



Guided Namibia Photography Tour (South)

Windhoek - Kalahari Namibia - Kalahari South - Keetmanshoop - Khomas bergen / Spretshoogte pass - Fish River Canyon - Aus - Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park - Lüderitz - Namib - Tiras Mountains - Sesriem - Sossusvlei - Gamsberg - Solitaire

16 Days / 15 Nights

Group Size: min 4 pax / max 6 pax in a "stretched Landcruiser" with window seats, pop-up roof and air conditioning

Reference: PHOTOSOUTH11/23

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Introduction

Welcome to Namibia's Photography Tour of the South.

This newly developed photography tour takes you to the **highlights in southern Namibia**, from the red dunes of the **Kalahari**, the **Quiver Tree Forest** near Keetmanshoop, to the **second largest canyon** in the world, to the cold and species-rich **Atlantic coast near Lüderitz**, the **wild horses of the Namib** and the **ghost town of Kolmanskop**.

Of course, the world's highest **dunes of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei** should not be missing, and a optional **hot air balloon flight over the Namib** will make the hearts of photographers beat faster.

Our photography guide will show you the best of what Namibia's south has to offer and helps you to take the "perfect shots".

Come on safari with us in our specially converted safari **4x4 with a pop-top roof**.

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Day 1	Overnight Travel			1 Night
Day 2	The Utopia Boutique Hotel	Windhoek	D,B&B	1 Night
Day 3	Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Kalahari Namibia	FB	1 Night
Day 4	Kalahari Game Lodge	Kalahari South	FB	2 Nights
Day 6	Quivertree Forest Rest Camp	Keetmanshoop	FB	1 Night
Day 7	Canyon Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia	Fish River Canyon	FB	2 Nights
Day 9	Bahnhof Hotel Aus	Aus	FB	1 Night
Day 10	Kairos Cottage B&B and Coffee Shop	Lüderitz	FB	1 Night
Day 11	Namtib Desert Lodge	Tiras Mountains	FB	1 Night
Day 12	Dead Valley Lodge	Sesriem	FB	2 Nights
Day 14	Namibgrens Guest Farm	Gamsberg	FB	1 Night
Day 15	Overnight Travel			1 Night

Key

D,B&B: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Scheduled Departures

Departure Date	End Date	Price (From)
18/11/2023	03/12/2023	€ 5299 Per Person Sharing

Price

- Person in a double room: € 5299
- Person in a single room: € 5599

Included

- A diverse journey to important photographic highlights of southern Namibia
- Small group with max. 6 people
- Guaranteed departure from 4 people
- Window seat
- Drinking water on board the safari vehicle
- Air-conditioned safari vehicle with a pop-up roof
- German and English speaking photography guide
- Driver included so that your photography guide can take care of you completely
- Accommodation as stated
- Numerous activities included as stated in the itinerary
- Meals as stated
- Entrance fees into national parks as stated
- Extensive travel info pack

Excluded

- Photographic Gear
- Entry visa fees
- Activities not stated
- Gratuities
- Expenses of a personal nature
- All beverages with the exception of drinking water on board the safari vehicle
- International flights

Day 1: Overnight Travel

Day 2: The Utopia Boutique Hotel, Windhoek

Windhoek

Windhoek is the capital of Namibia, where the incredible ethnic mix of the country comes together, and reflects the diverse influences of Ovambo, Caprivian, Kavango, Damara, Nama, San, Herero and European peoples in its wide range of architecture, restaurants and cultural attractions. It is nice and safe to stroll in the city center. The most recognized landmark of the capital is the 'Christuskirche', but a visit to the Old Brewery and its arts and crafts center is also recommended.

Day Itinerary

Welcome to Namibia.

Your photography guide and driver will be waiting for you at the international airport near Windhoek on arrival, from here you will be taken to your to the guest house in Windhoek. This is also where the Meet and Greet will take place and the entire trip is discussed in detail as well as all the documents for your trip are handed over to you.

The rest of the day is at your leisure, for example to explore the city or to do some shopping for the tour. Alternatively, you can relax at the pool after the exertion of the flight and to also prepare your photography gear for the exciting safari ahead.

Windhoek is the capital of Namibia and offers a variety of restaurants, shops and accommodation. The city is clean and well organized. Worth seeing in Windhoek includes the Christ Church (or Christuskirche), as well as the Tintenpalast and the Alte Feste.

In the evening, the group drives to a good restaurant for dinner.

(Please note that the guide only goes to the airport according to the Euro Wings flight times. If you have chosen another flight, you will have to organize and pay for an alternative airport transfer. Please let us know in advance and we will help you gladly with the regulations of the transfer.)

Overnight: The Utopia Boutique Hotel

The modern N/a'ankusê@Utopia establishment has allied with the neighboring Pension Bougainvilla and offers serene rooms and luxurious suites situated amid beautiful, green lush gardens. The hotel is conveniently located in the tranquil suburb of Klein Windhoek.

