

Trip Dossier for Namibia – Cheetahs & Dunes

Trip Code: FNBC Issue date: 6 Dec 2007 Valid from: 01 January 2008

Day 1 Fly to Windhoek

Depart from London Gatwick to Windhoek by overnight flight. **In flight**

Day 2 Arrive at Windhoek; afternoon sightseeing

On arrival at Windhoek you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel, where you may relax and unwind from your long flight. This afternoon there is an opportunity to go on a "Katutura Township Tour". Katutura was, during the apartheid years, the original Windhoek workers "township" and is still today the largest suburb in Windhoek. The atmosphere is truly African and you will visit all the areas of local interest including markets and a local bar to try out the traditional drinks and food. The rest of the evening is at leisure. **Hotel** (breakfast not included)

Day 3 Drive north to Okonjima, and visit the Africat Foundation (300 km)

Today you will travel north, stopping at small towns along the way including Okahandja, where you have time to visit Namibia's largest wood carving market. The market is operated on a local co-operative basis and is one of the best places to shop for truly Namibian souvenirs. Continuing north, passing through farmland, arriving at Okonjima during the middle afternoon, allowing time to set up camp and to relax in the shade for a while before heading out to visit the Africat Foundation (a specialist conservation concern that centres its operations around the African Big Cats, particularly cheetah). This afternoon, specialised guides will take you on a tour during which you will be able to meet, close-up-and-personal, some of the cheetah, and other Big Cats, that are part of the Africat rehabilitation programme. Most of the animals currently living at Okonjima have been rescued from various desperate situations, being orphaned or caught in a trap, and the aim of the rehabilitation process is to attempt to re-introduce them into the wild. After your visit, you will return to camp and prepare for dinner under the African stars. **Camp (lunch & dinner)**

Day 4 Drive north to Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park and afternoon game drive (270 km)

Today you will head north on the main road and pass through small towns along the way. There will be a short stop for fresh supplies in the northern community of Outjo where you can also get coffee and sticky cakes at the local bakery, before continuing on to Etosha's premier resort, Okaukuejo. On arrival at Okaukuejo, we will make our camp and relax in the shade by the swimming pool before heading out into the park on our first game drive in the cool of the late afternoon. Etosha forms the main game viewing section of our safari and the Okaukuejo area offers us some of the best waterholes in the park and the best chance to see some Big Game. Game driving is not the only way to see the African wildlife at Okaukuejo. Located right on the boundary of the camp and within easy walking distance of our camp there is a floodlit waterhole for "after hours" game watching. Okaukuejo is famous for its waterhole, it has been described as one of the "best game viewing opportunities in Southern Africa" and black rhino, elephant, lion and numerous species of antelope are usually seen. **Camp with swimming pool (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 5 Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park game drives

This morning you will have the opportunity of seeing the animals stir in the early morning light; it can be chilly between June and October so take a sweater and wind-proof jacket. Your guide/driver will take you to visit numerous waterholes in the area hoping to catch some of Etosha's Big Game out for an early morning drink. The game drives around the Okaukuejo area are some of the best in the park and you will cover several different terrains this morning, from wooded areas to open savannah and in the rainy season, wetland. Back to Okaukuejo in the late morning and after lunch there is time once again to relax during the heat of the day. The pool area here is very good, shaded by palm trees and within easy walking distance of the waterhole. In the afternoon there is a second game drive for the day and stopping at one of the waterholes popular with game and waiting for the animals to come to us. **Camp with swimming pool (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 6 Okaukuejo – Hobatere private game reserve (200 km)

