

The whole of Namibia – The elegant Kori Bustard



Discover the highlights of Namibia. You will visit the beautiful Kalahari Desert, the gigantic Fish River Canyon, the hardy Namib Desert, the coastline, the ancient art of the local people and Namibia's unique wildlife.

Day 1: Airport – Windhoek

Arrive in Windhoek. Spend the day at leisure. Windhoek is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Namibia. It is located in central Namibia in the Khomas Highland plateau area, at around 1 700 metres above sea level. The population of Windhoek in 2011

was 322 500 and grows continually due to an influx from all over Namibia. The town developed at the site of a permanent spring known to the indigenous pastoral communities. It developed rapidly after Jonker Afrikaner, Captain of the Orlam, settled here in 1840 and built a stone church for his community. However, in the decades thereafter multiple wars and hostilities led to the neglect and destruction of the new settlement such that Windhoek was founded a second time in 1890 by Imperial German army Major Curt von François. Windhoek is the social, economic, and cultural centre of the country. Nearly every Namibian national enterprise, governmental body, educational and cultural institution is headquartered here.

Notable landmarks are: Parliament Gardens, Christ Church (lutheran church opened in 1910, built in the gothic revival style with Art Nouveau elements.), Tintenpalast (Ink Palace -within Parliament Gardens, the seat of both chambers of the Parliament of Namibia. Built between 1912 and 1913 and situated just north of Robert Mugabe Avenue), Alte Feste (built in 1890 and houses the National Museum), Reiterdenkmal (Equestrian Monument - a statue celebrating the victory of the German Empire over the Herero and Nama in the Herero and Namaqua War of 1904–1907), Supreme Court of Namibia Built between 1994 and 1996 it is Windhoek's only building erected post-independence in an African style of architecture.

Overnight at the Casa Piccolo Guesthouse

Accommodation:

Casa Piccolo Guesthouse

Room Type:

Standard

Meals included:

Breakfast

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten



Description: A cold drink at the pool while watching Namibia's impressive starry sky in the quiet restful garden of our sixteen-bedroom pension in one of Windhoek's oldest suburbs - what better way to relax after a hectic day at work, a long flight or an unforgettable journey through Namibia. A healthy, scrumptious breakfast will have you geared for an eventful day. Our large, tastefully furnished rooms for up to 4 people, some of them handicapped accessible, with bathroom en-suite (shower and toilet) are all equipped with: air condition, safe, mini bar, coffee and tea facilities, television (English and German channels), telephone with direct line, Wi-Fi connection (free of charge), laundry service on request at extra charge, free of charge safekeeping of your luggage on the premises.

Others: Swimming pool, air-condition, safe, WiFi, laundry service, VISA and Mater Card



Day 2: Windhoek – Kalahari

Your journey leads you into the centre of the Kalahari Desert via Rehoboth and Kalkrand. You will be able to take part on an optional guided scenic drive through the red sand dune landscape on the ranch.

The Kalahari Desert (in Afrikaans "Dorsland", meaning "thirst land" or "thirsty land") is a large semi-arid sandy savannah in Southern Africa extending 1.2 million square kilometres, covering much of Botswana and parts of Namibia and South Africa. As semi-desert, with huge tracts of excellent grazing after good rains, the Kalahari supports more animals and plants than a true desert, such as the Namib Desert to the west. There are small amounts of rainfall and the summer temperature is very high. The surrounding Kalahari Basin covers over 2 500 000 square kilometres extending farther into Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, and encroaching into parts of Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The only permanent river, the Okavango, flows into a delta in the northwest, forming marshes that are rich in wildlife. Ancient dry riverbeds—called omuramba—traverse the Central Northern reaches of the Kalahari and provide standing pools of water during the rainy season. Previously havens for wild animals from elephants to giraffes, and for predators such as lions and cheetahs, the riverbeds are now mostly grazing spots, though leopards and cheetahs can still be found. Among deserts of the southern hemisphere the Kalahari most closely resembles some Australian deserts in its latitude and its mode of formation.

Overnight at the Kalahari Anib Lodge

Accommodation:	Kalahari Anib Lodge
Room type:	Comfort
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	On the Eastern fringes of Namibia, the red sands of the Kalahari beckon. Let us introduce you to the place of burnished sands at Kalahari Anib Lodge.