Utopia combines business and leisure in a modest manner, simultaneously welcoming modern travelers and tourists in need of relaxation. Boasting 14 standard rooms, 7 luxurious suites and 1 executive suite, N/a'ankusê@Utopia creates an ideal hideaway.



Basis

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 3: Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Kalahari Namibia

Kalahari Namibia

Spreading across Botswana, South Africa and Namibia, the **Kalahari** meaning 'the great thirst' is an exceptionally beautiful living desert. The landscape is characterised by a large semi-arid sandy savannah draped over a gently rolling inland sea of sand covering most of Botswana and large parts of Namibia and South Africa. It is also the last bastion of the indigenous San people with the modern world having enveloped all the other areas they once roamed. The Namibian portion is made up of red sands covered in thin, wispy, mostly golden grass and dotted with acacia trees and wide-ranging wildlife including gemsbok, impala, jackals and cheetah.

Day Itinerary

The Kalahari

After a good breakfast, the tour starts as you head towards the Kalahari Desert, reaching our destination early in the afternoon.

On arrival you can relax a bit before you go on a guided "Sundowner" drive through the wonderful Kalahari Desert. On this huge reserve there are numerous exciting wildlife adapted to survive the arid conditions of this desert, who, with a bit of luck, will jump in front of our lenses in the perfect light.

In the evening there is a hearty dinner at the Lodge Restaurant.

Activity Included: Guided Sundowner Drive

Expert Tips

Information on the Kalahari

The Kalahari Desert covers over 500,000 square kilometers. Although, the core is in Botswana, this area covers part of Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. It consists of endless levels and paints the landscape of red, yellow and, especially in the rainy season, green vistas. It is one of the oldest pieces of earth (3.5 billion years old) where probably the very first humans spread across the African continent. The desert is originally the habitat of the San, a nomadic tribe, but they too had to leave the area because of the barren soil. Kalahari means "the great thirst" in the Tswana language, and the emptiness of the area is enormous. However, the area attracts wildlife as it often rains heavily after a dry season.

Overnight: Kalahari Anib Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia

In eastern Namibia, the red sand of the Kalahari Desert. In the midst of this burnt sand, the **Kalahari Anib Lodge** is like an oasis in this desert. Be sure to explore the trails around the lodge and keep your eyes open for springboks, oryx, zebras and wildebeests. Don't miss the most beautiful moment of the day, the sunset. This is when the sun slowly sets and the sand turns a color as if it glows from an ever-burning fire.

Activities

- Game drives (sunrise and sunset)
- Hiking routes



Activities

Morning or Sunset Game Drive

Morning or Sunset Game Drive

These drives are the perfect way to getting acquainted with the Kalahari Desert. The approx. 3 hour morning or sunset drive with panoramic views across the Kalahari dunes is something to remember forever.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Kalahari Game Lodge, Kalahari South

Kalahari South

Neighbouring Botswana, in southeastern Namibia, the renowned Kalahari Desert spans over the spectacularly scenic landscape in the south which features small red-orange dunes, similar to those of the world-famous Sossusvlei. This semi-arid southern terrain is covered with a thin layer of golden savanna and forms part of the Kalahari Basin. This landscape of ancient dunes and yellow grasslands is home to an array of desert-adapted wildlife who call southern Kalahari home including: antelope, spotted hyena, cheetah, meerkat, ostrich, gemsbok, porcupine, the Kalahari lion and a large number of migratory birds. Visitors can discover centuries-old Bushmen paintings, soak up the magnificent views of the southern Kalahari and stay over in one of the many lodges in the area and enjoy nature walks, nature drives and horse riding.

Day Itinerary

The Southern Kalahari

Today we drive mostly on gravel roads as we continue further south deep into the Kalahari and onto the next destination, the Kalahari Game Lodge.

The lodge consists of eight luxurious en-suite chalets with ceiling fans, air conditioning and mosquito nets. The small kitchenette has tea and coffee making facilities, a sink, small fridge and a seating area. Each chalet also has its own terrace with an idyllic view of the peaceful surroundings. At the lodge guests can enjoy the restaurant, pool, fire pit and bar.

The lodge offers drives on the farm area where, with a bit of luck, you can also see Kalahari lions.

In the afternoon, another guided sundowner drive is planned, where you can see the overgrown Kalahari dunes in the perfect light.

Activity Included: Guided Sundowner Drive

Overnight: Kalahari Game Lodge

Kalahari Game Lodge (KGL) is a luxury private game farm situated next to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park on the south-eastern boarder of Namibia.

This oasis surrounded by red sand is a mere 18 km west of the newly opened Mata-Mata border post, making it easily accessible for not only visitors in Namibia, but also those visiting South Africa. The KGL has eight luxury chalets with beautiful views of the Auob river.

For the more adventurous, there are six secluded campsites in the Auob riverbed.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5: Kalahari Game Lodge, Kalahari South

Day Itinerary**In search of the lions of the Kalahari**

The Kalahari Game Lodge is one of the few places in the Kalahari where you can see desert lions and today you will get an opportunity to go on a quest to track down the king of the beasts on a guided safari on the huge reserve. A unique experience with great scenery awaits you.

