INTRODUCTION

Namibia is a vast country with a surface area of 824 268 km$^2$, it is about four times the size of the United Kingdom and 27 times the size of Belgium. Blessed with bountiful sunshine, an abundance of wildlife and an intriguing variety of flora and fauna. Attributes that make it a country to which visitors return again and again are the friendliness and cultural diversity of its people, and above all, the pristine quality and extraordinary beauty of its landscape. The country derives its name from the Namib Desert, a unique geological feature renowned for the unusual and haunting quality of its landscape. Far from being lifeless and barren, this narrow strip of moist coastal desert features an unusual variety of desert-adapted flora and fauna. The country can be divided into four distinct topographical regions. Of these the most definitive is possibly the Namib Desert, which consists of a 50 km – 140 km wide coastal plain extending along the entire coastline, interspersed with dune belts, dry riverbeds and deeply eroded canyons. The central plateau, which runs from north to south, has an average altitude of between 1,000 m and 2,000 m. This plateau gradually falls away towards the east, where a sandy strip of land merges into the level expanse of the Kalahari Desert. Dense, bush covered plains to the north-east of the Etosha Pan included the high-rainfall areas of Kavango and Caprivi, typified by woodland savannah and riverine vegetation. With a dry climate, typical of a semi-desert country, droughts are a regular occurrence. Average day temperatures in the summer vary from 20°C - 34°C and average night temperatures in the winter from 0°C - 10°C. The Benguela Current is also the prime determinant of the climate of the Namib, as it reduces rainfall and causes the omnipresent fog typical of the coast. This challenging and rewarding trek combines spectacular desert scenery with rugged mountain terrain, wildlife and local culture in a fascinating area of Namibia called Damaraland. The Brandberg is located on the edge of the Namib Desert and is the highest mountain in Namibia at 2579m. Named the ‘fire mountain’ for the colour of its western face at sunset, its massif has been eroded over millions of years into spectacular ravines and boulders, and there are thousands of ancient rock paintings in the area. Just to the north of the Brandberg lies the Ugab River Wilderness Area. The Ugab is one of the main rivers in the Namib although it is dry for all but a few days of the year. This area not only attracts large game such as specially adapted desert elephants, giraffe and mountain zebra but also has the largest population of free roaming black rhinoceros in the world. Experienced local guides who will impart their knowledge of desert-adapted fauna and flora accompany us throughout.

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE:

Destinations: Windhoek, Damaraland & Erindi Game Reserve
Date: April, May or June of any year
Duration: 9 Days / 8 nights
Accommodation: Accommodation and camping at the following: Safari Court Hotel, Brandberg Rest Camp, Ugab Wilderness Camp, Wild Camping, Save the Rhino Camp & Old Trader’s Lodge
Transfers: All Road Transfers
Meals: Meals as listed in itinerary
EXCLUDED FROM PACKAGE:

- All International and/or Domestic flights
- Gratuities
- All Optional Activities
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry
- Beverages

TOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1:
Hosea Kutako International Airport – Safari Court Hotel
Arrive at Hosea Kutako International Airport and transfer to our overnight accommodation at the Safari Court Hotel. The four star Safari Court Hotel is situated on 13 hectares on the outskirts of Windhoek. The hotel offers the largest local selection of first class accommodation and catering with a difference.

Accommodation: Safari Court Hotel
Meals: Dinner

Day 2:
Safari Court Hotel – Brandberg Rest Camp
After breakfast we depart for Uis, an abandoned tin mining town, 400 km by road to the northwest of Windhoek. This is the last outpost for fuel and supplies. On arrival at the Brandberg Rest Camp in Uis, we have time to freshen up before our guides give a detailed briefing.

Accommodation: Brandberg Rest Camp
Meals: All Meals

Day 3:
Brandberg Rest Camp – Ugab Wilderness Camp
Sunrise sees us heading deeper into the desert. We drive the 40km to the Brandberg Massif and famous Tsisab Ravine, home to numerous rock paintings, the most famous of which being the “White Lady”. We will take around three hours to walk around the area to view the Ravine’s treasures. After lunch we will trek 8km along the dry riverbed of tributary of Ugab River in the shade of overhanging Brandberg Acacias and Tamarisk trees. The evening is spent at the Ugab Wilderness Camp, our last chance to shower for the next few days. Walk 5 hours, 12km.

