



# The Tribes and Dunes of Namibia

## Country

Namibia

## Region

Namibia

## Instructor

Brenda Tharp

## Dates

18 Sep > 01 Oct 10

## Price

£3900.00

## Overview

This trip will be a truly extraordinary experience, providing awe-inspiring landscape and people photo opportunities. The scenery we will travel through will be varied and absolutely breathtaking, but the highlights will certainly be the magnificent moon-like landscapes and the remote people of the Himba tribes. There will also be a number of wildlife photo opportunities, ranging from cheetahs, lions, zebras and giraffes, rhinos and elephants, especially when we enter the Etosha National Park.

This trip is classified as one of our 'Tours'. This means that an experienced photographer / instructor will be travelling with you at all times, giving you instruction and helping you get great shots. Alongside your instructor will be our Namibian guides and drivers, bringing a lifetime of experience and knowledge of their wonderful country. We'll spend time in the evenings looking through your images, and there will be talks and discussions on various aspects of photography. Our 'Tours' are open to all skill levels - if you're an experienced photographer, we will ensure you get the appropriate help, and if you're a beginner just starting out - you'll be helped and guided in the best way for you. Whilst this trip involves traveling in remote areas, the accommodation, transport and guides will be of an extremely high standard. The trip will see us stay at some of Namibia's most fabulous wilderness resorts - no camping involved! From the moment you arrive to the moment you return, you will be taken care of in every way.

Please note that the quoted price for this Tour is based upon shared accommodation. If you wish to have your own room, a single room supplement of £500 is required.

To see a video of highlights from our last Namibia Tour, click here (<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=a9aevxG4wvo>) to go to our VSP Workshops YouTube Channel.

## Itinerary

### What is Included

Experienced local guides & drivers

### What is Not Included

International flight to Windhoek



Airport transfers on day of arrival and departure.  
Transportation on comfortable vehicles for duration of the Tour  
All accommodation - please note that the advertised price is for shared accommodation. The single room supplement will be £500.00  
All meals  
Panoramic flight over the spectacular Namib Desert  
Game drives in lodges  
Entrance and game drives in Etosha National Park  
Organised photo shoot at Chetaah feeding time  
Organised visit and Photo shoot with Herero tribe  
Organised visit and Photo shoot with Himba tribe  
Organised photo shoot of reptiles and small desert creatures  
Gifts to the semi-nomadic tribes of the Himba

Pick up and drop off other than on the days specified  
Alcoholic beverages or any drinks unless specified in the quote  
Holiday or personal insurance  
Personal needs or items such as laundry and phone calls  
National Flights unless included in the itinerary  
Guide or any staff gratuities  
Visa or departure taxes  
Government levies if and when they should be introduced

## Calendar

Saturday 18 September ARRIVAL DAY

Today we'll finally meet. Our guide Hans will greet you at Hosea Kutako International airport and take you to the first of many beautiful lodges in Namibia. After some time to freshen up and relax we'll have our first game drive at the Lodge experiencing right from the beginning the amazing photo opportunities that this land offers. We'll wait for the sunset with a drink. Overnight at Auas Game Lodge

Sunday 19 September TOUR DAY 1

After breakfast we drive south via Rehoboth and Kalkrand to the Kalahari Desert. The landscape is classic Kalahari: deep red longitudinal dunes, usually vegetated, separated by lighter clay inter-dune valleys covered in grass, trees and shrubs. We'll settle in our lodge and after lunch we'll have the opportunity to photograph cheetahs at feeding time. We'll get up close and personal with these magnificent animals.. We'll say hello to Pepper the two year old cheetah with the most incredible expressive eyes. We wait for the sun to go down on the inflamed dunes and enjoy dinner together around an open fire. Overnight at Bagatelle

Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 September TOUR DAY 2-3

Just as the sun starts to warm up we'll say our goodbyes to the stunning landscape of the Kalahari to travel as far as Sesriem where we'll spend the most incredible two days of photography. We'll explore Sossusvlei, one of the most stunning site of Namibia. Our lodge is inside the Sesriem National Park giving us the freedom to catch the best light both in the morning and in the evening photographing it as it dances around the dunes designing sharp shadows. We'll take a walk to Big Daddy the tallest dune and walk to Dead Vlei with its 500 year old skeleton acacias. Dinners will be served under the stars. Overnight at Sossusvlei Dune Lodge

