



CLASSIC SOUTH
Booking ref: G03
12 days / 11 nights

Discover Namibia's South! This guided trip takes you through the spectacular sandscapes of the Kalahari Desert, to the majestic Fish River Canyon, into the historical town, Lüderitz nestled on the edge of the "Prohibited Diamond Area". Admire the highest dunes in the world before you return to the capital of Namibia.

Day 1:

Arrival at Hosea Kutako (Windhoek International) airport, where you will be met by your guide. Subsequent transfer to the capital of Namibia for check-in to Elegant Guesthouse. After check-in at the accommodation establishment, you will be taken on a city tour. Windhoek is a city of many contrasts. Modern skyscrapers blend with historic buildings dating from the turn of the century. Several buildings from the German colonial era have been preserved and restored to fulfil useful functions in the community today. Some of the sights you will see on your tour are the Ride Memorial, the Old Fort, the Parliament Building (also known as the "Ink Place"), the Lutheran Church, the Railway Station and many more.

Overnight stay at Elegant Guesthouse or similar - Bed & breakfast.

Day 2:

After breakfast departure from Windhoek and drive via Rehoboth, the centre of Namibia's Baster community into the red dunes of the Kalahari Desert to the Bagatelle Kalahari Game Lodge. Late afternoon, participate in a guided game drive to learn about the flora and fauna of the Kalahari Desert.

Overnight at the Bagatelle Kalahari Game Lodge or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3:

A full day's journey takes you south through the desert-dominated landscapes to a picturesque Quiver Tree Forest. This prehistoric tree reaches skyward with graphically forked branches, their trunks peel and form intricate patterns as the tree matures, these are rewarding subjects to photograph. Giant's Playground is an impressive jumble of massive boulders; a virtual maze where time can be spent wandering through the extensive rocky labyrinth. You proceed to Keetmanshoop and thereafter continue via the Naute Dam, to the Fish River Canyon, which is the second largest in the world.

Overnight at the Canyon Lodge or similar on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4:

Today you can view the spectacular northern fringes of the Fish River Canyon from various vantage points. Here the impressive surrounding rock formation provides many interesting hours for enthusiastic nature lovers.

Overnight at the Canon Lodge or similar on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 5:

The next leg of the journey takes us via the small historic village of Aus and through the vast barren expanse of the Prohibited Diamond Area, to Lüderitz. Lüderitz is renowned for its old-world charm and distinctly German colonial architecture. Set around the bay, with their original gables, winding stairwells, verandas, turrets and bay- and bow windows still intact, these buildings have a unique character.

Overnight at The Nest Hotel or similar on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 6:

After breakfast we visit Kolmanskop, a ghost town that was abandoned over 40 years ago and now gives a fascinating insight into the area's great diamond boom. A few of the buildings have been restored, but many are left exactly as they were, and now the surrounding dunes are gradually burying them. We continue our journey through the Diamond Prohibited Area via Aus and Helmeringhausen to Farm Namtib. Experience the daily life of a farmer in the south.

Overnight stay at Farm Namtib or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7:

Today we travel through some of Namibia's most spectacular sceneries. Vast expanses of yellow savannah are dotted with bushes and solitary camelthorn trees. Distant mountain ranges take on different nuances of purple and blue as the day progresses. En route you visit the Duwisib Castle, which was built by Baron von Wolff for his American wife Jayta in 1909. The furnishings and paintings were imported from Germany. Our destination is Sossusvlei Lodge, situated south of the Sesriem gate at Sossusvlei.

Overnight at Sossusvlei Lodge or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 8:

Visit Sossusvlei - a clay pan surrounded by some of the highest sand dunes in the world) - and the Sesriem Canyon.

Overnight at Sossusvlei Lodge or similar on dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 9:

The route takes us north via the Kuiseb Canyon to Swakopmund. Highlights en route include a drive to the "Moon Landscape" and the ancient desert plant, "Welwitschia mirabilis". This quaint desert town with its old-world charm and relaxed atmosphere hedged by desert and sea, is enhanced by lush green lawns and palm trees

Overnight at the Hansa Hotel or similar on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 10:

Morning dolphin cruise on the Walvis Bay Lagoon. The afternoon is at own leisure.

One overnight stay at the Hansa Hotel or similar on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 11:

Return journey via Usakos, Karibib and Okahandja to Windhoek. Okahandja is an important centre for woodcarvers from the north. They practice their ancient skills at the Woodcarvers Market next to the main road. This is a good place to pick a last souvenir.

Overnight stay at Elegant Guesthouse on bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12:

Spend the day in Namibia's capital. In time for check-in on your outbound flight, road transfer from Olive Grove Guesthouse to Hosea Kutako Airport. Bid farewell to Namibia!

INCLUDED:

- All transport as per itinerary routing
- Accommodation on shared basis
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- Activities and park fees as specified in itinerary
- Mineral water en route

EXCLUDED:

- Expenses of a personal nature, i.e. laundry, telephone expenses, gratuities and other personal purchases
- All drinks
- Personal- as well as medical- and evacuation insurance
- Additional activities

SCHEDULED DEPARTURES:

06.05.2010 - 17.05.2010

06.06.2010 - 17.06.2010