

# NAMIBIA ON THE WILD SIDE

Highlights of the Namib Desert and Coast



# NAMIBIA ON THE WILD SIDE

Dates:	Sat 02.03. - Fri 15.03.2019 Sun 17.03. - Sat 30.03.2019 Sat 29.02. - Fri 13.03.2020 Sun 15.03. - Sat 20.03.2020
Costs:	7980.00 € (per person for 2 guests) 6660.00€ (per person for 3 guests) 5970.00€ (per person for 4 guests)
Group Size:	Minimum of 2 & maximum of 4 guests

Photograph with us unspoiled landscapes and fascinating wildlife in Namibia. We will bring you to some of the most photogenic locations in an incredible beautiful country. Our itinerary is planned around the highlights of the Namib Desert and the Atlantic Coast. We included a mixture of well-known and famous location like the ancient Quiver Tree Forest, eerie ghosttown of Kolmanskop or the world famous sand dunes of Sossusvlei and lesser known gems in the Namib Desert.

We will photograph orange-red dunes, endless desert sceneries, uniquely shaped trees, spectacular rock formations just to mention a few highlights on the landscape side. The wildlife side is no less stunning. Some of the main attractions are colourful flamingos, amusing seals, sand diving lizards or antelopes in an ocean of sand. And not to forget Namibia is the ideal place for night photography. In the Namib Desert we have plenty of time to photograph the amazing skies with its myriads of stars.

Spectacular landscapes and amazing wildlife make Namibia a photographer's dream. Come and join us on a memorable trip, enjoy fantastic photographic opportunities, take great images, experience a fun-filled time and make new friends.

# Highlights

- ▶ Unforgettable Scenery
- ▶ Small Group Size
- ▶ Desert-adapted Wildlife
- ▶ Star Photography
- ▶ Dead Vlei
- ▶ Spectacular Rock Formation
- ▶ Flamingos & Pelicans
- ▶ Exclusive Boat Cruise
- ▶ Photography Field Advice
- ▶ Panorama Photography
- ▶ Cape Fur Seals
- ▶ Ghost Town Kolmanskop
- ▶ Unique Quiver Trees
- ▶ Timeless Solitude
- ▶ Towering Dunes of Sossusvlei
- ▶ Image Review



# Itinerary\*

## Day 1

## Windhoek

Meet and greet at our accommodation in Windhoek, Namibia. Following the meet and greet Bernd gives a short briefing about the tour itinerary and what to expect photography wise. To round off this part Bernd introduces you to some of the photographic techniques relevant for the next days (especially star & panorama photography). We finish the day with a delicious diner in relaxed atmosphere at famous Joe's Beerhouse, a must for every visitor to Namibia. If you arrive early in the day there is the opportunity to go on an exclusive Windhoek City Tour in a vintage Land Rover (depending on weather condition).

Accommodation: Hotel Thule

## Day 2 & 3

## Quiver Tree Forest

After an early breakfast we hit the road. Destination Quiver Tree Forest close to Keetmanshoop in the south of Namibia. This stunning area is a combination of plenty of boulders and lots of uniquely shaped Quiver trees (*Aloidendron dichotoma*).



Actually the so called quiver tree is not a real tree but a succulent plant. In the late afternoon light the bark of these trees seems to glow golden and in combination with the distinctive shape of the tree makes a perfect image. In the waning light around sunset, when the sky turns orange to pinkish, it is time for silhouettes and it looks like that the surreal quiver trees are just cut out for it.



After a short while the magnificent night sky unfolds is full magic. If you see the star studded sky at night time you start to understand why the Milky Way got its name.

To slow down the pace we decided to stay another day at the Quiver Tree forest. We have plenty of time on hand to photograph the bizarre rock formations and quiver trees. Again in the evening we try our luck at the incredible night sky.

Accommodation: Mesosaurus Fossil Bush Camp

## Day 4

## Lüderitz

After another go at the photogenic quiver trees in the early morning light we leave for the coastal town of Lüderitz. The Ghost town of Kolmanskop from a bygone era is our afternoon playground. Kolmanskop was founded in the early 1900s, when diamonds were discovered on a dry, barren stretch on the edge of the Namib Desert. The town was abandoned 40 years later and the site of one of the greatest diamond rushes in human history was left again to nature. Over decades the small mining town was ravaged by strong ocean winds and the buildings were partly swallowed by the sand of the surrounding dunes.

These desolate and intriguing remains resulted in an eerie atmosphere and an extremely photogenic playground. With a special photography permit we have free access from early morning till late afternoon to the ghost town (usually opening time are from 9.00 till 13.00).

