



Namibia is a visual feast for photographers with endless desert landscapes, wild seascapes, amazing wildlife, colonial cities and remote nomadic people. For photographers, it is unlike anywhere else in Africa, and this photographic tour has been put together to make the very most of many of the great photographic opportunities on offer. This is the most comprehensive Namibia photographic tour in the world.



Included

- The complete tour as per the itinerary
- Private ground transport with driver/guide
- Helicopter and Hot Air Balloon flights over Sossus Vlei
- Accommodation unless otherwise specified
- Meals as specified (B/L/D)
- Arrival and Departure transfers
- Experienced photographic leader/s and local guides where required.
- Entry fees and permits

Not included

- International Airfares
- Airport and Airline taxes & charges
- Travel Insurance
- Any expenses of a personal nature (such as laundry, phone calls, personal tipping etc.)
- Any meals other than those specified
- Any drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
- Optional tours and activities
- Excess baggage fee
- Visa fees if required (Australian Passport holders do not require visas)

Highlights

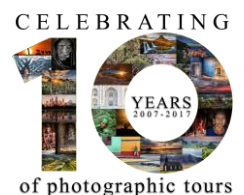
- **Madikwe Game Reserve**, South Africa's fourth largest game reserve, situated in the North West Province and bordered by Botswana in the north, the spectacular Dwaarsberg Mountains to the south, the Marico River to the east. *
- **Spitzkoppe** known as the "Matterhorn of Namibia", a 700-million-year-old granite mountain rising majestically out of the Namib desert.
- **Swakopmund** and the Flamingos and water birds of **Walvis Bay**.
- The **Sossusvlei**, a huge clay pan enclosed by giant sand dunes in the heart of the Namib Desert.
- **Helicopter and Hot Air Balloon flights** in Sossus Vlei.
- **Kolmanskop**, a ghost diamond mining town fighting a constant battle with the sand dunes of the Namib Desert.
- **Keetmanshoop** and the amazing Quivertree forest.

Optional extension tour

- **Okonjima Game Reserve**, and The AfriCat Foundation.
- **Opuwo** and the nomadic Himba tribe who rub their bodies with red ochre to protect themselves from the sun.
- **Etosha National Park**, one of the largest game parks in Africa, and home to a wealth of animals and plants.

Details

- Duration: South Africa – **4 days/3 nights**
Namibia Photography tour – **10 days/9 nights**
Opuwo/Etosha extension – **9 days/8 nights**
- Departure date: **May - June 2026**
- Price: Namibia Photography tour – **TBA**
Opuwo/Etosha extension – **TBA**
- There will be a **maximum of 5 people per vehicle** plus photo tour leader, with the possibility of two vehicles/ two leaders.
- International return airfare is not included in the tour price. Flights departing Sydney/Melbourne are estimated to be between \$ **TBA** and \$ **TBA** per person depending on airline and when purchased.
- For anyone requiring a single room, there will be an additional surcharge of \$ **TBA** for the main tour and \$ **TBA** for the optional extension tour.



* *Erindi Private Game Reserve in Namibia will be closed from March 2024 to November 2025 for renovations. We are now visiting Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa immediately before continuing to Namibia.*

Tour Itinerary

23 June 2024: JOHANNESBURG – MADIKWE GAME RESERVE (L/D)

After clearing Customs & Immigration in Johannesburg we head straight to Tau Game Lodge in Madikwe Game Reserve, a drive of approximately 5 hours. Upon arrival, we check into our private lodge for the duration of our stay.

After lunch we head out for our first private game drive in the afternoon.

Overnight at Tau Game Lodge - Private Member Suites.



24 June 2024: MADIKWE GAME RESERVE (B/L/D)

This morning and this afternoon we will be undertaking game-viewing excursions in the Madikwe Game Reserve.

During the middle of the day, you're free to either relax in your room, or seek out a shaded place to watch and photograph the resident wildlife around the waterway immediately beside the lodge. We may also arrange to be transferred to the main lodge.

Overnight at Tau Game Lodge - Private Member Suites.

25 June 2024: MADIKWE GAME RESERVE (B/L/D)

This morning and this afternoon we will be undertaking game-viewing excursions in the Madikwe Game Reserve.

