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NAMIBIA PHOTO SAFARI WITH REED HOFFMANN **April 8th - April 21st, 2024**



If you're looking for more than simply an African wildlife safari, Namibia's for you. Haven't heard about it? Need to look it up on a map? Good. Read on.

Namibia is one of Africa and the world's best-kept secrets for photographers. Less well-known and visited than the game parks of East and South Africa, its treasures are for those in search of a truly distinctive adventure. Here, amid one of the world's greatest deserts, you'll find a surprising collection of hardy wildlife that has managed to adapt to its harsh environs. It's also an arrestingly beautiful land, with eye-poppingly beautiful landscapes. From soaring sand dunes to broad, dry rivers, jumbled rocky mountains to lonely beaches and fascinating native peoples, photographers will find Namibia profoundly alluring. A more

civilized highlight is the lodges, replete with amenities and surrounded by wilderness.

Our expedition is designed to maximize your opportunities to photograph this beautiful and diverse land, its animals and people. We've designed the trip to take in the major highlights of the country, which are seldom included in one single package. It means a fair amount of driving, but the reward is a diverse variety of photo locations.

Want to see what makes Namibia so special? Then watch this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXrxDTA0NTs>

This is sure to be a truly amazing experience!





Highlights:

- The Quivertree Forest, one of the few in southern Africa, with its trees of luck
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quiver_Tree_Forest
- The famous German ghost town of Kolmanskop
<https://www.google.com/search?q=kolmanskop+ghost+town&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwin0IW03pfZAhVQyYMKHR2DAGEQsAQIOg&biw=1462&bih=1090>
- The world's highest sand dunes and the great wildlife diversity in the Namib Desert
https://www.google.com/search?q=Namib+desert&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjdzdmjpp_ZAhUQbK0KHWD2Ce4Q7AkIQQ&biw=1059&bih=669
- The Himba Tribe, the last nomadic people of Namibia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himba_people.
- Etosha National Park – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etosha_National_Park.
- This is a small-group expedition, for maximum photo instruction with Reed.

Trip style:

This is a true photographic adventure trip, but with comfortable lodgings. See itinerary for more details.

Trip starts and ends in Windhoek, Namibia.

Itinerary – *These dates are subject to change. All lodging will be as listed or in similar accommodations.* Included meals indicated (B, L, D)

DAY 1: Monday, April 8 DEPART USA

DAY 2: Tuesday, April 9 ARRIVAL IN WINDHOEK Arrive in Windhoek in the morning, take an afternoon tour of Windhoek, and transfer to The Weinberg Windhoek to relax and recover from the flights. (-, -, -)

DAY 3: Wednesday, April 10 QUIVERTREE FOREST, KEETMANSHOOP Explore the Quiver Tree Forest – Sure, you'll see quiver trees – *Aloe dichotoma* – all over southern Namibia, but it's the sheer number and size of the distinctive forked aloes found among the jungle of massive dolerite boulders on the Gariganuns farm outside Keetmanshoop that makes the Quivertree Forest so magical. Lose yourself in this incredible wonderland, and possibly visit the Giant's Playground as well. We may even get to see them feeding the rescued cheetahs! Quivertree Forest Lodging (B, L, D)



DAY 4: Thursday, April 11 GHOST TOWN TOUR Lüderitz and old German ghost town – Namibia's most famous ghost town, Kolmanskop is situated in the Sperrgebiet, (forbidden territory) a few kilometers inland from the port of Luderitz. In 1908, railway worker Zacharias Lewala found a sparkling stone amongst the sand he was shoveling away from the railway line, near Kolmanskop. His supervisor August Stauch, was convinced it was a diamond and when this was confirmed, the news spread like wildfire, sparking a huge, frantic diamond rush and causing fortune hunters to converge in droves on Kolmanskop. After early explosive growth, the mining ended and the town was abandoned, and since then the desert's been reclaiming it. Fantastic photos to be found here. Nest Hotel - <http://www.nesthotel.com/en-us>. (B, L, D)

