture, shopping and fine dining. This exclusive hotel houses 21 fully air-conditioned bedrooms, each featuring a full en-suite bathroom, television, coffee and tea making facilities, bar fridge, electronic safe and wireless internet. The tastefully decorated hotel offers a combination of Court Yard Suites, Front Facing Suites and 3 family rooms with inter-leading doors. Each of the Front Facing Suites is equipped with a private balcony to enjoy splendid views of the historic town and partial views of the nearby Atlantic seaboard. Uniquely combining modern furnishings with a touch of classic elegance dating from imperial times, the Hotel Zum Kaiser creates a truly authentic and intimate ambiance. Enjoy delectable cuisine at the on-site Bistro Zum Kaiser and sip sun-downers whilst experiencing the spectacular sunsets over the Atlantic from the hotel's idyllic Roof Terrace. The Hotel Zum Kaiser is fully equipped and offers the ideal setting for conferences, banqueting and celebrations. Exciting activities in the area can be booked directly at reception. Let our attentive team welcome you to our kingdom and make you feel like an Emperor.



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**Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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**Day 6: Hotel Zum Kaiser, Swakopmund**

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**Day Notes**

You have the following two days to unwind and relax along the Atlantic Ocean! Spend your time shopping, walking, taking in the sight or opt for the numerous activities available in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay. Activities in Walvis Bay include amongst others marine cruises, kayaking, birding and wind surfing, whilst Swakopmund offers quad biking,

desert tours, dune boarding, scenic flights and also township tours. On each evening you have a wide choice of excellent restaurants to choose from, many of which specialize in unforgettable seafood dishes.

## Optional

Catamaran Charters

Namibia Desert Explorers

Pelican Point Kayak Tour

Sandwich Harbour 4x4

Living Desert Tours

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### *Catamaran Charters*

The Catamaran Charters Team invites you aboard the 45ft Royal Cape Sailing Catamaran Silverwind, or the 60ft Simon Sailing Catamaran Silversand, or the 40ft Admiral Motorised Catamaran Silvermoon, to enjoy an adventure packed tour to Pelican Point and Walvis Bay's beautiful bay area. The chances of encountering dolphins, whales, turtles, seals and Mola Mola (sunfish) make the search for the marine big 5 and adventurous tour by enjoying sparkling wine, fresh oysters and other mouth-watering snacks aboard the spacious and comfortable catamarans.



### *Namibia Desert Explorers*

Experience the sheer thrill of riding a quad bike through Namibia's boundless expanse of shifting sand dunes. After the engines are revved up and ready to roll, an experienced guide will lead you through the Swakopmund River mouth into the dune belt. Feel the freedom of riding through one of nature's great wildernesses. As the towering dunes approach we weave our way through the smaller ones towards the "Amphitheater". With "Power-up" we blast our way to the top of the first big dune via the "Roller Coasters" to the top of "Big Billy". We stop for a drink and you get the opportunity to capture the stark and savage beauty of the Namib Desert. After riding down "Devils Dip" we ride the berms, spirals and slopes as we cruise towards the "Table Top" a great dune that offers a spectacular view of the sea.

### *Pelican Point Kayak Tour*

Pelican Point stretches out into the sea, creating a sheltered bay that is ideal for kayaking, and taking a gentle paddle out to the seal colonies is a wonderful way to while away a few hours.



### *Sandwich Harbour 4x4*

Our Sandwich Harbour 4x4 Excursion takes you to the Walvis Bay Lagoon, the Saltpans, the Kuiseb River Delta, Sandwich Harbour, and - if weather and tides allow for it - the Sandwich Harbour Lagoon. We have plenty of time to stop and take pictures, and to enjoy the beautiful and unique scenery of one of the most spectacular areas in Namibia. Our roaring dunes and lookout spots are a highlight of every tour.

Our popular Marine Dune Day (9h00-16h30) is a combination of both, a morning marine cruise and our Sandwich Harbour 4x4 afternoon excursion. During the marine cruise on your choice of boat (speedboat or catamaran) you have a chance to see pelicans, seals, dolphins, the Walvis Bay Harbour, old russian boats, oyster farms and Pelican Point with the old lighthouse. Our 4x4 guide will be waiting for you as soon as you are back to take you to Sandwich Harbour. We return between 16h30 and 17h00. Lunch on the boat and in the dunes, drinks and permits are included.