Leaving early you continue driving westward through Etosha and enter the restricted "West Etosha" zone. West Etosha is a huge area of the National Park that has been set aside for wildlife research and to allow the animals to breed without the intrusion of game drive vehicles. With special permission we are allowed to transit through this special area of the park, stopping on the main road for any special animals, however our permit does not allow us to leave the main road or to make too many stops along the way. You should be lucky enough to see many elephants, as they are common in this area and also keep a sharp lookout for Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, a different species of "stripey donkey" that does not usually occur in the main tourist areas of Etosha. From Etosha you exit at the far western gate called Otjovasondu, heading towards northern Damaraland to Hobatere. Hobatere is a private concession area that is designed to offer



sanctuary to wildlife but also to benefit the local communities through environment management training, game management skills and revenue through tourism. The campsite here is rustic but excellent, with good views across the surrounding terrain and shaded areas for the heat of the day. The campsite is in an unfenced wilderness area and parental control of children whilst at Hobatere is essential. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 7 Visit to Oase Himba village - Palmwag Desert Oasis, Damaraland (300km)

From Hobatere you will begin your journey south with a relatively short drive to the small town of Kamanjab. There will be a short stop here before continuing on to find the Oase Himba village, located about 20 km from Kamanjab (the exact location of the site varies as the Himba occasionally roam to a new location). Oase is a "living village", meaning that the inhabitants permanently reside here and live according to their traditional lifestyle. In the 21st century this is pretty unique and Oase is in fact the only traditionally functioning Himba community outside the far north Kaokoland region of Namibia.

You will meet a specialised guide before being invited into the village to meet the inhabitants. Your guide will be able to translate for you and you will learn about marriage customs, traditional food, traditional medicine and the mysteries of the ancient religion, "Holy Fire". From Oase you will travel to the west, heading deeper into the desert and passing through beautiful Damaraland scenery as you cross the small "Groot-Berg" mountain range and we head down to the Palmwag Oasis. Located on the banks of a dry river, the Oasis is shaded by huge makalani palm trees and water comes from a rare desert spring that attracts a wide variety of wild game, including the rare and elusive desert elephant and rhinoceros. There is a swimming pool where you can cool off and chill out or a self-guided sunset walking trail if you are feeling energetic. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 8 See the ancient Bushman rock engravings and drive to Brandberg Mountain (350km)

Damaraland is probably Namibia's most beautiful area and you will drive through the heart of the region today. Giant granite "koppies" and open grassland make up the terrain with rare and unusual flora species dotting the landscape. The first main stop today will be the Twyfelfontein valley to visit the Bushman rock engravings or petroglyphs. Ancient artisans used tools made from quartz to leave modern generations with the gift of a fascinating open air museum. The art is carved into the flat surfaces of a ruined petrified sand dune and a local guide will introduce you to this important site. From here you head deeper into the desert and on to Namibia's highest mountain, The Brandberg, (2573 m). Brandberg Mountain is another ancient Bushman spiritual site and tonight you will sleep in a community campsite under the shadow of this giant granite monolith. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 9 Hike into the mountain to see the white lady and drive to the seal colony and onto Swakopmund, (300 km)

Starting early to enjoy the cool of the morning you will hike "into" the mountain with your guide to see the world famous "White Lady" rock painting. Attributed to the Bushman artists, the white lady panel is believed by some to be in excess of 20,000 years old. Then it is back on the road and more beautiful Damaraland scenery this morning, stopping at the small town of Uis, an old mining town, and one of the best places to buy semi-precious stones, for which Namibia is famous. Here, rough Amethyst, Tourmaline etc can be found at bargain prices. Traversing across the "gravel plains" towards the Atlantic Ocean and the Skeleton Coast, meeting the ocean at Henties Bay, you first head north along the coast to visit the seal colony at Cape Cross where at certain times of the year there can be as many as 100,000 Cape Fur Seals. From here you travel to Swakopmund, following the Skeleton Coast. At Swakopmund you have free time to relax and explore Namibia's premier seaside town. There are some excellent local cafes and restaurants and the seafood in Swakopmund is superb. **Chalet (breakfast & lunch)**