Wednesday 22 September TOUR DAY 4

We depart from Sossusvlei Lodge at about 09am and take a panoramic flight over the stunning Namib Desert to Swakopmund. This is a great opportunity for some aerial photography as the views are simply breathtaking. Our guide will be driving from Sossusvlei with the luggage and will only arrive in Swakopmund in the afternoon. After lunch the group will be collected for an incredible Desert Reptiles photo session where reptiles such as side-winding adder, horned adder, puff adder, palmetto gecko, scorpion namaqua chameleon as well as scorpions can be photographed at close range in the natural habitat. The afternoons in Swakopmund are often windy and the weather is changeable. So depending on weather we either drive to Walvis Bay for some bird photography or take a walk on the jetty as the sun goes down behind the Ocean. Overnight at Beach Lodge

Thursday 23 September TOUR DAY 5

After breakfast we drive north along the Skeleton Coast via Henties Bay to Cape Cross to visit the seal colony. Cape Cross is the breeding place of the Cape fur seals, which are a species of sea lion. At Cape Cross live about 80,000 to 100,000 seals. After lunch, a short siesta before driving, either north along the coast to photograph lichens and succulents along the beach, or to go inland towards the Messum Crater for lichen and ancient Welwitschia trees. After



the days spent in the stillness of the desert tonight we fall asleep with the sound of waves breaking on the shore.

Overnight at Cape cross hotel

Friday 24 September TOUR DAY 6

Our drive today inland to Uis will take us to the Twyfelfontein area. We leave the Ocean behind and explore yet again a different desert of granite hills. The granite hills are made of rocks that seem fallen from the sky. Arranged one on top of the other these circular rocks design the landscape with bizarre formation. White skeletal acacia trees grow on the rocks with an interesting colour contrast. After lunch we'll take the opportunity to photograph members of the local Herero Community dressed in their traditional Victorian clothing. Overnight at Twyfelfontein Lodge

Saturday 25/Sunday 26 September TOUR DAY 7 - 8

Today we continue via the Grootberg to Opuwo, the hub of Kaokoland, which has a fascinating mix of people, including the traditional Himba people with their goatskin dress and ochre-stained skins. Together with our local contact and Hans, our guide we'll visit the Himba in their villages. Both in the morning and in the late afternoon light we will be able to make some extraordinary portraits of these beautiful and kind people. We will have the privilege of experiencing daily life of this nomadic tribe, who in many ways, still live according to ancient traditions. Strong, powerful faces speak of people who have yet to trade their own culture for what little is being offered to them by western civilisation. Overnight at Fort Sesfontein Lodge and Opuwo Lodge

Monday 27 September TOUR DAY 9

Situated on the western border of Etosha National Park, Hobatere concession area includes elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs and many more. Hobatere is a privately run concession area of 32 000 ha. and here we'll experience nature at its best. Lions, elephants and cheetah are all free to roam around the our bungalows and in the night is not unusual to hear the roar of a lion just outside your door. Arrival at Hobatere Lodge in time for lunch and an afternoon game drive. Hobatere also has two hideout overlooking a waterhole where we'll have the chance to photograph the animals in their habitat. Overnight at Hobatere Lodge

Tuesday 28 September TOUR DAY 10

We depart early and enter the western board of the Etosha National Park. There are many water holes to visit along the way but once we settle in our waterhole chalets we'll have all the time to photograph wild animals waiting for the sunset. Overnight at Okaukuejo Restacamp water holes chalets.

Wednesday 29 September TOUR DAY 11

After a sunrise game drive we depart to the Erongo Wilderness Lodge nestled amid granite formations on the outskirts of an ancient volcano. These are the Erongo Mountains - a spectacular feature in the heart of a country renowned for it's scenic beauty. Flanked by the Namib Desert to the West and mixed-woodland savannah to the East, the mountains form a rare confluence of ecosystems that give rise to remarkable biodiversity, including a vast array of plant, reptile, mammal and bird species that are endemic to Namibia. The lodge is a founder member of The Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy, joining 30 private landowners in a collective effort to conserve and protect this natural treasure of over 200 000ha in extent. The Conservancy's mission includes the preservation of the rich cultural heritage in the form of rock paintings and engravings that are found throughout the area, such as at the Paula's Cave rock art site at Erongo Wilderness Lodge. Overnight at Erongo Lodge

Thursday 30 September TOUR DAY 12

After a morning nature drive and breakfast we'll start our drive towards our last lodge. We'll arrive at Amani Lodge and have the opportunity to do the Big Cat tour, a game drive to photograph lions, leopards and cheetahs. Overnight at Amani Lodge

Friday 1 October DEPARTURE DAY

Today after breakfast we'll say our goodbyes as we travel to Hosea Kutako International airport to start our journey home.

## Accommodation

Namibia is a land that thrives on tourism but that has been able to keep the highest standard of lodges and hotels. All the accommodation whilst in Namibia will be of a high to a luxury standard. Every room has an en-suite, electricity to charge your equipment and a swimming pool. The lodges of the North of the Country provide mosquito nets. In the chosen lodges the level of care and attention to details is second to none; you'll be welcomed warmly and made to feel at home.