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten



There's nothing like feeling the good earth underfoot, so stretch legs on the trails around the lodge, keeping eyes open for springbok, zebra and wildebeest and take the chance to breathe in the character and energy of this distinctive area, feeling closer to the land. Explore the Gondwana Kalahari Park on the sunset drive and celebrate life atop a red Kalahari dune. Drink in the beauty of the Kalahari where gemsbok flourish and sociable weavers build gargantuan nests atop camelthorn trees. The optimum time to experience the Kalahari colours is when the sun dips in the late afternoon and lights up the sand as if glowing from an inner fire. Don't miss this time of day when the Earth seems to pause for Kalahari magic. Providing an oasis in the desert for groups, individual travellers and campers, Kalahari Anib Lodge is a relaxed and down-to-earth stopover for a taste of Kalahari.

Optional activities:

Sundowner drive, morning nature drive, walking trails

Others:

Swimming pool, restaurant, WiFi, laundry service, air-condition, safe, mosquito net, VISA und MASTER



Day 3: Kalahari – Fish River Canyon

After breakfast drive via Mariental and Keetmanshoop to the Fish River Canyon. En-route you can visit the Quivertree Forest near Keetmanshoop.

Aloe dichotoma (the quiver tree or kokerboom) is a tall, branching species of aloe, indigenous to Southern Africa, specifically in the Northern Cape region of South Africa, and parts of Southern Namibia. Known as Choje to the indigenous San people, the quiver tree gets its English common name from their practice of hollowing out the tubular branches of Aloe dichotoma to form quivers for their arrows. The species name "dichotoma" refers to how the stems repeatedly branch into two ("dichotomous" branching) as the plant grows.

Overnight at the Fish River Lodge

Accommodation:

Fish River Lodge

Room Type:

Standard

Meals included:

Breakfast / Dinner

Description:

A cold drink at the pool while watching Namibia's impressive Making the most of the beautiful vistas, the Fish River Lodge has been built in harmony with its stark, striking surroundings. Completed in 2009, all the buildings that make up the lodge pay tribute to the amazing landscape, offering spectacular views of the Fish River Canyon from sunrise to sunset. The architecture and interiors of Fish River Lodge have taken their queue from the rugged landscape that surround it. 20 private chalets are dotted along the edge of the canyon, flanking both sides of the main lodge. As with the main building, guests can soak up the enchanting views. An outdoor platform allows for sleeping under the stars on warm nights.

Optional activities:

sundowner drive, full day canyon drive, walking trails

Others:

Swimming pool, coffee and tea facilities, WiFi, laundry Service, VISA and MasterCard



Day 4: Fish River Canyon

Visit the Fish River Canyon, a spectacular natural phenomenon. From the different viewpoints, you have the chance to get a feeling of the enormity of the second largest canyon in the world. The Fish River Canyon is located in the south of Namibia. It is the second largest canyon in the world and the largest in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia. It features a gigantic ravine, in total about 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 metres deep. The Fish River is the longest interior river in Namibia. It cuts deep into the plateau which is today dry, stony and sparsely covered with hardy drought-resistant plants. The river flows intermittently, usually flooding in late summer; the rest of the year it becomes a chain of long narrow pools. Upstream the river runs through horizontal dolomite strata. These strata formed part of the canyon about 650 million years ago when plate movement cracked the earth, the first process in the formation of the Fish River Canyon. Lower down, a granite complex system is exposed to form a characteristic river bed that results in forms like Fingerspitze. In this area, a fault runs north-south, which accounts for the gorge-like channel and the presence of hot sulphurous springs.

Übernachtung in der Fish River Lodge

Day 5: Fish River Canyon – Lüderitz

Drive via Seeheim and Aus towards the coastal town of Lüderitz. If you are lucky, you will see the wild horses of the Namib Desert.

