



NAMIBIA TRACKS & TRAILS

TOURS AND EXCURSIONS IN AND AROUND SWAKOPMUND

01.11.2008 - 31.10.2009

MARINE EXTRAVAGANZA

Dolphin Cruise, transfers and lunch

Dolphin Cruise, transfers, lunch and quad biking

Minimum: 2 pax

Guests are transferred from either Swakopmund Airport or their hotel to Walvis Bay Yacht club. En route we pass the Guano Platform (Bird Island), Damara Tern breeding area and enjoy a scenic drive between the magnificent dunes and the awe-inspiring Atlantic Ocean. On arrival at the yacht club, guests embark on a boat cruise that promises exceptional viewing of the Walvis Bay international wetland bird life, such as the African Black Oystercatcher, petrels, shearwaters, terns and Pelicans. The Walvis Bay Lagoon offers one of the best view points where the lesser and greater flamingoes can be admired undisturbed. The tour takes us to the lighthouse at Pelican Point where a large colony of Cape Fur Seals have established themselves. Here guests are able to view and photograph the seals in their natural habitat. The waters around Pelican Point are also the home of such creatures as the Heavyside Dolphin, a social animal that rides the bows of the boat as we explore the area for Sunfish, Leatherback Turtles and whales, which often frequent our shores. We return to the yacht club at tap 12h30 for transfer to a seated lunch on the beach and thereafter a short town tour of Swakopmund, a quaint German style town, rich in culture and historical buildings.

An additional option of experiencing the magnificent dunes of Swakopmund on a quad bike is available. (30 minute quad bike trip).

MARINE DOLPHIN CRUISE (Harbour Dolphin Cruise)

3 hour boat cruise, including oysters, snacks and sparkling wine

Minimum: 2 pax

Cruise departs Walvis Bay Yacht club at 09h00 and takes you through the harbour to Bird Island, you then cut across the lagoon to the moored Russian trawlers where inquisitive seals will swim up to the boats looking for something to eat. From there we head to Pelican Point where entertainment is provided by a large seal colony and pods of Heavyside and Bottlenose Dolphins swimming alongside the boats. For bird lovers, apart from seeing flamingoes, cormorants and pelicans, there are common sightings of the White Chinned Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Black Oystercatcher and even the Jackass Penguin. To round off the trip you will be spoilt with fresh Walvis Bay oysters, snacks and cold sparkling wine served on board the boat.

LE PETIT PELICAN (Boat cruise)

2½ hour boat cruise, including champagne and oysters

Minimum: 2 pax

This cruise concentrates on the observing of sea animals, especially the Heavyside and Bottlenose Dolphins and Cape Fur Seals. Watch as they play and jump in the wake of the boat, while you sip champagne and enjoy delicious Walvis Bay oysters. Cruise departs from Walvis Bay Yacht Club at 08h30.

DOLPHIN CRUISE & SANDWICH HARBOUR COMBO - FULL DAY

8 hour tour, includes picnic lunch

Minimum: 2 pax

Boat departs from Walvis Bay at 09h00 and cruises the harbour through to the Bird Island, and then cuts across the lagoon to Moored Russian trawlers where inquisitive seals will swim up to the boats for something to eat. From there we head for Pelican Point where entertainment is provided by a large Cape Fur Seal colony and pods of Heavyside- and Bottlenose dolphins swimming alongside the boats. For the bird lovers, apart from seeing flamingos, cormorants and pelicans, there are common sightings of the White Chinned Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel,



Cape Gannet, Black Oystercatcher, and even the Jackass Penguin. At approximately 11h30, you will be dropped off on a deserted beach where your guide and 4 x 4 vehicle will meet you. But, first you will enjoy a light lunch of fresh oysters, snacks and champagne before departing for the magnificent scenery of the dunes and natural lagoon meeting the sea on route to Sandwich Harbour. Tour ends at approximately 17h00.

CATAMARAN CRUISE

2.5 – 3 hour tour, includes oysters, snacks and sparkling wine

Minimum: 2 pax

Come relax and enjoy a sailing excursion aboard the catamaran. moored at the Walvis Bay Yacht club. Cruises depart daily at 08h30 from the Walvis Bay Yacht Club. Once aboard, we will set sail for Pelican Point, where a large seal colony and playful Heavyside and Bottlenose Dolphins entertain you. Other points of interest are the oyster farms and Bird Island. Bird lovers may possibly sight the White Chinned Petrel, Cape Gannet, Black Oystercatcher and even the endemic Damara Tern. The trip is rounded off with fresh oysters, snacks and sparkling wine served on board.

CATAMARAN SUNSET CRUISE (weather permitting)

2.5 hour tour, includes oysters and sparkling wine

Minimum: 2 pax

Come relax and enjoy a sailing excursion aboard the catamaran, moored at the Walvis Bay Yacht club. Cruises depart 2 hours before sunset and sails to Bird Island and Pelican Point.