During the middle of the day, you're free to either relax in your room, or seek out a shaded place to watch and photograph the resident wildlife around the waterway immediately beside the lodge.

Overnight at Tau Game Lodge - Private Member Suites.



26 June 2024: TAU GAME LODGE – JOHANNESBURG – WINDHOEK (B)

This morning we depart early and drive back to Johannesburg for our flight to Windhoek.

After clearing Customs & Immigration in Windhoek, we head straight to our hotel for the night.

Overnight at Windhoek Country Club (this night of accommodation is not included in the tour price).

27 June 2024: WINDHOEK – SPITZKOPPE (B/L/D)

This morning we depart early and head north-west to Spitzkoppe, a group of bald granite peaks or bornhardts majestically rising out of the Namib Desert.

After lunch at our lodge, we explore the magnificent natural arch and surrounding rock formations, concluding at a suitable location to watch and photograph the sunset.

Overnight at Spitzkoppen Lodge.



28 June 2024: SPITZKOPPE – SWAKOPMUND (B/L/D)



This morning we rise early for a sunrise shoot at the natural arch as the first rays of sunlight hit the granite peaks. After breakfast we travel south-west to Swakopmund, arriving in time for lunch.



Swakopmund was of major importance as a harbour during the German colonial era, even though the water at the coast is actually too shallow and the bay is unprotected. Luderitz was too far away and the seaport of Walvis Bay was in British possession in those days. In August 1892, the gunship “Hyäne” under the command of Captain Curt von François, staked out a wharf north of the Swakop River mouth. A year later, 40 settlers from Germany and 120 members of the Schutztruppe were taken ashore on landing boats to embark upon an adventurous undertaking. The 325-metre-long wooden jetty was only completed in 1905 and it was later replaced by a more solid iron construction. Swakopmund became the gate to South-West Africa and the entire supply for the colony went through this little town. The appearance of the town, with its 30,000 inhabitants, is characterised by numerous colonial buildings with the Woermann House from 1905 as its landmark. Late afternoon light will provide a great backdrop for some shooting around the jetty area.



After lunch we check into our hotel and prepare for our Living Desert tour departing at 2:15pm. This tour will take us inland from Swakopmund to visit the scenic though apparently barren landscape to find hidden treasures. We will be tracking chameleons, snakes, skinks, scorpions, lizards, geckos and other small creatures, and learn more about the area’s desert ecology.

We return to the hotel at 6pm where we will enjoy a light dinner at the bar. This will most likely be a variety of food on platters, as we have only one hour before we head out again for a 2-hour night walk. During the day the desert looks inhospitable, unfriendly, devoid of any animal life, but once the sun sets, the sand turns into a playground for all kinds of animals. Most of the creatures in the Namib desert are nocturnal and can be observed only after dark. We will explore the gravel plains of the Namib desert for various species of Gecko, Spiders, Gerbils and Scorpions. We will return to the hotel around 9pm.

Overnight at Swakopmund Hotel.

29 June 2024: SWAKOPMUND – SOSSUSVLEI (B/L/D)

This morning we head south to Walvis Bay where we photograph the beautiful Flamingos in the early morning light before the wind picks up, seeking those spectacular reflection images.

After a simply packed breakfast we enjoy a relaxing boat cruise, providing an opportunity to see and photograph some of the local wildlife, such as pelicans, Cape Fur Seals, Dolphins and the local water birds, including Flamingos. Lunch is served on the boat.

After our boat cruise, we travel by car to Sesriem. This will be approximately a 5-hour drive with some brief stops along the way to stretch our legs and get some quick photos. The gates of the National Park close at sunset, which is at 6:19pm, and we will need to do our best to arrive before this time.

Overnight at Sossus Dune Lodge.





30 June 2024: SOSSUSVLEI (B/L/D)

This morning we will travel by car through the park, photographing the sand dunes from the side of the road as shadows form in the early morning light.