The Wild Horses of the Namib hold a powerful fascination. For centuries, their origin was shrouded in mystery. Their habitat, the barren plains around Garub on the eastern fringe of the Namib Desert (part of the Namib-Naukluft Park), is no paradise. Nevertheless, they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions and the arid land which fulfils all their needs. Their forebears, once in the service of mankind, gained their freedom a century ago to live their lives in the vastness of the Namib Desert away from human civilisation, according to the natural ways of the land. Perhaps our yearning for the wild and free is the reason for our deep attraction to the Namib horses and explains why thousands of travellers visit Garub every year. Decades of intensive research have resulted in a detailed understanding of the horses and their environment. The research conclusively substantiated that the horses are a harmonious part of the desert ecosystem and have found their home at Garub. There have been several theories proposed over the years as to the origin of the wild horses. The two most likely stem from the period between

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten



1915 and 1925. During World War One, Union of South Africa troops were stationed at Garub. Reports from the time make reference to 10 000 soldiers with 6 000 horses who pitched camp on the dusty expanse at the edge of the Namib Desert. They relied on the water from the borehole that was used to replenish locomotives at the nearby railway line and supplement the water for the town of Lüderitz. The German forces had set up a stronghold in the hills at Aus, 25km to the east. The base comprised a series of entrenchments, supply routes, a radio mast and housed two planes, which bombed the Union camp intermittently. The last attack was on the 27 March 1915 to mask the Germans' retreat, scattering the Union horses.

These horses adapted to the harsh circumstances of the rugged desert. End off the day by taking a walk through the historic town of Lüderitz.

Overnight at Alte Loge Guesthouse

Accommodation:	Alte Loge Guesthouse
Room Type:	Standard
Meals included:	Breakfast
Description:	Offering a lush garden and a terrace, Alte Loge Guesthouse is a B&B located in Lüderitz. The individually decorated rooms have sea or garden views, a desk and a private bathroom with either a bathtub or a shower. During winter, you can also relax by the fireplace in the communal lounge. This property also has one of the best-rated locations in Lüderitz!
Others:	Safe, WiFi, laundry service, VISA and Master Card



Day 6: Lüderitzbucht

Explore the harbour town and the surrounding area today. You can drive to the ancient diamond ghost town Kolmansuppe or travel along the coastline to visit the Diaz Point and the bays along the way. In town, you can go to the museum, the Goerke House or the 'Felsenkirche'. Do you maybe want to book a guided tour to the Rock Arch or visit Elisabeth Bay in the restricted diamond area? What about a boat cruise to a penguin island?

Übernachtung im Alte Lodge Gästehaus

Day 7: Lüderitzbucht – Sossusvlei

Your journey leads you back to the interior of Namibia. Drive via Aus into the direction of Sesriem to reach the lodge nearby whilst driving along stunning landscape. En-route you can visit the Duwisib Castle which was built in the middle of nowhere.

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten



Duwisib Castle, is a grand pseudo-medieval looking fortress in the hills of the semi-arid Southern Namib region of Namibia. It was built by 'Baron' Captain Hans Heinrich von Wolf (born in Dresden, 1873), who was posted to (then) German West Africa. After the German-Nama war Captain von Wolf went home to Dresden and married the stepdaughter of the US consul, Miss Jayta Humphreys, on 8 April 1907. They decided to settle in South West Africa and bought eight farms in the Maltahöhe area. Eminent architect Wilhelm Sander was commissioned to design a building and construction commenced in 1908. Most materials were imported from Germany and stonemasons were hired from Italy, Sweden and Ireland. It was hoped that the castle would bear a resemblance to some of the existing German Forts in Namibia. Much of the raw materials for the construction of the fort were imported from Germany, landing at Lüderitz. The resulting edifice consisted of 22 rooms. While they were travelling to Europe in 1914, the First World War broke out and the ship carrying Von Wolf and his wife was diverted to Rio de Janeiro. Jayta Humphreys had retained her American citizenship and found passage to Europe on a Dutch ship; legend has it the Baron had to travel disguised as a woman. On arrival in Europe the Baron re-joined the German army, and was killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, just two weeks after signing up. His wife could not bring herself to return to Namibia alone and never again laid claim to the majestic castle. She spent the rest of her life in the South of England. What are said to be descendants of their fine thoroughbred horses can be seen today roaming free and wild as Namib Desert Horses along the roadside and in the restricted diamond areas, although whether this is the origin of these herds is not accurately known.

Overnight at the Hoodia Desert Lodge

Accommodation:

Hoodia Desert Lodge

Room Type:

Standard

Meals included:

Breakfast / Dinner

Description:

The lodge opened in 2008 to accommodate guests from all over the world on an individual and small scale. Therefore only 11 luxury chalets with great distance from each other were planned to assure privacy in this breath-taking environment. The lodge is family-owned and managed by Thomas & Henreza Becker, both enthusiastic regarding professional hospitality with a personal human approach. Theofeline and Armas, the skilled and enthusiastic chefs deliver in co-operation with Henreza delicious creations of international and local cuisine. With Kaarina and Selma you meet two charming and hearty attentive waitresses which will cater for your needs.