Activity Included: Guided Lion Tour

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6: Quivertree Forest Rest Camp, Keetmanshoop

Keetmanshoop

Situated along the Trans-Namib Railway, in the ǀKaras region of southern Namibia, the town of Keetmanshoop is known as the capital of southern Namibia. Founded in 1860, this southern Namibian town is a living slice of history. German colonial architecture is dotted around the town and the local museum, housed in an old church, provides interesting insight into the town's heritage. Just a short drive out of town, the Quiver Tree Forest is a sea of spikes and twisted trunks, while the neighbouring 'Giant's Playground' is an evocative expanse of strange rock formations. Both offer superb opportunities for photography, particularly at sunset. Visitors can look forward to exploring the scenic and historic attractions of this amazing place and enjoy an array of wonderful activities.

Day Itinerary

The Quiver Tree Forest

Today's drive leads over gravel roads to the next destination, the Quiver Tree Forest. We will be driving on a winding road for a few kilometers over a great dune landscape, with great photo taking opportunities.

Next comes the small village of Koës, where you can fill up or buy a cold drink.

Shortly before your intended destination you will pass the "Giants Playground". Nature has done a great job here, with thousands of huge boulders of volcanic rock wildly stacked on top of each other and form a unique picture. If you want, you can take a short hike through this stone maze.

An absolute must is the sundowner within the Quiver Tree Forest - this is best enjoyed with a cool Namibian beer. Don't forget to take your photo equipment with you! Here the setting sun offers a beautiful motif every day when it disappears in the background of the quiver trees.

Cheetah Feeding

In the late afternoon you can accompany the farmer, Nolte, to the cheetah feeding. The brave are also allowed into the enclosure to pet the 'cats'.

Activities Included: Visit to the Giants Playground and Quiver Tree Forest

Expert Tips

The Quiver Tree

The quiver tree or "Kokerboom" is one of the most interesting plants of the very hot regions of Namibia. In actual fact it is not a tree but an aloe, the botanical name is ALOE DICHOTOMA. Early native Bushmen and Hottentots hollowed out the fibrous, spongy branches to use as quivers for their arrows.

The quiver tree is a stocky tree that grows to 9 meters tall with a waxy smooth bark. The trunk grows up to a meter in diameter at the base. Mostly it grows solitary, but in some areas it occurs in forest-like groups. It flowers for the first time between the ages of 20 and 30 years.

No tree in the Quiver Tree Forest has been planted. It is a naturally grown forest that was declared a national monument on June 1st, 1955. The largest trees are around 200 - 300 years old.

Overnight: Quivertree Forest Rest Camp

The Quivertree Forest Rest Camp, located on the farm Gariganus just 13 km north-east of Keetmanshoop on road M29, offer tourists comfortable accommodation amid a pristine Namibian landscape. On the farm visitors can explore the ancient and famous Quivertree Forest and the dolerite rock formations of the Giants Playground at their leisure.

Activities

Quiver Tree Forest
Giant's Playground

Quiver Tree Forest

Some 14 kilometres from Keetmanshoop is a striking natural phenomenon that is well worth a visit: a natural forest of roughly 200 quiver trees, set on a large outcrop of blackish dolerite rocks. Named for the pliable bark that was once used by bushmen to craft quivers for their arrows, quiver trees are in fact not trees at all, but unusually large succulents with scaly bark and twisted branches topped with spiky, fleshy leaves. The most mature specimens here are between 200 and 300 years old, and some measure as high as nine metres. The forest, which was declared a national monument in 1955, is best viewed at sunrise or sunset, when the soft, warm light further enhances this already captivating sight.

Giant's Playground

The Giant's playground gets its name from the way in which the massive dolerite boulders appear to have been purposefully placed on top of one another by a gigantic hand. The manner in which the boulders are stacked creates fascinating rock formations and a series of mazes where one can easily lose one's bearings one is not careful. Hiking between these rock formations will entertain visitors for a couple of hours and is guaranteed to present great photo opportunities.

This fascinating rock formation is located on the farm Gariganus and visitors need to buy their tickets at the farm office before setting out.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7: Canyon Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon

Carving out an epic rocky wonderland in the south of Namibia, the Fish River has created Africa's largest and the world's second largest canyon. Hot, dry and stony, the Fish River Canyon measures a whopping 160 kilometres in length, at times 27 kilometres in width and 550 metres in depth. The awe-inspiring natural beauty of this ancient geological marvel draws visitors from around the globe. For those looking for adventure, the intense 85 kilometre Fish River Hiking Trail through 1.5 billion years of geological history will definitely thrill avid adventure enthusiasts, and for visitors looking to relax, head over to the canyon's southern end to enjoy a soak in the mineral waters of the renowned hot springs of Ai-Ais, or take in the spectacularly scenic views from Hobas Restcamp as well as numerous other viewpoints along its rim. Other popular activities include: scenic chartered flights, horse riding, nature drives and seasonal kayaking.