### *Living Desert Tours*

The Living Desert Tour is a unique 4x4 adventure which specializes in bringing the desert to life while sharing the awesome beauty of the Namib Desert with travellers from all over the world. The coastal dune belt may seem barren and lifeless to many people, but in fact it is alive with a fascinating variety of little desert adapted animals, which are able to survive on the life-giving fog which consistently rolls in from the cold Atlantic Ocean. Come see the Dancing White Lady Spider (*Carparachne aureoflava*) cartwheel 44 turns per second down a dune to escape the enemy. Admire the transparent Namib Dune Gecko (*Pachydactylus rangei*) with webbed feet that are equivalent to snow shoes. Learn about the different beetles and insects and how they survive in the dune desert. Follow in the tracks of a legless Lizard (*Fitsimmon's Burrowing Skink*), observe Sand Diving Lizards (*Meroles Anchieta*) dancing on the hot sand, Sidewinder Snakes (*Perinquey's Adder*), Desert Chameleons and many more fascinating creatures. Learn about the geology, structure and formation of the desert, and admire the vast and beautiful landscapes while enjoying a scenic dune drive combined with fun and adrenalin.



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**Included**

Bed &amp; Breakfast

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**Day 7: Hotel Zum Kaiser, Swakopmund**

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**Included**

Bed &amp; Breakfast

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**Day 8: Vingerklip Lodge, Damaraland**

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**Damaraland**

Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. The major attractions are Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the Petrified Forest. Damaraland, one of the least populated places on earth, shows no fences nor boundaries in the vast, stony desert landscape. It is marked by endless vistas across stark plains, ancient valleys and brooding, distant mountains which bring the traveller as close to nature as is comfortably possible. In Damaraland, plants and animals have over millennia evolved side by side with the harsh environment, creating unusual geological features, which together with a wealth of rock paintings and engravings, a population of desert-adapted elephant and rhino, combine to form the unique attraction to this region. Damaraland was once an area occupied primarily by the Damara people, but over time became home to other tribes such as the Hereros and the displaced Riemvasmakers of South Africa. Today, many residents of Damaraland are thus of mixed heritage, but most consider themselves Damara.

The Damaraland community comprises a unique group of people who recognised the value of the wildlife on their land and formed a Community Wildlife Conservancy to protect it. Until 1981, Damaraland was unprotected and open to poachers, mostly from outside of the of the Damaraland area. In the interests of the Damarland wildlife a game guard system was eventually formed with people from the community and the welfare of the wildlife increased. Today it is one of the last places in southern Africa where game still roams freely like it did thousands of years ago – a true wilderness..

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## Day Notes

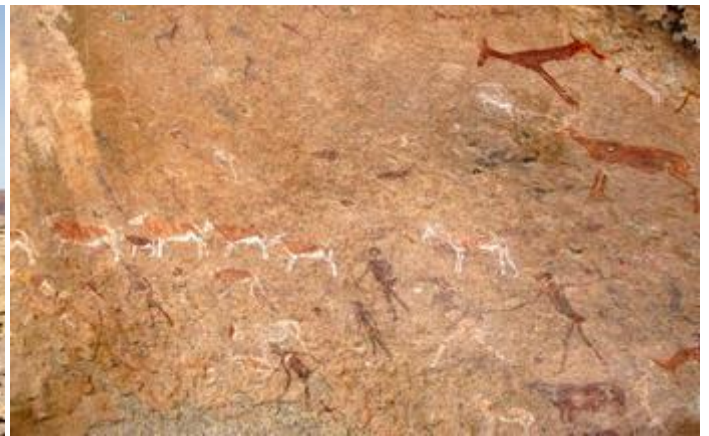
On your way to the Damaraland you can visit the large lichen fields as well as the largest fur seal colony in southern Africa at Cape Cross. You travel into Damaraland past Namibia's highest mountain, the majestic Brandberg Mountain, which reminds of the volcanic era millions of years ago.

## Optional

Cape Cross Seal Colony

### *Brandberg*

The Brandberg ('Fire Mountain') Massif is Namibia's highest peak, with its zenith, the Königstein ('King's Stone'), standing at a whopping 2573 metres above sea level. Named for the vivid shade of orange it sometimes turns at sunset, the Brandberg has been sacred to the San people for centuries, and the Tsisab Ravine at its base is permeated with over 45 000 ancient San rock paintings, including the famous 'White Lady'.