Optional activities:

Sossusvlei excursion, sundowner drive





Day 8: Sossusvlei

Explore the Sossusvlei, surrounded by the world's highest dunes, today in the early morning. The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are thought to be the highest dunes in the world. The best time to view Sossusvlei is close to sunrise and sunset, when colours and shades change constantly, offering a photographer's dream. The midday heat is intense and best spent in the shade. 'Vlei' is the Afrikaans word for a shallow depression or pan, surrounded by spectacular red dunes, sometimes fills with water. The pan only has water on rare occasions, during exceptional rainy seasons, when the Tsauchab River flows into this pan. The Sossusvlei is mostly a dry vlei except in good rainy season. The sand-dunes at Sossusvlei are some 60km from the Sesriem gate (the entrance to the park) and the drive takes about an hour. The area also hosts various vleis, such as the Naravlei, so called because of the countless cucumber-like melons (a vital source of nourishment for many desert creatures, including man) growing around the edge of the pan. Dead Vlei boasts dead camelthorn trees, some being over 800 years old. Out of view from the 2x4 car park, tucked behind a dune, is Hiddenvlei. Many species of bird shelter here on both dead and live camelthorn trees. One would think that nothing can survive in temperatures that surpass 40°C during the day and fall to below freezing at night, but life manages to exist under the sand. Tiny tracks at the base of the dunes give away the presence of game. Examples are the tok-tokkie beetle, one of over 200 species of tenebrionid living in the Namib Desert, lizards and reptiles and mole, surviving on droplets of water formed by fog. Even jackal, springbok, ostrich and oryx also survive in this area. The Sesriem Canyon derives its name from the fact that early Afrikaner trekkers had to use six ('ses') leather thongs ('riem') so that their buckets could reach the water far below. Because it is so deep and sheltered, it often holds water well into the dry season. Experience the colour change of the dunes as the bountiful sunshine passes over them. Visit some more sight sighting areas such as the Dead Vlei as well as Dune 45 and the Sesriem Canyon.

Overnight at the Hoodia Desert Lodge

Day 9: Sossusvlei – Swakopmund

Once again, the route leads you to the coast of Namibia. Drive via Solitaire through the barren Namib Desert with its unique eco-system. You can visit the ancient Welwitschia plants and the moonlandscape.

The Namib Desert, the world's oldest desert (43 million years), covers just under 50 000km² and incorporates the Namib Naukluft Park, a section of the diamond area to the south and the Skeleton Coast to the north, which was recently proclaimed as the Dorop Park. It includes the Swakop River and Kuiseb River Canyons, which are dry rivers, except in exceptional good rainy seasons. The Namib Desert is host to a fascinating array of bizarre plants and animals who all adapted to the desert conditions, surviving mostly from the fog from the coast in sand dunes and vast gravel plains. A desert tour with an expert guide, who shows and explains its inhabitant's magical ways of survive, is well worth it (please book this tour with us in advance). An amazing variety of game can also be seen in different parts of the desert: various species of antelopes such as oryx and springbuck, desert elephant, giraffes, lion, rhino and a multitude of insects, vertebrae, invertebrate etc.

Overnight at the Namib Guesthouse

Accommodation:

Namib Guesthouse

Room type:

Luxury

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten

**Meals included:**

Breakfast

Description:

The Namib Guesthouse is a stylish and tranquil accommodation haven in Namibia's premiere holiday destination, Swakopmund. Surrounded by breath-taking beauty, Namib Guesthouse offers all the creature comforts of modern living, spacious and sunny rooms, scrumptious breakfasts, and warm hospitality. Namib Guesthouse has 7 double bedrooms and 1 family suite. Elegantly furnished and spacious, all rooms have been thoughtfully designed to make the most of the exquisite views and the warm African sun.

Others:

TV, coffee station, WiFi, hairdryer, laundry service, VISA, Master Card und AMEX

**Day 10: Swakopmund**

Enjoy the day at leisure.