Day Itinerary

The harsh Karas region

We leave the Quiver Tree Forest and drive towards Keetmanshoop, a few kilometers outside the town we turn south onto the D608 gravel road. This leads through a breathtaking hilly landscape, over the Lion River and past the Karas Mountains.

Then continue through a private conservancy, area where, with a bit of luck, you can spot all kinds of desert animals, such as oryx, springbok, ostrich and zebra.

Quiver trees, the Nama culture, rugged landscapes and an impressive rock formations characterize the Canyon Lodge and offer many great photo opportunities.

Take the time to put your feet up, sit by the pool in the sun, relax in one of the comfortable sofas in the living room, watch the sun set over Gondwana Canyon Park on a sunset drive or on one of the many walks through the rocky hills.

Enjoying Lunch

The Canyon Roadhouse is definitely worth a visit. The old building with its vintage cars offers great photo opportunities, this is also a good opportunity for a delicious lunch and a refreshing cold drink.

Activity Included: Lunch at the Canyon Roadhouse is included but drinks have to be paid for by yourself.

Overnight: Canyon Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia

Canyon Lodge is located 20 km east of the Fish River Canyon on the C 37.

A gem in the rugged environment, Canyon Lodge is a fusion of farmhouse flavour and natural splendour. Walkways lead to 30 natural stone chalets nestled amongst granite boulders. Celebrate dawn amongst the quiver trees and the aweinspiring adventure of life from the rim of the Fish River Canyon.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 8: Canyon Lodge Gondwana Collection Namibia, Fish River Canyon

Day Itinerary

The second largest canyon in the world

In the extreme south of Namibia you will find an amazing natural phenomenon, the Fish River Canyon. About 650 million years ago, plate movement lowered the area through which the ancient Fish River flowed, eroding the flat plain. Enjoy spectacular views across the canyon from a number of vantage points.

Today you will be able to admire and photograph this mighty canyon. Your guide will plan the best times, when, and where to visit this attraction to capture the perfect light.

Activity Included: Visit to the Fish River Canyon

Expert Tips

Information on the Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon in America. The immensity of this magnificent landscape is truly breathtaking. The high cliffs and deep gorges were formed by water erosion and the collapse of the valley by movements in the earth's crust over 500 million years ago. Today the canyon is 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and almost 550 m deep.

The canyon is part of the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. Depending on the season, you can look out onto a dry riverbed or - only in good rainy season - a raging torrent. The northernmost entrance to the gorge is the gate at Hobas Campsite. After another 10 km drive you will get to the main viewpoint, other excellent vantage points include Hell's Corner and Sulfur Springs.

The surroundings of this spectacular landscape include a range of habitats that bring together different species of mammals, an abundance of reptiles, insects and fish living in natural pools and the Fish River itself.

The /Ai/Ais and Fish River Canyon Park was established in 1968 and not long after this historic proclamation the Huns Mountains and several farms were added. The similarity of geology, landscapes, flora and fauna of the area led to the signing of a treaty on 1 August 2003 by the then Namibian and South African presidents, as well as South Africa's Richtersveld National Park, to merge both national parks and the /Ai-/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, the first transboundary park in Namibia.

Activities

Fish River Canyon
Fish River Canyon

Fish River Canyon

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Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9: **Bahnhof Hotel Aus, Aus**

Aus

Perched above the plains of the Namib Desert and tucked away in the rocky Aus Mountains, the small village of Aus is located in the Karas Region in southern Namibia. The arid surrounding landscape is known for its unique botanical diversity. Aus serves as an excellent base from which to explore the area and to view the main attraction: the feral horses of the Namib Desert, which run wild and free in the sparsely vegetated plains. Catch a glimpse of these wild desert-adapted creatures at the water trough at Garub just twenty kilometres away from the village. Visitors can explore the Succulent Karoo with a visit to the beautiful Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park, home to the most biodiverse desert in the world, and take a scenic hike to discover fascinating indigenous fauna and flora. Don't miss the opportunity to camp under the clear Namibian night sky and view the vast desert landscape on horseback.

Day Itinerary

The border Orange River and the Richtersfeld

Today's route takes you to the southern edge of the Namib, which is very dry and barren. This area resembles a Martian landscape but is quite spectacular in its own way.

After a while you reach the Orange River, a green lifeline in the midst of this barren landscape. This is not only one of the four rivers in Namibia that carry water all year round, but it also forms the border between Namibia and South Africa.

The gravel road meanders through the beautiful Richtersveld/Transfontier Park, traveling alongside the river. You won't see many animals here, but you will be rewarded with breathtaking scenery.

Rosh Pinah, a small mining town is next on your route. From there you have to overcome about 1000 meters of altitude on a good tar road through the southern Namib until you reach the small village of Aus.

The village of Aus dates back to the German colonial period and was one of the first towns in the former German Southwest Africa. You can stop off at the newly renovated train station hotel to enjoy a delicious homemade cake. You will also spend the night here.