Accommodation: Kairos Cottages



# Quiver Tree Forest & Kolmanskop Ghost Town



## Day 5

### Farm Tiroot

Next morning at sunrise we return to Kolmanskop to photograph eerie landscapes with crumbled buildings, rooms covered in sand with brightly coloured walls and still life like old wash basins or windows.

After a late, hearty breakfast we are on our way to our next destination. To break a long and exhausting drive through the Namib Desert we decided to stop over for the night at the privately owned farm Tiroot. But the landscape photographic opportunities at this place justify a stop anyway.

After a short rest we head out for an afternoon filled with landscape photography, followed by another chance to practice your skills at star photography. As we stay in the Namib Desert with no light pollution at all, the Namibian starstudded sky will be incredible again.

Accommodation: Farm Chalets Tiroot



## Day 6 & 7

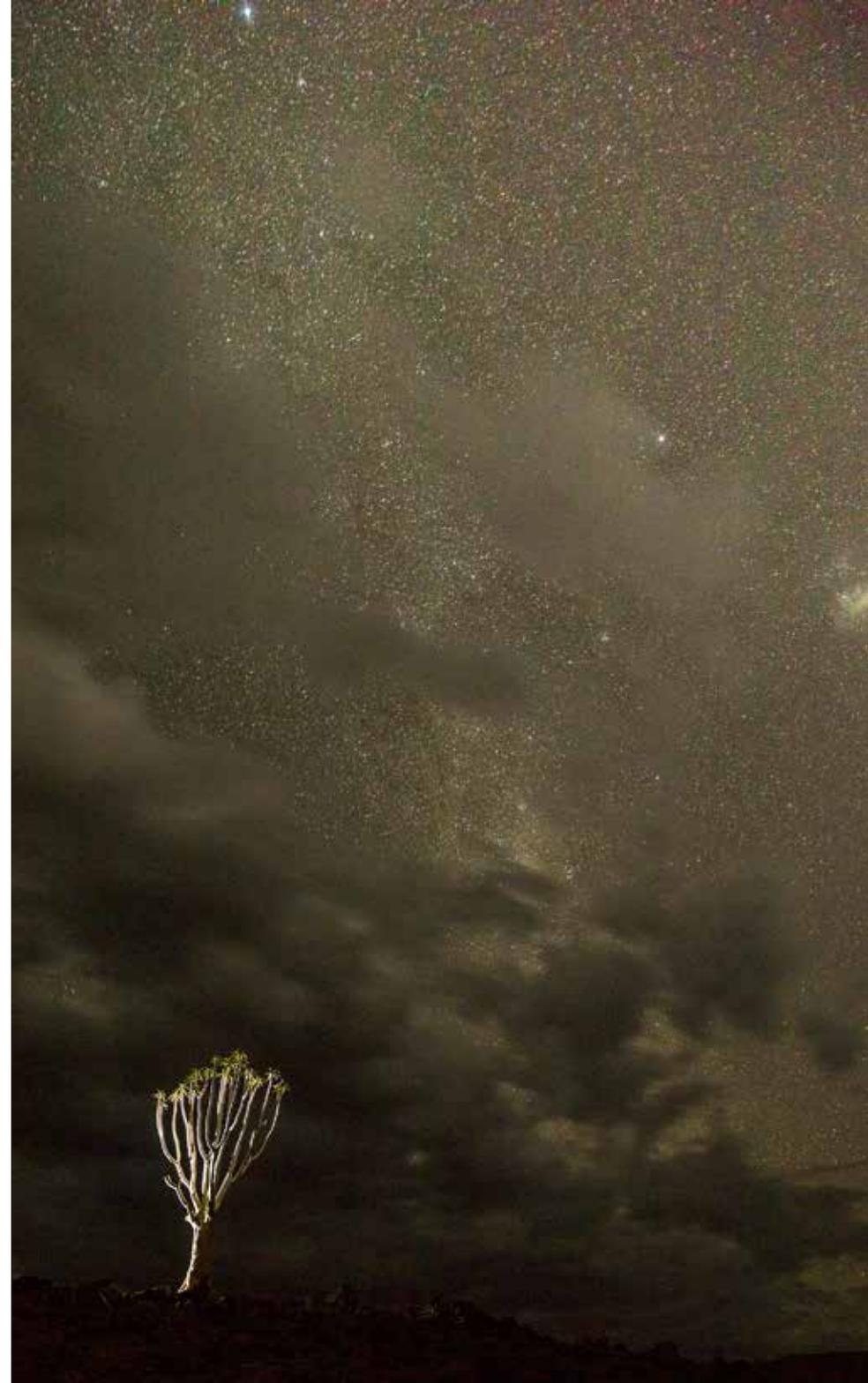
### Greenfire Lodge

Again the early morning is reserved for a landscape session in another beautiful part of the farm. If we are lucky we might encounter Gemsboks (Oryx) and have the chance to get some images of them.