Swakopmund (German for "Mouth of the Swakop River") is the ideal holiday destination of Namibia which lies on the west coast only 350km from Windhoek. Swakopmund was founded in 1892 as the main harbor for German South-West Africa, and a sizable part of its population is still German-speaking today. Boats were offloaded at Swakopmund's landmark, the jetty. However, the natural potential of Swakopmund as a holiday resort was recognized, and this potential has subsequently been developed. Today tourism-related services form an important part of the town's economy. This little town is rich in beautiful German colonial architecture/buildings, e.g. the beautiful old train station which was converted into a hotel, the prison, the Woerman House which used to be the head office of the Woermann Line (colonial shipping line) and now houses the public library and shops, the Light House, the Jetty which now houses a restaurant, just to mention a few. Swakopmund has an excellent museum on the history of Namibia / Southwest Africa. Swakopmund has a lot to offer which include attractions like: the National Marine Aquarium, the Crystal Gallery, the Martin Luther Steam locomotive and "things to do" like fishing, skydiving and quad biking, dune riding, ballooning, camel riding and excellent shopping possibilities.

Overnight at the Namib Guesthouse

Day 11: Swakopmund – Erongo

After another good breakfast at the guesthouse, you will depart to the Erongo Mountains, and driver via Usakos to the lodge. En-route you have the possibility to visit a SAN Living Museum, to learn more about their traditional lives.

The stunning Erongo Mountains are located in Damaraland, west of the town of Omaruru, and represent a 130-million-year-old volcanic complex of about 30km in diameter. The variety of rock



and landscape formations in the Erongo mountains are every nature lovers, photographers and artists dream, with its spectacular, magical and dramatic light changes and contrasting light, transforming the mountain backdrop, granite flats and gigantic boulders into magical colours, especially early evenings and during sunset, the mountain range into magical colours. The mountain range also offers plentiful game, wildlife and birds. Precious stones are mined in the Erongo, especially aquamarine. The famous Phillips Cave is also situated here, known for its rock and cave paintings, which are protected heritage sights. The highest elevation surveyed is "Hohenstein" in the southwest of the mountain with 2 319m height, the Erongo Mountains in 2 216m height, and the highest human settlement in Namibia is situated here at 1 792m height. Overnight at the Erongo Wilderness Lodge

Accommodation:	Erongo Wilderness Lodge
Room type:	Standard
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	There is a special wilderness area in Namibia, encircled by the Erongo Mountains where the desert, mountain, and bushveld ecosystems combine. Here, in a secluded valley, you will find the lodge in a dramatic setting of granite boulders and breathtaking views. The lodge has 10 tented chalets, built on stilts, set against towering granite formations. Each chalet has its own niche amongst the rocks, ensuring peace, privacy and exclusivity. The luxury Meru tents are pitched under steep thatched roofs for shade, and have netting across all windows and doors, allowing only the breeze to enter. The en-suite bathrooms are cunningly built around the existing rocks and trees in a very natural way. With its own private deck, bush-style mini-bar, and spectacular setting, each chalet is the perfect way to experience the lush Erongo environment. Set atop a separate granite hill, the restaurant and lounge also offer spectacular views of the mountain landscape. Guests are able to observe the wildlife from the outside deck at the floodlit waterhole below. With a large, central fireplace, comfortable lounge and our 'mokoro' bar, this area is as much for unwinding as it is for fine wining and dining. Languid days are spent at the adjacent swimming pool and 'relaxation' deck.
Optional activities:	walking trails, sundowner walk, nature drives, birding
Others:	Swimming pool, WiFi in reception area, laundry service, safe, coffee station, VISA and MASTER



Day 12: Erongo – Nähe Etosha

If you wish to, you can join a guided walking trail in the early morning hours. Then you drive via Omaruru und Outjo to the Guestfarm just south of the Anderson Gate.



Omaruru, a picturesque town, is situated in the centre of Namibia. This town is rich in history. It is also home to many artist and offers a yearly artist festival in September. The Omaruru river runs through the town, bordered by huge, ancient trees which add to the picture and character of the town. The name Omaruru is derived from the native word "Omaere" which is a traditional milk product. In 1871, Anders Ohlsson and Axel Eriksson established a brewery at Omaruru. Eriksson had also established a trading post, which flourished. Eriksson's business was based upon long-distance trading between southern Angola and Cape Colony. The town grew around a mission built in 1872 by Gottlieb Viehe, now a museum, and was attacked in 1904 during the Herero and Namaqua war. Captain Franke's Tower was later erected to commemorate the relief by Hauptmann Franke's troops of the local garrison that was beleaguered by Hereo tribesmen who had risen against the German colonial presence.

