

## **August Namibian Highlights Tour**

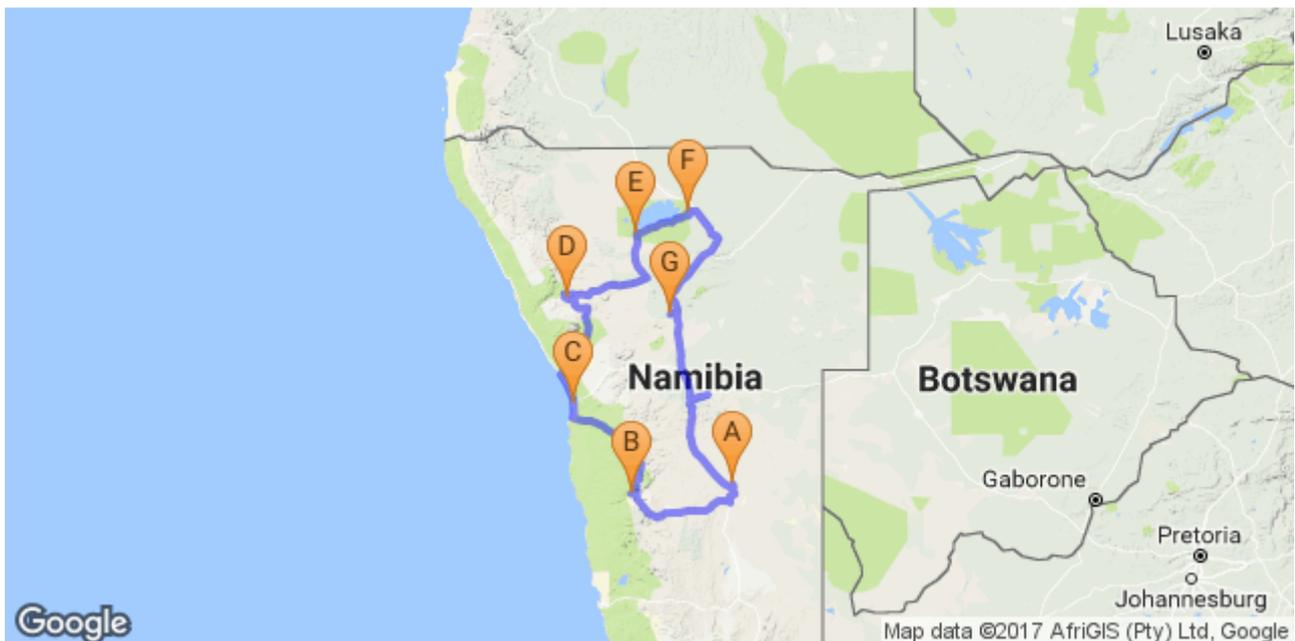
*Kalahari Namibia - Sossusvlei - Swakopmund - Damaraland - Etosha National Park - Okonjima Nature Reserve*

*11 Days / 10 Nights*

*2 Persons*

*Date of Issue: April 2017*

**14 August 2017 - 24 August 2017**



# *GROOVE TRAVEL – Bottega del Viaggiatore*

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## Overview

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Destination	Arr.	Dep.	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Kalahari Namibia	14 Aug	16 Aug	2	SC + Dinner	Camping
Sossusvlei	16 Aug	18 Aug	2	SC + Dinner	Camping
Swakopmund	18 Aug	20 Aug	2	BB	Guest House
Damaraland	20 Aug	21 Aug	1	SC + Dinner	Camping
Etosha National Park	21 Aug	23 Aug	1	SC + Dinner	Camping
Etosha National Park	23 Aug	24 Aug	1	DBB	Camping
Departure	24 Aug				

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### Key

RO: Room only

SC: Self Catering

HB: Half Board

B&B: Bed and breakfast

B, B&L: Bed, breakfast and lunch

D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

FB: Dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch

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

FI: Fully inclusive

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With its well-developed infrastructure, some of the best tourist facilities in Africa and an impressive list of breathtaking natural wonders, touring Namibia is truly a pleasure. Visit the capital of Windhoek and the lovely coastal town of Swakopmund to discover remnants of the country's German influence, reflected in the architecture, culture, cuisine and the annual Oktoberfest celebrations. To properly appreciate this extraordinary country, you will have to venture out of the cities to explore the remarkable natural landscapes Namibia has to offer. These include: the impressive Fish River Canyon Park; the vast Etosha National Park teeming with local subspecies, such as desert lions, desert elephants and the Hartmann's Mountain Zebra; the hauntingly beautiful Kalahari Desert; and of course the Namib Desert stretching for nearly 1000 km along the magnificent Atlantic coastline. Namibia is an ideal destination for travellers seeking an unforgettable African experience in a uniquely beautiful untamed wilderness.