Expert Tips

Information on Aus

Aus is a settlement in the Karas region of southern Namibia. It lies on a railway line and the B4 federal road, 230 km west of Keetmanshoop and about 125 km east of Lüderitz and belongs to the !NamiǂNûs Constituency. The settlement is small but has a range of amenities including a hotel, police station, shop and garage. It is located in the Aus Mountains above the plains of the Namib Desert. The climate is normally hot and dry, but snow was recorded in the winter of 1963 and the region has the coldest winters in Namibia.

The village's name comes from the local Khoekhoe language for "big snake". The village used to be a prisoner of war camp set up by the South African Army in 1915 to hold German prisoners captured during World War I. The inmates initially lived in tents, but later built brick houses. The number of prisoners reached 1500, but by May 1919 the last inmates left and closed the camp. A plaque marks the site today and some of the houses have been reconstructed.

The area west of Aus is known for its herd of wild horses that live in the desert. Their origin is uncertain, but today there are between 150 and 200 animals that have adapted to the harsh environment. They urinate less than

domestic horses and can go five days without water. They drink at an artificial watering hole in Garub Pan, where a blind has been erected to allow tourists to watch the animals without disturbing them.

Overnight: Bahnhof Hotel Aus

The Bahnhof Hotel was initially built in 1906. After extensive renovations in 2005 this Jewel of the Speregebiet has imperturbably grown in size and rating alike. The overall atmosphere and the personal touch within the realm of this establishment are setting it off from many other players in this field.

The small town of Aus has an astonishing rich history dating back to German colonial times. This charming village was once the hub of many Ox-wagon transporters and traders. Remains of the POW (prisoners of war) camp can still be seen today followed by many stories of hardship, bravery, diamond rushes and the coming of the railway. The hotel has 26 immaculate clean rooms, elegantly yet frugally decorated, each with en suite facilities. The hotel serves a large variety of outstanding cuisine, cakes and beverages throughout the day. Day tours to historical sites and the Huib Park reveal some of the most gripping and breathtakingly beautiful landscapes on our planet.



Activities

Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

Formed in 2003, the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park united Namibia's Ai-Ais Hot Springs Park and South Africa's Richtersveld National Park into a single, cross-country entity. Though it may appear barren at first glance, this rugged wilderness shelters an astounding profusion of endemic and indigenous plants that are adapted to the arid environment, as well as a wealth of small mammals and reptiles. Other highlights of the park include the Fish River Canyon (the second-largest of its kind on the planet), the Orange River and its mountain backdrop, and the mineral-rich Ai-Ais hot springs.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10: Kairos Cottage B&B and Coffee Shop, Lüderitz

Lüderitz

Sandwiched between the rugged and stark Atlantic Coast and the arid desert of Namibia, the town of Luderitz is located in an incredible unique geographical setting. This seaside town is something of an anomaly frozen in time – a piece of 19th-century Bavaria bordering the pinkish sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Lutheran churches, German bakeries, and colonial buildings boasting German art nouveau architecture are dotted about the settlement, while its windswept beaches are home to flamingos, ostriches, seals, and penguins. The nearby ghost town of Kolmanskop, which has been taken over by the desert dunes, is another fascinating must-see attraction, located approximately 10 kilometres from Luderitz central, along with the herd of wild desert-adapted horses near the small town of Aus.

Day Itinerary

The wild horses of the Namib

The journey today takes you to the cold Atlantic, and onto Lüderitz.

On the way we visit the wild horses of the Namib, which can often be found at the Garub waterhole. The old railway stations along the route also offer great photo opportunities.

Around noon we reach the coastal town of Lüderitz, which experienced its most prosperous years during the diamond rush between the two world wars. The "ghost town" of Kolmanskuppe will certainly leave an impression, this once prosperous diamond 1920's luxury settlement with a casino, theatre, shops and mansions was taken over by nature shortly after the city was abandoned in 1954. The desert sands literally swamped the settlement and what remains is a bizarre sight, but a photographer's and history buff's paradise.

In the afternoon we explore the area around Lüderitz.

Driving to Diaz Point and Big Bay is also a worthwhile activity. The original cross placed by Batholemeu Diaz on his early excursions to southern Africa is long gone, but a replica still stands at the site today.

There are numerous small coves on the rocky coast.

When the wind blows, which it does quite often, the last 10 km on the road to Lüderitz can be covered by low sand dunes.