DAY 5: Friday, April 12 AUS, SOSSUVLEI Depart after breakfast for Aus. Perched above the plains of the Namib Desert in the rocky Aus Mountains, the small village of Aus lies at the heart of phenomenal botanic diversity. Aus serves as an excellent base from which to see the area's major attraction: the feral horses of the Namib Desert, which run wild and free in the sparsely vegetated plains. The best place for viewings is at the water trough at Garub, which lies just twenty kilometres away from Aus. End the day at the Sossusvlei Lodge. <https://www.sossusvleilodge.com/> (B, L, D)



DAY 6: Saturday, April 13 SOSSUVLEI Located in the scenic Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes of the Namib. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red dunes to make this one of the most scenic natural wonders of Africa and a photographer's heaven. This awe-inspiring destination is possibly Namibia's premier attraction, with its unique dunes rising to almost 400 meters - making them some of the highest in the world. These iconic dunes come alive in morning and evening light and draw photography enthusiasts

from around the globe. Sossusvlei is home to a variety of desert wildlife including oryx, springbok, ostrich and a variety of reptiles. Visitors can climb 'Big Daddy', one of Sossusvlei's tallest dunes and explore Deadvlei, a white, salt, claypan dotted with ancient trees. <https://www.sossusvleilodge.com/> (B, L, D)

DAY 7: Sunday, April 14 SWAKOPMUND Set along Namibia's spectacularly scenic coast, the seaside town of Swakopmund is known for its wide-open avenues, colonial architecture, and its surrounding otherworldly desert terrain. Founded in 1892 as the main harbour for German South-West Africa, Swakopmund is often described as being more German than Germany. Now a seaside resort town, Swakopmund is the capital of the Skeleton Coast tourism area and has plenty to keep visitors happy. The quirky mix of German and Namibian influences, adventure options, laid-back atmosphere and cool sea breeze make it a very popular Namibian destination. You'll stop on the way in Solitaire. There is an option to take a flight from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund if you'd like to avoid the 4-5 hour jeep ride (not included; price determined by the number of people interested in flying). <https://www.swakopmund-plaza-hotel.com/> (B, L, D)

DAY 8: Monday, April 15 DAMARALAND AND HIMBA VILLAGE This vast desert landscape is known as one of the most beautiful regions in Namibia. Huge, untamed and ruggedly beautiful, Damaraland is an exceptionally scenic landscape featuring open plains, ancient valleys and spectacular rock formations. Otjikandero Himba Orphanage Village is located close to the local Kamanjab cattle farm in Himba Village. The village is inhabited by Himba kids, who are taken care of by volunteer mothers. All the children are raised in the traditional way, although a few of them have been slightly westernized because of the school they attend. Otjikandero Himba Orphanage Village is funded by the money received from tours to the village. Funds are used for medical purposes, food and other basic needs. You will have the opportunity to see the Himba people in their natural environment as well as observe their culture. <https://store.gondwana-collection.com/accommodation/damara-mopane-lodge> (B, L, D)



DAY 9: Tuesday, April 16 ETOSHA SOUTH Located just south of the boundary of Etosha National Park in northwestern Namibia, Etosha South makes up the southern region of this wild paradise. The area is comprised of a collection of world class private game reserves. You can catch a glimpse of a variety of wildlife including: lion, giraffe, elephant, white and black rhino, and a multitude of plains game. Depart early, drive directly to Etosha National Park, enjoy breakfast boxes en route. Arrive back at the Himba Village. Continue to Etosha, arrive in time for lunch. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring Elephants, rhinos, lions and zebras that might be seen. If time allows it, enjoy a drive in the area before the sun goes down and dinner is served at Okaukuejo Camp. <https://www.etoshanationalpark.org/accommodation/okaukuejo> (B, L, D)