NAMIB DESERT TOUR – FULL DAY

7 hour tour, including a picnic lunch

Minimum: 4 pax

Come and discover life in this desolate landscape know as the Namib Desert. Follow remote tracks and experience interesting adaptations of the fauna and flora. Depart Swakopmund at 09h00 and enjoy a spectacular scenic drive taking you between the magnificent sand dune and awe-inspiring Atlantic Ocean. Arriving in Walvis Bay, we head for the Walvis Bay lagoon and international wetland. Here you will be able to observe the majestic greater- and lesser flamingos that abound in this area. Next we head off to the Walvis Bay Salt Works and then Dune 7, the highest dune in the area. Here we stop for a picnic lunch and a leisurely climb up the dune to witness first hand the magnificent view. After lunch, our tour takes us behind the dune belt and we go in search of the White Lady Spider, the elusive Palmetto Gecko, the Desert Side Winder and Aporosaura Sand Diving Lizard. The tour then takes us further into the Namib Naukluft Park, through the gravel plains to the Moonlandscape, past Oasis Goanikontes up the Swakop Riverbed to the living fossil, the Welwitschia Mirabilis plant. We return to Swakopmund at approximately 16h00.

NAMIB DESERT TOUR – HALF DAY

4 hour tour.

Minimum: 4 pax

On first glance it seems impossible that the arid desert can support life. Yet it holds some of the richest lichen fields in the world and these lichens take on deeply coloured hues in the morning light. We depart Swakopmund at either 09h00 or 14h00 to return at either 13h00 or 18h00 respectively. We travel to the Moon Landscape, where soft overlaying levels of earth, deposited some million years ago, were eroded to create this eerie crater filled area. In 1859 a botanist searching the Namib Desert found, what he later described "as the world's strangest plant". This trip goes in search of these "living fossils" the Welwitschia Mirabilis a botanic curiosity endemic to the Namib Desert and one of the most bizarre and intriguing plants on earth.

DUNE DESERT TOUR – HALF DAY

4 - 5 hour tour.

Minimum: 2 pax

This half-day tour departs from Swakopmund at 08h00 and lasts 4 – 5 hours. The tour concentrates on exploring the local dune belt between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Special care is taken not to damage the gravel plains and cause unnecessary damage to the dune eco system. Your guide will stop continuously to look for tracks (know locally as reading the bushman newspaper), to determine which animals were active the previous night and wherever possible will try to catch some of them to show you. Great care is taken in sharing knowledge with you on each desert animal and plant, including emphasis on special adaptations and perfect design used for survival in the desert.



SANDWICH HARBOUR TOUR – FULL DAY

8 hour tour, includes picnic lunch

Minimum: 2 pax

Depart in 4-wheel drive vehicle from Walvis Bay, first stopping off at the Lagoon to view the masses of birds that live in one of the biggest natural wetlands in the Southern Hemisphere. The drive down to Sandwich takes in the Kuisieb river delta, a dry river bed where the odd springbok may still be seen, with the vehicles continuing along the beach until the natural fresh water lagoon is reached. Clients can walk along the length of this lagoon, taking in the magical scenery of sky-high dunes with an even more varied bird life found in the fresh waters. After a sit-down picnic lunch including a selection of snacks, salad, bread, fresh fruit with white wine and drinks, the route homewards will be done testing the power of the vehicles on the dunes, the highlight being the 45m high roaring dune, to return to Walvis Bay.

CAPE CROSS SEAL COLONY TOUR

5 hour tour.

Minimum: 4 pax

Depart Swakopmund at either 09h00 or 13h00 and return at either 13h00 or 17h00 respectively. In 1486 Diego Cao landed on the coast of Namibia at Cape Cross. Here, 115-km north of Swakopmund, he erected a cross in honour of King John 1 of Portugal. Today a replica of Diego Cao's cross can be seen at the Cape Cross. But that's not all - Cape Cross is one of the largest breeding seal colonies in southern Africa, fluctuating in numbers of about between 80 000 – 300 000 seals. Come and enjoy a trip to Cape Cross with an experienced guide. En route we visit Mile 4 Salt Pans to view the Flamingos, Wlotkas Baken and Henties Bay.

SUNDOWNER TOUR

1 -2 Hour Tour

Minimum: 4 pax

Champagne and oysters served on the beach or dunes (weather depending) with a pick up at your hotel, transfer to venue and return. Fire, windscreens, tables and chairs included. Departure time depends on time of year.

CRAYFISH LUNCH AND TOWN TOUR

3 hour tour.

Minimum: 2 pax

A seated lunch as per menu below on the beach, thereafter depart for a town tour of Swakopmund, a quaint German style town. Swakopmund is rich in culture and historical buildings. Transfer from hotel to venue and back included.