Please contact us for a detailed list of the lodges and hotels.

## **Travel**

We would ask you to arrive on the 28th of March at Hosea Kutako International Airport in Namibia no later than 4pm for your pick up. We will take you back to the airport on September 18th around 11am.

## **Companions**

'The Tribes and Dunes of Namibia' Tour will not only be an incredible experience for our participants but also for their accompanying partners. We welcome partners and are happy to share this extraordinary journey with them also. Everybody will be part of this incredible adventure - whether they have a camera around their neck or not. Please contact Marzia at [mg@vspworkshops](mailto:mg@vspworkshops) for information.

## **The Photography**

### **Photography**

All of the images you can see on our galleries for Namibia were taken whilst on one of our Tours. The photography one can take in Namibia is absolutely exceptional. We will take you to the best locations, ensuring that you get to see things in their best light, with as few other tourists around as possible.

The photography you can expect on this Tour is varied, but mostly encompasses landscapes, people and wildlife. Namibia is most famous for its incredible moon-like landscapes through which we will travel and stop. You'll have the chance to photograph the environment at different times of the day, from different places, ensuring you get to see and shoot the very best there is. Our local guides and drivers are experienced with photographers and in addition to our instructors, you'll be in the best hands possible.

You'll also have abundant opportunities to visit, photograph and interact with the people of the remote Himba and Herero tribes in the north of the country. This is truly moving experience, and you'll get some amazing shots!

## **Teaching**

On our 'Tours' we recognise its both your holiday as well as a time to learn. Using our experience of how best to strike this balance between travel and learning, our instructors are at hand all the time to assist you. You'll receive briefings of the places you're going to visit and photograph, how to approach them, equipment considerations as well as regular slide-shows to give you inspiration. The evenings are often a great time to sit down together and view and discuss each other's shots from the day. Its not obligatory but its a great opportunity to receive feedback.

## **Is this for me?**

Our 'Tours' are aimed at all skill levels. Its both a once-in-a-lifetime holiday as well as a chance to take great photographs and improve your skills. This is our formula and the number of repeat customers we have supports this. The 'Tour' is designed in such a way as to allow us to adapt the experience according to what you want to get out of it. If you're an experienced photographer, the accompanying instructor will know this, and will pitch their teaching accordingly, ensuring you get feedback and instruction relevant to you. If you're just starting in photography - you're equally welcome, and you'll see just how much you can learn.

## **Inspiration**

### **Introduction**



Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down.

## Photographers

'A day in the Life of Africa as seen by 100 Photographers' by D.E.Cohen

'Faces of Africa- 30 years of Photography' by Carol Beckwith

'Vanishing Africa: A photographer's Journey' by Gianni Giansanti

## Books

'Where Fire Speaks: A visit with the Himba' by David Campion and Sandra Shields

'The Harmless People' By Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

'The Healing Land: A Kalahari Journey' by Rupert Isaacson

'Sossusvlei: Gateway to Planet Namib' by Sakki Namis

'Where the ancestors speak: A Himba experience' by Jill Kinahan

## Movies

'Ochre and Water' directed by Joelle Chesselet Documentary (2001)

'A far off place' directed by Mikael Salomon with Reese Witherspoon (1993)

'The Sandgrass People' directed by Koos Roets with Jamie Bartlett (1989)

'The Trail' directed by Eric Valli with Julian Sands (2006)

'The King is Alive' directed by Kristian Levring with Miles Anderson, Bruce Davidson (2000)

'Namibia: the struggle for liberation' directed by Charles Burnett (2007)

## Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on the Namibia Tour (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1227116153/0>)

## Testimonials

"A few words....I'm not a classroom person and that is why VSP is so great for me - hands-on in the field, great advice, strong tuition, fun, exciting and great locations. Do it now - you live only once!"

Jack, USA, 2007

"The opportunity to accompany other photographers through a trip with VSP has been a wonderful experience. I felt confident with our knowledgeable guide, and enjoyed immensely being part of such an enthusiastic group"

Deborah, USA, 2007



"A holiday or way of life for two weeks taking fantastic photos....What more could any photographer want?A great effort has obviously been made to find the most beautiful lodges in Namibia, and the variation of locations was excellent"

Shelagh, UK, 2007

"This was my first photo tour experience and I found it enjoyable, just fantastic, and impossible to forget"

Viviana, Venezuela, 2007

"Once again travelling with VSP was a delight: fabulous accommodation in magic natural surroundings made the travel between location a very special joy. Will definitely be travelling with VSP again!"

"I have attended Workshops with Maine, Santa Fe and TPW and founded the organisation by VSP to be the best"

David, UK, 2007