Late morning, we have the option to visit Sesriem Canyon, located not too far from the Lodge. Sesriem Canyon is one kilometre long and up to 30 meters deep and was formed by the rare flow of water down the Tsauchab River over the past two million years. The name Sesriem is Afrikaans and means “six belts”, since the early settlers had to attach together six belts (made of oryx hides), in order to reach buckets down into the canyon to scoop up water. The Sesriem Canyon is only two meters wide in some places, and has a portion that permanently contains water, which many animals use. Past the canyon, the Tsauchab flattens and grows broader, and is surrounded by a riparian forest as it slopes towards the Sossusvlei salt pan.



This afternoon we enjoy a one-hour drive into the Sossusvlei, stopping at the end of the road where we continue by foot into the Dead Vlei, one of the most famous locations for photography in Namibia. This clay pan was formed after rainfall, when the Tsauchab river flooded, creating temporary shallow pools where the abundance of water allowed camel thorn trees to grow. When the climate changed, drought hit the area and sand dunes encroached on the pan, which blocked the river and subsequently killed the trees. The remaining skeletons of the trees, which are believed to be about 900 years old, are now black because the intense sun has scorched them. The wood does not decompose because it is so dry.



Our walk is around 1.5kms (each way) through pebbly and sandy dunes, and we will arrive just as the majority if not all of the tourists have departed for their hour drive back to the gate before it closes at sunset. We have sufficient time to explore and photograph the area, commencing our walk back to the vehicle after sunset and then returning to the lodge.

Overnight at Sossus Dune Lodge.

1 July 2024: SOSSUSVLEI (B/L/D)

This morning we will rise early and drive to &Beyond Lodge for our helicopter flight. This flight will either be in two Bell 206 helicopters or a Bell 407 if available, no doubt depending on final numbers. Everyone will have a window seat and doors will be removed. Our flight is scheduled to depart at 8am and will be for a duration of approximately 1 hour.



We will arrive back at our lodge late morning and have a break before lunch. After lunch you will have some free time to relax at the lodge, catch up on some chores or edit images.

In the afternoon we have one final trip back down the valley. With the light coming from the opposite direction now, we will have numerous stops along the road to photograph the constantly changing shadows on the dunes. We should also keep our eyes open for wildlife, as Gemsbok, Ostriches and Bat-eared foxes can be seen.



After dinner we will head outside with our cameras to learn about astrophotography, in preparation for our upcoming stay at Keetmanshoop.

Overnight at Sossus Dune Lodge.

2 July 2024: SOSSUSVLEI – LUDERITZ (B/L/D)



This morning we rise early for our Hot Air Balloon flight over the valley, a pleasant way to conclude our time in the amazing Sossusvlei region. For approximately an hour we will drift ever so gently with the wind across the valley, offering endless vistas of shadow and light. After landing, we enjoy an African breakfast.

It's now time to farewell the Sossusvlei and travel through amazing landscape on our way south-west to Luderitz. The distance is approximate 450km's, but the majority of it is on gravel roads so it will take over 5 hours. Stops will be made on the way for photos and rest breaks, and we will more than likely stop for lunch at Aus.

Luderitz was established in 1883 as a remote German outpost and the area is surrounded by diamond mine areas (restricted zones). The town has numerous historic buildings and a unique character, so lots of photo opportunities. We will arrive late afternoon in time for photographing the sunset over the Atlantic Ocean.

Overnight at Nest Hotel.

3 July 2024: LUDERITZ – KOLMANSKOP – LUDERITZ (B/L/D)

Today is a special day of photography. We have full-day permits to explore and photograph the abandoned mining town of Kolmanskop. Once having been home to 700 families, the buildings have stood the test of time in an area where rain hardly falls, but the winds and sands of the Namib Desert have slowly encroached upon each dwelling and have created amazing photogenic results.

We can enter the area at sunrise and leave at sunset. You also have the opportunity to undertake the 9.30am guided tour which will help with familiarisation. After lunch at the café within the abandoned town, we continue exploring and photographing the buildings. The general public is only permitted into the area during the morning, so our special all-day permits will ensure we have better photographic opportunities.



Overnight at Nest Hotel.



4 July 2024: LUDERITZ – KEETMANSHOOP (B/L/D)

This morning we will explore and photograph the town of Luderitz before commencing our four-hour drive east to Keetmanshoop where will stay for one night.