Activity Included: A visit to the wild horses of Garub

Expert Tips

Information Lüderitz Bay

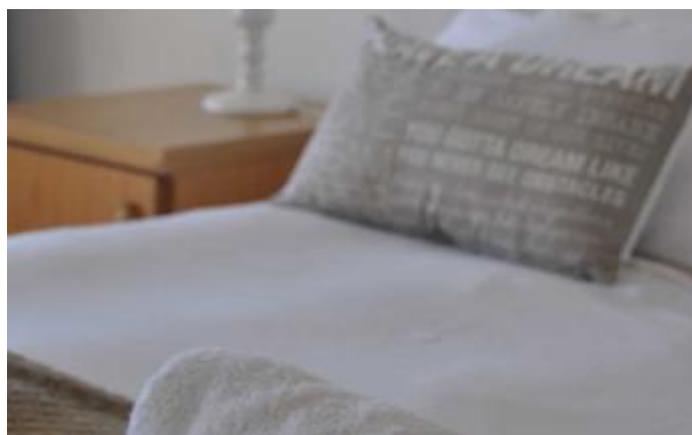
The bay on which Lüderitz is located was first known to Europeans when Bartolomeu Dias discovered it in 1487. He named the bay Angra Pequena (Portuguese: small bay) and erected a stone cross on the southern peninsula. In the 18th century, Dutch adventurers and scientists explored the area in search of valuable minerals, but did not have much success. Further exploration expeditions followed in the early 19th century, during which the abundant wildlife in the ocean was discovered. Profitable businesses were established, including whaling, sealing, fishing and guano harvesting. Lüderitz thus began as a trading post.

The town itself was founded in 1883 when Heinrich Vogelsang bought Angra Pequena and part of the surrounding land from the local Nama chief Josef Frederiks II in Bethanie on behalf of Adolf Lüderitz, a Hanseat from Bremen in

Germany. When Adolf Lüderitz did not return from an expedition to the Oranje River in 1886, Angra Pequena was named Lüderitzbucht in his honor. In 1905, German authorities set up a concentration camp on Shark Island. The camp, which had very limited access, operated between 1905 and 1907 during the Herero Wars. Between 1,000 and 3,000 Africans of the Herero and Nama tribes died here as a result of the tragic conditions of forced labor and the humid climate. Their labor was used to expand the town, railroad, port, and farms of the white settlers. In 1909, following the discovery of diamonds nearby, Lüderitz experienced a sudden surge in prosperity due to the development of a diamond rush in the area. Lüderitz already had 1,100 inhabitants in 1912, not counting the indigenous population. Although situated in a harsh environment between desert and ocean, trade in the port town increased and the adjacent diamond mining settlement of Kolmanskop was built. After South Africa's surrender after World War I, South Africa took over the administration of German South West Africa in 1915. Many Germans were deported from Lüderitz, which contributed to the population decline. From the 1920s, diamond mining only continued south of town in places like Pomona and Elizabeth Bay. This development consequently led to the loss of importance of Lüderitz as a trading center. Only small fishing operations, minimal port activity, and a few carpet weavers remained. In order to remove colonial names from Namibia's maps, the Namibian government renamed the constituency "NamiǀNûs" in 2013, a name that existed before 1884 for the area.

Overnight: Kairos Cottage B&B and Coffee Shop

Kairos Cottage is a unique bed and breakfast accommodation boasting stunning sea views! Our guests can enjoy a lovely breakfast from our menu while being serenaded with a song or two. We offer five rooms, each with its own en-suite bathroom with a shower and spectacular sea views and sunsets. Good quality linen and towels are provided, and each room also has a television and coffee station with a bar fridge. At Kairos Cottage, you will experience a supreme moment that you will never forget!



Activities

Wild Horses of the Namib

Wild Horses of the Namib

Fighting for a life in freedom they hold an irresistible fascination: the Wild Horses of the Namib in south-western Namibia. For centuries their origin was shrouded in mystery. Their habitat, the barren plains around Garub on the eastern fringe of the Namib Desert, is no paradise; nevertheless they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions. Their forebears, once in the service of man, gained freedom for themselves: a life in the vastness of the Namib, away from human civilization, according to the rules of their own horse society. Perhaps this is the reason for the fascination of thousands of visitors every year. Plans for moving the herd to farms have been discarded by now: it has been decided that also in future the horses' place is in Namib Naukluft Park.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 11: Namtib Desert Lodge, Tiras Mountains

Tiras Mountains

Situated in southwestern Namibia at the edge of the world-renowned Namib Desert, the Tiras Mountains provide the perfect backdrop for visitors who venture to this red granite wonderland and immerse themselves in the natural beauty of this region. Namibian landscapes are synonymous with tranquility, serenity and endless open spaces and the magnificent Tiras Mountains encapsulate this quiet charm. Nature lovers flock here for an off-the-beaten-track experience in one of Namibia's most beautiful areas. Visitors can enjoy thrilling 4X4 mountain and dune tours, nature walks, game and bird viewing as well as excursions through quiver tree forests and to ancient rock paintings on granite rocks. Visitors can relax at one of the luxurious farm lodges after a wonderful day of activities, or get up close with nature while camping in this beautiful desert wilderness.

Day Itinerary

The ghost town of Kolmanskop

In the morning we leave Lüderitz and drive 10km to the attraction.

One of the most interesting sights of Lüderitz is the ghost town of Kolmanskop. This once bustling diamond city is now deserted and fights a constant battle with the sand dunes of the Namib Desert. There are guided tours every morning which are very informative. The guided tours can be in English or German and usually start at 9:30 am. A special highlight of the tour is a visit to the bowling alley. After the guided tour, you can explore the area independently.

We head back inland, from Aus we drive north. After the first 30km drive, a spectacular landscape opens up in front of you. In the distance you can see the massive Tiras Mountains, in front of them huge areas of grass and sand and a few red dunes in the west.