After a drive on Namibian gravel road through spectacular desert scenery with brilliant vistas we arrive at the Greenfire Desert Lodge. This comfortable lodge is our home for the next two nights. In the mornings and afternoons we head out in the search for the best landscape locations. Fortunately, this private 20.000 hectare wilderness reserve is blessed with a large selection of impressive features like the so called Chocolate Hills, dry riverbeds with ancient Camelthorn trees and wide open savannah plains. As an added bonus we can look forward to our first taste of red sand dunes.

Depending on the rainfall in the area, we stand a good chance to encounter some of the bigger desert wildlife like Gemsbok, Springbok, Mountain Zebra or Ostrich. We also look out for all the small critters of the Namib desert and may come across lizards, snakes or a variety of insects. The photography at this desert gem will never tire you.

Accommodation: Green Fire Desert Lodge



# Tirol & Greenfire Wilderness



## Day 8 & 9      Sossusvlei Dune Lodge

World famous Sossusvlei is an absolute highlight in a country with no shortage of spectacular landscapes and unforgettable scenery. For me Sossusvlei belong to the few magical places on earth.

After settling in into our lodge right inside the Namib Naukluft National Park (gives us the opportunity to leave as early as possible to the dune area and Dead Vlei) we go for a short drive into the park. To get a first impression of this magical place we drive towards Dead Vlei and stop along the road for the play of colours, which the dunes next to the road are famous for.

Especially in the late afternoon is this stretch extremely attractive. Because of the North-South orientation of the dunes crest it seems that the sun facing dune side glow orange in the late afternoon light. Whereas the opposite side bathed in its own shadow appears pitch black. We play the whole afternoon with this show of light and shadow till the light vanishes. If we are lucky we encounter some Oryx and are able to photograph some animalscapes.

The main attraction in the ocean of sand is the iconic Dead Vlei. Dwarfed by the towering orange-red dunes, the grey-black trees in a rather whitish

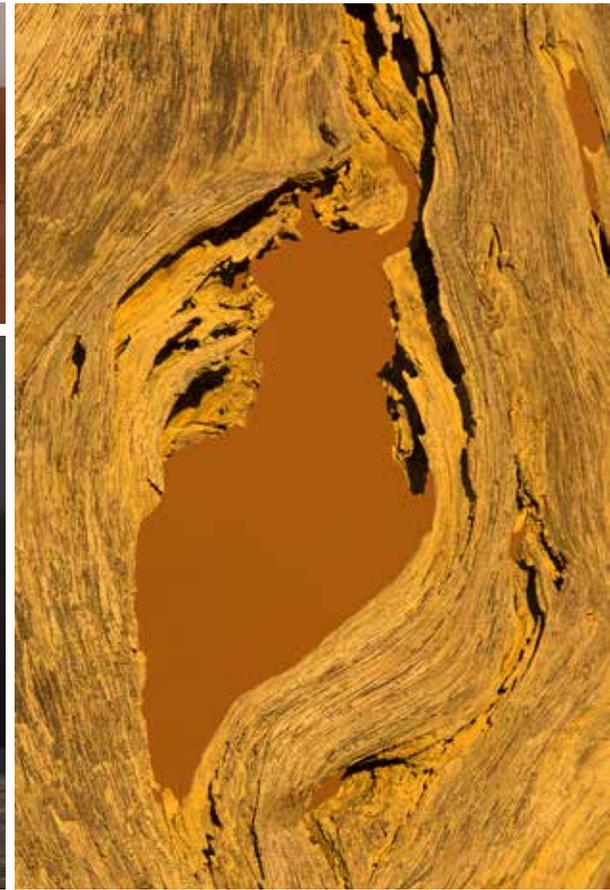
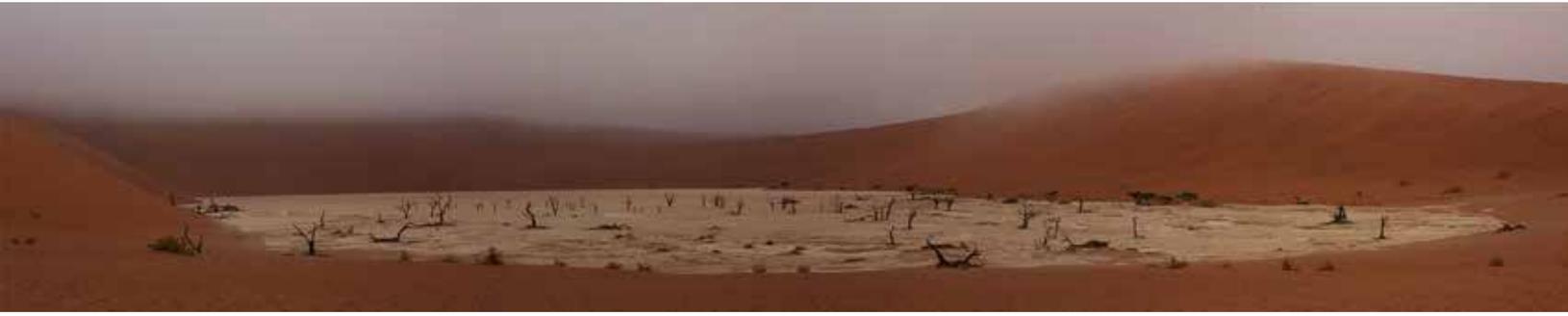
pan give Dead Vlei an out of this world feeling. Dead Vlei looks like no other place on this planet. It's a photographers dream. This is our playground for the next two mornings and afternoons.