Late afternoon we travel a short distance to Garas Park Rest Camp to photograph sunset amongst the Quiver trees. Our entire tour has been planned around being at Keetmanshoop on a dark night, so after dinner we again return to the rest camp to enjoy night of astrophotography.

Overnight at Maritz Country Lodge.

5 July 2024: KEETMANSHOOP – WINDHOEK (B/L/D)

On our final morning we enjoy a sunrise shoot whilst exploring different compositions with the Quivertrees.

After breakfast we commence our long drive to Windhoek where the main tour concludes. You are free to relax for the remainder of the day.

Overnight at Windhoek Country Club.



6 July 2024: WINDHOEK (B)

For those choosing to only do the main trip, your tour concludes today.

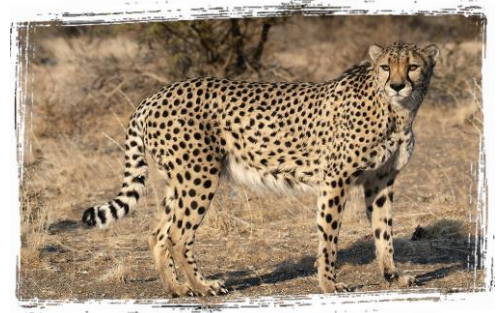
OPTIONAL EXTENSION TOUR

6 July 2024: WINDHOEK - OKONJIMA (B/L/D)

This morning, we depart early and head north to Okonjima Nature Reserve, famed for frequent leopard, brown hyaena and pangolin sightings. Whilst seeing and photographing a pangolin would be great, they are very shy animals. Our main goal however will be to seek out cheetah and leopard.

Mid-afternoon we head out on a game drive to seek out cheetah and any other wildlife we come across. In the evening, we visit the camp's nocturnal hide, where we may see some after-dinner activity from porcupines, honey badgers and caracals, among other night-time animal species.

Overnight at Okonjima Plains Camp.



7 July 2024: OKONJIMA – OPUWO (B/L/D)

We rise early this morning to go for a game drive, seeking out the elusive leopard and other incredible wildlife.

Mid-morning, we continue our long journey north on good bitumen roads to Opuwo. Upon arrival we check into our lodge and you will then have some free time to explore and photograph the lodge surroundings. If time allows, we will return to the centre of town to photograph the activities of the local Himba, Dhimba and Herero people.

We will also take the opportunity to sit down and discuss the program for the following two days, and go over how the photography will be managed.

Overnight at Kaoko Mopane Lodge.



8-9 July 2024: OPUWO (B/L/D)

With the assistance of a local guide, we will be visiting Himba, Zemba and Herero villages over the course of two days. The Himba are semi-nomadic and unlike many indigenous groups in Africa, have managed to maintain much of their traditional lifestyle. Himba women have a particularly distinctive appearance. Each morning, they cover themselves with a mixture of butter fat, red ochre and local herbs that gives their body the smooth, reddish appearance as well as offering some sun protection. Married women wear a small headpiece made of soft skin on top of their braided and ochred hair. In addition, they often wear a heavy ornament around their necks that includes a conch shell that hangs between their breasts in the front and a metal-studded leather plate that hangs down the centre of their back. They also wear heavy metal rings around their ankles as well as other jewellery made of copper, ostrich shells or woven reeds.

Zemba, also known as Dhimba are found in Namibia and Angola. Their global population is approximately 14,000, with 5,700 living in Namibia. Like the Himba, they are also semi-nomadic. The Herero are proud cattle farmers who measure their wealth in cattle, the importance of cattle to these people is even evident in the dresses the women wear. The traditional dress is derived from a Victorian woman's dress and consists of an enormous crinoline worn over a several petticoats, and a horn shaped hat (said to represent cow horns). Like the Himba they also have a holy, ritual fire which symbolises life, fertility and prosperity. When visiting a village or a compound, it's important to walk around the holy fire, even if it's not burning.

Overnight at Kaoko Mopane Lodge.





