

TOUR ITINERARY: SOUTHERN NAMIBIA (10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS)

DAY 1: PRETORIA – UPINGTON

The tour group assembles at the *Star Stop* on the N1 in *Midrand* at 06:00. A long stretch of road lies ahead of us and will require all to ensure that equipment, documents and other preparations are complete for a last-minute confirmation.

We will follow the N14 west towards *Upington* where our stay over for the night will be at *Die Eiland Vakansie Oord* self-cater chalets. To save tired bodies after the long travel, accommodation is arranged in self-cater chalets. A braai for the evening will ensure that we get to know one another and break the ice for what promise to be a memorable journey ahead. Provide your meat and drinks and we will do the rest.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	860 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Die Eiland Vakansie Oord

DAY 2: UPINGTON – KOËS

An early rise is necessary in order to reach the border post at *Rietfontein*, some 320 km from *Upington*, before noon. From here the road will take us north-west, through second to none Kalahari scenery. Although roads are easily accessible, the going is a worthwhile slowish pace; allowing you to observe stretches of the Kalahari dunes.

Our stop-over for the night is the *Koës Hotel*; situated on the edge of a beautiful saltpan. Our stop-over will ensure that you enjoy and experience true Namibian style hospitality and culinary skills. Dinner will be served, but prior to that the Kalahari sunset must be viewed from the top of a sand dune overlooking the adjacent saltpan. A cash bar and other stores and facilities are available.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	500 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Koës Hotel

DAY 3: KOËS – MARIENTAL

After the delicious breakfast and the appreciation of a Kalahari sunrise, we head off further north-west towards *Mariental*, the administrative capital of the Hardap Region and the "Gateway to the South".

Accommodation tonight will be at the *Hardap Recreation Resort* where our self-cater campsites are situated on the cliffs overlooking the Hardap Dam – the largest in Namibia. Facilities at the resort include a restaurant, shop, swimming pool, tennis courts, playgrounds and garage, whilst activities around the resort ranges from freshwater angling, game drives, hiking trails, aquarium and various water sports.

Guests can try the restaurant built on the edge of the dam and with spectacular views if a braai at the campsite are not your choice of the night.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	250 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Hardap Recreation Resort

DAY 4: MARIENTAL – SESRIEM

We depart from *Hardap Recreation Resort* around 09:00 and head west towards *Maltahöhe*. This town is situated at the edge of the *Shwarzrand Plateau* and in the middle of the karakul farming community. We pass through the town and a short while later turn south towards *Duwisib Castle*, 70 km south of *Maltahöhe*.

This castle, built from red-brown stone, was built in 1908-09 by German soldier Captain van Wolf and his wife Jayta. Today this castle is owned by the Namibian Government and was restored to its former glory in 1991. A light lunch can be enjoyed at the picnic sites at the castle (self-cater).

From *Duwisib Castle* we travel north towards *Sesriem*. On our way we travel over the *Zarishoogte Pass* in the *Tsaris Mountains*. We should reach our camping site at *Sesriem* mid-afternoon where camp will be set up under the large camel thorn trees. Ablutions, shop, braai, fuel and swimming pool is available at the camping sites. Some 4 km's south of the camping site the *Tsauchab River* has formed the canyon that offers spectacular views over an age-old landscape.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	350 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Camping at Sesriem
* <u>Stop-over</u>	:	Duwisib Castle (lunch)

DAY 5: SESRIEM – LÜDERITZ

A visit to *Sesriem* without an early morning drive to *Sossusvlei* is unforgiving. The 60 km's drive to the vlei takes in excess of an hour and requires you to reach the dunes at sunrise to appreciate the color display on the towering orange sand dunes that towers up to 325m.

En route pass the much photographed *Dune 45*. It is allowed to drive all the way to the parking area at the vlei, but care must be taken to stay on the marked routes, due to the sensitive ecology of the area. To reach this vlei 4x4 is a must. A few picnic sites and toilets are available under tall camel thorn trees – ideal for a light brunch/late breakfast! (self-cater).

At round about 10:00 we will depart from this tranquil site and take on the long stretch towards *Lüderitz*. Along the route we will drive along the scenic route of the *Namibia Rand Nature Reserve*, south towards the *Sperrgebiet*.

Accommodation at *Lüderitz* will be at *Obelix Village*, a guesthouse with breakfast included.

It is envisaged that this day will be quite tiring due to the long travel; therefore a relaxing meal at one of the many restaurants in town is highly recommendable. The variety of seafood choices shouldn't be missed during these two days at the sea; specially ordered for our Gauteng-a-lengers!

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	500 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Obelix Village (B&B)
* <u>Stop-over</u>	:	Sossusvlei (breakfast/brunch)

DAY 6: LÜDERITZ

After breakfast a majestic trip on the "*Sedina*" through the numerous bays of *Lüderitz* is arranged. This 2 hour trip will take us to *Halifax Island* and promises views of jackass penguins, dusty dolphins and a variety of seabirds.

Upon return we will take our vehicles and travel back in time to the periods when diamond mining was still rife at places such as *Elizabeth Bay* and *Kolmanskop*. This guided tour into the *Sperrgebiet* will take us 4-5 hours, but unfortunately does not allow children under 14yrs on the tour.