There is the option for a helicopter flight over Sossusvlei to experience this breath taking scenery from the air (at additional costs & depending on availability).

Accommodation: Sossus Dune Lodge



# Sossusvlei & Dead Vlei



## Day 10-12 Coastal & Desert Wildlife

After a final morning of photography in Sossusvlei we return to the gravel road and make our way back to the coast. Next stop Walvis Bay. Not only will the scenery change a lot but the climate, too. In contrast to the dryness and heat inland we can expect foggy conditions and much cooler temperature at the coast.

The following days the primary focus lies on coastal and desert adapted wildlife. The late afternoon will be spent with a visit at the lagoon (a short stroll from our accommodation away) to photograph the two flamingo species (Lesser and Greater Flamingo) which feed and rest in the lagoon. The Walvis Bay lagoon and wetland are a prime location to photograph flamingos as we can get very close to them. We finish the day enjoying some great seafood overlooking the ocean.

On the first morning we leave dry land and go for an exclusive boat trip in the coastal water of the lagoon. On our outing to Pelican Point we encounter a variety of birds such as Flamingos, Pelicans, and Cormorants. From time to time Pelicans trail the boat and you have the chance to get images of these attractive birds from a close range. At Pelican Point we come upon a Cape Fur Seal colony. We can take plenty of images from the water side of these lively creatures. During our cruise we might see dolphins as well.

In one of the following afternoons we will explore Pelican Point from the land side to take different images of the Seals. The remaining afternoon we concentrate again on flamingo photography in the lagoon to maximize your chance to create great images of these colourful birds.

Another wildlife highlight awaits us the second morning. In the local dune belt close to Swakopmund we go with a local guide on the search for elusive desert inhabitants. The nearly transparent Palmato Gecko, the sand diving lizards, the almost invisible Sidewinder snake or the elusive Namaqua Chameleon are some of the creatures to be found in the loose sand.

Like in Sossusvlei you have the option for a helicopter flight. You can do some aerial photography of the attractive Atlantic coast with an array of fascinating structures like sandwich harbour estuary, Walvis Bay lagoon or the towering dunes.

Accommodation: Oyster Box Guesthouse



# Coastal & Desert-adapted Wildlife





## Day 13

### Spitzkoppen Lodge

This morning presents the last chance to photograph the flamingos. After a short sight-seeing stop in the picturesque town of Swakopmund we head back inland. The ancient landscape of the Spitzkoppe Inselberg is our next destination.

Those granite domes rise for several hundred meters out of the surrounding plains and offer breath taking vistas. In the golden light of the late afternoon those enormous granite boulders seem to glow. The famed rock arch is one of the most prominent rock formations at Spitzkoppe.

After our last early morning photo session at the inspirational Spitzkoppe it is unfortunately time to say goodbye to the amazing scenery of Namibia. It is only a short drive back to Windhoek. We drop you at the airport with plenty of time to catch your international flight home. If you wish to stay another night in Windhoek or if you want to extend your Namibia trip just let us know. We arrange everything according to your preferences.

Accommodation: Spitzkoppen Lodge

\* Accommodation depending on the availability. Itinerary subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control (e.g. weather conditions, flight schedule...)