### *Cape Cross Seal Colony*

Skeleton Coast: an evocative name for one of the most hostile stretches of land found anywhere on earth. Cape Cross forms part of the frontline in the struggle between the icy

South Atlantic Ocean and the torrid Namib Desert. As treacherous as it may have been for mankind, this rocky shoreline represents the breeding ground for largest colony of fur seals of Southern Africa. The area can hardly be described as the most romantic (let alone agreeable) sight for a great moment in the annals of discovery, yet, in this malevolent setting new masters of the sea and technology stepped ashore some six years before Columbus beheld the islands of the new world. They, the Portuguese, now trod where no white man had ever walked before, and erected a cross (padrao) in their epic moment of triumph, heralding Southern Africa's encounter with a new and powerful civilization. (The original padrao stands in the Berlin museum but you can view an exact replica at the precise location of the beacon)



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### Overnight: Vingerklip Lodge

Vingerklip Lodge nestles in a valley, near the rock formation from which it derives its name. The 35m high pillar of sedimentary rock, the Vingerklip, (Finger Rock) is one of the most impressive rock formations in Namibia. It stands proudly above a valley, known as the Ugab terraces, mid-way between the Etosha National Park and Swakopmund in the heart of Damaraland. This is an excellent base to explore the many attractions of Damaraland, a vast beautiful wilderness in north-west Namibia. At Vingerklip Lodge there are 22 well-appointed, thatched bungalows, spread out along a hillside, including 1 luxury unit with a small kitchen. 11 of the 22 bungalows are suitable for family-style holidays, with loft accommodation for two children. They each have en-suite bathrooms, a fan, mosquito nets and an in-room safe. The sheltered sundowner veranda has breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and is an ideal spot to watch the magnificent Namibian sun set.



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### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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## Day 9: Vingerklip Lodge, Damaraland

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### Day Notes

After an early breakfast visit Twyfelfontein, a World Heritage Site where over 2500 rock engravings and rock paintings cover the eroded surface of a pre-historic desert – this area was inhabited by Bushmen some 6000 years ago, as it was rich in water and consequently visited by a rich diversity of game. A visit to the Burnt Mountain and the Organ Pipes is an interesting geological phenomenon and is found very close to Twyfelfontein. Afterwards you can visit a traditional Damara village. These indigenous people were, together with the Bushman, the first inhabitants of Namibia and have lived in the Damaraland area for thousands of years. On your way back to your lodge visit the Petrified Forest interspersed with Welwitschia Plants, the oldest living desert plant on earth.

### Optional

Burnt Mountain

Petrified Forest

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### Recommended

Twyfelfontein Rock Art

Damara Living Museum

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### *Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes*

**BURNT MOUNTAIN:** The mountain belongs to a 12 km long mountain range lying from east to west. The mountain rises some 200m out of the barren landscape and shimmers starkly and uninvitingly during the heat of the day. During the early morning and late afternoon, before being shadowed by the surrounding higher mountain range, it presents a kaleidoscope of beautiful colours. The mountain was formed by doleritic lava that intruded an underground cave consisting of limestone and shale. Upon impact the latter was instantly metamorphosed, releasing hydroxides and oxides, giving the mountain an amazing range of colours – red, orange, purple, black, grey and white. An interesting feature at the end of the mountain is a heap of shale (shale consist of organic plant and animal particles) that underwent drastic changes when it was intruded by dolerite, now resembling ash and clinker. As the area is extremely susceptible to compaction, please heed the request not to walk around on the mountain.

**organ pipes:** The name aptly describes these vertical stands of dolerite rock that can reach a height of 5m and are found in a valley some 100 meters in length. They were formed by an intrusion of a dolerite sheet into an area consisting of shale (they are situated only a few hundred meters away from the Burnt Mountain). When the dolerite cooled down and shrunk, neatly splitting into angular columns that we see today. It was subsequently eroded by the river cutting its way through the dolerite sheet. It is advisable to visit this geological phenomenon during the early morning or the late afternoon due to the intense heat build up in the valley.

### *Petrified Forest*

Namibia's petrified forest west of Khorixas is indeed a rare phenomenon. As if through the intervention of some great time machine, the fossilized remains of these tree trunks provide an intriguing glimpse of flora that existed some 260 million years ago. The optical illusion is uncanny – right down to such details as the colour and texture of the bark and growth rings. As startling as the initial sight may be to road-weary eyes – the surprise reaches its climax when the visitor stoops to touch a section of log... for what to all intents and purposes is a piece of wood, turns out in reality to be cold stone!

### *Twyfelfontein Rock Art*

Twyfelfontein is a World Heritage Site boasting one of the richest rock art concentrations in Africa. Thousands of tourists come to this site each year to view some 2, 500 Stone Age rock engravings. The area is home to 17 rock art sites, which collectively encompass 212 engraved stone slabs. There are an additional 13 sites displaying rock paintings.



### *Damara Living Museum*

Observe and experience the traditional Damara way of life right in the heart of their traditional homelands. A unique opportunity to see a way of life that is slowly dying out. Open daily.