Day 10 Free day at Swakopmund

Today is a free day. Swakopmund is a very pleasant seaside town with lots of shops, a good stretch of beach (although the Atlantic here is quite cold) and an open-air curio market. There is also a very good museum and the Namibian National Marine Aquarium is located in Swakopmund. Alternatively, there are various optional activities that can be arranged. These include aeroplane flights over the desert, scenic drives, fishing trips (both from the beach or in a boat), quad bike trips into the desert and over the sand dunes around Swakopmund, sand boarding trips (also in the dunes), skydiving, surfing, bird-watching and many other activities. Your tour guide will discuss all the possible options with you before you reach Swakopmund and will offer to make bookings in advance of your arrival. **Chalet (breakfast)**

Day 11 See the flamingos at Walvis Bay and drive to Sesriem (350 km)

This morning you will make a short visit to Walvis Bay for supplies and then head on to the lagoon, home to a vast array of marine bird-life, including flamingos, before reaching out towards the desert. The second part of your journey today takes you across more of the seemingly endless Namib gravel plains. Then the landscape suddenly changes into the mountain desert. Crossing both the Kuiseb and Gaub passes, driving both times to the river beds at the bottom of the canyons and then climbing the long steep road to the top and the spectacular panoramas of the mountains. Once again the scenery



changes as we make our way down to the dune fields at Sesriem, changing from open grass savannah and farmlands to the immense red sand dune desert of the Namib. We aim to arrive at Sesriem during the late afternoon so that we will have time to drive out to one of the nearby dunes to watch the colours on distant mountains to the east, glow and change.

Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)

Day 12 Drive and walk into the desert to Sossusvlei

After a pre-dawn start to see the sunrise in the dunes. You'll drive a further 60 km into the desert and to have breakfast as the colours grow across the landscape. Then it's a short trek through the dunes to reach Sossusvlei. During the walk you will see the soft sunlight just beginning to play over the dunes creating a sharp contrast light and shadow across the whole desert. Ancient mineral pans, stunted camel thorn trees and the chance of seeing a gemsbok or maybe an ostrich make the photo opportunities perfect. You will spend the morning in and around Sossusvlei, visiting "Dune 45", and returning to Sesriem for lunch to escape the heat of the afternoon. As the day cools off in the late afternoon you will take a short journey into the spectacular Sesriem Canyon. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 13 Drive over the mountains to Windhoek and Daan Viljoen (450 km)

After breakfast you begin your journey over the mountains and along scenic roads back to Windhoek. Crossing over the Naukluft Mountains and the Khomas Hochland range through beautiful Remhoogte Pass we gradually make our way back to civilization. Passing through Windhoek you will drive a little further to Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve located about 20 km from the city centre. Daan Viljoen is a small but interesting reserve that your guide will introduce you to. There will be free time to relax by the pool or explore the reserve on foot. **Bungalows with swimming pool (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 14 Travel to Windhoek and fly to London

This morning you can either stay and use the swimming pool at Daan Viljoen or to go into Windhoek City with your guide. The shopping in Windhoek is interesting and provide an excellent opportunity to check out the markets for last-minute gifts and souvenirs. Finally we transfer to Windhoek Airport for your overnight flight to London. **In flight (breakfast & dinner)**

Day 15 Arrive London

Early morning arrival into London Gatwick

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets. Each itinerary is planned many months in advance. Consequently there are factors over which we have no control and which could make changes necessary. We will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes in advance.

These excursions, if available, can be arranged through your tour leader (per person cost shown below)

Optional Extras at Swakopmund

Aeroplane flights over the desert – Based on 5 pax for 3 hours flying	£110.00
Scenic drives – based on 2 people for half a day	£32.00
Scenic drives – based on 2 people for a full day	£43.00
Half day boat fishing trips (including all equipment) – minimum of 2 people	£43.00
Half day beach fishing (including all equipment) – minimum of 2 people	£50.00
Quad biking over the sand dunes – based on 3 hrs	£32.00
Sand board in the dunes – based on 3hrs	£21.00
Sky diving (minimum age: 12 years) – tandem free fall	£110.00
Dolphin Cruise – 4 hours	£32.00
Township Tour – 4 hours	£25.00

Please note these prices are a guideline only and are subject to change.