Overnight at the Vreugde Guestfarm

Accommodation:	Vreugde Guestfarm
Room type:	Standard
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	The meaning of the word "Vreugde" is joy or happiness and that is exactly what the guest farm strive to offer to their guests. The Vreugde Guest Farm is a small, friendly family business, offering accommodation that is comfortable, rustic and elegant. Situated in the heart of Namibia, just 30 minutes' drive from the Etosha National Park's Anderson Gate, "Vreugde" is a perfect stop-over where you can sit back and relax, and recapture the beauty that you have experienced on your travels through our vast and beautiful country. The guest farm offers comfortable and rustic accommodation in 1 double room, 5 twin rooms and 1 family room, all en-suite with a shower. Breakfast and dinner are served in the main farm house, but drinks can also be served either in our garden, under our grass-roofed "Lapa", around the fire, or even at our swimming pool. They are well known for their delicious Namibian farm cuisine.
Optional activities:	Farm drive, game drives into the Etosha National Park, Guided walks
Others:	Swimming pool, air-condition, safe, Wifi, laundry service, VISA and MasterCard



Day 13: Etosha National Park

Today you should go on a game drives into the Etosha National Park to explore the abundant African wildlife.

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible



venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope.

Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water', is enclosed a huge, flat calcrete depression (or pan) of about 5 000km². The 'Pan' provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year, but is enough to stimulate the growth of a blue-green algae which lures thousands of flamingos.

Overnight at the Vreugde Guestfarm

Day 14 und Day 15: Etosha National Park

Spend the day with game viewing in the Etosha National Park.

Etosha was first established in 1907, when Namibia was a German colony known as South West Africa. At the time, the park's original 100,000 km² made it the largest game reserve in the world.

Due to political changes since its original establishment, the park is now slightly less than a quarter of its original area, but still remains a very large and significant area in which wildlife is protected.

The salt pans are the most noticeable geological features in the Etosha national park. The main depression covers an area of about 5 000 square kilometres and is roughly 130 km long and as wide as 50 km places. The hypersaline conditions of the pan limit the species that can permanently inhabit the pan itself; occurrences of extremophile micro-organisms are present, which species can tolerate the hypersaline conditions. The salt pan is usually dry, but fills with water briefly in the summer, when it attracts pelicans and flamingos in particular. In the dry season, winds blowing across the salt pan pick up saline dust and carry it across the country and out over the southern Atlantic. This salt enrichment provides minerals to the soil downwind of the pan on which some wildlife depends, though the salinity also creates challenges to farming.

Overnight at the Mushara Lodge

Accommodation:	Mushara Lodge
Room type:	Standard
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	Located just 8 km from the Von Lindequist Gate on the eastern boundary of Etosha National Park, Mushara Lodge is an ideal overnight stop for visitors to the game reserve. The lodge consists of ten spacious chalets, one family unit, a triple room and two single rooms. The name Mushara is derived from the Purple Pod Terminalia tree which grows abundantly on the lodge grounds and in the surroundings. The thatched public area includes a small library with a selection of good books, a bar with an extensive wine cellar, an airy lounge complete with welcoming fireplace for winter evenings, a dining area and a well-stocked curio shop. Great attention has been paid to the décor, which is an eclectic blend of traditional African and modern works of art mixed with original older paintings. Ten well-spaced thatched chalets are arranged in horseshoe shape around the swimming pool. All the chalets and individual rooms are extremely spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, mosquito net, mini-bar, safe, tea and coffee station, sockets for charging storage batteries and direct telephone connection. The bathrooms are en-suite with separate toilette. The chalets and single rooms have a shower, whereas the triple room and the family house have a shower and bath. One of Mushara's prominent features is its large bright blue swimming pool, surrounded by green lawns which are kept.
Optional activities:	AM and PM game drives into the Etosha National Park
Others:	swimming pool, safe, laundry service, WiFi at reception,



air-condition, mosquito net, tea and coffee station, VISA and MasterCard



Day 16: Etosha National Park – Okonjima

It's time to say good-bye and you will continue your journey via Tsumeb and Otjiwarongo to the homeland of the AfriCat Foundation.