## Included

Bed & Breakfast

## Day 10: Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa, Etosha National Park

### Etosha National Park

Etosha National Park is the parade ground of the beasts, a kaleidoscope of creatures bewildering character and variety. It was proclaimed as Namibia's first conservation area in 1907 by the then Governor of German South West Africa, von Lindequist. He demarkated an area of over 100'000 km<sup>2</sup>, creating the largest game reserve on earth and expelling thousands of indigenous people from their traditional and ancestral dwellings to stay outside the park. Present day Etosha National Park was pared down due to political considerations in the 1960's by the Odendaal Plan and now covers a modest but still very impressive 22'270 square kilometres. Despite the massive size of Etosha, only the southern edge of the pan is accessible to casual visitors. In the central and eastern region there are over 30 water holes - ideal places to sit and wait it out for an unbelievable 114 different game and over 340 different bird species. The Etosha Pan dominates the park. The salt pan desert, which is nearly completely enclosed by the park and is lined by numerous watering holes, is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km in places. During Etosha's notorious dry spells the pan is a deathly place, lying parched and cracked under the molten African sun. At such times it is utterly barren, an austere playground for heat and wind which conjure up their characteristic atmospheric tricks. Glassy mirages dissolve the horizon and tremble over the blindingly flat surface while graceful dust devils carry out their swirling dances over the plains. When the waters do eventually come, the pan undergoes a miraculous transformation. From a vacuous stillness it springs into living paradise awash with life. Out of the blue in their thousands come migrant flamingos, splashing the sky with plumage which eventually condenses on the horizon in undulating lines of crimson, pink and white. Guided by an uncanny faculty for navigation they come to the pan for a short breeding season from as far as Walvis Bay – how they know of the water 500 miles north stays a mystery.

Such thrills are part of the earthy encounters with nature which give Etosha and other Namibian wilderness areas a dimension which goes beyond the simpler interpretations of nature. These sanctuaries have become sources of human well-being, where man can shake off his metropolitan afflictions and can recharge the batteries of sanity and perspective which have run down in the course of powering the locomotive of progress.

### Day Notes

As you head to the Etosha National Park, your time will be devoted purely to the abundant wildlife. The park surrounds a parched salt desert known as the Etosha Pan, and is home to 4 of the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard and rhino. The park's waterholes support a diversity of mammals and birds, including species such as black-faced

impala, cheetah, and Namibia's smallest antelope, the Damara dik-dik. Your lodge for the following 3 nights is situated on the southern side of the Andersson Gate of the park, enabling access into the park with sunrise and a drive back after sunset.

### **Overnight: Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa**

Eagle Tented Lodge and Spa provides breathtaking views over the surrounding mountains & valleys. This luxury lodge, built from natural rock with thatch roofs boasts 8 standard and 8 luxury canvas tents all with spacious en-suite facilities. All tents have their private raised wooden balcony with a splash pool or outside bath, coffee and tea facilities. Each bathroom has a shower, toilet and a washbasin. The lodge has two restaurants, main bar, pool bar, swimming pool and a fully equipped Mystique Spa with aroma and mud baths, hydro therapies, pedicures, manicures, massages, yoga and Thelaso therapy. Guests can partake in various activities including game drives on the Epacha Game Reserve, night drives, game drives to the Etosha National Park and guided walks. The lodge offers all modern day luxuries to its guests combined with an unforgettable African bush experience.



### **Included**

Bed & Breakfast

## **Day 11: Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa, Etosha National Park**

### **Day Notes**

You have the entire day available for extensive game viewing experiences. No game drive is the same; all waterholes hold new surprises and attract different animal species that you may not have seen on previous game drives.

#### ***Etosha East***

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. The Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', encloses a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km<sup>2</sup>. The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.



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**Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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**Day 12: Eagle Tented Lodge & Spa, Etosha National Park**

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**Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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## Day 13: Onguma The Fort, Etosha National Park

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### Day Notes

Shortly after sunrise the gates to the park open, allowing you to experience the conundrum of animals and birds greeting the new day. Today you traverse the park from west to east and have ample time available to wait at a selection of waterholes for different game species coming to the water to quench their thirst. In the late afternoon you travel to your lodge, situated directly outside the park gate.

### Activities

Etosha Pan

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### *Etosha Pan*

Aeons ago, Etosha Pan was the bed of a vast lake; today what remains is a glittering, silvery-green salt pan that stretches across roughly 5000 square kilometres. Etosha is protected by the Etosha Pan National Park surrounded by savannah plains and woodlands supporting large herds of elephants. When dry, the pan sustains little life except for the algae that gives it its distinctive colour, and migratory birds that use it as a pit stop, but with heavy rain it becomes a shallow lake where flamingos breed, pelicans wade and feed, and a variety of mammal species come to quench their thirst, including leopards, lions, white rhinos, hunting dogs and antelopes.