Is this right for your family? This trip is not for very young children as quite a lot of driving is involved, although there are several two night stops opportunities to relax. You'll have to put up/take down your own tents, but a camp assistant does all other camp chores including the cooking. All you need are sleeping bags – which can be hired locally if necessary.



Climate Namibian summer temperatures (December - March) can reach 45°C, and night-time temperatures (June - September) can be as low as -5°C. There is little rainfall, most of it falls between December and April.

Average monthly temperatures in Windhoek

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max C	29	28	27	25	22	20	20	23	25	29	29	30
Min C	17	16	15	13	9	7	6	8	12	15	15	17
Rainfall (mm)	76	74	79	41	8	0	0	0	3	10	23	48

Accommodation and Meals The camping in the National Parks is a combination of semi permanent and mobile camping. You will be asked to put up and take down your own dome tent, a camping assistant will be on site to assist and take care of other camping chores. You are required to may hire a sleeping bag or bring your own with you. All evening meals in the camp are cooked on an open fire by the guide. Tap water from the local bore holes will be supplied but bottled water can be purchased at shops and rest camps.

Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.75
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£1.50
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.50
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.50
A bottle of beer	£1.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£2.50
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£6.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£10.00

*Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.

Currency The unit of currency is the Namibia Dollar N\$. The Namibian Dollar Is linked to the South African Rand NS1 = 1 SAR. At the time of writing UK £1 = 14 N\$/ SAR14 (Nov 2007). South African Rand is also legal tender in Namibia. Sterling Travellers' Cheques are readily accepted in banks and the larger hotels. We recommend that you change money at the airport. Credit cards are accepted in larger hotels and some souvenir shops, but not in the wildlife resorts.

Tipping is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. It should be remembered, however, that over-generosity could lead to jealousy in poor countries. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline each traveller should allow £2 - £3 per day to cover tips for local staff and tipping in restaurants is 10%.

Language English is the official language. Afrikaans is spoken by most people. German, Herero, Kavango, Nama and Ovambo are also spoken.

Time Namibia is GMT +2 hours & 1 hr in summer (end of March to October)

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"



Clothing & Equipment List for Namibia – Cheetahs & Dunes

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Comfortable casual cotton clothing is recommended, with a sweater or fleece for the evenings. Please note during the wildlife drives in **open jeeps/canter** (especially during June – September) it can be rather chilly so please pack warm clothing. Bring muted colours rather than bright clothing (which animals can see from far away and take flight).

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Walking Boots	1 pair		Soft-sided bag 50 – 80litres	
Trainers or strong sandals	1 pair – all purpose wear		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Socks	4+		Sleeping bag (3 - 4 season)	
Waterproof jacket	1 lightweight - optional		A variety of large plastic bags	
Waterproof trousers	Optional in summer		Sunglasses	
Underwear	4+		Personal First Aid Kit	
T-Shirts / polo shirts	3 +		Torch and Batteries	
Long casual trousers	2 +		Camera, Film and Accessories	
Short Trousers	2		Reading Material	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Washing & Shaving Kit – wet wipes useful & refreshing	
Thick fleece	Not essential in summer		Binoculars	
Warm wind-proof jacket	1		Towel / Sarong	
Thin fleece or sweatshirt	1		Insect Repellent with a high DEET content	
Sunhat / baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Sunscreen – lots of it	
Warm hat, scarf and gloves	Woolly or fleece (for early morning game drives)		Large water bottle	
Swim Wear	1			

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Money/Travellers Cheques		Small Calculator	
Credit Cards / Cash		Sweets and Snacks for the journey	
Insurance Documents		Cold Water Detergent	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Biodegradable Soap	
Money Security Belt/Pouch		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
Spectacles/Contact Lenses		Toilet paper / tissues	
Moisturising Cream & Lip salve – not in hand luggage		Guide Book & map	
Tooth Paste/Floss		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, books	
Scissor/Mirror/Nail Clippers – not in hand luggage		Games, books and toys for your children	

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions**, please visit www.baa.com for details or click [here](#)