After about 55km turn west and follow the famous D707, which can be very sandy in some places, but offers a great panorama. Then proceed to Namtib Desert Lodge where you will spend the night.

Farm Namtib is situated on the edge of the Namib Desert in the Tiras Mountains, it is a private biosphere reserve covering an area of 16,400 hectares. Agricultural and human activities here are adapted to the dry climate of southern Namibia. The fascinating landscape of the farm offers an abundance of breathtaking views and is home to an abundance of various fauna and flora.

The Namtib Biosphere Reserve is located on one of the most beautiful routes in southern Namibia. The farm is ideally located between the Fish River Canyon and Sossusvlei / Sesriem or Lüderitzbucht and Sossusvlei / Sesriem.

The Namtib Biosphere Reserve allows guests to relax while also having the opportunity to experience how a typical Namibian farm works. Here you can discover a wealth of interesting information about the Namib Desert, the Tiras Mountains and the fauna and flora of southern Namibia. The lodge offers an authentic Namibian farm style experience in the middle of the vast Namib Desert.

In the afternoon we will be treated to a nature drive on the farm area and explore the impressive desert landscapes.

Activities Included: Visit to Kolmanskop and scenic drive at Namtib

Overnight: Namtib Desert Lodge

At Namtib Desert Lodge you will find your genuine Namibian experience in typical Namibian farmstyle accomodations in the middle of the vast Namib desert. The small lodge with only five bungalows, one family room and two single rooms is the ideal place to stay for anybody seeking individuality.



Activities

Kolmanskop

Kolmanskop

Amongst the sands of the Namib, the crumbling buildings of a small, once-luxurious town emerge from the drifting dunes. This ghost town is Kolmanskop, a reminder of the wealth of a time when diamonds could be picked by hand from the desert, and a remarkable photographic opportunity with few equals anywhere on earth.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 12: Dead Valley Lodge, Sesriem

Sesriem

As there is no accommodation at Sossusvlei, visitors to this desert wilderness are likely to end up staying at Sesriem, 65 kilometres away, where camps and lodges serve as a base from which to explore the dunes. 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 ('sesriem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.)

Day Itinerary

Drive through to the oldest desert in the world, the Namib.

The journey continues north to Sesriem, the gateway to Sossusvlei.

The guide will point out a few photo stops along the way and lunch packs are available for everyone around noon. In the afternoon you will reach the beautiful lodge.

At sunset we will go to a nearby dune landscape, where the first great dune shots are taken. Returning to the lodge in time to enjoy dinner surrounded by great views.

Activity Included: Entry fees into the Namib-Naukluft Park

Overnight: Dead Valley Lodge

Dead Valley Lodge is situated next to the main entrance gate inside the Namib-Naukluft National Park, between the Sesriem campsite and Elim Dune on the way to the world famous Sossusvlei and the Dead Vlei. This oasis offers a panoramic view of the Namib Desert with towering red sand dunes, rugged mountain ranges, and arid desert savannahs.

Each of the 20 free-standing luxury tented chalets is climate controlled and equipped with double bed units, electric plugs, private patios, a kitchenette, and free-standing bathrooms stocked with toiletries. Guests can enjoy the top-class restaurant that serves delicious Namibian-style cuisine, relax in the picturesque bar with a cold drink after a day of activities, or cool off in the open-air swimming pool overlooking the Elim Dune.

The lodge's eco-friendly design and architecture have truly been inspired by Sossusvlei and with its own entrance into the Namib-Naukluft National Park, making the Dead Valley Lodge one of the closest lodges to Sossusvlei pan. The lodge offers game drives in the morning and afternoon to Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon.

The official opening for guests will be on 1 July 2019.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 13: Dead Valley Lodge, Sesriem

Day Itinerary

Day trip to the world famous red dunes of Sossusvlei.

The day starts early in the morning so that you can take advantage of the beautiful morning light for thus stunning photos. Early entry to the park is possible as our lodge is located inside the park.

A narrow tar road takes you past beautiful landscapes and high dunes to Deadvlei and Sossusvlei. From here a 1.5 km hike takes you over clay flats and a small dune to the ancient, dried up acacia trees of the Dead Vlei, which are now world famous.

Information on Sossusvlei

Sossusvlei is located in the Namib-Naukluft National Park, the largest nature reserve in Africa. The most famous photographs of Namibia undoubtedly come from Sossusvlei. The images are stunning with the intense red dunes and sharp lines. The dunes in this area are the highest in the world, reaching immense heights of almost 400 meters. Climb Dune 45 and enjoy the fantastic view over the dune sea. Another stop is Deadvlei, a dried-up lake with tree stumps that has become an almost surreal landscape.

Sossusvlei means "dead end marsh" because it is where the dunes that prevent the Tsauchab River from reaching the Atlantic Ocean converge. However, due to the drought in the Namib Desert, this river rarely flows that far at all, hence the pan is dry most years. However, during a good rainy season, the Tsauchab River fills the salt pan and visitors from all over the world flock to the area to experience this spectacular site.