Upon return, our guests can explore the town of *Lüderitz* and the *Lüderitz Peninsula* (maps will be provided). A visit to the various bays along the peninsula and historic buildings in town is recommended. Those interested in some digging for the well known "*Desert Roses*" of *Lüderitz* can do so. These crystals of gypsum and calcium sulphate salts which occur in the desert sand, beg to be an exiting experience. Permits must however be obtained from the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) situated in the town.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	150 km (up to you)
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Obelix Village

DAY 7: LÜDERITZ – FISH RIVER CANYON

From curves in the sea we will travel to curves in the earth. Our journey takes us inland where we will travel along the beautiful *Huib-Hoch Plateau* and to the towns of *Goageb* and

Seeheim. From *Seeheim* we take the road south to the majestic and spectacular *Fish River Canyon*; the second largest of its kind in the world and one of the wonders of Africa.

The camping site at *Hobas* is situated 10 minutes' drive from the main viewpoint over the canyon. The shady campsites provide us with braai, shop, garage, swimming pool, tapped water, ablutions and field kitchen.

To fully appreciate the changing kaleidoscope of colors on this landscape, a late afternoon visit to the main viewpoint is a must. Sit down and enjoy this "sundowner" – you'll wish it lasts forever.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	420 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Camping at Hobas

DAY 8: FISH RIVER CANYON – AI-AIS

Seeing the sun rise over the age-old sculpture of nature is an absolute must.

Today's route is relatively short and will take us further south to *Ai-Ais*. Stops at the various viewpoints will be made in order to observe this 65km's stretch of absolute splendor.

The local Khoekhoen name of *Ai-Ais* translates to "fire-water", thus the main focal point of this resort – the hot springs. We will camp at the resort and will have access to the number of facilities and activities available here. This includes a licensed restaurant, well stocked shop, garage, communal spa, outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts. The tranquility of this resort must be enjoyed and cherished.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	80km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Camping at Ai-Ais

DAY 9: AI-AIS – KARASBURG

The south of Namibia is characterized by a number of mountain ranges and plateaus. Amongst these are the *Karasberge*. Situated approximately 150 km's east of *Ai-Ais* and at the foot of the *Karasberge* is the town of *Karasburg*. From here we will take the road north towards *Aroab* and travel for about 80km's until we reach our next stop-over – *Oas Holiday Farm*.

Run by Mantie and Ansaleen ("Pinnie") Oberholzer, this property is situated in the foothills of the *Great Karasberge*. After the good rainfalls early this year the veldt is green and the wildlife in abundance. The farm offers 4x4 routes and game drives and simply the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful, secluded part of the world.

We will camp on the large farmyard and again enjoy the hospitality of the Namibian people. Our visit to this beautiful country with its friendly and warm people will sadly shortly come to an end; so why not end as we started in true Namibian style with a meal around the camp fire.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	250 km
* <u>Accommodation</u>	:	Camping at Oas Holiday farm

DAY 10: KARASBURG – UPINGTON

Farewell to Namibia (hopefully for not to long) and enter RSA through *Velloorsdrif Border* post on our way to *Augrabies Falls*. Here we can spend the morning and enjoy another of Africa's wonders and enjoy a light meal at the restaurant or stroll through the various curios and crafts available.

From *Augrabies Falls* we traveled closer to home where we will stay over at *Die Eiland Vakansie Oord* in *Upington*. A visit to the local *Oranjerivier Cellar* is a must where wine tasting and restocking of your wine collection is arranged.

Tonight is our last night together and we will share experiences and memories. We trust that you have enjoyed one another's company and the tour as arranged by *Desert Wolf*.

* <u>Total distance traveled</u>	:	400 km
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* Accommodation : Die Eiland Vakansie Oord

DAY 11: UPINGTON – PRETORIA

Our last day on tour and once again a long stretch of road ahead of us. We take the N14 east homewards to Gauteng and wish to see one another and tour together again soon.

COSTS

Adults: R 3,800
Children (6-15): R 2,500
Vehicle: R 2,000

Price includes:

- VAT.
- Planning for and guide during the tour.
- All accommodation.
- All personal and vehicle entrance fees.
- Breakfast at Koës Hotel and Obelix Village (x2).
- Dinner at Koës Hotel and Oas Holiday Farm.
- Boat ride at Lüderitz.
- Guided tour to Elizabeth Bay and Kolmanskop – Lüderitz.

Price excludes:

- All meals not catered for as mentioned above.
- Beverages and personal preferences not listed above.
- Activities other than indicated as included.
- Border crossing fees (where applicable).
- Vehicle expenses.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. In order to ensure that our customers are not disappointed by cancellations or alteration to the tour itinerary, the closing date for bookings will be 2 months prior to the commencement of the tour.
2. A deposit of 50% will be payable in order to ensure your booking on the tour.
3. After the closing date for bookings onto the tour, a confirmation will be sent to you, confirming that your place has been ensured and that your deposit was received.
4. The outstanding balance will then be payable 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the tour.
5. Cancellations.
 - In the unfortunate event of a cancellation by the customer, the full deposit will be paid back – provided that the cancellation occurred prior to the closing date for bookings.
 - Should cancellations take place after the closing date, the full deposit will be forfeited.
 - If the customer should cancel within the 4 week period prior to the commencement of the tour, no refund will take place.
 - In the unlikely event of a cancellation by the tour operator, a full refund to all customers will take place.
6. All customers will be required to complete an indemnity form upon registration for the tour.

OTHER PLANNED TOURS

1. **Southern Namibia** from Western Cape (Aug 2006).
2. **Namaqualand and West Coast** from Gauteng (Sep 2006).
3. **Mozambique** from Gauteng (Nov 2006).
4. **Mozambique** from Gauteng (Feb 2007).

5. PLEASE SEND US YOUR REQUIREMENTS AND WE WILL CATER FOR IT!!

Interested?

Email your details to tours@desert-wolf.com or phone us on (012) 811 1168 for more information.