DAY 10 & 11: Wednesday and Thursday, April 17 & 18 ETOSHA EAST Located in Northwestern Namibia, Etosha East is a protected sanctuary in the eastern part of the world-renowned Etosha National Park, known as one of the most accessible game reserves in Southern Africa. Etosha East boasts vast open plains scattered with semi-arid savannah grasslands dotted with watering holes and secluded bush camps. The impressive 5000-square-kilometer Etosha salt pan makes up a large part of the eastern side of the park and can even be seen from space. Wake up to an early sunrise, when the African wilderness comes to life! Experience the sunrise, then enjoy a hearty breakfast before driving into the park. With luck lions might be seen close to the camp. Etosha is one of the few places in Africa where both black and white rhino can be seen. In addition, the national park has "everything" when it comes to animals. Giraffe, leopard, cheetah, wildebeest, impala, zebra, springbok, kudu, gemsbok - and fantastic bird life, to name just a few. The unique desert climate that characterizes large parts of Namibia has also made Etosha famous for animals



found in few other places, such as the "Black-faced impala" and the Roan antelope. The days are spent entirely in the park. <https://www.mokutietosha.com/> (B, L, D)

DAY 12: Friday, April 19 WINDHOEK We'll spend the morning doing more photography in Etosha, then head to Windhoek in the afternoon. Stop over at the Okahandja Craft Market. Lodging is at The Weinberg Windhoek again. (B, L, D)

DAY 13: Saturday, April 20 DEPART Enjoy a relaxing morning before your flight to start the trip home. (B, -, -)

DAY 14: Sunday, April 21 Arrive USA

INCLUDES

- All accommodation with meals as listed.
- Purified water in the AWD vehicle during transfers.
- Airport transfers on Days 2 and 14.
- Guide, fuel and all entrance fees for excursions as mentioned above.
- Personal photography coaching by Reed Hoffmann.

EXCLUDES

- Flights to and from Namibia.
- Optional local flight from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund, \$500-\$800 based on interest
- Drinks.
- Meals not listed.
- Optional excursions.
- Guide tips, other gratuities and items of a personal nature.

PASSPORTS/VISAS: It is the client's sole responsibility to ensure that they hold a valid passport and all necessary visas. Your passport should be valid for 6 months after completion of safari. A visa is not required at this time for US citizens visiting Namibia.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Comprehensive Travel Insurance is highly recommended, as sometimes people have to cancel their trip because of unforeseen circumstances. With trip insurance, your investment is protected. Please see our refund policy below. Details in the registration packet.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: This trip is for the photographer who likes to be active and photograph a variety of subjects. Expect to walk on some uneven terrain for up to a mile or two (especially if wanting to hike through the same to visit the dead trees in Sossusvlei). Most days will involve a long car ride, often on gravel roads, transiting between different areas.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: We suggest that you coordinate your travel with us. We'll let you know when it's time to book flights and give you advice on how to. We suggest that you wait to book your flight until we let you know Reed's plans, so as to coordinate the flights as much as possible. If you do land at a different time there is a small additional charge for your airport shuttle. We plan to book our airfare about 6 months in advance.

GROUP SIZE: Limited to no more than 11 participants, in addition to Reed, and local drivers/guides.

COST: \$6,990/person based on double occupancy. \$1,500 non-refundable deposit to register, with final balance due by January 31, 2024. Estimated flight cost, depending on city of departure, is \$2000. Single supplement (where available) is \$600. The optional local charter flight will be \$500-\$800, depending on how many participants are interested.

When will you receive more information? Once you register, you will receive a registration packet that has more information on packing and planning. We'll email you airfare information about six months ahead, then a final letter with balance due 90 days prior to departure. We'll also contact each person prior to departure.

PPS REFUND POLICY We understand that you may have registered well in advance of your trip. We appreciate that work schedules and plans may change and unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, we have established the refund policy below to try to fairly accommodate such eventualities and yet maintain quality programs. Please realize that once you have registered for a course, we immediately incur expenses on your behalf. Because many people start planning longer trips a year or more in advance, it can be difficult to fill an empty spot at the last minute.

In order to receive a refund for a course, we require you to submit a written notice of cancellation. Your refund will come from your travel insurance. If you elected not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/09

What next?

Contact Reed Hoffmann at reed@reedhoffmann.com if you are interested in joining him!