## *Banking and Currency*

### **Currency**

Namibia uses the Namibian Dollar (N\$) this is linked on a one to one exchange with the South African Rand. The Rand is legal tender in Namibia, but the N\$ cannot be used in South Africa.

If you are wishing to purchase currency before arriving in Namibia, it is easiest to buy Rand as the Namibian Dollar is seldom available in banks outside of Namibia.

### **Banking**

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank and credit cards as well as travellers cheques.

You can also obtain cash from many of the ATMs. Several international banks have branches in main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they have not been informed.

## *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

Public transport in Namibia is geared towards the needs of the local populace, and is confined to main roads between major population centres. Although cheap and reliable, it is of little use to the traveller as most of Namibia's tourist attractions lie off the beaten track.

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It is easy to travel around Namibia by car, and a 2WD vehicle is perfectly adequate for most journeys. However, long distances, poor mobile phone coverage outside of main towns and infrequent petrol stations that only accept cash mean that planning ahead is vital.

There are major airlines that fly into Windhoek and Swakopmund. Other destinations are reachable by car or charter flight.

Namibians drive on the left and all signposts are in English. Seat belts must be worn at all times and talking in a mobile phone while driving is prohibited. The general speed limit is 120km/h on tarred roads outside of towns and 100km/h on gravel roads. In built up areas, the speed limit is 60km/h.

## *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

Traditional Namibian cuisine is rarely served and so the food at restaurants tends to be European in style and is, generally, of a very high standard.

Namibia is very meat-orientated, and many menu options will feature steaks from various animals. However, there is usually a vegetarian and seafood section offered by most camps and restaurants.

In the supermarkets you'll find pre-wrapped fresh fruit and vegetables (though the more remote the areas you visit, the smaller your choice), and plenty of canned foods, pasta, rice, bread, etc. Most of this is imported from South Africa.

The water in Namibia's main towns is generally safe to drink, though it may taste a little metallic if it has been piped for miles. Natural sources should usually be purified, though water from underground springs and dry riverbeds seldom causes any problems. However, filtered and bottled water are readily available in most towns and all camps, lodges and hotels.

## *Climate and Weather*

Partially covered by the Namib Desert, one of the world's driest deserts, Namibia's climate is generally very dry and pleasant – it's fine to visit all year round. Namibia only receives a fraction of the rain experienced by countries further east. Between about **December to March** some days will be humid and rain may follow, often in localised, afternoon thunderstorms. These are more common in the centre and east of the country, and more unusual in the desert.

**April** and especially **May** are often lovely months in Namibia. Increasingly dry, with a real freshness in the air, and much greenery in the landscape; at this time the air is clear and largely free from dust.

From **June to August** Namibia cools down and dries out more; nights can become cold, dropping below freezing in some desert areas. As the landscape dries so the game in the north of the country gravitates more to waterholes, and is more easily seen by visitors. By **September and October** it warms up again; game-viewing in most areas is at its best, although there's often a lot of dust around and the vegetation has lost its vibrancy.

**November** is a highly variable month. Sometimes the hot, dry weather will continue, at other times the sky will fill with clouds and threaten to rain – but if you're lucky enough to witness the first rains of the season, you'll never forget the drama.

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## *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

Namibians have a somewhat relaxed attitude to dress codes. A jacket and tie is very unusual. In fact, long trousers and a shirt with buttons are often quite adequate for a formal occasion or work wear. A pair of sensible shoes, jeans and a t-shirt is recommended.

During the day it is generally hot, so pack light weight loose fitting clothes in natural fabrics, such as linen or cotton, that will keep you cool and are easy to wash and dry.

Avoid blue clothing - the tsetse flies are drawn to the colour blue, and their bite can give you African Sleeping Sickness.

Long sleeved shirts and long trousers will protect you against mosquitoes at night.

## *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances. Such adapters are also available at major airports.

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## **Day 1 & 2: Kalahari Namibia**

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The Kalahari is an exceptionally beautiful living desert 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 San people with the modern world having enveloped all the other areas they once roamed.

Here in Namibia it is typically red sands covered in thin, wispy, mostly golden grass and dotted with acacia trees and wide ranging wildlife including gemsbok, impala, jackals and cheetah.

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### **Overnight: Camping**

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#### **Included**

Dinner, Self Catering Camping

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#### **Activities not included**

**Morning or Sunset Game Drive:** the approx. 3 hour morning or sunset drive with panoramic views across the Kalahari dunes is something to remember forever.