# Photography Comments

## Fitness

A certain level of fitness will help to walk to the best photographic locations carrying your own camera gear. The terrain ranges from gravel plains, over loose sand to short rocky stretches. A good example would be the 20-30 min walk through soft sand, from the main parking area in Sossusvlei to Dead Vlei. But don't worry we are not doing any crazy things and for anyone who is reasonable fit it should present no problem.



## Photography

Based on personal preference, knowledge and experience we adapt the tuition and field advice to accommodate everyone's needs. Besides general techniques/knowledge like for example image composition, innovative use of aperture and shutter speed or the creative use of light, a main focus of our tuitions lays on star photography and panorama techniques.



Namibia with its amazing night sky is one of the best places in the world for star photography. We show you how to master the art of star photography, starting from the camera settings (aperture, shutter speed, ISO) over focusing at night to choosing the right location and time. In a final step we teach you how to post process your images in Photoshop and/or Lightroom.

The panorama format is an ideal way to capture the wide, open spaces in Namibia. We show you how to create amazing panorama images with your DSLR, what to look out for, the post processing and the stitching of the single images into a final stunning panorama.

Any time during the photo sessions in the field Bernd is present with a helping hand, advice or suggestions. During the day we have time to fit in image review sessions. Yes our days are packed with lots of action, but no worries there will be still time to relax.

## Photography Ethics

Wildlife and landscape photography ethics are very important to me. We strive to offer photography safaris in a responsible and respectful manner. We are committed not to harm the environment and behave sensitively around wildlife. We do not offer any opportunities to photograph tame animals or animals in enclosures on our trips. Moreover, we do not feed or bait any animals to take images. Another concern is the crowding of an animal by photographers. As a consequence we decided to operate with small group sizes only. In small groups it is way easier to offer everyone a chance for a good image. But even more important we can keep the disturbance of an animal to an absolute minimum.



**' Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time '**

# Your Photography Guide

## About Bernd

Your photography guide award winning nature photographer Dr. Bernd Wasiolka works and photographs since more than 15 years in southern Africa, mainly Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. The first years Bernd concentrated his photographic work on the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa. His time in the Kalahari culminated in his first coffee-table book ‚Kalahari Dreaming‘. Since years he focus on nature photography in Namibia. He travels all over the country and spends weeks on end in all the amazing photographic locations the country has to offer.

Not only is Bernd an experienced wildlife photographer but also a trained animal ecologist. For his PhD Thesis he studied for several years' reptile population dynamics in the southern Kalahari, South Africa. The following years he worked with free-ranging cheetahs and leopards in central Namibia. The main focus was lying on the Human-Wildlife-conflict and the spatial ecology of these carnivores.

His extensive experience in photographing nature in southern Africa together with his in depth knowledge of the African wildlife and the ecology of savannah and desert ecosystems makes him the perfect safari companion for a fascinating trip into the African bush. You can find out more about Bernd and his work on his website [www.wildphotolife.com](http://www.wildphotolife.com)



# General Information

## Quick Overview

Duration	14 days / 13 nights	
Dates	Sat 02.03. - Fri 15.03.2019	Sun 17.03. - Sat 30.03.2019
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Costs	7980.00€ pp (2 pax); 6660.00€ pp (3 pax); 5970.00€ pp (4 pax)	
Group Size	Minimum of 2 guest & maximum of 4 guests	
Tour Operator	Bwana Tucke Tucke ( <a href="http://www.bwana.de">www.bwana.de</a> )	
Photographic Guide	Dr. Bernd Wasiolka ( <a href="http://www.wildphotolife.com">www.wildphotolife.com</a> )	
Accommodation	Ranging from basic but comfortable farm chalets to luxury lodges right at our photographic location	
General	We speak English and German	
	Level of Photography: All experience levels are welcome.	
	Non-photographing partners are welcome. The places we visit have a general appeal to everyone who enjoys nature and wildlife.	
	Professional Namibian guide & driver	
	This Photo Safari is conducted after European travel laws	

## Included in the Safari costs

Transfer from/to airport  
All transportations during the duration of the safari  
Full board (breakfast, lunch & diner)  
All National Park & entrance fees  
Photographic tuition, workshops, field advice & image review  
Exclusive boat cruise from Walvis Bay  
Little 5 Tour (Desert-adapted wildlife)  
Professional Namibian driver & guide  
Surety voucher (not to be mistaken with travel insurance and/or travel cancellation insurance)

## Not included in the Safari costs

International flight to/from Namibia  
Drinks & Items of personal nature (e.g. snacks, souvenirs...)  
Optional activities such as helicopter flights over Sossusvlei or coast