Around noon you will enjoy your packed lunch under the camel thorn trees by the Sossusvlei Dry Pan. Afterwards the drive goes back to the entrance gate at Sesriem, where the Sesriem Canyon can also be explored. Returning back to the lodge in the afternoon.

Activities Included: Park entry fees into Namib-Naukluft Park, a visit to Sossusvlei, Deadvlei and Sesriem Canyon

Activities

Dead Vlei
Sossusvlei
Sesriem Canyon

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 desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan's cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namibia Desert, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer's dream.

Sossusvlei

Located in the scenic **Namib-Naukluft National Park**, **Sossusvlei** is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red dunes to make this one of the most scenic natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven.

This awe-inspiring destination is possibly Namibia's premier attraction, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 meters - some of the highest in the world. These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts from around the globe.

Sossusvlei is home to a variety desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes; explore Deadvlei, a white, salt, claypan dotted with ancient trees; or for the more extravagant, scenic flights and hot air ballooning are on offer, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime champagne breakfast amidst these majestic dunes.

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.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 14: Namibgrens Guest Farm, Gamsberg

Gamsberg

Lying east of the Namib-Naukluft Desert, in Central Namibia, the Gamsberg area is home to the majestic Gamsberg Mountain, dubbed Namibia's 'table mountain'. This area is a mecca for 4x4 enthusiasts, who tackle the steep Gamsberg Pass, a gravel road cutting through the rugged terrain. It is Namibia's highest, longest and most scenic pass overlooking the beautiful Kuiseb River in the valley below. Visitors can enjoy superb stargazing opportunities as there is no light pollution, hike along the trails traversing the Gamsberg Mountain, which stands at an impressive elevation of 2347 metres above sea level; and explore the Gamsberg Nature Reserve, home to indigenous plant life and a variety of wildlife.

Day Itinerary

Balloon flight over the Namib Desert dunes (optional)

A total highlight awaits you today.

You must be at the hot air balloon launch site before sunrise. Experience the sunrise high above the desert landscape, with an indescribable view.

Stop to enjoy a piece of apple pie

The small gas station and rest stop at Solitaire, is a great place to stop. It is very conveniently located on your tour of south western Namibia and on the way to Swakopmund. In the small Solitaire Bakery there are many delicacies, including the best apple pie in Namibia! There is also an old car graveyard here that captivates you to take great pictures.

You then leave the Namib Desert over the steep Spreetshoogte Pass. The vantage point offers a great panorama with the setting sun in the west.

Our nearby farm offers a great end to this trip.

Activities Included: Amazing photo stop at the Spreetshoogte Pass

Overnight: Namibgrens Guest Farm

The farm Namibgrens runs in the Rabie family since 1940. The old spacious farmhouse has been renovated and turned into a relaxed haven surrounded by a lovely garden. The summer temperatures is not very high, 10°C lower than that of the Namib desert and 5°C lower than Windhoek. The large garden and abundance of water create an ideal environment for bird watchers with a variety of all types of species. Views from the 1850 meter high escarpment into the Namib desert are breath-taking. The farm can be explored by foot on well marked hiking trails from 2 hours to 3 days or by going on a 2-3 hour game / farm drive. A 4X4 self-driving trail takes the visitor on a challenging and picturesque adventure, with overnights (Granite Rock Camp) and camping grounds at the farmhouse and in the mountains. For the mountaineer, on offer are hiking trails up and around mountains 2700 meter high.



Activities

Spreetshoogte Pass

Optional

Ballooning over Sossusvlei

Spreetshoogte Pass

One of Namibia's most spectacular views is that from the top of the Spreetshoogte Pass, where the land drops off by roughly 2000 metres, creating a natural vantage point overlooking the vast, semi-desert plains and the arid mountains beyond.

Ballooning over Sossusvlei

"..The sunrise in a balloon, above the desert is an unforgettable experience..!"

- From Sesriem
- Duration of the total activity is 3-4 hours
- Minimum length is 1m 20 (children below this limit can join for free in a back-up car)
- Including champagne breakfast
- Including entrance fee of the Namib Naukluft National Park
- Including a game drive in an open safari vehicle on the way back

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 15: Overnight Travel

Day Itinerary

Day of departure

After breakfast we leave for Windhoek, aiming to arrive back at around noon.

Once you arrive in the capital city, your guide will take you to a good restaurant where you are welcome to stay for a while. (Lunch in Windhoek is not included in the tour price)

In the afternoon, you will drive to the international airport near Windhoek, and where the farewell ceremony takes place.

(Please note that the guide only goes to the airport according to the Euro Wings flight times. If you have chosen another flight, you will have to organize and pay for an alternative airport transfer. Please let us know in advance and we will gladly help you with organizing your transfer transfer.)

You are also welcome to book a connecting tour or additional days. Our team is always available for advice.

We hope you had a wonderful tour of the southern highlights of Namibia.

Best Regards,

Your MEINE NAMIBIA SAFARIS Team

Day 16: End of Itinerary