Accommodation: Ugab Wilderness Camp
Meals: All Meals

Day 4:
Ugab Wilderness Camp – Wild Camping
Walking soon after sunrise, we drop into the shady Ugab riverbed where the cool of the morning lingers. The surface is soft underfoot and saps our strength and, as the sun starts to beat fiercely down, the going gets tough.
If we have made good progress during the morning we may reach camp at around lunchtime. If this is the case then late in the afternoon, as the air begins to cool, we can walk to a vantage point and watch the Brandberg Mountain “burn” with the colours of the setting sun. We camp amongst the trees just beyond a small farm where local Herero farmers corral their goats, eking out a living in the harsh environment. **Walk five to six hours, 16km.**

Accommodation: Wild Camping  
Meals: All Meals  

**Day 5:**  
**Wild Camping**  
We are up early as usual heading further along the Ugab River. The surrounding terrain is still desert-like plain interspersed with pink granite “inselbergs”; huge islands of rock left over from volcanic activity deep underground millions of years previously. More soft sand underfoot going tough and once more we seek shelter from the midday and early afternoon sun. To the left of the river lies an abandoned mine. They were looking for the mineral tantalite in years gone by; the machinery lays preserved in the sand. Our camp is a kilometre further along, amongst the shepherd trees. **Walk four to five hours, 14km.**

Accommodation: Wild Camping  
Meals: All Meals  

**Day 6:**  
**Wild Camping**  
Again, an early start and we strike out along the sandy riverbed. We have shady trees and high, rocky ravines, and a good chance of seeing tiny steenboks that gave adapted perfectly to the desert environment. There may be boggy areas, green reeds and possibly even cool pools of water. Due to seasonal fluctuations in the river’s layout we camp where we meet our back up team and have supper under the stars. **Walk seven to eight hours, 28km**

Accommodation: Wild Camping  
Meals: All Meals  

**Day 7:**  
**Wild Camping – Save the Rhino Camp**  
The final leg of our trek sees us trekking along the riverbed where we walk under giant albida trees. Here we pass dramatically folded sedimentary rock through which the river has cut its path to the Atlantic Ocean, we may even chance upon some mountain zebra which inhabit the area. We cross the confluence where another large riverbed joins the Ugab and continue through the stunning scenery. This evening we reach our final destination after many dusty kilometres. We stay at the Save the Rhino camp whose basic facilities, such as bucket showers, will seem luxurious after our long, hot and challenging journey. **Walk five to six hours, 17km.**

Accommodation: Save the Rhino Camp  
Meals: All Meals  

**Day 8:**  
**Save the Rhino Camp – Erindi Game Reserve**  
We transfer from our last camp under the stars to our game lodge for our final dinner and farewells.
Namibia has its fascinating desert, its own canyon, the Etosha pan and endless savannah, but on a vast mountainous plain lies Erindi, translated as "The Place of Water" in local Herero, with more than 15 000 head of game teeming over an unbelievably large game reserve, where even rare and endangered species are being conserved and managed in a manner that allows man to experience what it was once like to live in undisturbed Africa… The experience is set on 71 000 ha of pristine wilderness with varied landscapes in a malaria-free area, from mountains to savannah to open grassland right in the heart of Namibia.

Erindi Private Game Reserve is situated in the triangle between Okahandja, Otjiwarongo and Omaruru. The pure tranquillity, abundant wildlife and distant horizons with awesome sunsets will sweep you off your feet. Old Traders Lodge provides the accommodation at Erindi Private Game Reserve. This impressive lodge comprises the main dining room and viewing deck as well as 35 well appointed suites including 5 deluxe suites. Three of the five deluxe suites face the water hole. The spacious suites include; Comfortable double or twin single beds with crisp linen and warm blankets, Remote controlled air-conditioning, En-suite bathroom with bath and shower, In-room safe, In-room study desk, satellite TV, hairdryers, fridges and kettles.

Activity included for today:

A short excursion takes a sun downer location. Intense golden hues make the evening surreal as you sip drinks and enjoy light snacks. The light softens after a magnificent sunset, as the sun dips behind the horizon, the air cools, day transforms to night. Animals leave the safety of their daytime shelters. The numerous nocturnal hunters, including lion and genet pick up scent trailing the night air. Evening excursion also bring incredible viewing of little creatures such as striped polecat, African wild cat, bat eared foxes, porcupine and pangolin, brown hyena, spotted hyena and jackal.

Accommodation: Old Trader’s Lodge
Meals: All Meals

Day 9:
Erindi Game Reserve – Hosea Kutako International airport
Morning game drive. Transfer to Windhoek via Okahandja for shopping (time allowing) and on to the airport. Own lunch.

Meals: Breakfast

Quoted price: *on request*

Notes:
a) The costing for the Tour Programme is based on a minimum of twenty (20) guests.
b) This is only a quotation and is valid for April, May or June of any year.
c) No reservations have been made and all accommodation, flights and transport are subject to availability.
d) Should any of the accommodation mentioned not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable venue, which might affect the final quoted price.
e) Quoted price is also subject to availability, fuel/gas price and possibly exchange rate fluctuations.
f) 20% non-refundable deposit is required on confirmation of safari.
g) Full payment is required sixty (60) days prior to arrival.


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