Tsumeb is the largest town in Oshikoto region in northern Namibia. Tsumeb is the "gateway to the north" of Namibia. It is the closest town to the Etosha National Park. Tsumeb used to be the regional capital of Oshikoto until 2008 when Omuthiya was proclaimed a town and the new capital. The town is the site of a deep mine (the lower workings now closed), that in its heyday was known simply as "The Tsumeb Mine" but has since been renamed the Ongopolo mine. The name Tsumeb is generally pronounced "SOO-meb". The name is not a derivative of German, Afrikaans, or English. It has been suggested that it comes from Nama and means either "Place of the moss" or "Place of the frog". Perhaps this old name had something to do with the huge natural hill of green, oxidized copper ore that existed there before it was mined out. The town was founded in 1905 by the German colonial power and celebrated its 100th year of existence in 2005. Overnight at the Okonjima Plains Camp

Accommodation:	Okonjima Plains Camp
Room type:	Standard / View
Meals included:	Breakfast / Dinner
Description:	The Plains Camp design honours the Okonjima cattle-farming history. In the early 1920's, Okonjima became a cattle farm and was bought by Val (VJ) & Rose Hanssen in 1970. They were well-established Brahman breeders and continued to farm cattle until the need for solutions to increasing livestock losses became pertinent and post-independence interest in Namibia as a tourist destination, escalated. In 1993, the herds of Brahman and Jersey cattle were sold, changing the face of Okonjima as well as that of Carnivore Conservation! The Barn/ Entertainment area – AKA 'The Lapa', meaning 'Gathering Place', – includes, the dining and lounge area, the pool and the curio-shop; and hosts the 3-tier accommodation facility. Plains Camp is family & wheel-chair friendly! The open, grass-plains were 'recovered' by removing and burning invasive Acacia-bush during 2012 and 2013, creating the plains-view, ensuring a great sunset most evenings.
Optional activities:	Game drives in an open vehicle in which we are looking for leopards, cheetahs and other game, walking trails, visit to the AfriCat Foundation
Others:	Swimming pool, safe, mini bar, coffee station, laundry service, WiFi at reception area, VISA and MasterCard

African Bush Bird Tours CC, P/Bag 13100, Windhoek, Tel: +264-61-256848,

Cell: +264-81-2405818, Web: www.bushbird.com

E&Eo / Fehler sind vorbehalten



Day 17: Okonjima

You might want to join some of the big activity variety the lodge has to offer.

The private Okonjima Nature Reserve is nestled in over 200 square kilometres amongst the imposing Omboroko Mountains, boasts some of the most exceptional accommodation in Namibia, but the unequivocal highlights are the cheetah and leopard safaris. There are unlimited opportunities to see these beautiful carnivores in their natural environment within the huge Okonjima Nature Reserve, as well as to witness the critical conservation work undertaken by the AfriCat Foundation, which researches and rehabilitates cheetahs, wild dogs, and hyaenas. Okonjima, home of The AfriCat Foundation, was established as a small 'guest farm' in 1986. For many years, Val (VJ) & Rose Hanssen had been avid cattle farmers until the need for solutions to increasing livestock losses and post-independence interest in Namibia as a tourist destination, changed the face of Okonjima, as well as that of Carnivore Conservation. With the family, still at the helm (now the next generation), Okonjima now encompasses a dedicated team and a variety of accommodation facilities, offering you, our guest, a truly Namibian stay... Established in 1993, The AfriCat Foundation started off as a sanctuary for Cheetah and Leopard rescued from irate, livestock farmers. Today, AfriCat is dedicated to the protection and long-term conservation of all large carnivores in Namibia and has since become renowned for much-needed; "Environmental Education, Carnivore Research, Rescue, Release & Rehabilitation programmes, and Carnivore Welfare, Human Wild-life Conflict Mitigation and Community Support projects – throughout the whole of Namibia".

The AfriCat Foundation is based in the private, 200km² Okonjima Nature Reserve (central Namibia) and along Etosha's south-western boundary (northwest Namibia). AfriCat North, strives to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict on farmland especially with regards to the lion (*Panthera leo*), by educating the youth, encouraging adapted livestock management and conducting essential research & monitoring of wild lion populations.

Overnight at the Okonjima Plains Camp

Day 18: Windhoek – Airport

Drive back to the capital city of Namibia, Windhoek, via Okahandja. Visit a woodcarver's market in Okahandja.

Depart from Windhoek to the airport for your flight home.

*** hope to see you again soon ***