**Hiking Trails:** Explore the Kalahari on foot and on your own initiative. A trail map is available at the reception

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## **Day 3 & 4: Campsite, Sossusvlei**

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Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographers heaven.

Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Deadvlei - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park, where the mountains of the Namib meet its plains.

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### **Overnight: Campsite**



### **Included**

Dinner + Self Catering Camping

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### **Activities not included**

Sossusvlei - The Red Dunes (Entrance fees for the Park – tickets on site)

Dead Vlei

Sesriem Canyon (free of charge once in the Park)

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### ***Sossusvlei - The Red Dunes***

This magnificent desert wilderness of vast, rust-coloured sand dunes, clay pans and petrified forests lies in the Namib-Naukluft Park. Formed over countless centuries, some of the dunes measure up to 300 metres in height and are among the highest in the world. In the rare event of an especially wet rainy season, the 'vlei' – meaning marsh or

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wetland – of Sossusvlei fills up with water, and its glistening surface forms a strikingly beautiful contrast with the reddish dunes.



## *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.



## *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 + Self Catering Camping

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## Day 5 & 6: Guest House, Swakopmund

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Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, colonial-era buildings and the cool sea breeze make it very popular.

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### Overnight: Guest House



### Included

Bed & Breakfast

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### Activities included

Walvis Bay Dolphin & Seal Cruise + Sandwich Harbour 4x4 (take all the day)

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#### *Walvis Bay Dolphin & Seal Cruise*

Several operators run boat cruises from Walvis Bay geared towards dolphin, seal and whale watching, but also offering visitors the chance to experience the region's natural beauty and phenomenal bird life.

#### *Sandwich Harbour 4x4*

Sandwich Harbour 4x4 is a safari company based in Walvis Bay, Namibia, offering 4x4 excursions to Sandwich Harbour, Marine Dune Days, Kayak Combos and Bird Watching Activities in the Wetlands around Walvis Bay.

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## Optional activity not included

Living Desert Tours

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### *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.



## Included

Bed & Breakfast

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## **Day 7:      Campsite, Damaraland**

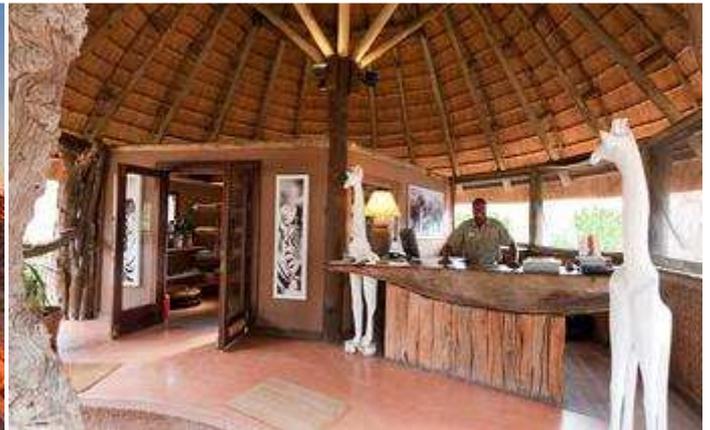
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Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape of open plains and spectacular rock formations. The major attractions are Spitzkoppe, the Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Vingerklip and the Petrified Forest.

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### **Overnight: Campsite**



### **Included**

Dinner + Self Catering Camping

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### **Optional not included**

Cape Cross Seal Colony (tickets on site)  
Brandberg (free of charge)  
Messum Crater (free of charge)  
Twyfelfontein Rock Art  
Petrified Forest  
Organ Pipes  
Himba Cultural Excursions

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## *Cape Cross Seal Colony*

This colony of Cape Fur Seals is one of the largest in the world, home to approximately 80 000 to 100 000 of these so-called 'seals', which are in fact a species of sea lion. Day trips to the colony are offered and the seals can be viewed from a walkway at a distance of roughly 200 metres.



## *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'.



## *Himba Cultural Excursions*

Damaraland and the Kaokoveld, as well as southern parts of Angola, are home to the Himba, one of the last truly traditional tribes on the planet. These friendly people are closely related to the Herero and lead a semi-nomadic life as herdsmen, breeding mainly cattle and goats. The community living among the majestic Makalani palms at Palmfontein invites visitors to learn more about their proud and ancient lifestyle and traditions. Visitors will be able to see their cone-shaped homestead made from palm leaves, mud and cattle dung and learn more about their unique customs and techniques. Due to the nomadic lifestyle of the Himba, the trip is not offered all year round.

