



## NAMIBIA AND BOTSWANA

### A desert adventure in Southern Africa

Arriving into Windhoek, Namibia's capital, your bush pilot will meet you at the gate and take you to his light aircraft in a hangar nearby. Fly to Etosha National Park, enjoying the starkly beautiful Namibian landscapes from the air. Whoever said that deserts were monochromatic has clearly never been here. Meet your game ranger at the airstrip and drive to Onguma Private Game Reserve. Here you have the best of both worlds: the privacy, luxury and flexibility of a private game reserve, combined with easy access to the vastness of world famous Etosha.

With a semi-arid climate, this is a completely different safari environment compared to what you may know from elsewhere in Africa. It includes ecological substrata such as savannah, bushveld, omuramba and dry pan. Plains game run freely and predators are common enough residents in the area. Over 300 different bird species can be spotted by keen eyes. Even rare Black Rhino have been re-introduced to the reserve where they are protected and monitored.

With 7 romantic tents, exclusive Onguma Camp lives up to its Herero Name of 'the place you don't want to leave'. An atmosphere of casual elegance prevails, complimented by the spectacular surroundings. Sip a cold beer by (or in!) the pool, and watch the action at the watering hole a mere 60 yards away. In the evening enjoy dinners under the vast African desert sky before retiring to your luxurious tent.

After 2 glorious nights fly by bush plane to the north of Namibia, to stay at Okahirongo River Camp on the banks of the Kunene River. This remote area is home to the Himba people who have maintained their traditional and pastoral way of life. Learn about their unique customs and culture, and explore the spectacular landscape of arid hills and sand dunes. Back at the camp, enjoy wonderfully peaceful nights, and relax by the pool with a view of the rapids below. Then join your local guide on a scenic walk or boat ride on the river, looking out for rare birds and crocodiles along the banks.



Only too soon your light aircraft returns to pick you up and fly you to Mowani in Damaraland. The camp is creatively built in and on top of giant granite boulders facing superb scenery. In such stylish surroundings it is easy to relax for 2 days and simply absorb the peace. If you do feel active, join your game ranger on a bushwalk or pursue Black Rhino and desert elephant - this is one of the best areas in the world for these rare species.

Now it's time for a brief urban interlude: head with the now familiar bush plane to Swakopmund, the quirky colonial town on the coast, surrounded by desert. Stay in a classic luxurious guest house and learn about the colonial heritage of this intriguing place. If you feel like it, we take you quadbiking, sand boarding or horse riding in the afternoon. The following day enjoy a cruise on famous Walvis Bay Lagoon, watching dolphins leap alongside the boat, seals being hand fed, and feast on fresh oysters and champagne.

In the afternoon fly with the bush plane into the eerily beautiful Namib desert, where the famous Sossousvlei Desert Lodge awaits. Discover some of the world's most iconic desert sights: wind-sculpted, towering dunes (the highest in the world) and 700 million year old mountains. The valleys and slopes are home to a unique gathering of wildlife, some of which is found nowhere else on the planet. The lodge has one of Southern Africa's most sophisticated observatories, staffed by NASA-level astronomers who will take desert stargazing with you to an entirely new level.

Move on to Wolwedans Dunes Lodge where we have reserved the most romantic suite, the Mountain View suite, for you. With stunning views, great privacy and wonderfully luxurious appointments, this is a fantastic base from which to continue your discovery of the NamibRand Nature Reserve for 2 more days.

For the final chapter of your African desert adventure you leave the Namib and fly on to the Botswanan Kalahari. Here in the golden grasslands of the Makgadikgadi Nature Reserve lies ultra-stylish and iconic Jack's Camp. Discover the wonders of the Kalahari desert, so different from the Namib, which you have just left. The Makgadikgadi, an extinct superlake bigger than Switzerland, is one of the most important wetland sites remaining in Africa. During the rainy season the Pans fill with water and become home to thousands of flamingos. And they attract an annual wildebeest and zebra migration that is only topped in scale by that in the Serengeti. In the dry season explore the Salt Pans on ATV quadbikes or walk with bush men, learning about their extreme survivalist skills. Discover why one of them is called "Cobra" and join him on a spine tingeling hunt. Soak up the vast emptiness of this incredibly mysterious area, and rejoice in an unforgettable last few days of your desert safari.