### Overnight: Onguma The Fort [View iBrochure](#)

Onguma - The Fort is unlike any other, the only one of its kind in Namibia. It is built in exactly the right spot to give guests probably one of the best sunset views in the whole of Namibia - overlooking the beautiful scarceness of the Etosha Pans, decorated only with its wild animals and hundreds of Camel Thorn trees. Upon arriving at The Fort, you will be received by not only our friendly staff, but also massive raw walls, stunning stone cladded features and a huge tower with the views toward Etosha and Fisher's Pan. The Fort will surprise you at every corner; a classical African feel combined with a touch of Moroccan and Indian flavours, characterised by a selection of the most beautiful antique windows and doors.



## Included

Bed & Breakfast

## Day 14: Ozongwindi Lodge, Erongo

### Erongo

The Erongo Region is one of the largest of the 13 regions found in Namibia and received its name for the majestic Erongo Massif that dominates the area around Karibib, Omaruru and Usakos. The region reaches up to the Atlantic Ocean and includes the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, its northern boundary ending at the Ugab River where the Skeleton Coast National Park begins its stretch to Angola.

### Day Notes

Departing Etosha, travel south towards the quaint town of Omaruru, situated in the pictures Erongo Mountain Range. Here you have enough time during the following two days to spend at leisure along the sparkling pool, or explore the small town of Omaruru and its surrounds. Experience the magical sunset around a fireplace and marvel at the African sky whilst sipping your favourite 'Namibian Sundowner.

### Overnight: Ozongwindi Lodge

Ozongwindi Lodge ("fruit of the Shepherd tree" in Herero) is a brand new lodge comprising 10 double free-standing thatched roof bungalows each with separate deck situated on the banks of the Khan River, bungalows are extremely luxurious which include Namibian granite bathroom vanity tops and free-standing Victoria Albert baths. All bungalows are air-conditioned / heated / mini bar / coffee station / vanity safes, a number of bungalows are fitted with sleeper couches which bungalows can accommodate 3 persons. The main complex comprises a lounge, dining room, lounge deck, dining deck, library with DSTV and curio shop, the waterhole can be viewed from all decks and is illuminated at night.. The swimming pool with wooden deck and pool recliners is attached to the main complex and offers extreme privacy for guests, a change room with facilities is also provided. Game / Scenic drives are offered on a daily basis and guests are free to take walks along the dry river bed of the Khan River, a distance of +- 5 km, where game species indigenous to the area can be seen. Over 250 bird species have been identified and is a bird watchers paradise! Zu den Wildarten, die auf Ozongwindi Lodge heimisch sind, gehören: Oryx Antilope, Kudu, Springbock, Kuhantilope, schwarzes und weißes Gnu, Geparden, Leopard, Honigdachs sowie viele weitere Kleinwildarten.



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**Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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**Day 15: Ozongwindi Lodge, Erongo**

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**Day Notes**

You have the entire day to explore the vast Erongo region with its rich bird life and numerous rock paintings. Visit one of the historical points such as the “Franke Turm” or enjoy an optional game drive on one of the many Game Lodges in the close vicinity of Omaruru, which can be pre-booked through our office. Alternatively you can also visit the Kristall Kellerei and enjoy a wine tasting tour and enjoy a sumptuous lunch.

**Optional**

Kristallkeller Winery  
San Living Museum

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***Kristallkeller Winery***

The winery was purchased by family Weder in early 2008. Winemaking and distilling entered a new phase: the plantings of the Colombard variety were extended and now we have about 2,8ha under production. Michael and Katrin Weder personally managed the Kristall Kellerei up to February 2014, when Olga Kausch. was invited to lease the Weinstube. This includes the retail of products, tours and tasting and catering of the guests. The Naute Kristall Project, in the south of Namibia, necessitates the personal attention of Michael and Katrin Weder, who subsequently relocated to that area. Under the tab “Naute Kristall Project” you can learn more about this exciting endeavor.

***San Living Museum***

The San have survived the harshest conditions imaginable for thousands of years and for those still living out of cities not a lot has changed. With their gentle and generous nature you will have a visit with a people that will stay with you a life time.



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### **Included**

Bed & Breakfast

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## **Day 16: Departure**

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### **Day Notes**

After a relaxed-breakfast travel back towards Windhoek or the international airport for your outward flight, where your journey ends

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