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## *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

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sites, which collectively encompass 212 engraved stone slabs. There are an additional 13 sites displaying rock paintings.



## *Petrified Forest*

Situated approximately 50 kilometers west of the town of Khorixas, in an area of open veld, lies a large deposit of massive tree trunks that have "turned to stone" through a process of diagenesis. These petrified tree trunks are up to 34metres long, 6 metres in circumference and are approximately 260 million years old. Due to the lack of root or branch remains, it's believed that the trees were washed down an ancient river to the site in a massive flood.



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## **Day 8 & 9: Campsite, Etosha National Park**

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The Etosha National Park is Namibia's premiere game viewing experience, situated in the northwest of Namibia and is an area well known for its wildlife. Vegetation ranges from dense bush to open plains attracting a diversity of wildlife. In the heart of the Park is The Etosha Pan - a shallow depression that covers an area of 5000sq kilometres. Dry and shimmering for most of the year, the pans fill up with water after good rains to a depth which is seldom deeper than 1m. In the dry season wildlife is attracted to perennial springs and waterholes that makes for excellent game viewing.

Within the park are three large public rest camps catering for the more budget orientated traveller. There are several smaller establishments on the outskirts of the park on private land offering a more intimate and comprehensive experience. All of these establishments offer excellent value for money.

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### **Overnight: Campsite**



### **Included**

Dinner + Self Catering Camping

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## **Optional activity not included**

### *Etosha Game Drive*

Game drive through Etosha National Park searching for predators, plains game, reptiles & birds.

Game drives are conducted in custom built safari vehicles with a pop-up roof and large opening windows to maximize photographic opportunities.

Depending on the time of year, these game drives take many different routes, but most often focus around the waterholes where you are most likely to see a variety of wildlife taking the chance to get a drink and swim.



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**Day 10: Lodge**

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**Overnight: Lodge**



## **Included**

B & B + Dinner

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## **Activity included**

Okonjima Nature Reserve: nature drive cheetah Traking

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### *Nature Drive*

Halfway between Windhoek and Etosha lies the well-known Okonjima Nature Reserve. The 22 000 ha Nature Reserve is surrounded by 96 km of fence and was finally completed in 2010. Okonjima is home to AFRICAT, a Carnivore Conservation, which gives the captive carnivores a second chance to be released back into the wild and to take the time it needs, to become a completely independent hunter - in a protected area right in the middle of commercial farmland! Also in the Reserve is a 2000 ha 'safe' zone around Plains Camp, Bush Camp, Bush Suite, the Omboroko Campsite as well as the PAWS Environmental Education Centre.



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## **Optional Activity not included**

### *The AfriCat Foundation visit*

The AfriCat Foundation was founded in the early 90's and formally registered as a non-profit organisation in August 1993. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores. The Foundation has since grown significantly and what started out primarily as a welfare organisation, has over the years, identified the need to focus on education and research, as being essential to accomplishing our mission – the long-term conservation of Namibia's large carnivores.



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## **Day 11: Departure day**

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## Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
African World Tour CC	+264 81 837 1091	info@africanworldtour.com	Chiara Stella

### Included in the price

Accommodations (Camping and Lodging ) and meals as specified above  
Rental car 4x4 TD 2.5 manual x **11 days** ( Unlimited Mileage, Collision Damage Waiver (CDW), Second Spare Wheel for all 4x4s, Emergency Tools)Transfer from/to Hosea Kutako International Airport to/from Car Rental Company  
Activities as per program (see above)  
Vat 15%  
Bed and Tourism Levy  
Camping equipment for 4 Pax

### Excluded in the price:

International flights  
Meals if not included in the program (see above)  
Travel and Medical Insurance (**mandatory**)  
Optional activities **on request** or to book directly at the lodge  
Personal Expenses& Gratuities  
Fuel & Surcharge  
National Park Fees  
Drinks



### NOTE:

Rate below is quoted for **2 people**. Quotes for other party sizes (singles, triples, families etc) can be arranged on request

All rates and programmes quoted are limited and subject to availability and may change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control (ie. Increase Government Levies, Taxes, Fuel and Transport prices)

Distances are an approximation as we are able to estimate kilometres to be travelled

**\*Currency conversion amounts, those appearing between brackets, are an approximation and should be used for informational purposes only. Therefore, exchange rate may differ on date of invoice**

**Grand tot per person from N\$ 24950.00 (\* CURRENCY CONVERSION € 1700.00 on the 07<sup>th</sup> April 2017)**

**Without Dinners**

**Grand tot per person from N\$ 22850.00 (\* CURRENCY CONVERSION € 1560.00 on the 07<sup>th</sup> April 2017)**