

THE BIG 5 EXPERIENCE cc

Exklusive Safaris

NAMIBIA:

KAOKOVELD AND THE HIMBAS

12 days hotels/camping safari

<u>VEHICLE:</u>	4X4 STATIONWAGON, A/C, GPS, AND RADIO
<u>DURATION:</u>	12 DAYS FROM WINDHOEK
<u>PARTICIPANTS:</u>	MINIMUM 2
<u>BASIS:</u>	FULL BOARD, PARTLY CAMPING, PARTLY LODGES/HOTELS, INCLUDING ALL ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITES

INCLUDED:

- Accommodation in double rooms in the establishments specified in the itineraries, or in equivalent alternatives. Comfortable, fully- equipped double tents or roof-tents are provided when camping.
- Full board except where indicated separately in the itinerary
- Soft drinks on route
- Transportation in air-conditioned 4 x 4 vehicles
- Entrance fees and National Park fees
- Multilingual guiding (English guaranteed)
- Specified transfers to and from Airport
- Passenger Liability Insurance
- Med-Rescue Service by air- or road ambulance

Day 1 Meet and Greet at Windhoek International, transfer to [Pension Bougainville](#). Check-In. Subject to time of arrival, either relax until after lunch, when we will see the sights of Windhoek followed by sundowner drinks and a traditional Grill evening at our house, where we get to know one another better, and the "rules" will be explained to you, or directly after check-in sundowner drinks etc. at our home. Overnight at the Pension Bougainville.

Day 2 Via Otjiwarongo and Outjo we proceed to our first highlight: "OTJITOTONGWE", the Damara name for Cheetah. Tollie Nel, the owner of the farm Otjitotongwe near [KAMANJAB](#) and his family, will make us welcome. Here we have an opportunity to observe at close range the world's fastest land animal in its natural habitat. Tollie Nel has some 40 Cheetah on his farm including 5 tame ones, which you can touch and stroke. A unique experience offering incredible photo



opportunities. Here too we find some of the world's oldest rock formations. Nearly billion-year-old fossils of oyster banks and coral-heads were pushed aloft, to a height of more than a thousand meters during those early turbulent years of our planet. For the botanist among us, the unique *Boscia Multiflora* plant, also found here, will be of great interest.

- Day 3 After breakfast we depart towards the North and after crossing the "GROOTEBERG PASS" and enjoy lunch at the [Palmwag Lodge](#), before we continue our journey towards FORT SESFONTEIN, the northernmost Fort of the Germans during colonial times. It was employed to control the flow of weapons and to police the area in general. We overnight at the romantic [Camp Site](#) near the Fort (optional overnight at the Fort, which is now a luxury lodge).
- Day 4 We have a leisurely breakfast and get used to the routine of camping under the guidance of your hosts. You learn that a "donkey" is not only an animal, but also a 200-liter water tank, under which fire is made to provide hot water for a shower and washing up. We depart for OPUWO, where we have a last chance to fill our fuel tanks, since there is NOTHING further north for the next 1000 kilometers. We continue northwards to [Kunene River Lodge](#), where we [camp overnight](#) (optional: sleep and have meals at the lodge).
- Day 5 Today we mount our Quad Bikes and have some fun on the way. We get a chance to visit our first HIMBA VILLAGE and learn about their culture and taboos. Our guides have packed a picnic lunch, which we enjoy, on the banks of the river. In the afternoon, we go River Rafting, where we might see some crocodiles, but certainly will be amazed at the incredible bird life and the natural beauty of the river. After a full day's activities we return to the lodge for our evening meal and overnight.
- Day 6 Via EPEMBE and OKANGKWATI we make our way to the enchanting EPUPA FALLS. We arrive late afternoon, in good time to set up [camp](#) and prepare for the evening meal. From the top of a mountain we will enjoy the magnificent spectacle of the falls and the scenery with an ice cold Gin & Tonic or a glass of Champagne before we return for dinner and a chat around the campfire.
- Day 7 The whole day is spent exploring the Falls and the surrounding area. We meet many Himbas and have a chance to purchase some of their unique adornments.
- Day 8 A tough stage awaits us today. We return to OKONGKWATI and then head west into the most remote region of Namibia. Fascinating and beautiful scenery accompanies us on our way to the notorious "VAN ZYL'S PASS". It is wild country where we only meet the occasional Himba, who are grateful for a little tobacco and some sugar or fresh water. An extreme test for vehicles, driver and guests, which requires co-operation and tolerance. Our reward is one of the most spectacular sights in Africa: The summit of Van Zyl's Pass at sunset, with never ending vistas of the valleys below and the HARTMANN MOUNTAINS on the far horizon. A true fairyland. We [camp](#) here tonight and it is the first time that we have NO infrastructure at all. Whatever we did not bring, we have to do without. There is no water, toilet, shower, or wood to make a fire. We have to bring everything along!



- Day 9 As the sun rises behind us, we enjoy a champagne breakfast with scrambled eggs and sausages. The rich smell of coffee wakens our appetite. We break camp and now for the most difficult part of our journey: The descent of Van Zyl's Pass into the stunningly beautiful **MARIENFLUSS VALLEY**. Once at the bottom, we follow the old custom of those "who made it" and leave a stone template with our names and the date of our descent. (The wrecks of cars of those travelers who were careless and did not make it bear testimony to the unforgiving nature of the **KAOKOVELD**). Once at the bottom of the pass, we encounter the mysterious "Fairy Circles" of the Marienfluss Valley. To this day we are not 100% certain what causes them, and we like to keep it this way. We are hopeful to spot some antelopes or other game, as we make our way south towards our overnight stop at **PURROS**, where we find a "donkey" and a flush toilet at our campsite next to the **HOARUSIB** River. On our way south we marvel at some spectacular landscapes. The twists and turns of this ancient seabed are unique, and threaten to exhaust our last reserves of film. We camp and go to sleep among the old Camel thorn trees dreaming of our encounter with **LOXODONTA AFRICANA**, since we have seen, not far away, the massive footprints of the famous desert elephants, which have made this area their own. We will look for them tomorrow.
- Day 10 We spend the day driving in the riverbed looking for the elusive elephants. On the way surrounded by steep cliffs, which border the river, we are sure to encounter Oryx, springbok and maybe some lions trying to make a meal of a careless mountain zebra coming to the river for a refreshing drink. We have packed a picnic lunch, which we enjoy before returning to our campsite.
- Day 11 Ever eastward we travel, have lunch at Palmwag Lodge before we arrive at the incredible site of **TWYFELFONTEIN**, where the "little people" the Bushmen, now correctly referred to as San, have engraved their art into the red rock faces of their homes which they inhabited some 3000 years ago. They tell a story of their travels to the big water and the strange animals they encountered there and also the story of their beliefs and powers of observation. We overnight at the new Twyfelfontein Lodge.
- Day 12 From here we return to Windhoek, but first we visit the **PETRIFIED FOREST** and the famous **VINGERKLIP** and have lunch at the nearby lodge. Via **OUTJO**, **OTJIWARONGO** and **OKAHANDJA** we drive to the airport, where we say Good-Bye.

PLEASE NOTE: For those wishing to have an extension and visit **Etosha National Park, Mount Etjo Safari Lodge, or even an excursion into the Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls, we will of course be pleased to arrange it for you.**