10 July 2024: OPUWO – ETOSHA (B/L/D)

This morning, we will depart fairly early for Etosha King Nehale Lodge located in the north-eastern region of Etosha National Park.

Etosha National Park is one of Southern Africa's finest and most important Game Reserves. Etosha was declared a National Park in 1907 and covering an area of 22 270 square km, it is home to 114 mammal species, 340 bird species, 110 reptile species and 16 amphibian species. Etosha, meaning "Great White Place", is dominated by a massive mineral pan. The pan is part of the Kalahari Basin, the floor of which was formed around 1000-million-years-ago. The Etosha Pan covers around 25% of the National Park. The Pan only contains water after good rains and is normally a dry, white expanse. With a greater number of waterholes being located at the eastern end of Etosha, we will be devoting majority of our time to that area.



After lunch at the lodge, we have the opportunity to go on a game drive, seeking out and photographing the wildlife. We will also have the opportunity to visit a private waterhole and hide within the park.

Overnight at King Nehale Lodge.

11 July 2024: ETOSHA (B/L/D)

This morning, we enter King nehale lya mpingana gate and continue to explore the local waterholes. We continue our way south-east to the Namutoni area where there are many incredible waterholes that rightly justify multiple visits.

Today will be a great opportunity to see cheetah, herds of elephants, herds of zebra drinking, and hopefully giraffe with reflections. One thing is for certain, this will be a big day of wildlife photography. Our accommodation for the night is at beautiful Onguma Bush Camp located a short distance outside Von Lindequist gate.



Overnight at Onguma Bush Camp.



12 July 2024: ETOSHA (B/L/D)

Today we slowly head south-west through the park towards Okaukuejo, continuing to explore many of the very best waterholes that Etosha has on offer. With each waterhole being a magnet for the local wildlife and different species that favour different locations, there will be numerous opportunities for photography. Our day will commence with revisiting some of the waterholes from the previous day, before exploring new waterholes as we make our way to Halali.

After lunch we continue navigating our way from one waterhole to the next as we slowly make our way to Okaukuejo. As we travel, the environment will change, and with that, so will the wildlife.

Late afternoon we arrive at Okaukuejo Restcamp in the central part of the park. Okaukuejo, located 17km's from the southern entrance of the park is famous for its flood-lit waterhole, where visitors can observe at close quarters a spectacle of wildlife congregating and interacting.

We will be accommodating in the waterhole chalets, meaning the iconic Okaukuejo waterhole is only a few steps from your room. You will now enjoy some down time, however do not miss taking your camera to the waterhole for the late light and sunset.



Overnight at Okaukuejo Resort.

13 July 2024: ETOSHA – WINDHOEK (B/L/D)

This morning we rise early to depart at sunrise on what will be our final game drive, heading north-west to visit some great waterholes, such as Ozonjuitji m’Bari.

It’s now time for us to farewell Etosha and commence our return drive to Windhoek where our extension tour will conclude with a final dinner and night of accommodation.

Overnight at Windhoek Country Club.



14 July 2024: WINDHOEK – JOHANNESBURG (B)

Today it’s time to say farewell to Namibia. After breakfast we will be transferred to the airport for our return flight to Johannesburg, departing at 1:35pm.

On arrival in Johannesburg at 3:35pm, we proceed through formalities before being transferred to our hotel for the night.

Overnight at Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace (this night of accommodation is not included in the tour price).

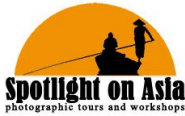
15 July 2024: JOHANNESBURG – SINGAPORE (B)

After a casual breakfast, it’s time to commence our journey back home. We will be transferred back to the airport around 10am for our flight departing at 1:45pm.

16 July 2024: SINGAPORE – SYDNEY/MELBOURNE/PERTH (B)

Our flight arrives in Singapore at 6:10am. It’s now time to farewell your interstate travellers before transferring to your connecting flight.

If you’re interested in joining me on this fantastic photographic tour or require additional information, please contact:



Malcolm Fackender
0410 573 819

info@spotlightonafrika.com.au
www.spotlightonafrika.com.au

All photographs were taken on the 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019 & 2022 Namibia Photography Tours and are Copyright Malcolm Fackender