Grilled Oysters with cheese and garlic

Fresh Oysters served on ice with lemons

Two whole fresh Crayfish grilled with a garlic and herb sauce

Fresh asparagus steamed and rolled in smoked salmon (seasonal)

Fresh seasonal vegetables steamed and topped with butter

Greek salad and dressing

Crispy bread rolls with butter

Bar serving: white wine, mineral water, local Tafel beer, Appletizer, Orange Juice and Coffee.

BIRDING AT SPITZKOPPE

8 hour tour.

Minimum: 3 pax

We are visiting Namibia's "Matterhorn", the Spitzkoppe a granite inselberg rising 1784 meters above the surrounding plain which has actually eroded away leaving the "inselberg". The waterholes in the mountain attract a large number of birds such as the Herero Chat, an endemic bird, the near-endemic Carp's Tit, Brad Field's Swift, Montei's Hornbill and White-tailed Shrike. The Double banded Courser, Dusky Sunbird, Rose faced Lovebird, Yellow bellied Eremomela, Black headed Canary, Mountain Chat and Pale winged Starling also occur here. We will enjoy a picnic lunch at Spitzkoppe before we travel along the back road through the Namib Desert to the coastal fishing resort of Henties Bay and then in a southerly direction to Swakopmund. Depart Swakopmund at 08h00 and return at 16h00.



BIRDING IN SWAKOPMUND

5 hour tour.

Minimum: 3 pax

On the gravel plains outside of Swakopmund we will search for Grays Lark, a species of lark only found in the Namib Desert and also stop at the Swakopmund Salt Pans, a haven for waders, including Chestnut banded Plover, gulls, lesser and greater Flamingo's, Gray Herons, Terns and huge numbers of Cape Cormorants. Time allowing we will stop also at the sewerage works for some unusual sightings. Depart at approximately 09h00 and return at 16h00.

BIRDING IN WALVIS BAY

5 hour tour.

Minimum: 3 pax

Walvis Bay supports 40% of the Southern African population of the Black necked Grebe and 69% of the world's population of the rare Chestnut banded Plover. Some 600 white Pelicans are resident on the Namibian coast and about 250 breed on a bird island guano platform, where we will stop. Unusually for White Pelicans, which generally prefer to forage and breed in fresh water, they seldom leave their salt-water habitat. Namibia is also home to all four species of saltwater cormorant found in Southern Africa. The Crowned-, Bank- and Cape Cormorants are endemic to South-western Africa, while the fourth species – the White breasted Cormorant – inhabits much in Africa south of the Sahara. Only three species of terns breed in Namibia. They are the Caspian, the Swift- or Greater crested and the Damara Tern. The Caspian is the biggest in the world and the Damara is the smallest. Both of them are classified as rare. We visit the nearby sewerage works with its waterways and reeds. Several species of ducks occur here, including the Maccoa Duck and Southern Porchard. The reedbeds house Little Bitterns, Purple Gallinules and African Marsh Warblers and the locally rare Great crested Grebe are resident. Depart Swakopmund at 09h00 and return at 16h00.

SWAKOPMUND CITY TOUR

60 – 90 min tour.

Minimum 2 pax

Where the desert dunes sweep down to the ocean on Namibia's western flank, lies the charming seaside village of Swakopmund. Swakopmund, deriving its name from the fact that it lies at the mouth of the Swakop River, is an oasis, neatly nestled between the wild Atlantic Ocean and the world's most ancient sea of sand, the Namib Desert.

This tour has no set time and lasts for as little as 60 min. The tour takes you through the old part of town, revealing its historic buildings giving you a sense of being in old Germany. Concentrating on landmark buildings and sites one understands how Swakopmund became to be and how life was created in this endless stretch of desert. Leaving the old part of town behind and exploring the suburbs growing around town, one becomes aware how big, diverse and ever changing this charming coastal city really is. This tour is done by vehicle and several stops. Walking can be done at the clients' request.

SWAKOPMUND TOWNSHIP TOUR

5 hour tour, includes snacks and refreshments.

Minimum: 2 pax

Our first encounter is with a visit to EITHER the late Damara chief, Mr. Augustinus Garoeb's family or Naftaline, a wonderful Herero lady who shares her knowledge on her culture and traditions. From there we continue on foot through the streets of Mondesa taking the opportunity to chat with the local people and getting a fascinating glimpse into a typical Namibian township. If we have time and he is available we stop briefly at Mr. Stanley Witbooi's house to learn about Nama traditions and herbal medicines. Then we hop back into the vehicle and drive out to the Democratic Resettlement Community (DRC). Daytime tour stops to visit a local kindergarten (crèche). Evening tour, we share a cup of fresh mint tea at ERNST & ELSIE'S house. Time for a drink and culinary discoveries, we stop at a local Shebeen where TASHA & Co will host you, Ovambo style! Tour departs at either 11h00 or 15h00.

VARIETY OF TRANSFERS

See attached rate sheet.

